

FOCUS

Fall 2017

BIRTH CONTROL.

IT'S WHAT WE DO.



Expanding Community and Youth Education in Rhode Island

Dedicated education space promotes growing partnerships

Since the February opening of the new Providence health center, thousands of patients have come for health care services, **and hundreds of young people have taken part in educational sessions and trainings in the education center.**

The upgraded education center offers dedicated space and updated technology to more comfortably and efficiently run educational programs, trainings, and community meetings.

Beyond our STARS (Students Teaching About Responsible Sexuality), PPSNE's teen peer educators program, the space is also used for hosting monthly RI HIV & STI Prevention Coalition meetings, conducting trainings for SHAPE (Sexual Health Advocacy through Peer Education), a group of peer educators from Brown University, Volunteer programs, and meeting other community partnership needs. As a leader in the community, PPSNE shares this space with other local organizations and community partners that could otherwise not find spaces to meet.

The Broad Street location and direct access from the parking lot allows this space to fulfill a high-leverage role in Providence's "youth corridor" with neighboring youth-serving agencies, such as New Urban Arts, Providence Student Union, and Youth Pride, as well as three of Providence's public high schools. We look forward to strengthening this work and growing our partnerships in the community.

Find out more about our educational programs by visiting ppsne.org.



The education center in Providence is holding more trainings, educational programs and community meetings than ever before.

"Every November, a special day is selected to say "Thanks, Birth Control!" Find out why on page 7.

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A Whirlwind Start at PPSNE

Amanda Skinner, President and CEO

Since I joined PPSNE in June, the time has flown by. Over the past five months, I have visited all 18 of our health centers. These visits have allowed me to see our incredible staff do what they do best – provide care to those who count on us. I’ve also had multiple opportunities to meet with many of our amazing supporters, board members, community partners, and Planned Parenthood colleagues from across the country. The theme across all of these conversations has been clear – **Planned Parenthood of Southern New England is an exceptionally strong organization providing high-quality services to women, men, and teens throughout our region.**

With your continued support, we have been able to innovate in how and where we deliver health care while also expanding the ways we engage with our communities. In this newsletter, you can read more about the remarkable achievement of our health center team in the North End of Hartford, which has recently received “the gold standard” of designations as a Patient-Centered Medical Home. Thanks to your generous contributions to our Building Futures Campaign, our six renovated health centers are some of the most beautiful health care facilities I’ve ever seen. **Because of your commitment to our vision of a world of equity, we have been able to make investments in our community and youth organizing work.**

All of this work is so important, and has given us a strong foundation as we navigate the many daunting challenges ahead of us. **It’s hard to overstate the threats to reproductive**

health and rights we are facing from the current administration. The repeated, failed attempts of Congress to defund Planned Parenthood and strip away health care from millions of Americans were just the beginning. This fall, we have seen regulatory rules changes and executive orders that severely undercut the accessibility of birth control for American women, 90 percent of whom will use contraception in their lifetimes. There is no doubt these policies are rooted in an even broader agenda to take away birth control access for women across the country and roll back access to a wide range of other health care services, including safe, legal abortion.

Let’s be clear – in 2018 our mission is on the line and our resolve will be tested time and again. Your support of Planned Parenthood has never been more important. **When we stand together, the strength and resiliency of our movement is an undeniable, awesome force.** We won’t go backwards, and will be here for the next 100 years. Over 72,000 patients are counting on us. Thank you for your vital partnership.



SAVE THE DATE!

JOIN THE RESISTANCE ON GIVING TUESDAY!

NOVEMBER 28, 2017

\$1 to \$1 match by a
generous anonymous RI donor!

MAKE GIFTS TODAY AT PPSNE.ORG/GIVINGTUESDAY

Innovation in Hartford

Going even further to provide highest quality of care to patients

To reach the needs of the greater-Hartford community, PPSNE expanded primary care services to patients at its health center in the North End of Hartford. **Now approximately 100 patients come to our health center on Albany Avenue for primary care visits each month.**

With the success of this implementation and after a year-long certification process, the Hartford health center received the highest level of Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) recognition from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA): PCMH Level 3.



To earn this recognition, PPSNE demonstrated excellence in providing quality health care that is accessible to all people. As a "Medical Home", PPSNE can go further in providing comprehensive care to patients. This includes collaborating with other local health professionals and community services to meet all their medical needs. **Patients, who previously had to wait weeks to get into other local Community Health Centers, are receiving comprehensive care at PPSNE within one week and many are being seen the same or next day.** Those who need more coordinated health care services are assisted with setting up additional visits and receiving referrals to specialists or behavioral health professionals to continue their treatment.

By combining reproductive and primary care in one location, PPSNE is directly addressing racial and ethnic health disparities. We are working towards drastically improving health outcomes in the greater-Hartford community. We look to propel Hartford to new heights this year by emphasizing patient and family engagement, and compassion and empathy in care delivery. In 2018, PPSNE will undertake a second PCMH accreditation as a way to improve health equity and reduce racial and ethnic disparities in health care access in Stamford, CT.

Our affordable, accessible services are **fostering health equity and making a difference** in the communities we serve! **With your unwavering support of PPSNE, we will continue providing high-quality, evidence-based nonjudgmental care to our patients - no matter what.**



"Every person I spoke with made me feel better about the experience. They got right to the point and asked the necessary questions without prying and being judgmental. I was confident in their knowledge and abilities at every step."

Quotes are direct patient responses collected via a Press Ganey Patient Satisfaction Survey

MESSAGES FROM OUR PATIENTS



"The staff always meets all of my needs and makes sure I'm taken care of properly. The (Hartford) office puts care back in health care and as a patient I truly appreciate it."



"I was extremely impressed with how kind, professional, calm and knowledgeable every person was."



THANK YOU...

...for the success you've made possible through the Building Futures Campaign.
\$22,000,000+ invested to achieve:

Over 30,000 of our patients
getting care in six newly
renovated, state-of-the-art
health centers



9,000 young people annually
armed with accurate information
about their sexual health through
our teen peer education program

Millions of people
learning about
PPSNE through
our Facts
advertising
campaign



National recognition
for achieving the
highest standard of
patient care in our
growing primary care
practice



Stronger
partnerships
within the
African-American,
Black and Latinx
communities

Dramatic growth in our social
media outreach in support of
the mission



An organization better prepared
to manage a changing health
care landscape with a growing
endowment

» Increase Access to Care Through Renovated Health Centers - \$14M

Six renovated PPSNE health centers in CT and RI (Manchester, Stamford, Enfield, North Hartford, Bridgeport and Providence) are now serving more patients than ever before. These are some of our most highly-utilized health centers. When selecting new locations, we ensured we would remain readily accessible to our patients through public transport. In addition to more exam rooms, we also have more space for more education and community programs.



Stamford, CT health center

» Expansion and Support of Education Programs to Better Engage Youth - \$3M

90 STARS (Students Teaching About Responsible Sexuality) are deployed throughout southern New England. In addition to their one-on-one contact with their peers, our STARS promote other PPSNE programs to increase young people's access to the services that keep them safe and healthy.

PPSNE's social media outreach is reaching its largest audience ever and our followers are responding. A recent survey indicates that 96% of respondents have taken action in response to our digital outreach, including: 17% visited a health center, 19% made a contribution, 69% shared/posted PPSNE content on their private social media accounts.



PPSNE STARS - Albertus Magnus College, New Haven, CT

» Funding Innovations in Service to the Mission - \$2M

Wait times in PPSNE health centers have been reduced by 50% thanks to our work with Coleman Associates that focused on streamlining how our health centers manage patient flow. Additionally, we have upgraded our electronic health record system to a new web application; centralizing all of our data, paving the way for online appointment scheduling. We also launched limited primary care services, meaning patients now have the opportunity to receive additional care, like workplace/school physicals and treatment of upper respiratory infections (like bronchitis or strep throat) and skin conditions.

» Securing the Future Through a Strong Endowment - \$3M

To ensure a stable foundation for the future, PPSNE has doubled the size of our cash reserves through gifts and bequests from over 140 friends. These generous benefactors have provided the investment income that will help mitigate shrinking government funds and ensure larger reserves to manage changes ahead in a rapidly evolving health care market.

With your help, the Building Futures Campaign has built on almost 10 decades of success in caring for women, men and teens in CT & RI. Together, we have kept our promise to those we serve - to provide Care. No matter what. THANK YOU!!!



Facts advertising campaign - Providence, RI

Irin Carmon Delights PPSNE Supporters in New Haven and Norwalk, CT

Best-selling author shares how Ruth Bader Ginsburg became 'notorious'

PPSNE was thrilled to welcome *New York Times* best-selling author Irin Carmon to Connecticut last month. **On back-to-back nights, Irin delighted our supporters in New Haven and Norwalk, CT with her unique perspective and feminist voice.** Irin, co-author of the best-seller *Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg*, offered fascinating views on intergenerational feminism, the U.S. Supreme Court, and how Justice Ginsburg became a voice and hero for millions of people across the country.



*Irin Carmon, on left, and Amanda Skinner field questions in New Haven
Photo by Thomas Ficklin/Ficklin Media, LLC*

On October 16, Irin connected with nearly 200 supporters at *Cocktails, Conversation and Celebration* at the College Street Music Hall in New Haven, CT. The following night, on October 17, Irin spoke with over 150 friends at the new PPSNE event *Defend. Support. Empower.* at Sugar & Olives in Norwalk, CT. Nearly a third of the those in attendance were new PPSNE supporters! Together, these events raised more than \$140,000. All proceeds from these events **support the PPSNE patients who receive high-quality, expert health care, regardless of their ability to pay.**

Thank you for your continued support of PPSNE!



*Guests lined up to have Irin Carmon sign copies of her book in Norwalk
Photo courtesy of Allie Dearie/Allie Dearie Photography*

New Location In Bridgeport

Last month, PPSNE opened its doors on its new state-of-the-art health center in Bridgeport, CT! With additional exam rooms, convenient, free and accessible on-site parking; and a dedicated education space, the newly relocated Bridgeport health center is equipped to serve patients in eastern Fairfield County well into the future. Our first patients were seen on October 2, and have nothing but wonderful things to say about the beautiful new location.



WE MOVED!

The new Hartford Health Center is just steps away from our current office. We are literally right across the hall!

Keep an eye out for news on the Grand Opening celebration within the next few months.

Honoring our Rhode Island Champion

Long-time PPSNE employee honored for years of life-changing work

On November 20, PPSNE has the privilege to recognize its eleventh Champion of Women's Health: Harriet Singer. Harriet's dedication to the work of Planned Parenthood has impacted thousands of people through her more than 40 years of service to the organization.

Harriet has been working with patients at Planned Parenthood in Providence since 1975. She has counseled thousands of women of all ages throughout her tenure, and touched countless lives with her wealth of knowledge and warm smile. Harriet is a welcoming presence who offers reassurance to her patients and colleagues.

Harriet's dedication to the work of Planned Parenthood has impacted thousands of people through her more than 40 years of service to the organization.

Harriet once stated that "I grew up with the belief that you had to do something good in life and had to help people... I really know I'm doing something worthwhile and believe a lot of people have benefited from the care and comfort our staff provides."



Harriet Singer has been dedicated to our patients for over 40 years

Thanks, Birth Control!

Giving thanks where thanks is due



The rate of unintended pregnancy, and of abortion, is at a 40-year low, because of increased access to birth control and information. **Being able to decide whether and when to have children is a basic fundamental right. Birth control is not controversial.** It is something the vast majority of women will use in the course of their lifetime.

Each November, one very special day is selected for all of us to say **"Thanks, Birth Control!"** We hope you enjoy the graphics in this newsletter that were created by our friends at Bedsider and The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.

See more at thenationalcampaign.org/thxbirthcontrol or by searching **#ThxBirthControl** on social media.

FOCUS Contributors

Carly Allard, Josh Morgan, Danielle Piendak, Gretchen Raffa, Lauren Rosato, Kafi Rouse, Erika Ulanecki and Marjorie Wren

Together We Fight for All

Our role in the fight for social justice

PPSNE firmly believes that every person has the right to live, work, and raise a family freely and without the threat of separation or deportation. Fear of deportation and discrimination exists for many in the immigrant community and can keep them from seeking the lifesaving care they need. A person's health should not be compromised because of their immigration status. Every day, we proudly stand with our allies who are leading this fight and will never stop fighting for more just, equitable and safe communities to raise families across CT and RI. **Protecting immigrant families from inhumane attacks, assault, and deportations is critical to making that vision a reality.**



JuanCarlos "JC" Soto is connecting and engaging in the Latinx Community in New Haven, CT. Above, JC at the 2nd Annual Festival Puertorriqueño in August.

Immigrants and immigrant communities have been subject to continued and sustained attacks from the current administration. **The devastating decision to rescind Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) affects more than 12,000 DREAMers in Connecticut and Rhode Island.** DACA has brought economic opportunity and a sense of security to immigrant youth in our states. PPSNE has been working to support CT Students for a Dream, CT Immigrant Rights Alliance, Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island and many other efforts to #DefendDACA and DACA recipients. We are supporting renewal clinics, community meetings and actions, fundraising efforts and creating healing spaces for young folks. Leading the efforts from the PPSNE Public Policy and Advocacy team are JuanCarlos Soto in Connecticut and Kavelle Christie in Rhode Island, who continue to build new and strengthen existing relations within the community.

We strengthen our communities and country by investing in our young people, not by denying them their chance at the American dream. We will not silently stand by as DREAMers and DACA recipients, many of whom are part of the Planned Parenthood community and rely on Planned Parenthood for health care, are stripped of their rights and protections. PPSNE stands with DREAMers and we urge Congress to enact a clean version of a bill that protects DREAMers.

Find out how you can support these efforts by visiting ppsne.org/dreamers.

PPSNE Information

Headquarters: 203.865.5158
ppsne.org

Call 1.800.230.PLAN (7526) to reach the center nearest you

subscribe@ppsne.org

345 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511

175 Broad Street
Providence, RI 02903

#IStandWithPP

Connect With Us



Show your support by making a contribution today at
ppsne.org/donate or call 203.865.5158



Thanks, Birth Control! Learn more on page 7.