

100 YEARS STRONG

SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE

THE
SOURCE
spring 2017

THE SEXUAL EVOLUTION

THE NEW MILLENNIUM



**“WE CONTINUE
THE FIGHT...
WE WILL NEVER
GIVE UP.”**

DEAR FRIENDS,

This past October, Planned Parenthood celebrated 100 years strong.

In 1916, Margaret Sanger and a small band of tenacious, defiant women were determined to give other women revolutionary access to care and information on how to prevent pregnancy – information that was completely illegal at the time.

The result? Women literally lined up and down the block of the first birth control clinic in Brooklyn for the opportunity to plan their families and, by extension, their own futures. Sanger, of course, was arrested – but she went right back to work, pursuing a radical vision of a world where women could realize their dreams without limits.

By refusing to be deterred, Margaret Sanger and her peers sparked a movement and set a powerful precedent: No matter the obstacles standing in our way, Planned Parenthood is here to stay – no matter what.

It hasn't been easy – but despite the history of attacks meant to roll back access to reproductive health care, we stand strong. Sparked by a brave few, and fortified by many over generations, Planned Parenthood has quite literally transformed the way we live.

I'm so thankful for all of you who have been part of the journey – and in this special Centennial issue of *The Source*, I am privileged to be able to share just some of your stories that illuminate the depth of our roots here in the heartland:



Marcia Kushner, whose mother was a patient at Margaret Sanger's first birth control clinic,

Barb Madden-Bittle, who served as Planned Parenthood's first health center director in Des Moines in the 1960s,

Penny Dickey, who recently retired after nearly three decades of service and who led the organization tenaciously against threats of violence throughout the heyday of Operation Rescue,

Robert Becker, whose legacy of support in eastern Iowa has roots in both family and philosophy; and

Dr. Deborah Turner, our associate medical director, whose dedication to women's cancer research has saved countless lives in both Iowa and Nebraska.

And we're just getting started. Planned Parenthood was founded on the revolutionary idea that women should have the information and care they need to live strong, healthy lives and fulfill their dreams — and we will not rest until that vision is a reality for all people.

Together, as we enter our second century, we continue the fight. We will build on our proud legacy with passion, courage and conviction. We will never give up.

Sincerely,

Suzanna de Baca
President & CEO

In 1927 a young newlywed woman walked into Margaret Sanger's first clinic to access family planning and birth control education. She then went on to have two children – including a daughter, Marcia, named in the Jewish tradition after a family friend who died tragically of infection as a result of a botched abortion.

As young Marcia grew up, her mother shared with her stories of family and friends who were faced with making the choice to terminate a pregnancy – stories that included her own mother.

This family history helped mold Marcia Kushner into an unwavering supporter, volunteer and past board member of Planned Parenthood. Today, Marcia is 88 years old and carries with her the history of the women in her family as well as the histories of the countless women she helped in her years of service as a volunteer of Planned Parenthood.

“Rich women could always get safe abortions, and poor women couldn't. Women should be able to have choice, but in many cases, making that choice was putting your life on the line. For 100 years Planned Parenthood has existed as the place women could go and be totally supported and safe for health needs like contraception, sound medical advice, and yes, abortions.”

When she retired in the early 1990s, Marcia knew she wanted to devote as much time as possible supporting women who needed safe and nonjudgmental reproductive health care. For 10 years, she escorted patients safely in and out of the Planned Parenthood health center in Lincoln – at times, playing loud music in an attempt to drown out the harmful words of protestors harassing patients.

“We even used leaf blowers to try to drown out the protestors. We did a LOT of leaf blowing back then.”

Looking back on her years of service, Marcia reflects, “I met people I never would have known through my work with Planned Parenthood – so many rewarding friendships and experiences. I still see some of those people I escorted on a fairly regular basis. We formed friendships and bonds. You get so much more than you give.”

Marcia is still working today, spreading the word about the importance of access to the health services Planned Parenthood provides, urging people to provide the financial and community support required to “preserve all that we have achieved.”

MARCIA KUSHNER



“FOR 100 YEARS PLANNED PARENTHOOD HAS EXISTED AS THE PLACE WOMEN COULD GO AND BE TOTALLY SUPPORTED.”

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No importa de dónde eres,
lo importante es que



“MY NURSING TRAINING WAS EXQUISITE, BUT MY REAL HUMAN EDUCATION CAME FROM PLANNED PARENTHOOD.”

BARB MADDEN-BITTLE

When we think of Planned Parenthood’s fight for reproductive rights, two priorities come to mind: access to safe, legal birth control and access to safe, legal abortion.

In Iowa, Barb Madden-Bittle had instrumental roles in both.

“I started at Planned Parenthood in May 1964. We were taking on research for pharmaceutical companies for the birth control pills before they were approved to be prescription drugs.”

Many women struggled with the effects of early contraceptive pills – but they came to the clinic diligently, every single month, for the opportunity to plan their families.

“The first birth control pills were 10 mg of estrogen. Women were nauseated, had water retention and weight gain, so they knocked it to 5 mg, then to 2.5 mg. Everyone thought that was wonderful by comparison. Some said, ‘I don’t care, I’ll put up with whatever it is if I don’t have to worry about getting pregnant.’”

Barb left Planned Parenthood in 1967, but stayed connected to the organization.

“Bob Webber, then Planned Parenthood’s executive director, was a minister who compassionately understood human needs. He was also a member of the Clergy Consultation Service, a referral network for abortion. He called me and said, ‘We need to focus on getting legislation in Iowa.’”

“I was a very active Republican at that time. Two Democrat friends and I started Iowans for Medical Control of Abortion, specifically to lobby the legislature for the Therapeutic Abortion Law. That meant rape, incest and life and health of the mother.”

The event that followed is astounding to this day.

“In 1973, I was standing in the Iowa Senate with the sponsor of the bill, ready to present the law to the Senate to force a vote. The phone in the Senate rings and the message comes through that *Roe v. Wade* has come down. We looked at one another and said, ‘What’s *Roe v. Wade*?’”

Without the press coverage we’re accustomed to in 2017, it took days before Iowans for Medical Control of Abortion had any idea what the landmark ruling said.

Forty-four years later, Barb, now 77, shares her stories so that we never return to those days before women had access to the care they deserve.

“My nursing training was exquisite, but my real human education came from Planned Parenthood. To understand family planning and women having control over their own reproductive life, that’s what’s kept me fighting.”



PENNY DICKEY

When Penny Dickey started at Planned Parenthood in 1989, she had no strong opinions about the organization. An OB/GYN nurse who had spent her career in hospital care, she saw the new position as a challenge and a career opportunity.

“WHEN SOMEONE STANDS IN THE WAY OF SOMETHING YOU BELIEVE IN, IT JUST STRENGTHENS YOUR RESOLVE TO STAND UP AND FIGHT.”

That changed when the anti-choice organization Operation Rescue ramped up its attacks. Its leadership set up offices just opposite the now former Planned Parenthood building on 19th St. in Des Moines, and began a barrage of protests. Penny tells harrowing tales of protesters entering the building, lying down behind police cars, shouting down patients and threatening violence.

Her first encounter with an aggressive protest came on a frigid Saturday morning in January 1990, just nine months after she started with Planned Parenthood. Operation Rescue's leader, known for chaotic scenes, had lined up protesters to block the door; Penny got the call. She finished vacuuming, loaded her two small children into the car and headed to the health center.

The kids waited in the car with a Planned Parenthood nurse while Penny gave her statement to police. Ultimately, Penny and law enforcement successfully removed the protesters; the incident made every news outlet in the state, and she became the local face of Planned Parenthood.

As attacks and protests escalated locally and nationally, her perspective on the work of Planned Parenthood changed.

“I was just indignant that someone thought they had the right to physically impose themselves in a space that was none of their business. It made me mad right down to my socks. All we could do was fight back in court. So that's what we did.”

Asked how the fight has changed, she reflects, “Initially, there was something physical to be angry about. They were intruding upon very personal space, and you could rally around that. You had a remedy because you could see them get arrested and go to court.

“Now they've moved to the political arena. And it's harder to get people to respond to the little pieces they're chipping away at. You have to get people to get out there and vote.”

Still, she is resolute. “When someone stands in the way of something you believe in, it just strengthens your resolve to stand up and fight.”

“When women’s rights, children’s rights and minority rights are not in place in a society, it defines in many ways the society’s values and how the society has subjugated human rights as a whole – it defines the culture,” said self-described “Free Thinker” Robert Becker, chair, Planned Parenthood of the Heartland Foundation Board of Trustees. He also serves on other nonprofit boards, including an organization that provides programs to treat mental and behavioral health issues in children and adolescents.

Raised by both parents to be a progressive liberal, Robert earned a degree in industrial engineering and operations research, and went on to design and build semiconductor plants globally. Today he owns an aerospace manufacturing shop in Cedar Rapids and is chairman of a local bank.

The incongruities of his professional and personal interests are not lost on Robert.

“Through my work with ex-military within the scope of the aerospace company, along with conservative leaning bankers and regulators with my banker’s hat on, it is clear I must thrive in worlds with differing agendas and political persuasion. The folks on the Planned Parenthood board, our supporters and great staff allow me to associate with those with whom I also highly respect, and

exemplify common shared values of diversity, nonjudgment and openness of empathic feelings.”

Robert’s big-picture strategic thinking, and long-range and scenario planning are well suited to his role with the PPHeartland Foundation, which has the responsibility of overseeing PPHeartland’s assets. He takes on dual roles of participating in a vision ‘quest’ for a future while being grounded in the realities of situations as they present themselves – including the political uncertainties that lay ahead.

“Over the long run the world has trended toward human rights, individuals’ freedoms, and transparency of facts and knowledge. The rights won by leaders such as Margaret Sanger are still applicable today, as is the message: Empower control over your body or allow your life to be enslaved by others that hold power. This message should not have changed as a result of who wins or who loses a single election.”


Robert encourages others to take the long view and to take action on the issues that are most important to them.

“Raise your voice and pick your battles so you can get a crowd behind you. You need a crowd in order to make a difference.”

**“RAISE YOUR
VOICE AND PICK
YOUR BATTLES
SO YOU CAN
GET A CROWD
BEHIND YOU.”**

**ROBERT
BECKER**



A close-up portrait of Dr. Deborah Turner, an African American woman with short, curly grey hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing large gold hoop earrings and a gold necklace. The background is a soft, out-of-focus brown.

“THERE WAS THIS NEED FOR WOMEN TO HAVE PEOPLE WHO REALLY CARED, TAKING CARE OF THEM.”

DR. DEBORAH TURNER

PPHeartland Associate Medical Director Deborah Turner, M.D., has spent decades on the front lines in the battle against women's cancers. The oncology surgeon knew early on that she wanted to specialize in OB/GYN medicine. But it wasn't until her residency at University of Iowa, when a cohort resident resigned and her own rotation was extended, that she discovered her passion for oncology.

“We had a phenomenal mentor, a staff doctor who was head of gynecologic oncology. He was a pioneer. I fell in love with the patient population – women facing major crises with their families, and having to make major decisions.”

Options were limited and often invasive; Dr. Turner describes a time when treatments we take for granted today didn't exist. “Most of the care was either extensive surgery or very basic chemotherapy where women were really sick because we didn't have simple anti-nausea medications.”

But the surgeon was tenacious.

“I had determined by that time that the patients I wanted to take care of were women. There was this need for women to have people who really cared, taking care of them.”

Dr. Turner went on to become the first African American and the first woman to train as a fellow at the prestigious MD Anderson Cancer Institute in Houston, then into academic research and teaching, and ultimately back into her first love: oncologic surgery.

Medical advances since those early days in the field have been dramatic, and she emphasizes the urgent need to invest in research that will continue those advances.

“We could be light years ahead in many areas of medical research. Money for research should not be a political football; it should just be part of the national fabric.”

Dr. Turner also stresses the critical role of prevention. “We need to stop talking the talk and start walking the walk. You can see the incredible steps we made from when the pap test first became available in the mid-1940s until now, and how the drop in rates of cervical cancer has been significant.”

Ultimately she is adamant that all women should have equitable access to quality care, calling herself “not only a scientist, but a social justice advocate.” It's what drives her in her role at Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, and keeps her striving for ever greater medical progress.



Health Care Happens Here.

withPP



IOWA MEDICAL COMMUNITY AGREES

Defunding Planned Parenthood would be a health care crisis for Iowa.

The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in Iowa and medical professionals across the state oppose SF 2: Medical professionals we have grave concerns that Senate File 2 is an ill-conceived attempt to prevent one of our state's best qualified family planning organizations from providing evidence-based services such as breast and testicular exams, STD testing and treatment, and well-woman exams to those who need it most."

lowest ob-gyns per capita of any state, and access problems."

lawmakers' claims that this proposed legislation would successfully urge bipartisan rejection of SF 2.

with physicians
re: ppaction



- Norris MD, Iowa State
- MD, Anstey
- MD, Ames
- Laura Dickey Clinic Manager, Des Moines
- Lauren Zenisek PA, Swisher
- Amanda Hampton LPM, Bettendorf
- Sabbath Schwabe RN, Des Moines
- Karl Ward CNM, Des Moines
- Meridith Morris RN, Boone
- Jeffrey Morris MD, Johnston
- Emily Alberhasky Crutcher
- Patricia Koch RN, Des Moines
- Lucinda Redhead MD, Des Moines

women are voting.

real sex ed.
real results.

#RejectSF2

#RejectSF2

I REPRESENT THE THOUSANDS OF JOBS THAT COULD LOSE ACCESS TO FAMILY PLANNING

STAND WITH PLANNED PARENTHOOD

birth control. my control.

women are watching

THE SEXUAL EVOLUTION

THE NEW MILLENNIUM



DEAR FRIENDS,

As our nation enters an era of reactionary leadership, it's natural to feel discouraged, angry or fearful of the impending attacks on reproductive health and rights. I myself feel those ways sometimes — but then I come to work.

As facilitator of PPHeartland's Teen Council program, I could not ask for a better job at a time like this. That's because every day I work with the next generation of change makers. They inspire me, they humble me, and working alongside them, I am less afraid of what is to come.

I tell you this: No one is changing culture the way young people are today. At Planned Parenthood, we're calling this shift The Sexual Evolution.

This generation of Planned Parenthood activists is the biggest, most progressive, and most open and connected we have ever seen. They don't define themselves by their genders. They embrace fluid sexuality. They recognize that access to health care is the result of many interconnected factors — race, gender, economics, sexual orientation, geography and immigration status, to name a few.

These young activists already care — deeply — about a world where every person has not only a right, but also equal access to health care. And in this special issue of The Source, I am thrilled to introduce you to just a few of the many young Planned Parenthood leaders who I know will inspire you, too.

You'll read about **Maria Hill**, who was part of our Teen Council and who at 19 has already helped pass legislation to expand immigration rights; **Kamryn Sannicks**, a Public Affairs intern who in the last election cycle was the youngest paid staffer in the state of Nebraska; **Natalie Chin**, a dedicated volunteer engaging patients and fellow supporters in advocacy; **Emma Wallace** — more commonly known in Iowa City as Boi Jeorge — a budding philanthropist who produces powerful performance art; and **Chelsea Thibodeau**, a medical student who is fearlessly embarking on a career providing a spectrum of critical health services, including safe, legal abortion.

This generation is empowered, they are ready, and they have already begun to radicalize the revolution ignited 100 years ago. I don't know about you, but I can't wait to see what they'll do next.

Sincerely,



Amber Barcel
Community Educator, Omaha

AMBER BARCEL

“NO ONE IS CHANGING CULTURE THE WAY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE TODAY. AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD, WE’RE CALLING THIS SHIFT THE SEXUAL EVOLUTION.”





**“IT’S NOT AS HARD
AS WE’VE BEEN TOLD
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CONCRETE CHANGE.”**

In the current political climate, thousands of young people are searching for ways to get civically engaged and make a difference. To see how it’s done, many have looked to 19-year-old Maria Hill.

As a senior at Omaha South High School, Maria got involved with several local organizations to address immigration, reproductive rights and sex education. She joined PPHearthland’s Teen Council, a dedicated group of students who meet weekly and lead peer-to-peer sex ed programs. She also testified before the Omaha Public School Board to include comprehensive sex education in the curriculum.

“I’m a member of the LGBTQ community, and I realized this was impacting me directly because I didn’t learn anything about what healthy relationships and sexuality look like for me and my partners.”

Maria, whose grandfather emigrated from Mexico, also views sex education with an acute awareness of how race, poverty and immigration status can affect access to resources.

“I saw how prevalent teen pregnancy was at my high school – something like 55 girls my senior year. A friend of mine went to a different school where a lot of people were having sex, but very few girls got pregnant.

I thought, ‘Why are people of higher social status, at predominantly white schools, not getting pregnant, but girls at my low-income, predominantly Latinx high school are?’”

As she gained an awareness of the barriers facing the people around her, Maria decided to act. Last legislative session, she actively lobbied for LB 947, a bill that would allow young people granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) to apply for professional and commercial licenses in Nebraska. She participated in storytelling workshops, testified at the Capitol and personally engaged Nebraska senators.

“A couple days before the vote, I called every senator in the legislature and asked for their support for the bill. It took so long.”

To Maria’s triumph, the bill passed. Governor Ricketts vetoed the bill, but the Nebraska legislature voted to override. Maria was in the seats above to witness both victories.

Now a freshman at Carleton College, Maria is only more determined to continue her advocacy and pursue her dream of becoming a state senator.

“It’s not as hard as we’ve been told to make actual concrete change. We can easily go and speak with our legislators, and we can hold them directly accountable.”



“WE’RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER AND EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED.”

I STAND

NATALIE CHIN

Planned Parenthood has been on Natalie’s radar since high school.

“I experienced a lot of people not knowing how STDs work, and I was like, ‘C’mon guys, look at the statistics and always use condoms.’ I went to Planned Parenthood’s website for a lot of information on sexual wellness, and saw, ‘This is a pretty good, reliable site. These seem like legit people.’ I wanted to get involved.”

After Natalie moved to Des Moines to study biochemistry at Drake University, she saw an opportunity to help.

“Planned Parenthood is always under attack, so the first thing I did was make some art displays out of thank-you notes for local health centers to boost staff morale. Those were really fun weekend projects. People were so kind and gracious.”

From there, Natalie began raising her hand for more and more opportunities, including phone banking for Planned Parenthood Voters of Iowa and, recently, Planned Parenthood’s Health Center Advocacy Program (HCAP).

“I started volunteering with HCAP at Susan Knapp health center several months ago. I have a stack of information cards and I approach patients after they’re done with their appointments to ask them if they want to

get more involved with Planned Parenthood. Everyone is wary of being solicited, but most of the time people are like, ‘Yes, please!’”

Particularly following the election, the urgency to take action is motivating young champions like Natalie to engage others.

“What I’ve seen and felt myself is I need to do more, I need to volunteer more often. I was talking to one of the women behind the desk at Susan Knapp, who told me, ‘You know, we’re fighting for our lives.’ I also try to be an LGBTQ ally. We’re all in this together, and everything is connected – like trans women, what is their treatment and care like?”

For Natalie, this is a way not only to engage her community in advocacy, but to get a closer look at her chosen career in health care.

“Being on the ground and seeing how employees interact with patients is wonderful. They do their jobs well and really listen to what their patients are saying. I want to be an OB/GYN at some point, and it just gives me so much hope for the profession I plan to go into.”

When asked where she most wanted to go at age 16, University of Nebraska-Lincoln political science student and former PPHeartland intern Kamryn Sannicks answered simply: the campaign trail.

“I’VE ALWAYS SEEN POLITICS AS A WAY TO GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY...”

“I’ve always seen politics as a way to give back to your community, and government as the way to fix problems including poverty, education and women’s reproductive rights. In 2014, I decided that since I could drive, I should get out there and put actions to the words.”

And so she did. Kamryn, now 19, wasted no time signing up to volunteer for candidates, and in this last election she became the youngest paid political staffer in Nebraska, serving as field director for Sen. Anna Wishart. Following the election’s mixed results, Kamryn’s dedication to civic engagement hasn’t wavered.

“We knew going in the results would be favorable for Anna, but I stopped celebrating the win when it solidified that I’d have to come to terms with a Trump presidency. His administration worries me because I’m a young woman, African American, and in the Army National Guard. It took two days to take it all in, and then I wanted to immediately get back out there.”

In addition to her electoral work, Kamryn spent several months as an intern for Planned Parenthood’s public affairs team. In her role, she took on research for issues including parental consent and judicial bypass and comprehensive sex education.

“I’ve been working with the team to ensure Planned Parenthood’s issues are represented by good champions this legislative session and that we’re doing right by people in Nebraska.”

Doing so has been an eye-opening experience, to say the least.

“Access in Nebraska is both better and worse than I thought. There’s a great lack of access in the south, but states like Washington, Oregon and California are so much better. We need to get our state to a place where women and families have access to birth control and sex education, and resources to defend against sexual harassment and sexual assault. None of these should be partisan issues.”

Given Kamryn’s passion – including her recent commitment to sustain our organization through her first planned gift – we’ll surely be hearing more of her. Perhaps one day as Senator or even President Sannicks.

“I see myself running for office some day. I’m also working to become a commissioned officer. My end goal is simply to do the greatest good for the greatest number of people.”

KAMRYN SANNICKS



Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.” Emma Wallace possesses such a heart and soul.

She is infectiously enthusiastic and passionate about ensuring access to reproductive health, especially for the LGBTQ community. Her journey to reproductive health advocate and activist has been short, but her commitment is deep.

It began with her involvement in the Heartland Bombshells Burlesque troupe. Emma was inspired by this troupe of body- and sex-positive women who helped her to not only come to a new level of personal confidence, but to create her own artistic expression. Wallace’s burlesque persona, Boi George, offers a gender queer version of burlesque that she has coined “Boilesque.”

Through her performances with the troupe, Emma got connected to Planned Parenthood and to Misty Rebik, regional director of strategic partnerships and development in eastern Iowa. Misty asked Emma to emcee a sex trivia event in Iowa City, and in true Emma fashion, she eagerly accepted.

While preparing for the event, Emma, who identifies as a queer woman, was stunned to learn not only how much she didn’t know about STDs, but most significantly, she said,

“I had no idea the kinds of services Planned Parenthood provides!”

The education she received through that event inspired Emma. While she has always had strong women in her life who encouraged her to go to Planned Parenthood, the sex trivia event moved her to be the catalyst that connects the LGBTQ community with Planned Parenthood.

“They are so important to everyone. It’s really about our long-term health.”

Today, Emma finds Planned Parenthood a huge source of inspiration in her performances. She has pledged half of the proceeds from her performances to the organization, and uses her burlesque platform as a way to educate LGBTQ women about Planned Parenthood’s services.

“I’ve honestly felt that my work has never meant more than right now. In the wake of the election, it’s more important than ever. It’s lit a fire under me.”

Emma Wallace proves to be a fierce torchbearer as we look ahead to the next century of Planned Parenthood.

EMMA WALLACE

“I’VE HONESTLY FELT THAT MY WORK HAS NEVER MEANT MORE THAN RIGHT NOW.”





**“NORMALIZING
ABORTION AS A SAFE,
COMMON MEDICAL
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TO THE SHAMING
DISCOURSE.”**

CHELSEA THIBODEAU

A fourth year medical student at Des Moines University, Chelsea has been nurturing her passion for social justice, reproductive rights and women's rights for several years. Volunteering as a patient support at the Planned Parenthood affiliate in St. Paul deepened her understanding of the need for safe, compassionate abortion care – and strengthened her dedication to reducing abortion stigma, including within the medical community.

Later, as a leader of Medical Students for Choice at DMU, Chelsea helped put on a workshop on uterine aspiration to ensure that abortion education is available to medical students. More recently, she collaborated with that group and Planned Parenthood of the Heartland to co-sponsor a screening of *Vessel*, a documentary about a physician who sails a ship around the world, providing abortions at sea for women with no legal alternative.

But it was attending PPHeartland's Day on the Hill in Iowa, as well as a policy summit in Cedar Rapids, that inspired her to protect those rights and become a voice for change.

“Even for people who are very pro-choice, abortion is often still relegated to a taboo subject. Normalizing abortion as a safe, common medical procedure is an important counter to the shaming discourse that makes

things like 72-hour waiting periods and surgical suite requirements seem acceptable.”

Given the results of the 2016 election, Chelsea is concerned about the continued accessibility of essential health care services.

“Reproductive health care is health care. Planning pregnancies, well-woman check-ups and simply caring for your health is crucial – which is why Planned Parenthood is such an important player in the health care arena.

“As a future physician, I will get the training I need, but people may not be able to access the care they need. The argument that people can easily get the same care in any clinic as they do at Planned Parenthood is false. There are communities in which patients seeking abortion, gender non-conforming patients, or patients of so many other minority groups may not feel safe seeking the care they need somewhere else, even if they are lucky enough to be able to afford it.”

Chelsea is resolved to do everything she can to be a voice for underserved communities.

“I intend to remain engaged in health care policy.”

SHARE YOUR STORY

We hope you are inspired by the stories in this issue – and we hope you will share your story with us, too! Champions like you make an enormous impact in your local communities, and we want to hear from you. Please reach out to the strategic partnership director in your area:

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Include Planned Parenthood of the Heartland in your will

Plan a gift that will change lives. Contact Tari or visit ppheartland.plannmygift.org

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