

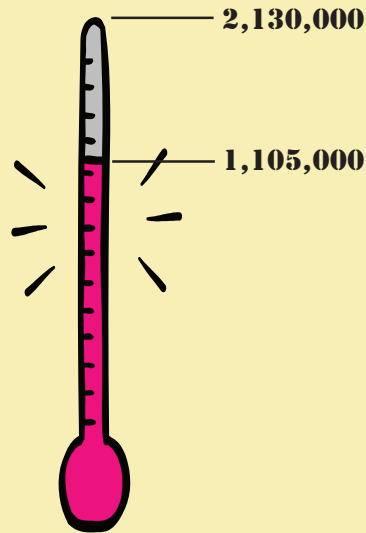


# Focus



WINTER 2009

**Help Us Reach Our Year End Fundraising Goal!**



*Did you know that PPSNE counts on year end giving for almost 50% of its contributions? Your gift this month really makes a difference!*

*Of every dollar PPSNE receives, 77 cents goes to patient care and educational programming, exceeding the national standard for non-profit organizations!*

**Planned Parenthood**  
of Southern New England, Inc.

Serving Connecticut & Rhode Island

## **HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL PASSES – AND WOMEN LOSE; ABORTION WILL NOT BE COVERED!**

Your Gift In Support of CT And RI Women Will Make The Difference.

As *Focus* went to press, Planned Parenthood and our allies were stinging from passage of a federal health care reform measure that included unprecedented language banning access to abortion coverage. This outrageous assault on women was authored by US Representatives Bart Stupak and Joseph Pitts, and was fueled by enormous last minute pressure from the U.S. Conference of Bishops. The amendment attracted the combined support of those who oppose abortion as well as those who object to health reform altogether—an unholy alliance that could, for the first time, limit access to safe abortion care.

As a reporter from the Washington Post wrote: “If this amendment stands, it will mean that virtually all women with insurance through the exchange who find themselves in the unwanted and unexpected position of needing to terminate a pregnancy will not have coverage for the procedure.”

PPSNE supporters should know that Connecticut Representatives Larson, Courtney, DeLauro, Murphy and Himes voted against the Stupak amendment, as did Rep. Kennedy of Rhode Island. They should be applauded for taking this vote. Disappointingly, after working on compromise language on abortion throughout the Fall, Rep. James Langevin voted for the anti-choice amendment.

**In the meantime, our patients need more from us. As you make your holiday gift list, please remember the thousands of young people we help every day – whether they are able to pay for their care or not. We gratefully ask for your partnership, as we work to raise the money necessary to support all of the people who need us.**

Be assured that with your help, Planned Parenthood leadership and our coalition partners are determined that the health care reform battle is far from finished. We will persevere with our critical goals :

- Planned Parenthood must be included in reform, and states must have additional federal support to expand family planning programs.
- The regressive Stupak amendment must be removed from the

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PPSNE volunteer Nicole Heath.  
*“I hope that my own daughter will feel comfortable asking me, I know there are many young women for whom PP is the only choice.”*



Volunteer and PPSNE Board Member Connie Worthington.  
*“Why do I volunteer at Planned Parenthood? Without it, women are second class citizens.”*

## THE POWER OF PURPOSE

### Two Perspectives on Volunteering for Planned Parenthood of Southern New England

#### *Nicole Heath:*

“I volunteer for Planned Parenthood because I want every woman in our country, no matter her economic situation, to have easy and confidential access to reproductive healthcare services. Beginning as a teenager in Seattle, and through my college years, Planned Parenthood was always there for me when I needed it – and at a price I could afford. When I moved east to New York City and eventually to Connecticut, my way to say thank you was to help secure the same services for future generations of women by volunteering my time.

There are times in any young woman’s life when she does not want to rely on her family or close friends for the kinds of advice and services that PP provides. Many of us have been in this situation, and while I hope that my own daughter will feel comfortable asking me, I know there are many young women for whom PP is the only choice. None of them should have to go it alone. I will never forget the kindly, maternal woman who advised me at a clinic many years ago. Looking back, I know how well trained she was, and how compassionate. I will always appreciate how she advised me, and I think of her when I devote my time and money to helping PP.”

#### *Connie Worthington:*

“Why do I volunteer at Planned Parenthood? First of all, my mother made me do it. She was a probation officer in Providence in the early ‘30s and introduced clients to the RI Birth League (so called at the time). In the ‘70s as a teacher, I referred more than one student to Planned Parenthood of RI.

However, my involvement goes beyond these experiences. As a young adult, I learned firsthand women weren’t treated equally. In 1967, my life changed; I was made a Vietnam widow. Because I was finishing my degree and working at home, I found I also lost my credit rating. When I got my first mortgage, I took my lawyer so the bank would not ask for a co-signer. Later on, I had to threaten to publicize the fact that I had not been offered equal pay when I was “promoted.” The school did adopt a pay scale for all teachers, but not until ten years later.

In the years since, nothing confirms my commitment to our mission more than meeting patients outside and escorting them to the clinic, past those protesters and posters – rarely does a woman not say “thank you for being here.”

It’s about freedom. It’s about self-determination.

Access to comprehensive reproductive health care is “the bottom line.” Without it, women are second class citizens and young people are disempowered. In my experience, Planned Parenthood has been the strongest resource, the most informed and eloquent advocate for what should be a universal right. Why wouldn’t I volunteer?”

*We benefit from volunteer service in all aspects of our organization’s work. If you would like more information on the array of volunteer opportunities at PPSNE, please contact Erika at 203.865.5158.*

## NATIONAL PRESIDENT CECILE RICHARDS CELEBRATES MERGER

### Angel Donors Honored at PPSNE's 1st Event

On October 7th, PPFA President & CEO Cecile Richards joined board, staff, volunteers, donors and friends from Connecticut and Rhode Island to commemorate the birth of Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE). The day-long celebration began with a ceremonial ribbon cutting at the Providence health center. Cheers and knowing smiles filled the room as Judy Tabar, PPSNE President & CEO, and Cecile Richards recounted the hard work and countless achievements throughout the past year leading up to the merger of our Connecticut and Rhode Island affiliates.

Next Ms. Richards and friends headed to Warwick for a special reception honoring PPSNE's Angel

Donors, including Sarah Richardson from the Prospect Hill Foundation, which provided an early challenge grant. All of our Angel Donors were instrumental in raising over \$700,000 in emergency funding for the Providence health center. Among the attendees were long-time Angels Liz and Kim Chace, who noted how joyful they are in knowing that Rhode Island's only Planned Parenthood center will be able to continue providing services for many years to come.

The celebration grew to more than 200 as donors, volunteers, staff, and our dedicated teen peer educator group, S.T.A.R.S (Students Teaching About Responsible Sexuality), joined our Angels for our annual Community Celebration. John Morton, PPSNE Board Member and longtime volunteer, served as the evening's emcee, while Ms. Tabar shared touching stories from



patients whose lives we've touched.

Rhode Island Attorney General Patrick Lynch and Providence Mayor David Cicilline were also on hand to show their support for PPSNE's tireless efforts to ensure quality, affordable health care for all women and their families, acknowledging the importance of the medical services and education we provide, and the ongoing need to foster healthy lifestyles in women, men and youth. The evening concluded with Ms. Richards, who spoke to the economic, social and political challenges facing reproductive health across the nation, reminding

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## *Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author, Sheryl WuDunn, to Speak at April 21st Event!*

Don't Miss Our Annual Spring Luncheon At The Greenwich Country Club.

Sheryl WuDunn is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author who has reported from inside some of the toughest regimes in the world, from Myanmar to North Korea. As a foreign correspondent for *The*

*New York Times*, WuDunn covered China and won a Pulitzer with her husband, Nicholas D. Kristof, for their coverage of the Tiananmen Square democracy movement in Beijing and the military crackdown that ended it. They were the first married couple to win a Pulitzer for journalism. WuDunn is the first Asian-American woman to win a Pulitzer.

Her experiences trekking through Asia, along with the reporting her husband has done for the *New*

*York Times*, led the couple to write [Half the Sky: From Oppression to Opportunity for Women Worldwide](#), about women in the developing world.

We are excited to hear Ms. WuDunn's unique perspective on Planned Parenthood's mission, reproductive justice and women's rights here and around the world.

Tickets go on sale in February. Contact [special.events@ppsne.org](mailto:special.events@ppsne.org) for more information.

**¿HABLA ESPAÑOL? SI!**  
**Spanish – Speaking Patients**  
**Getting What They Need**

Can you remember feeling squeamish around age 9 when you saw girls and boys kissing? At that age, you probably didn't understand the biological details of pregnancy or sex, or know all the medical terms for different parts of the body- but you knew kissing wasn't for you. Imagine how you would feel to be that 9 year old child, asked to explain the details of your mother's gynecological examination – as she is being examined!

Fear and disbelief set in, don't they? Yet for thousands of children whose parents do not speak English well, this is a regular occurrence.

Ivy Vazquez, a certified medical interpreter working at our Waterbury health center, recalls her own uncomfortable childhood experience with her mother:

*My mother was pregnant and not feeling well at all. I went with her to the doctor's office and was her interpreter, as she didn't speak English. As I tried to translate medical terms I didn't understand, I was getting more and more upset because she was in so much pain. A second doctor came into the room to speak with my mother's physician, and I heard one of them say: 'It's either the baby or the mother'. I was in a panic, and terrified that my mother was going to die!*

Everything worked out fine for Ivy's mother, but Ivy's memory of the terror she felt highlights why her interpreting work is so important. Ivy's training at PPSNE as a medical



interpreter went beyond the basics of discussing the right words. Medical interpreting allows no editorial asides, and no lengthy conversations that aren't translated for the other party. Through interpreting, patients can better understand how to stay healthy, and have a less stressful experience in our health center.

Cultural competence costs money, but it results in better health care. Thanks to your support, PPSNE has found better options for our patients with limited English proficiency. PPSNE makes sure bilingual staff is tested for language skills, and can take classes to improve if needed. PPSNE trains its own medical interpreters for patients who primarily speak Spanish. For access to certified medical interpreters in as many as 120 other languages, PPSNE uses Language Line Service, a phone interpreting service.

Only because of your regular support have we had the resources to invest in putting these important services in place. Thank you for helping us prevent young children from experiencing what Ivy went through.

*PPSNE Certified Medical Interpreter Ivy Vazquez, tells her personal story.*

**WHAT'S THE BUZZ ABOUT?**  
**Cocktails & Conversations with Judy Tabar!**

Great food...drink...chatter...and solidarity were in abundance in homes throughout Connecticut and Rhode Island this fall as PPSNE supporters in the East Providence, Hamden, Jamestown, Stonington, Warren and West Hartford areas gathered to talk with Judy Tabar, President & CEO.

On everyone's minds were the future plans of Planned Parenthood of Southern New England following the October 5<sup>th</sup> merger of the Connecticut and Rhode Island affiliates. Ms. Tabar responded to all inquiries, assuring guests that expanding women's reproductive health care will remain a top priority in both states - a priority PPSNE is now in a better position to achieve, despite the economy, after combining the resources and experience across two states. Ms. Tabar listened closely to suggestions from guests on how to raise local awareness and increase support for Planned Parenthood's critical mission.

Thank you to all of our wonderful hosts who graciously opened their homes for these very important discussions!

Interested in having Cocktails & Conversations with a few friends, family members and neighbors at your home? Contact us at [special.events@ppsne.org](mailto:special.events@ppsne.org).

**Health Care Reform, continued from page 1**

Senate version of the bill.

- We will use this opportunity to channel the outrage and commitment of our supporters and to reach new friends, strengthening our movement for the challenges ahead of us.

Nobody said it would be easy to reform our costly system of health care, and clearly it's not. But health care reform that sacrifices women's health is not reform at all. Only with your support and your voice added to ours, will we be victorious.

**Cecile Richards, continued from page 2**

everyone in attendance that our work to protect women's reproductive health care rights is not done yet.

With your continued support, PPSNE centers across CT and RI will continue to meet these challenges head on, providing quality, affordable reproductive health care to all those in need who come through our doors.



**PPSNE WELCOMES ASSOCIATE MEDICAL DIRECTOR**

Dr. Tim Spurrell has accepted the position of Associate Medical Director at our Rhode Island health center. Dr. Spurrell is board certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a graduate of University of Connecticut School of Medicine.

Dr. Spurrell speaks both Spanish and Portuguese, is a provider at Caring for Women in Warwick, and has privileges at Women and Infants Hospital. He has been providing services at our Providence health center since 2001, and is well respected by all the staff.

In addition to his role as consultant to the clinicians, Dr. Spurrell is excited about the opportunity to expand services, including the in-office sterilization procedure, Essure.

**WALK IN OUR PATIENTS' SHOES!**

Learn how your support truly makes a difference in their lives!

Attend one of our free one-hour Discover the Promise Tours at a PPSNE Health Center near you! Learn more about our mission, services, issues, and values – what we do and why it is so important!

**Griswold-Buxton New Haven Health Center**  
2nd Wednesday of every month, 8:00-9:00am

**Providence Health Center**  
3rd Wednesday of every month, 6:00-7:00pm

**Stamford Health Center**  
4th Tuesday of every month, 9:30-10:30 am

**Hartford North Health Center**  
1st Wednesday of every month, 8:00-9:00am

**West Hartford Health Center**  
3rd Tuesday of every month, 5:00-6:00pm

*If you would like to attend an upcoming tour, or if you would like to hear more about a Discover The Promise event at your home or office, please contact us at [special.events@ppsne.org](mailto:special.events@ppsne.org) or 203-865-5158.*





WINTER 2009



Serving Connecticut & Rhode Island

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### SAVE THE DATE!

**March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010**  
**Discover the Promise Breakfast**  
**Pond House Café**  
**West Harford, CT**  
**8:00-9:00am**  
Hear first hand the impact PPSNE is having in your neighborhood.

**April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010**  
**Spring Luncheon**  
**Greenwich, CT**  
**11:00am-12:00pm**  
Join us for a benefit luncheon and hear from our keynote speaker, Sheryl WuDunn, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of [Half the Sky: From Oppression to Opportunity for Women Worldwide.](#)

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Headquarters: 203.865.5158
- [www.ppsne.org](http://www.ppsne.org)
- Call 1.800.203.PLAN to reach the center nearest you

#### PPSNE STAFF

Judy Tabar, President & CEO  
Susan Lloyd Yolen, Vice President Public Affairs & Communications  
Marjorie Wren, Vice President Development  
Laurel Merrick, Marketing Specialist

### TRUSTING AND TEACHING TEENS TO BE RESPONSIBLE...A LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME.

**With Your Help, Our "S.T.A.R.S." Will Shine - Students Teaching About Responsible Sexuality that is!**

When it comes to getting information about sexuality teens listen to their parents. They also listen to their peers. S.T.A.R.S. is PPSNE's teen peer education program. We help prepare teens as leaders, and train them to be "the one to go to" for accurate sexuality information.

Becoming a member of S.T.A.R.S. requires commitment and hard work. Students are trained in a nurturing environment to respond to questions from other youth and to know when and how to skillfully make referrals to medical services at PPSNE. Many teens remain involved for years, and because of this experience, they become leaders for life.

S.T.A.R.S. members not only help encourage other youth to make knowledgeable, healthy decisions, they also become articulate, self-assured young adults. With 24 students throughout Connecticut and 8 students in Rhode Island, this program continues to grow. "Since I've become a member of the S.T.A.R.S. program I have learned about the true meaning of self-worth, love, and who I am," says Andrea, age 16. "Most of all I have learned to respect myself. I have also learned about the increased risk African American women face with sexually transmitted infections - information that is very important to me as a young African American woman. Working here has been one of the most amazing experiences I have ever had."

*Help our S.T.A.R.S. shine brightly - With a gift of \$1,500, you can help another teen like Andrea pursue and lead others toward a healthy and productive life.*