

## Provide, Protect, Expand: Charting Planned Parenthood's Path Forward

**A conversation between Dr. Jennifer Childs-Roshak, PPLM president and CEO, and Dr. Leana Wen, Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) president and the first physician in nearly 50 years to lead the Federation.**

**JCR:** I remember the day PPFA announced you would serve as its new president. I was thrilled – and I've already seen how your experience as a physician and a public health advocate is shaping our work to provide, protect, and expand reproductive health care.

**LW:** Thank you, Jen! It's an extraordinary time to lead this organization. While I am new to Planned Parenthood, Planned Parenthood isn't new to me. I was a patient, so were my mother and my sister. I understand firsthand just how vital Planned Parenthood's services are to the 2.4 million patients who depend on us.

**JCR:** As the former Health Commissioner of the City of Baltimore, how do you see public health approaches furthering Planned Parenthood's mission?

**LW:** To meet our patients' needs, we have an obligation to consider the whole person, their ability to access care, and the social determinants to their health – from socioeconomic status to physical environment. We have a central role to play in reducing health disparities. We are thinking about this in all the pillars of our work: health care, education, advocacy, and research.

**JCR:** Exactly. At PPLM, addressing health care disparities is a top priority. We're identifying persisting health inequities across the state and working to improve sexual and reproductive health outcomes for Massachusetts residents – regardless of their race, zip code, or income.

**LW:** Absolutely. We must meet patients where they are – because reproductive health care is health care, and health care is a human right.



Dr. Jennifer Childs-Roshak and Dr. Leana Wen at PPFA's headquarters in New York in April.

**JCR:** So, what's ahead for Planned Parenthood nationally?

**LW:** We must integrate Planned Parenthood into the broader health care system, while continuing to provide the gold standard of reproductive care. We must protect access to that care – because keeping people unhealthy is a tool of oppression, and we will not let that stand. And third, we must expand our reach and impact. States like Massachusetts are already leading the way by advocating for protective, proactive health policies.

**JCR:** People often ask me, "What drives you to do this work every day?" For me, it's about our patients. What motivates you?

**LW:** It is about our patients. But it's also about my 20-month old son Eli. I don't want my children to grow up in a world where they have fewer rights than we do. I want them to have the rights and freedoms to live out their dreams. That's what I'm fighting for.

# ceo's corner

Natasha Moustache



Dear Friends,  
This spring, I kept thinking about a quote from Pablo Neruda, which has taken on new meaning for me since November 2016: ***You can cut all the flowers but you cannot keep spring from coming.***

This is Planned Parenthood. As the Trump-Pence administration attacks our patients' health and

rights at every turn, Planned Parenthood keeps coming back stronger than ever. This April, I had the privilege of spending time with PPA's new President Dr. Leana Wen, who brings incredible energy, expertise, and passion to Planned Parenthood. I am eager to see where her leadership takes our movement.

Locally, PPLM's work continues to move forward, despite the Trump-Pence administration's dangerous Title X domestic gag rule aimed at dismantling the nation's only program for affordable preventive

reproductive health care. In April, the Massachusetts legislature and Governor Baker approved a budget defending access to essential services like birth control and cancer screenings for the 75,000 Massachusetts residents who rely on Title X.

These attacks will continue, and we will keep pressing ahead to provide, protect, and expand care for our patients. Through PPLM's bold, new strategic plan, we are working to increase access to care and education, combat persisting health care disparities, and improve sexual and reproductive health outcomes across the Commonwealth.

As we implement our strategic plan, develop innovative programs (like our campus organizing chapters), and care for our patients, your support matters more than ever – and you make it possible for spring to keep coming. Thank you, again, for standing with PPLM.

Jennifer Childs-Roshak, MD, MBA  
President and CEO

## advocate spotlight: A Very Green Gift - PPLM's Worcester Health Center Goes Solar

Thanks to the unique vision of two Northampton donors, PPLM's Worcester Health Center now bears a solar panel array that will help defray the costs of the building's significant electrical demands. The panels, donated by Brian Adams and Morey Phippen, are reducing PPLM's electricity costs, so we can redirect those dollars into critical patient services.

Adams and Phippen added PPLM to their growing list of donated solar panel installations because they are passionate about PPLM's work. "In 1978, we were college kids seeking advice about birth control. We went to our local Planned Parenthood health center, where we had an enlightening,

empowering, sympathetic experience that literally changed our lives." After college, Morey went on to a 30-year career as a reproductive health counselor; Brian taught environmental science. When they retired, they wanted to give back to causes they support in a focused way.

The couple's innovative philanthropy benefits from a partnership with Northeast Solar of Hatfield, Massachusetts, which has completed 26 similar free installations across the state, including an inner-city farm stand, a homeless shelter, food pantries, and several social service agencies. "The Worcester Planned Parenthood solar project perfectly



Morey Phippen and Brian Adams.

combines the two issues we care most about: climate change and women's reproductive health. We're thrilled with the results."

# program spotlight



## Organizing for the Future: PPAF & Campus Activists Work for Change

Energetic students on 11 Massachusetts campuses are collaborating with the Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund of Massachusetts (PPAF) on an array of activities that are raising the visibility of reproductive health issues and improving access to resources at their respective schools. These activities are part of PPAF's Campus Organizing Program, an initiative that mobilizes young people to organize on their college campuses, engage in PPAF's state advocacy work, and create long-lasting change in their communities.

**"Today's students want accurate information, strong community, and practical resources, and we're here to support them - no matter what."**

Each chapter's agenda grows out of the specific concerns of its students, in the context of the geographic, social, and cultural make-up of its school. PPAF offers hands-on help with planning, logistics, networking, skills trainings, communications, and events. Susannah Miller, president of Brandeis University Pro-Choice, says, "With PPAF's guidance, we created a strategic plan to expand access to emergency contraception. We drafted goals, identified key players, and recruited allies. We learned how to be leaders."

At Smith College, student organizers are advancing menstrual equity by providing environmentally friendly products, such as menstrual cups, in residences and at their campus health center. At the University of Massachusetts Amherst, student organizers are training to become volunteer abortion doulas who can provide emotional support and information to someone accessing abortion care. They also plan to provide transportation for students seeking abortion care at PPLM's Springfield Health Center, 25 miles away.

One of the Campus Organizing Program's most visible achievements is the installation of a health and wellness vending machine in the student center at Brandeis University. Student organizers worked with administrators to include Plan B (a.k.a. the over-



Brandeis University student organizers at the unveiling of the campus' health and wellness vending machine.

the-counter "morning after pill") alongside condoms, menstrual supplies, and pregnancy tests in the machine. Now students have 24-hour access to all these health care supplies, even when their campus health center is closed.

These and other innovative projects tie directly to the overall goal of PPAF's Campus Organizing Program: to make reproductive health and freedom a reality on college campuses, and beyond. The movement is collaborative: each fall PPAF brings together Massachusetts' 11 organizing chapters for the Campus Summit, where students share experiences and link their work to state and national advocacy. Chapters support PPAF's efforts to expand access to sex education and safe, legal abortion, host events to boost advocacy, and recruit new Planned Parenthood supporters. Kate Gannon, PPAF's advocacy coordinator, says, "Today's students want accurate information, strong community, and practical resources, and we're here to support them – no matter what."

# faces & places



At the Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund of Massachusetts (PPAF) Celebration of Choices gala in March: above, gala co-chair Georgia Murray, PPAF board chair and event honoree Naomi Aberly, *New York Times* op-ed columnist and keynote speaker Charles M. Blow, and gala co-chairs Nonnie and Rick Burnes; upper right, John LoBue and PPAF board member Christian LoBue; right, PPLM board member Anne Columbia, PPLM board member Wanda McClain, Tony James, and PPLM board members Magnolia Contreras and Ellen Farwell. (credit: Natasha Moustache)



**PPLM celebrates 90 years! Visit [pplm.org/90years](http://pplm.org/90years) to learn more about our history.**



Above, PPLM Medical Director Danielle Roncari and U.S. Senator Ed Markey (D-MA) at a press conference at PPLM in March addressing Senator Markey's opposition to the Trump-Pence administration's gag rule. Left, PPLM President and CEO Dr. Jennifer Childs-Roshak and PPLM staff accepting the PPAF Health Care Innovation Award at the Planned Parenthood National Conference in March.

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