

# ACCESS: Newsletter

Your Support In Action!

#### FROM THE CEO

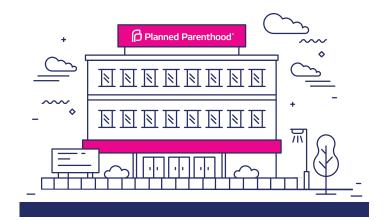
## We are expanding!

With an increase in patients and services, it is time for Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) health centers to support our growing need for space and staffing.

For over 90 years, PPM has been delivering high quality and affordable reproductive health care services. By providing these services alongside education and training, we seek to help individuals make informed decisions about their reproductive health, family planning options, and sexuality. PPM's function as a community-based health provider places it in a special role as a safety net and preventive health resource for many of the state's uninsured and underinsured residents.

PPM operates seven health centers in the state of Maryland. In FY18, we served 30,000 people with quality reproductive health care services and provided education services to over 7,000 youth and youth services professionals. Our health centers provide all FDA-approved birth control methods, well-woman exams and cancer screenings, vasectomy procedures, breast health exams, pregnancy tests, options counseling, HIV testing and education, sexually transmitted infections (STI) testing and treatment, PrEP, HPV vaccines, and urinary tract infection (UTI) treatment. We are proud to also provide in-clinic and medication abortion services at our Annapolis and Baltimore health centers and medication abortion services in our Easton and Frederick health centers via telemedicine.

Over the past 15 years, our patient base has more than doubled. Even with this growth we still face unmet patient demand, particularly at our health centers in Annapolis, Baltimore, Towson, and Owings Mills.



We also know that our patients need care beyond our current scope of services. They have unmet needs and seek our care as their trusted providers of choice.

Therefore, our goal is to expand our current sexual and reproductive health care services and phase in primary care services to our core patient base. To do this, we need to invest in our clinical staffing and in our current facilities.

We recently launched an expansion campaign to raise funds to support expanded patient access and care through increased clinical staffing and investments in all of our health centers, including relocation and renovation efforts at several health centers throughout Maryland, including Annapolis, Towson, and Owings Mills.

Over the next two years, we will ask our most invested supporters to join our campaign by considering increases in annual support - and we will keep you in the loop on our expansion efforts and successes. **Thank you for your support!** 



Karenjhelson

#### **HEALTH CARE**

# We've EXPANDED Annapolis!

Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) has operated a health center location in Annapolis for over thirty-five years. We are the only provider of abortion services in Anne Arundel County and it hasn't always been easy. Every day, staff and patients face anti-choice protestors, many of whom are affiliated with the Crisis Pregnancy Center located directly across the street.

Our Annapolis health center also experiences high patient demand for both preventive family planning services and abortion care, and often our patients need to wait up to 10 days for an appointment. We have also been limited by our physical space, without enough exam rooms or staffing.

To address these concerns, PPM began renovations in February 2016. In October 2019 we officially completed renovations, adding an additional 7,000 square feet, as well as creating a welcoming and affirming environment.







Visit our updated space: 929 West Street, Suite 200 Annapolis, MD 21401

The expanded space will allow us to increase the number of days we provide abortion services in Annapolis from 6 to 10 days per month. The new space is bright and peaceful, giving patients privacy and health care in an updated environment.

With this renovation and expansion, PPM has increased access for women in Anne Arundel County and surrounding Maryland areas, and is now ready to welcome patients from other states that may be experiencing increased barriers to abortion care. As the country's climate gets more hostile every day, PPM is taking an active role in contingency planning on the local, regional, and national levels.

## **Share Your Story**

We want to hear from you! Nothing supports the fight for reproductive health care more than the voices of our supporters. To share your story e-mail **Rahula Strohl** at **rahula.strohl@ppm.care** 

### EDUCATION

# Health Has No Borders: PPM Educators Go Global

As part of a Planned Parenthood Global Youth **Ambassador Fellowship, PPM's Education** Coordinator, Valerie Pasquale, traveled to Mukono District, Uganda this past summer to observe and learn at the Kyetume Community Based Health Center. The Planned Parenthood Global Youth Ambassadors Program, led by Planned Parenthood Global, is open to Planned Parenthood volunteers and employees under the age of 30. The program is designed to help address the inequities young people around the world face when it comes to reproductive health care. Ambassadors are selected through a very competitive application process. Each applicant submits a project proposal and if selected, ambassadors receive a one-year grant of up to \$15,000.

Valerie spent 4 weeks living in Uganda to observe and create a Community Peer Education **Program to bring back to Baltimore's Latinx** community. Her big takeaway was that we're doing the "same work, different environment" with limited resources. Valerie observed creative ways to combat lack of consistent funding, sexual health stigma, lack of access to education and taboos in different cultural contexts which will benefit her project here. Under Valerie's leadership, PPM will recruit and train Latinx community members on sexual health material, group facilitation, and lesson planning. Then each new Peer Educator will create and conduct sexual health programming that is culturally and linguistically relevant to the Baltimore Latinx community. Now back in Baltimore, Valerie is working to launch this program with the help of PPM's new bilingual educator, Francisco Hernandez.



Valerie is not the first PPM Educator to take part in the Global Youth Ambassador Fellowship. In 2015, Vice President of Education and Outreach, Vanessa Geffrard traveled to the Benue State in Nigeria to learn from the local community how they were utilizing hair to engage with clients on safer sex, birth control, and referrals to local health clinics. This practice helped the Benue State move from #1 in HIV incidence to #4 in Nigeria. Once back in Baltimore, Vanessa applied this concept to a new PPM program, Clippers and Curlers, a "4-hour training enabling barbers, stylists, and cosmetology students to discuss sexual health, HIV, and relationship violence with their clients and refer to local resources."

In 2016, PPM Educator Tiaira Harris, traveled to Kampala, Uganda and Nairobi, Kenya to learn more about sexual health outreach to sex workers and other at-risk populations. Back in Baltimore, Tiaira developed and implemented her program "Coffee Date" that "provided compassionate harm reduction services, advocacy, and community engagement for at-risk populations" in the city. Through this experience, Tiaira realized the importance of storytelling, sharing, "it was the brave storytellers, who acted as oral history books of sorts... without voices like those and similar ones from sex workers in Baltimore, we would not know about the atrocities they face."

Valerie, Vanessa, and Tiaira have made tremendous impact in our PPM service community through their experience and participation in this grant-funded program allowing them to look at their work through a culturally humble and global lens.

# **Further your impact!**

Make a donation today at www.ppm.care/reprohero

#### **ADVOCACY**

## **Fighting Forward How This Political Activist** is Fighting for Justice

PPM recently welcomed Jay Hutchins as our new VP of Public Affairs. Jay has a long track record of fighting for and organizing the community on **progressive issues.** He got his start as a campus organizer for Jesse Jackson's presidential campaign while attending the historically Black university Winston-Salem State University in North Carolina.

Jay brings extensive experience in policy and governmental relations through his previous roles. Most recently, he served as the director of Maryland Working Families where he led the effort to pass legislation to raise the state minimum wage. Earlier in Jay's career, he worked under former Governor O'Malley with the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and served as legislative director for the Maryland State and D.C. AFL-CIO. In local politics, you may have heard of him when he was a candidate for the Maryland General Assembly in 2010.

For Jay, joining PPM and the reproductive rights movement was a "no brainer" as he believes "every person should have a measure of dignity and agency over themselves."

Jay is excited to lead PPM's Public Affairs team and will focus on identifying our legislative champions at the local and state levels. In addition, his team will advocate for proactive laws and policies that protect and expand access for reproductive health services, build connections with organizations that are supportive, and educate and activate supporters. Jay believes that continued access to reproductive health care and education requires vigilance. Maryland has been a leader on reproductive rights for our country but we cannot rest on our laurels.

Jay and the Public Affairs team at PPM are looking forward to getting back to Annapolis in January for the legislative session at the Maryland General Assembly.

If you have any questions regarding community organizing or want to get more

**Jay Hutchins VP of Public Affairs** 

involved in our advocacy efforts, please contact Jay Hutchins at jay.hutchins@ppm.care or (410) 576-2164.

#### Have you considered making a year-end charitable donation using your IRA?

Your donation will not be included in your gross income and will not be subject to income tax - no tax cost to you or Planned Parenthood of Maryland!

If you are over the age of 70, you could significantly decrease your taxable estate by making a charitable contribution directly from your IRA with a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Contact your Financial Advisor to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution to PPM today.

For more information, contact VP of **Development,** Shelly Terranova, at (410) 576-2132 or shelly.terranova@ppm.care

\*Information taken from "Who Should Consider an IRA 2018, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC. Member SIPC.

