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YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW: I'M FOR PLANNED PARENTHOOD

As we continue to celebrate PPSNE's centennial anniversary, I find myself reflecting on both how far we have come from where we started in 1923 and the reality that, generations later, we are continuing to fight for our most basic rights and freedoms.

At PPSNE we know that rights alone are not enough - those rights must be meaningfully accessible to all people. That's why we are continuing to innovate and find new ways to connect people with information and resources so they can make their own decisions about their bodies, lives, and futures. In this newsletter we are proud to share details about a new program we are piloting this year designed to connect our patients with prenatal care services when they need them.

You'll also read about decades of PPSNE history that have been carefully cataloged in archives that are available to the public. In looking back through these materials, I was particularly struck by this paragraph in a 1941 document describing the legislative strategy at that time to push for legalizing birth control:

"An impressive majority of the citizens of Connecticut favor legislation legalizing every individual to decide whether or not she or he wishes to practice birth control. The minority opposition makes up in noise what it lacks in numbers. It makes up in money what strength it loses in arguing the undemocratic principle which would rule out self-determination.

Thus our main purpose must be to awaken the majority. If the majority is awakened, those who represent the majority in the state legislature cannot forever oppose its will.*"

In 2023, poll after poll shows that the public overwhelmingly supports legal abortion – **85% of Americans**, regardless of political affiliation, want abortion to be legal nationwide. Yet despite the will of the majority, anti-abortion lawmakers and activists are now brazenly trying to weaponize the court system to impose a narrow ideology on the public and strip people of access to basic health care. They think these outrageous attacks will intimidate us. They are wrong.

We are here, just like we have been for the past 100 years. We are undaunted. We will speak the truth. We will say unequivocally and defiantly: **I'm for Planned Parenthood. We will say proudly: I'm for abortion care. I'm for gender-affirming care. I'm for STI testing. I'm for wellness exams. I'm for sex education. We will say unwaveringly: I'm for the essential high-quality health care that Planned Parenthood safely and legally provides. And I will fight for the fundamental right to access that care.**

Now is the time to show up big for our patients, for our providers, for the people of Connecticut and Rhode Island, for the entire nation. It is time for us to once again "awaken the majority" and raise our voices in support of sexual and reproductive health care. Your support in this critical moment is as important as ever. Thank you for being a part of our powerful movement to protect and expand reproductive freedom for all people. Thank you for declaring, "I'm for Planned Parenthood."

Amanda Skinner, MSN, MBA
she/her/hers
PPSNE President & CEO



*Connecticut Committee to Make Birth Control Legal: Remarks concerning the legislative effort before the 1941 General Assembly, PPSNE Archive, New Haven Museum, New Haven, Connecticut.



PPSNE MAKES STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS in the Face of Health Care Staffing Shortages

In the midst of the global health care crisis, marked by the profound challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, a critical shortage of health care workers has emerged. The demand for skilled staff has surged to unprecedented levels, putting serious strain on the system as a whole. The World Health Organization predicts a shortfall of 15 million health care professionals worldwide by 2030.

In addition to the impact of these broader systemic shortages, PPSNE's health care teams are faced with complexities that are unique to our mission and work. Ongoing political debates and legislative changes related to reproductive rights and access to services such as abortion and contraception create uncertainty for both providers and patients. Our health care staff must stay informed about evolving policies and work diligently to ensure that our patients have access to comprehensive care, regardless of the political landscape. Their role extends beyond clinical care to advocating for the rights and well-being of their patients. This combination of circumstances is why PPSNE is making significant investments in workforce recruitment and retention. These are strategic imperatives to ensure that we are able to provide **Care. No Matter What.**

In the current fiscal year, we are advancing our pay equity goals by making critical investments in staff compensation to recognize the critical work of our team in a highly competitive health care market. We have launched a best practice onboarding program called Center Ready to ensure our newly hired staff are well-supported and prepared to jump in on their first days in our health centers. We are setting forth plans for innovative recruitment and retention strategies for frontline health care providers, including loan repayment options for licensed clinical staff. We are exploring best practices to build a workforce that represents the lived experiences of the patients and communities we serve. We are investing in professional development, through a mentorship program and leadership training available to staff. We are implementing career ladders for our non-licensed medical staff, who provide essential support and coordination for our patients. We are doing all of this as a critical part of the public health safety net - and this is possible thanks to you, our dedicated supporters.

Our health care teams are the backbone of the patient care we provide across Connecticut and Rhode Island. We know that a well-supported workforce directly correlates with the overall quality of care we are able to provide. By investing in our staff, we are not only acknowledging the invaluable contributions of health care workers but also strengthening PPSNE's resilience and the capacity of our organization to face future challenges.

ANNUAL CHECK UP 2023

On October 25th, author Jessica Valenti, joined us in Greenwich for a discussion around navigating a post *Roe v. Wade* world and the importance of protecting access to reproductive health care across the country.



Donna Moffly with her son Jonathan Moffly.

Event Co-Chairs, Kelly Annunziato, Kristen Miller, and Jane Carlin with Amanda Skinner and Jessica Valenti.



Barbara Berk, Nancy Stillerman, Joan Weisman, and Maggie Knehnas.



Sarah Cullen, Dr. Nicole Fleischmann, Heidi Berger, Dr. Jennifer Berger, Kelly Annunziato, and Jillian McComiskey.



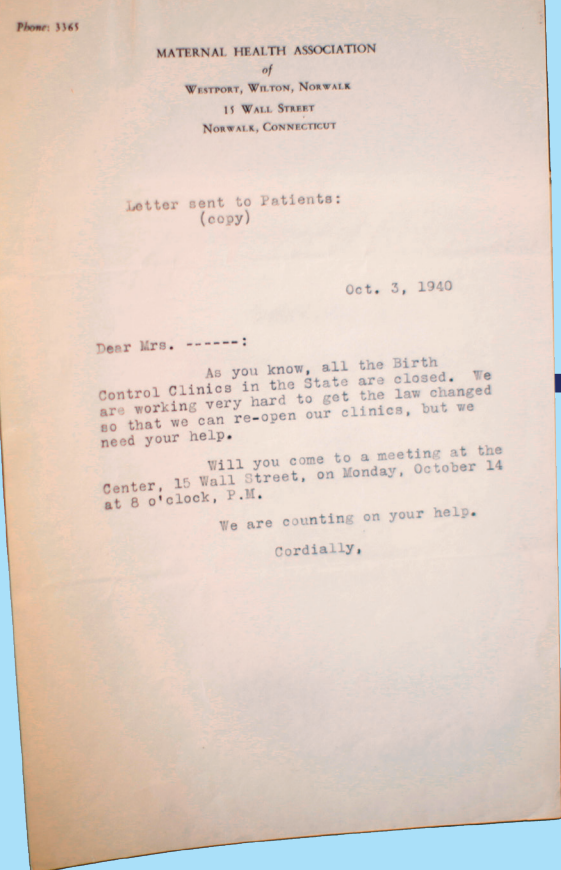
CHAMPIONS 2023

On November 8th, we were joined in Providence by Planned Parenthood Action Fund President and CEO, Alexis McGill Johnson for a discussion about where we are in our movement and where we're headed next!

Amanda Skinner talks with Dr. Bennie Fleming and Rebecca Minard.



Rhode Island Senate Sponsors of the Equality in Abortion Coverage Act gather for a picture with Amanda Skinner, Alexis McGill Johnson, Vimala Phongsavanh, and Gretchen Raffa



A letter sent by the Maternal Health Association, eventually known as Planned Parenthood League of Connecticut, informing patients that the Birth Control Clinics have been shut down and urging them to join in a meeting to mobilize around the legalization of birth control (1940).

Dear Mrs. -----:

As you know, all the Birth Control Clinics in the State are closed. We are working very hard to get the law changed so that we can re-open our clinics, but we need your help.

Will you come to a meeting at the Center, 15 Wall Street, on Monday, October 14 at 8 o'clock, P.M.

We are counting on your help.

Cordially,

A letter from The Rhode Island Maternal Health Association, eventually known as Planned Parenthood of Rhode Island, informing Estelle Griswold that they would provide aid to allow services to be offered to patients in the eastern region of Connecticut. Without their help the region would have been a contraceptive desert and services would have been unavailable.

Dear Mrs. Griswold:

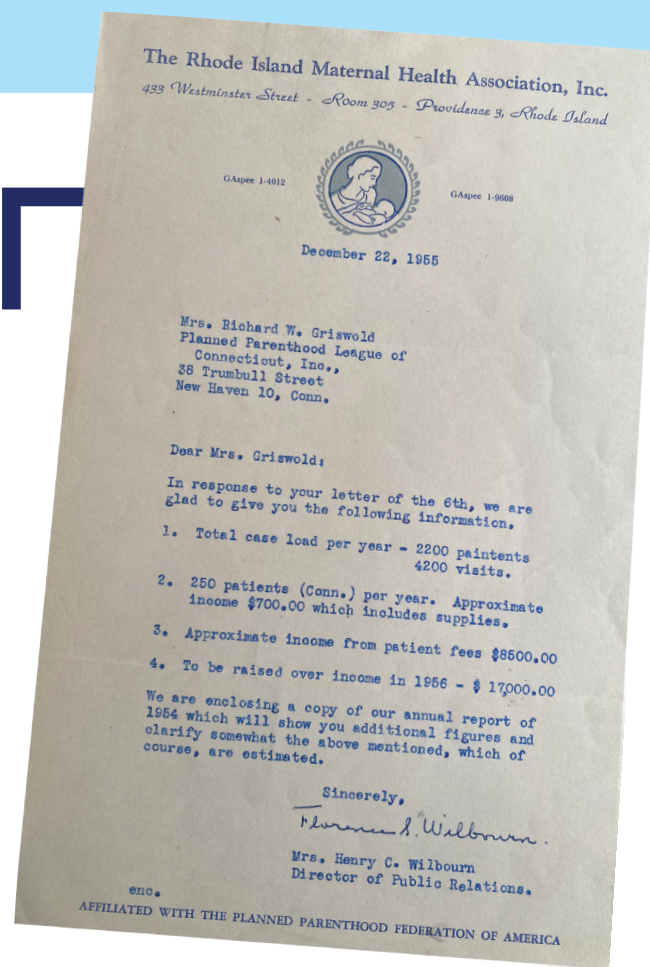
In response to your letter of the 6th, we are glad to give you the following information.

1. Total case load per year - 2200 patients, 4200 visits.
2. 250 patients (Conn.) per year. Approximate income \$700.00 which includes supplies.
3. Approximate income from patient fees \$8500.00
4. To be raised over income in 1956 - \$ 17,000.00

We are enclosing a copy of our annual report of 1954 which will show you additional figures and clarify somewhat the above mentioned, which of course, are estimated.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Henry C. Wilbourn
Director of Public Relations.



LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE:

WHAT'S NEW AT PPSNE?

Expanding Access to Prenatal Care to Address Racial Disparities in Birth Outcomes

To address the gap in access to high-quality, culturally competent prenatal care, PPSNE is launching a new initiative called "Choices in Childbirth" for patients looking to carry out their pregnancy.

PPSNE has been caring for generations of families in our communities, making our health centers the place people trust when they need a pregnancy test or ultrasound. This means our health centers are often the first place that people find out they are pregnant and our teams are the first to counsel them about their options for a new pregnancy. Choices in Childbirth will help expectant parents connect with prenatal care that aligns with their medical needs and values, with a focus on reducing racial disparities in maternal health outcomes.

Choices in Childbirth is designed to expand beyond medical care alone, with a goal to enhance patients' overall well-being during pregnancy through a range of online programs, including childbirth education, prenatal yoga classes, pregnancy support groups, and more. The program will offer patients the ability to connect directly with a prenatal "connector" from our partner organization, JustBirth Space, who specializes in culturally competent prenatal care, particularly for Black women. The connectors, who are often birthworkers themselves, will then help PPSNE patients identify prenatal providers, doula services, and other resources in their local communities. Choices in Childbirth is designed to shorten the time a patient waits before their first prenatal visit, decreasing their chances of negative birth outcomes. We also worked with JustBirth Space to create a dedicated website for these patients, with videos covering a range of topics from labor and birth to informed consent and knowing your rights.

In October, four PPSNE health centers launched a pilot of this initiative, with a goal of expanding to all 15 health centers in the near future.

"In my 12 years working in Norwich, I have heard patients share horror stories of racism, lack of access, and feeling like they don't have any options for prenatal care in their community," said Jessica Davila, health center manager at PPSNE Norwich, one of the four pilot sites, "They don't have anyone to advocate for them. I want to be an advocate for patients to know that they're not alone."



A LEGACY FOR

PLANNED PARENTHOOD:

Retirement assets left to or given to PPSNE can support the future of reproductive freedom

DONATE NOW to be a part of our

\$1 MILLION MATCH

Thanks to an anonymous donor, all new or additional gifts to PPSNE from now through December 31, 2023 will be matched up to 1 million dollars. The impact of your gift will be doubled in support of reproductive health care in Connecticut and Rhode Island!

PPSNE.ORG/DONATE

A gift today from your IRA can save you taxes

Many supporters older than 70 ½ take advantage of the current IRA Charitable rollover provision which allows donors to make a contribution directly from their IRA to PPSNE (up to \$100,000) and not have that transfer count towards their taxable income in the same year that they made the charitable gift. These rollover amounts then count toward your required minimum distribution minimizing your taxes in the year of the distribution. In order to make a gift from your IRA, please contact the company that administers your plan.

A future gift from your IRA/retirement assets

Do you want to leave a legacy to Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE)? A legacy that will reflect your lifelong commitment to reproductive freedom and the prevention of unintended pregnancy?

Then consider making PPSNE the beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k), tax-sheltered annuity or other retirement assets. These assets can be subject to income tax and estate taxes, often leaving significantly less for your heirs. By leaving PPSNE a portion of your retirement assets, you can help support the future of reproductive freedom.

Simply request a change of beneficiary form from your retirement plan and let your lawyer or executor know of your intentions. When you fill out the form you will need

- our legal name (Planned Parenthood of Southern New England),
- our taxpayer ID number (06-0263565)
- and our mailing address (345 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511).

We encourage you to let us know if you include PPSNE in your life or estate plans or are planning to make a qualified distribution from your IRA. 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. For more information about how you can establish your legacy please contact Claire Phipps at Claire.phipps@ppsne.org or 401-479-5029.