

# Choice News



## CAPP Teens Win County Award

Twelve teen advocates involved in our Comprehensive Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program's (CAPP) Social Media Advisory Group (SMAG) were presented with an award from the Westchester County Department of Health for their hard work. Teens in SMAG use social media to encourage their peers to visit PPHP for their sexual health needs. SMAG participants create and promote sexual health messages which target youth ages 13 to 21 through Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

The group was awarded the J.R. Tesone Youth Public Health Service Award by R. Steven Nakashima, President, Board of Health, and also received a proclamation from the Westchester County Board of Legislators. Part of this proclamation stated that Saturday, April 9, 2016 was Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic Social Media Advisory Group Day in Westchester County. This was displayed on the Jumbotron outside the Westchester County Center.

Along with many family members, New York State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, New York State Assemblyman Steve Otis, Westchester County Legislator Catherine Parker, and New Rochelle Mayor Noam Bramson were at the award ceremony to congratulate the teens and PPHP for their hard work.

This group has developed the story line and script for three public service announcements which focused on safer sex and healthy relationships, and now they create short videos and memes.

Jasabel Ramirez, a SMAG participant said, "We are all proud of working as part of the Social Media Advisory Group to reach our peers and encourage them to stay safe and healthy. We know that we can prevent STIs, HIV, and pregnancy and we want everyone to know this. As young individuals, it is not every day that we become concerned about these types of infections. As SMAG members, it is our job to help other teens become

knowledgeable of their rights and be aware of ways in which they can prevent these infections and stay safe."

Westchester News 12 and Fios 1 attended the award ceremony, interviewed some of the participants, and aired new stories about the award and the work of our teens. To see their work, visit [www.facebook.com/NLPBsquad](http://www.facebook.com/NLPBsquad), @nlpbsquad on Twitter, or @OGTeens on Instagram.



Top: PPHP's Social Media Advisory Group with elected officials receiving their award.

Bottom: Penelope Urbina was one of the participants interviewed by News 12.

# Message from the President

Dear Friends,

This year is off to a good start for us—we have more patients coming to our health centers; many new activists are showing their support; our education programs continue to reach youth; and our advocacy efforts are paying off with the passage of new legislation.

However, not all news is good. State legislators across the country introduced 411 restrictions on safe, legal abortions in 2016 and defunding Planned Parenthood continues in many states. In New York, May 10 was “Bad Bill Day” in the Assembly Health Committee. Once every two years, the Committee typically votes to hold anti-choice legislation yet to be voted on, effectively preventing the bills from moving forward. The Committee voted to hold the following:

- AB 3717- Ensures that women seeking an abortion receive an ultrasound and opportunity to review it before giving informed consent to receive an abortion;
- AB 3725- Establishes the requirement of testing for a fetal heartbeat prior to the performance of an abortion, establishing standards for informed consent;
- AB 6473 and AB 7119- Sets forth notification requirements on abortions performed on minors.

There was also a national day of protest at April 23 with four of our centers targeted.

On June 8 staff and volunteers will be traveling to DC to meet with our Representatives to voice our position on access to reproductive health care services. If you'd like to join us, please let me know.

Best,



Reina Schiffrin, MPH



## Expanding Health Care Services

Recently, we have taken several steps towards expanding our medical services, beginning with bringing onboard a new medical director, Benita Gross, MD.

Dr. Gross is Board Certified in the specialty of Obstetrics and Gynecology, has more than 30 years of clinical experience, and has been a provider at PPHP for 12 years. She graduated from Albert Einstein College of Medicine and trained in OB/GYN at Einstein/Montefiore and Jacobi Medical Centers. With her experience, PPHP will be able to offer more advanced gynecological care to our patients and no longer have to refer them to other providers. This benefits our patients in that they can receive uninterrupted care from our compassionate staff.

We are also expanding our services to the LGBTQ community. This began with training for our health center staff, with everything from our intake forms to counseling to providing medical care. We are extending the services we offer male patients, including physical examinations and sexually transmitted infection testing. Literature and materials in our health centers are being reviewed to ensure they are welcoming and inclusive for all patients.

Thanks to a grant from Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA), medical staff from each health center received in-depth training on educating patients on the most-effective method of birth control, long-acting reversible contraception (LARC). LARCs include IUDs and implants. Our clinical staff received additional training on difficult placements of IUDs.

Lastly, we launched a smoking cessation program. Patients are screened to determine if they are interested in quitting smoking. If they are, we connect them to a smoker's quit hotline where they can receive counseling and access to free medication, helping them take the next step to stop smoking.

All of these efforts are part of our goal to provide more comprehensive care to the women, men, and young adults who come to PPHP for care.



# Donor Spotlight: Carol Stix

"When I got involved with Planned Parenthood many years ago, I thought the need for it would eventually end, but I was wrong. The need for Planned Parenthood is greater than ever," said Carol Stix, Chair of PPHP's Legacy Society and Board Emeritus member. "That's why it is so important for donors to include PPHP in their estate plans."

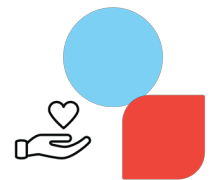
There are several ways you can ensure the success of PPHP through your will or trust. One way is to establish an endowment in which the principal gift amount remains intact and only the interest is drawn upon annually. A second option is that a gift is divided over a certain number of years, as if you are continuing your annual support. A third option is to make one gift, unrestricted, to be used at the time of your death.

"I know many people already have wills, but it is easy to add a codicil," continued Carol. "Just speak with your estate planning professional."

"Most people write wills to protect their families. One way to protect them is to ensure Planned Parenthood is here for years to come."

Planned Parenthood Federation of America is launching a Bequest Challenge that will help local affiliates today. For each donor who indicates on a Bequest Challenge form that Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic is included in their estate plan, the local affiliate can receive 10% of the gift, up to \$25,000, this year. This allows you to support PPHP now and in the future.

For more information about including PPHP in your estate plans, please contact Janet Pollack, Vice President, Development, at (914) 467-7317 or [janet.pollack@pphp.org](mailto:janet.pollack@pphp.org).



## Day of Action Leads to New Legislation

On Monday, January 25, nearly 70 activists from PPHP traveled to Albany to join over 500 advocates for Family Planning Advocates of New York State's (FPA) annual Day of Action.

We filled The Well with pink and cheers of support for Planned Parenthood and reproductive health care. Our activists met with 27 of the 38 elected officials in our service area—an impressive combination of legislators and their staff members.

Our continued presence in Albany, year after year, rain or shine, pushed the Assembly to pass the Comprehensive Contraceptive Coverage Act (CCCA) later that afternoon. The following day, the Assembly also passed the solitary confinement bill, another piece of

legislation we advocated for during our legislative meetings, adding to the excitement of the Day of Action and safeguarding the health of incarcerated pregnant individuals. In April, Governor Cuomo signed into law a 12-week paid family leave program, a work life program lobbied for in January.

We will be going back to Albany in January 2017 and hope you will join us.



Day of Action, Albany, NY

Volunteers through our Health Center Advocacy Program collect stories from people in our health centers. If you would like to volunteer for this program, please contact our Human Resources Department at (914) 467-7325.

Shontay shared her story:

*"I've been a patient at Planned Parenthood since I was 17 and now I'm 33 with two children. I love their services. I can always count on immediate care and be confident that I'll have same day treatment, as opposed to having a doctor who makes me wait for an appointment then after the appointment having to wait 2-3 weeks for results. I couldn't imagine going through that ever again. Thank God for Planned Parenthood."*

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For more information about PPHP services and programs, please call (914) 467-7329 or visit [www.pphp.org](http://www.pphp.org).

**Health Center Locations:** Huntington, Mt. Vernon, New Rochelle, Patchogue, Riverhead, Smithtown, Spring Valley, West Islip, White Plains, Yonkers

# Calendar of Events

## East End Benefit

Sunday, May 29, 5-7 p.m.  
Steven Klein's West Kill Farm, Bridgehampton

## Trapped Screening and Discussion

Wednesday, June 29, 7 p.m.  
Jacob Burns Film Center, Pleasantville

## Summer Benefit

Sunday, July 10, 5-7 p.m.  
A private home in Setauket, Suffolk County

## Empower Gala

Tuesday, September 27, 6:30 p.m.  
Hilton Westchester, Rye Brook

More information on our events, visit [www.pphp.org](http://www.pphp.org).

Interested in volunteering with PPHP? There are a variety of activities throughout the year for volunteers. Please call (914) 467-7325 or more information.

**Donate today!** Visit [www.pphp.org/donate](http://www.pphp.org/donate) or call (914) 467-7337.



Images, clockwise: Celebrating the 43rd Anniversary of Roe v. Wade with a screening of *Grandma* and discussion on Feb. 11 at Stony Brook University. Rallying at the US Supreme Court on Mar.2. Tabling and presenting at PrideWorks on Mar. 23. Screening *Trapped* in Huntington on Mar.24. Administering an HIV tests on *SmartWheels* during Get Yourself Tested Month at Westchester Community College.