

CHOICE Remarks

SPRING 2021

Spotlight on Education: Meet Zanetta Graham



Zanetta Graham
Vice President of
Education at UHPP

What would you say was the biggest obstacle for you and your team to overcome during COVID?

Our department was in full swing in middle and elementary schools across our service areas, so the closures and disruption of programming was a big disappointment. I would say the biggest obstacle for our team to overcome during COVID was reformatting our curricula for virtual facilitation. It was a huge lift for our team, and they did an incredible job.

How has being virtual impacted the ability to connect with students?

Being virtual has made an enormous impact on our ability to connect with students because the attendance rate is much lower than in-person. It makes "reading the room" much harder for our educators, and we do not get the same opportunity for students to approach us after class to have more sensitive conversations.

What specific project or program are you and your team particularly proud of accomplishing during COVID?

One project we are proud of is our podcast called Spilling the T.E.A. (Truth, Education and Advice). This allows us to reach audiences beyond our virtual

classrooms and social media. Otherwise we are just proud to have been able to adjust to this new climate and continue to provide sex ed to those who need it the most.

How important is passing Comprehensive Sex Education (CSE) to the students that you serve through Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood programs?

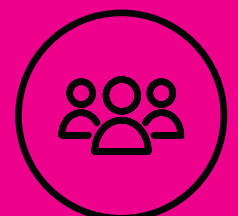
Passing CSE is extremely important. Right now, students access to sex ed is totally up to the values of the school districts and their administrators which has resulted in a very uneven patchwork of access to information. Parents who want their students to have access to this important information could and should use their voice to express how they feel to their respective principals, superintendents, and legislators.

Why is this work so important? And what inspired you to be an educator/work at UHPP?

At the risk of sounding dramatic, this work is important because it saves actual lives. Comprehensive sex ed is not just about the technical aspects of sex but also helps people build skills to make better choices and live healthier, happier lives. That is what inspires me to work at Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood, knowing that the work I do and the information I provide is making an impact on individuals and communities as a whole.

SUPPORT US TODAY AND TOMORROW!

As you can see, we have a lot of work to do. This year, we are asking for everyone who can to double their support to help us protect reproductive and sexual health care access now, and into the future with our Patient Access Fund. Questions? Email anne@uhpp.org for more info.



National Recognition for Reverend Singletary

Congratulations to Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood's proud supporter and advocate Reverend Kim Singletary, AMEC, of Hudson for being awarded the *Reverends Betsy M. and Thomas R. Davis Distinguished Clergy Award* ("Davis Award") from Planned Parenthood Federation of America's Clergy for Choice Award at the PPFA National Conference this year.

For more than a decade, Rev. Singletary has been a strong, visible and outspoken supporter for UHPP and as part of Concerned Clergy for Choice through Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts.

If there is a UHPP event in Hudson, NY you can count on Rev. Singletary's support. Drawing from her unique perspective as a faith leader, she is the first to dispel myths and break down communication barriers among people regardless of their position on reproductive health issues.



Rev. Singletary accepting UHPP's Clergy for Choice Award in 2018 at our annual Roe v. Wade event.

Lunch and Learn Series Part Two



Since we have been unable to come together in person this past year, we launched a new series called "Lunch and Learn" to dig into topics related to Planned Parenthood with a focus on reproductive health, rights, and justice. Our last series covered the PP Statewide Agenda and Virtual Lobby Training, the ERA, Voting Reform in NY and the COVID-19 Vaccine. Our second series starting in May will touch on LGBTQ rights, sex education legislation and more. Each session will be virtual on Zoom, from 12-12:30/12:45pm and feature an expert speaker on the topic. Visit our website at uhpp.org for more information or to RSVP.

NYS Reached a Budget Agreement

In April, the New York State Governor and Legislature announced they had reached the final agreement on a \$212 billion budget. It was an unusual budget negotiation process to say the very least. Planned Parenthood supporters met with representatives during the annual Day of Action to advocate for funding for our services. Some highlights include flat funding for the Comprehensive Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Grant and the Family Planning Grant, as well as \$4.6m in funding for Public Health Solutions and their former sub-grantees, who were also forced from the Title X program as a result of the gag rule. Additionally, the legislature added funds to the Family Planning Grant for a total of \$937,500.

