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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2009

Dr. Washington Hill is Featured Activist for Florida Planned Parenthood

*Dr. Washington Hill, MD, FACOG, one of our distinguished panelists for **Maternal Health Care in the 21st Century: Sarasota and Beyond**, was recognized as the September 2009 Featured Activist for **Florida Planned Parenthood**. The following an excerpt from Dr. Hill's column, 'In His Own Words.'*



As an OB/GYN physician, I learned long ago the importance for women of all ages to be educated about their bodies and about pregnancy-how it occurs and how to prevent it from occurring. That is the big mission of Planned Parenthood, to combine medical services for women and families with education. An educated patient is better prepared than one who is not, and that includes teens: girls and boys.

Planned Parenthood fulfills its mission of providing medical services,

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ABOUT BORN IN SARASOTA

Born in Sarasota is a collective of thoughts, articles, birth stories, events, and evidence in action supporting healthy, normal childbirth in our community. We are dedicated to promoting choices in mother-friendly maternity care practices and providers, informed consent for our pregnant families, and increased support of normal childbirth.

Do you have a birth story or birth photos to share? Please submit them here! Sharing your birth experiences will help empower others!

education and advocacy efforts extremely well every day and that is why I believe in speaking up for them whenever I can.

I also believe in choice. I've taken care of women who didn't have a choice of when to become pregnant. Some of them got sick and some died. When I was in medical school, I remember seeing patients sick from septic abortions from unplanned pregnancies. When I was at Temple University, I remember going to the ER and seeing women who had made attempts at self-termination and done it very dangerously. Fortunately, these life threatening medical emergencies are rare now in the United States, but back in those days, were common.

When I worked for Planned Parenthood in Oakland, CA , many years ago, I helped women with family planning, terminations and tubal ligations. A woman should be able to choose these options for herself. It's her body.

I learned to respect women's decisions and their right to make their own choices. I feel that is the right thing to do. I believe deeply in Planned Parenthood's work of education, choice, and prevention and that is why I do everything I can to advocate for them.

POSTED BY [KANGAROO](#) AT [10:37 AM](#)

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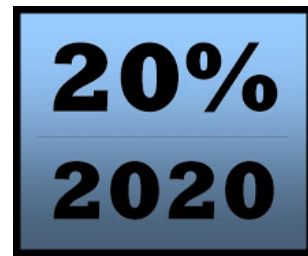
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ABOUT THE EDITOR

My name is Laura. With the support of my family, I have birthed two healthy ten pound babies at home with Licensed Midwives in Sarasota, Florida. I serve on the Executive Board of Directors for the [Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County](#), whose mission is to improve the health and well-being of Sarasota's pregnant women, infants, and small children. I am the Vice President on the Board of Directors for [Florida](#)

Friends of Midwives, and have been a Florida Ambassador for [The Birth Survey: The Transparency in Maternity Care Project](#). I am an endorser of [The Mother-Friendly Childbirth Initiative](#) and support the [Coalition for Improving Maternity Care Services](#). I am honored to be the marketing director for [Ina May Gaskin's Safe Motherhood Quilt Project](#), intended to raise awareness about American maternal mortality. I am also proud to be one of four co-hostesses in the collective known as [Maternally Yours](#), Sarasota's Conversation about Pregnancy, Childbirth and Early Motherhood, every Tuesday evening at 6:30pm on [WSLR 96.5](#), Sarasota's Community Radio Station.

I believe that the current paradigm of maternity care in the United States *must* be shifted away from the medically invasive model and back to the embrace of birth as a natural, healthy process, one in which intervention should be used appropriately and with absolutely transparent informed consent. Without such a shift, our mothers and babies will continue to have unnecessarily poor outcomes, and we will lose our primal reverence for birth as a sacred event.





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