

GENERATIONS OF CARE

LOOKING BACK ON OUR PAST AS WE RECOMMIT TO A FUTURE OF EQUITY

This year, PPSNE is celebrating its centennial anniversary. One hundred years ago, our founders came together because they saw both the incredible opportunity that access to birth control would provide women to control their own bodies and lives and the terrible harms that were taking place in their time because this access was not legal or widely available.

As we reflect on this year's milestone anniversary, it is remarkable to think about the incredible impact of our movement over the span of a century. We have made tremendous progress towards creating more opportunities for people to make their own private medical decisions, access the care they need, and have control over their lives and futures.

And yet, today we are contending with truly devastating threats to the

systems and policies that support access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health care. Access to abortion has been severely restricted or banned in 20 states across the country. Affordable birth control, cancer screenings, and other basic health care services are at risk for people struggling to make ends meet.

Now more than ever we are focused on our vision for the future, centering those historically left behind to create a more equitable health care landscape for all. The path ahead is challenging, and broad systemic change won't happen quickly. It will require bolder thinking than ever before to create a country where our very basic rights and freedoms are permanently protected – not subject to whoever happens to have power at a given moment.

Here in Connecticut and Rhode Island, we are working tirelessly to demonstrate what a future can look like where true reproductive freedom is a reality for all people.

From our inception to today, PPSNE has grown from a network of volunteer-run chapters to a thriving non-profit organization serving thousands upon thousands of people across our two states. Generations of patients, advocates, providers, staff, volunteers, and supporters like you have made it possible for PPSNE to advance our mission and make a positive impact in our communities. Thank you for being a part of our movement – your support is more vital than ever. Together, we will continue to deliver on our promise of providing care, no matter what, for the next 100 years and beyond.



*Amanda Skinner, President & CEO,
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England*

FOCUS *Summer 2023*

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HEALTH COVERAGE AT RISK

At a time when many members of our communities are facing a loss of health care coverage, your support can be the lifeline that brings healing and hope to those in need. Together, we can ensure that every individual receives the medical treatment they deserve. It is the support of people like you that allows us to remain unwavering in our promise to provide Care No Matter What.

Medicaid, a federal and state program that provides health care coverage to people with low incomes, has long been a critical safety net for millions of Americans.

On March 31, 2023, continuous Medicaid enrollment authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act expired, meaning recipients need to once again reapply for Medicaid annually and many people who previously qualified for benefits no longer do. This has left millions of people scrambling to maintain coverage and avoid lapses in care.

In 2022, 48% of PPSNE's Connecticut patients and 17% of our Rhode Island patients utilized Medicaid to pay for their care.

In 2023, the Equality in Abortion Coverage Act was signed into Rhode Island state law, meaning that abortion coverage will now be added to the state's Medicaid program. With this major victory, we expect a significant increase in the number of patients intending to rely only on Medicaid to pay for their care. And yet, as the Medicaid "unwinding" continues, thousands of people in our communities could potentially face a loss of coverage and will need additional help.

At PPSNE we offer an array of resources for patients struggling to pay for care. However, as more people lose coverage, health

disparities will widen, putting a larger toll on an already strained health care system.

We are steadfast in our commitment to providing care no matter what and it is through your support that we will be able to continue to live up to this promise. At this particularly crucial time, we want to extend our deepest gratitude for your continued partnership and commitment to the people and communities we serve.



PREP WITHOUT PILLS

Injectable pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is a new method of HIV prevention that involves administering medication via injection. Unlike traditional oral PrEP, which requires a daily pill, injectable PrEP offers a long-acting solution with extended protection.

The injectable uses a medication called cabotegravir, which is given as an intramuscular injection every two months at the health center.

Although daily oral PrEP remains a great option, many factors, including mental and physical health, socioeconomic factors, geographic location, and personal privacy needs can make daily PrEP unfeasible for people seeking this additional layer of protection. This new way of offering PrEP requires less frequent action, and that can increase adherence and improve patient access.

"Giving patients more options for PrEP is a crucial step in addressing the HIV epidemic and slowing the spread", said Dr. Ayiti Maharaj-Best, medical director for PPSNE, "Not everyone can take a pill every day, so for a lot of patients, the option of one injection every two months makes PrEP a lot more manageable."

STARS "TEEN NIGHT" JOINS COMMUNITY IN WEEK OF ACTION



Teen Night, a monthly gathering organized by Planned Parenthood of Southern New England's education team, is a student-led event where STARS (Students Teaching About Responsible Sexuality) plan and facilitate discussions on topics such as consent, healthy relationships, and sexual education. The event is designed to provide support and guidance to participating teens while allowing them to choose the focus areas and lead discussions important to their peers and larger communities.

In April, the Providence STARS teamed up with the Providence Student Union (PSU) to include a collaborative Teen Night as a part of a larger week of community action centered around Denim Day, an International Day of Solidarity for survivors of sexual assault. PSU, a student union in Providence, empowers students to advocate for their own education and well-being, promoting positive change within their schools and communities. Recognizing the potential for collaboration, STARS member Emily Melgar and PSU member Mocarrah Lewis, initiated the idea of bringing together the two organizations to host an open discussion on healing, justice, and how to support survivors of sexual assault.

This event kicked off three days of community action, with Teen Night on Wednesday, an art build in partnership with the Sojourner House on Thursday, and a student-led walkout on Friday.

"I'm a really big believer of collective power and being able to achieve more when we work together," said Melgar, "this collaboration was especially important because one of the main focuses of our workshop was how to cultivate collective care and safety in all the different kinds of spaces we're in."

Denim Day dates back to 1999, where a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court overturned a rape conviction because the justices felt that, since the victim was wearing tight jeans, she must have helped her rapist remove her clothes, thereby implying consent. In response, advocates wore denim to demonstrate support for survivors and continue to do so around the world every year on April 24.

The April event was the first in-person Teen Night since the COVID-19 pandemic began and attracted a remarkable turnout, with nearly 40 participants attending from across Connecticut and Rhode Island, exceeding expectations and showcasing the success of the collaboration.

This collaboration with PSU is one of many examples of the dedication and passion young individuals have for advocating for positive change. By addressing critical topics, such as consent and survivor support, Teen Night will continue to foster a safe and educational environment for teenagers across Connecticut and Rhode Island.

"It is really amazing to have these spaces where our STARS can feel like and see that they are creating change," said Sophia Washburn, a youth development specialist and educator, "This event allowed our STARS facilitators to combine the education skills they've developed as peer educators with the organizing skills they've developed through PSU. Truly the perfect formula for them to really enact the change they want to see for their futures."



Generations of Care

A century ago, our founders united with a shared purpose. They recognized the immense potential of empowering women through access to birth control, enabling them to take charge of their bodies and destinies. Now, 100 years later, we have gathered leaders and changemakers from across our affiliate to reflect on the legacy of PPSNE as we set our sights to the future.



Gretchen Raffa

Vice President, Public Policy, Advocacy and Organizing

As someone who has relied on Planned Parenthood for my health care for over two decades, this is the place, as a queer person, that I feel I can get safe, identity affirming, and inclusive health care. All of the advocacy and policy work I do is because I know that for Planned Parenthood patients this is critical work to ensure all people can get the health care they need as their basic human right.



Dr. Ayiti Maharaj-Best

Medical Director

So much of the beauty of the work that PPSNE has done historically has been being able to really connect with our community, reaching beyond our health centers, participating in local events, and welcoming community members into our spaces. Obviously, the pandemic disrupted this, depriving us of the chance to interact at that level. Today, as we reopen our spaces, we are already starting to feel the difference of being present in community in ways that we just didn't have the opportunity to do during the pandemic.



Vimala Phongsavanh

Senior Director of External Affairs

I've really been inspired by the level of change I've seen at Planned Parenthood. We are really taking on the big questions of racial equity. We are thinking differently about how to reach communities who aren't even talking about abortion or reproductive health so that we have a larger base of people that can access our services.



Liana Cunningham

Senior Director of Education and Training

We care no matter what. So unlike other providers where you might get turned away if you can't pay, we're not going to do that here. We recognize that people have financial barriers to accessing health services, which plays a role in the health inequities that we're seeing. That is a major thing that sets us apart from other health care providers.

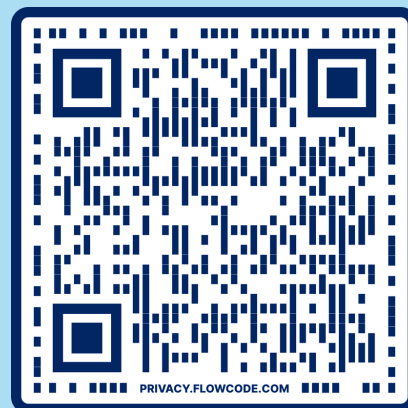


Matt Raiti

Gender Affirming Care Navigator

There are a lot of people who, for good reason, don't trust the medical community. Here at PPSNE we are trying to bridge that gap. If I'm doing my job right, I'm not just helping the individual patient that I'm seeing. I'm sharing with them tools and knowledge to navigate the health care system that they can then share with their friends and community.

**WATCH THE FULL
CENTENNIAL INTERVIEWS**



PPSNE Through the Years

1923

Katharine Martha Houghton Hepburn (mother of actress Katharine Hepburn) and two of her friends, Mrs. George Day and Mrs. M. Toscan Bennett, form the Connecticut Branch of the American Birth Control League.

1931

The Rhode Island Birth Control League is founded — initially focusing on the dissemination of contraceptive information to married women.

1961

Estelle Griswold, director of Planned Parenthood League of Connecticut and C. Lee Buxton, M.D., the medical director of the clinic and chair of the Yale Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the School of Medicine, are arrested when they open a clinic offering birth control, directly violating state law that banned contraception. They would go on to challenge this law in the courts, leading to the 1965 Supreme Court case *Griswold v. Connecticut* which legalized the distribution of birth control to married couples.

1964

The Rhode Island Maternal Health Association joins the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, officially becoming Planned Parenthood of Rhode Island.

1965

The Supreme Court rules in *Griswold v. Connecticut* that Connecticut's law banning contraception violates the constitutional right to privacy for married couples. This landmark ruling paved the way for future decisions that would broadly protect contraception, abortion, same-sex marriage, and more. In particular, the precedent of a right to privacy would directly lead to the 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade*, protecting the right to abortion.

1973

1990

Connecticut amends their state law to say “the decision to terminate a pregnancy shall be solely that of the pregnant woman in consultation with her physician”.

2009

Planned Parenthood of Connecticut and Planned Parenthood of Rhode Island merge to become Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, Inc. (PPSNE).

2019

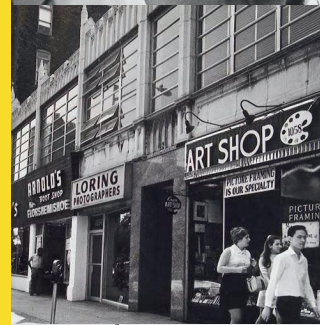
Rhode Island codifies *Roe v. Wade* with the Reproductive Privacy Act and secures the fundamental right to privacy with respect to reproductive decisions.

2022

Connecticut passes the Reproductive Freedom Defense Act, expanding access to abortion and legally protecting medical providers and patients traveling to Connecticut seeking care.

2023

Rhode Island passes the Equality in Abortion Coverage Act, eliminating the discriminatory ban on public funding for abortion and ensuring that the nearly 90,000 reproductive-aged Rhode Islanders enrolled in Medicaid or state employee insurance plans have access to abortion coverage.



Community Events Summer 2023



Free Market & Health Fair, New Haven, CT

This summer staff members and volunteers alike spent countless hours out in their communities sharing knowledge, pride, and of course, condoms, with thousands of people throughout Connecticut and Rhode Island.



Pride in the Park, Norwalk CT



Middletown Pride



Bethel Pride



Juneteenth Celebration, New Haven CT



New Haven Black Pride



PPSNE Staff and Volunteers

2023 Spring Luncheon

For our 2023 Annual Spring Luncheon we were thrilled to host Samantha Bee for an exclusive conversation about the state of reproductive freedom in the United States.



PPSNE Staff and Volunteers pose for a picture with Amanda Skinner and Samantha Bee



Samantha Bee and Rob Simmelkjaer



2023 Luncheon Co-Chairs, from left to right, Carlyle Upson, Lindy Lilien, Mini Nunna, Jane Carlin, Elissa Garber-Hyman, and Brice Russian with Samantha Bee and Amanda Skinner (centered).

JOIN US FOR OUR FALL EVENTS!

- **The Annual Check-Up -**
Wednesday, October 25, 6:00P.M.
Bruce Museum,
Greenwich, CT.
- **Champions -**
Wednesday, November 8, 6:00P.M.
Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island,
Providence, RI.

More details to come! Email us at events@ppsne.org to make sure you get all the up-to-date information and learn about hybrid options.



PPSNE Supporters and Volunteers

LEAVING A LEGACY

MAKE A LASTING IMPACT

The Hepburn Potter Legacy Society is named in memory of two lifelong advocates of reproductive freedom, Katherine Martha Houghton Hepburn and Dr. Charles Potter. This legacy society was established to recognize, honor and thank those donors who have included PPSNE in their life or estate plans or those telling us of an intention to make a gift.

Members of our legacy society continue a powerful history of change. Their generosity allows us to continue to provide thorough and relevant education to our community's youth, as well as affordable, confidential and compassionate care for every one of our thousands of patients.

If you're a champion of reproductive freedom and believe in our mission of providing high quality health care, education, and advocacy to advance equity and protect the fundamental right to sexual health and reproductive freedom for all, please consider a bequest to PPSNE.

For more information about how you can establish your legacy please contact:

Christopher Bellis
christopher.bellis@ppsne.org
203-836-3419

It's Easier Than You Think!

By becoming a member of the Hepburn Potter Legacy Society, you will help sustain access to reproductive health care and education for generations to come.

- You can make a gift through your will with simple language.
- You can make PPSNE a beneficiary of a retirement plan (IRA or 401k) or life insurance policy by filling out a Beneficiary or Change of Beneficiary form.
- You can set up an annuity or trust that pays you income while leaving a meaningful gift to PPSNE.

How To Include PPSNE In Your Will

You can include the following language in your will or codicil:

I hereby give, devise and bequeath \$_____ (or description of specific asset or % of net estate) to Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, 345 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut, 06511, for its general purposes.

We encourage you to let us know if you include PPSNE in your life or estate plans. Not only can we express our gratitude, we can also make sure you are kept up to date on all that is happening here at PPSNE.

This information is for general purposes only and is not intended as legal or financial advice. PPSNE recommends that if you are considering a life or estate gift, you consult with your financial or legal advisor.