

## Gaps Continued from page 1

cost of her testing, but also other related screenings and birth control counseling. She also encouraged the teen to have an honest talk with her parents about what had happened.

The primary mission of UHPP remains the provision of excellent reproductive health care services and particularly the provision of birth control information and supplies. Half of all U.S. pregnancies are currently unintended—one of the highest rates of unintended pregnancy among developed nations.

Based on both the recent election results and the continuing economic climate, UHPP and other Planned Parenthoods expect to face attempts at the state and national levels to reduce—and even eliminate—our funding for family planning services.

As Patricia McGeown, President/CEO of UHPP stated in a recent strategy meeting, “the availability of affordable

family planning services—including birth control, GYN exams, STI screenings and reproductive options—is a proven and critical factor in the achievement of positive outcomes in education, employment and health. And historically, the most cost-effective model for the delivery of high-quality, affordable family planning and related reproductive health services to the largest number of women is the Planned Parenthood model.”

The future of our mission, and the health of our communities, will rest on our ability to communicate this truth over the coming year to our elected representatives and government leaders.

UHPP serves more than 11,000 men and women each year who make more than 22,000 visits to our health centers in Albany, Troy and Hudson. In 2009, overall visits increased 16%. ●



UHPP nurse Letrice Keariney-Andrew explaining birth control to a patient.



# ICE

WINTER 2010

# REMEMARKS

## UHPP Continues to Fill in the Gaps

The young woman seen recently at our Albany health center was in her early 20's. Her visit, although it appeared routine, turned out to have a critical impact on her health and life. Beverley Krauss, UHPP Physician Assistant and Medical Advisor met with the patient to discuss her history and symptoms. "She had been treated at a local clinic for a yeast infection," explained Krauss, "but the symptoms had not gone away. She was still experiencing discomfort and was concerned she might have a urinary tract infection. After speaking with her, reviewing her test results and taking some patient history, I became convinced that it wasn't a UTI at all, but that she was suffering from diabetes." Krauss asked for a urinalysis and then explained her diagnosis to the patient. Since the patient did not have health insurance, Krauss encouraged her to go to the emergency room and ask to be tested for diabetes. A few days later, the patient emailed Beverley and told her that while the ER staff was skeptical and didn't think the test was necessary, they ran it. In fact, the patient did have diabetes and would now begin appropriate treatment.



Six out of ten Planned Parenthood patients statewide do not see any other health care provider. From Pap smears and breast exams to urinalysis and STI testing, our health centers provide critical screening services that lead to early detection and treatment for a wide range of conditions. UHPP centers also serve as a gateway into a complex system of state programs designed to ensure that those who are uninsured or underinsured can access reproductive health care.

At a recent UHPP Teen Clinic, a high school student expressed her worries to one of the UHPP peer educators. "I had sex with someone without using anything," said the young girl. "It was a mistake and I'm not seeing him anymore. I know I'm not pregnant. But now I'm worried I might have caught something." The peer educator encouraged the teen to get tested for sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, but the teen was scared. She did not have any money and did not want the test to show up on her parent's health insurance. So the educator helped her enroll in the Family Planning Benefit Program, covering not only the

Continued on page 8

### SAVE THE DATES

#### JOIN US!

Women's Health Matters:  
Day of Advocacy

January 10, 2010

10 am to 3 pm

Location:  
State Capital Building  
Albany, NY

For more information  
contact Blue at 434-5678,  
ext. 133 or email  
blue@uhpp.org.

Annual Roe v. Wade  
Celebration

Thursday, January 20, 2010

5:30 pm to 7 pm

Location:  
Fort Orange Club

For more information, visit  
www.uhpp.org or call  
Amber at 434.5678, ext.  
121.



## President's Corner

From Patricia A. McGeown, President/CEO

The average American woman spends approximately five years pregnant, postpartum or trying to have children. But, she spends 30 years trying to prevent pregnancy! This can add up to thousands of dollars spent on prescription birth control.

Unfortunately, more than one-third of American women voters report having struggled with the cost of prescription birth control at some point in their lives. That number rises dramatically among younger women, with more than half (55 percent) mentioning a time when they could not afford to use birth control consistently.

In the United States, half of all pregnancies are unintended. In order to address the cause of unintended pregnancy, we must increase access to affordable birth control. Leading medical organizations such as the

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists believe that under the new health care law, prescription birth control should be covered with no co-pays, so that more women can afford the method of birth control that works best for them.

This potential change in policy is so simple, yet so far-reaching. If birth control were made available at no cost, women would be able to more consistently use the birth control method that works best for them, without worrying about cost. That would help reduce the rate of unintended pregnancies and improve the health of women and their children.

A survey conducted by Hart Research Associates found that 71 percent of all voters were in favor of fully covering prescription birth control with no co-pays. The number is even higher among women voters, of which 81 percent supported this policy. The support is strong across political, religious and ethnic groups. Seventy-seven percent of Catholic women voters and 72 percent of Republican women voters support covering birth control with no co-pays. Sixty percent of male voters support this policy.

Under the new health care law, health insurance plans will be required to

fully cover women's preventive health care services without requiring any co-pays. In the coming year, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will decide which benefits will be covered at no cost for women. We at Planned Parenthood believe that prescription birth control is women's preventive health care. By eliminating this cost barrier and providing prescription birth control with no co-pays or out-of-pocket costs, women will have access to a full range of reliable, safe and effective birth control methods, thereby helping them plan their families and reduce unintended pregnancies.

And, yet, opposition to this sensible policy has already emerged. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops asserts that birth control is not preventive health care since pregnancy is not a disease. Use of birth control, they contend, is a "life style choice." The conservative, anti-choice Family Research Council is also attacking full coverage of prescription birth control.

Here we go again. We appear headed for another extended debate over what should be a no-brainer. Fully covering prescription birth control, with no co-pays, is good for women. It is good public health practice and it is good public policy. ●

### Geoffrey Moore

Chairperson,  
Board of Directors

### Patricia A. McGeown

President/CEO

### Blue Carreker

Editor

### LOCATIONS

#### ALBANY

Health Center/Administrative Offices  
855 Central Avenue  
Albany, NY 12206  
(518) 434-5678

#### HUDSON

190 Fairview Ave.  
Hudson, NY 12534  
(518) 828-4675

#### TROY

Hendrick Hudson Bldg.  
200 Broadway, Suite 200  
Troy, NY 12180  
(518) 274-5640

[www.uhpp.org](http://www.uhpp.org)





## Planned Parenthood Young Leaders Cocktails for a Cause!

On the evening of Thursday October 14, UHPP's Planned Parenthood Young Leaders (PPYL) group held a "Cocktails for a Cause" event at Daisy Baker's in Troy. Twenty five people came out to enjoy great drinks, exciting appetizers and fabulous conversation—and heard some inspirational words from UHPP President/CEO Patricia McGeown.

PPYL is a group of 40-ish and younger local professionals committed to the mission and activities of UHPP, who have expressed interest in meeting and networking with like-minded individuals in an informal atmosphere. If you are interested in attending future events or becoming involved with PPYL, e-mail [ppyl@uhpp.org](mailto:ppyl@uhpp.org) for more information. ●

## Language Line Helping UHPP staff Communicate with Patients!

Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood uses a service provided by AT&T called Language Line Services, which allows staff to communicate with patients who speak little or no English. Language Line provides accurate and complete first-person interpretation in over 170 different languages with appropriate responsiveness to the country of origin and level of education of the speaker.

Thus, when it is determined that a UHPP client will require an interpreter in a specific language in order to receive quality service, the client is assigned to a private counseling or exam room and a call placed to Language Line by the appropriate UHPP staff person. The service provides immediate connection to an interpreter specializing in that language and—with the use of a speaker phone—the visit can proceed as if there were an interpreter in the room.

"With more non-English speaking patients turning to UHPP for services, Language Line is proving invaluable" states Dr. Christine Pluviose, UHPP's Vice President for Patient Services.

The Capital Region refugee population is growing each year. UHPP works with the U.S. Committee for Refugee and Immigrants to help women gain access to reproductive health services, as part of that agency's responsibility for resettling



On the phone, nurse Kristin Preschel.

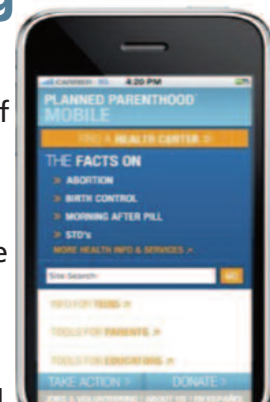
families in our community.

UHPP Nurse Kristin Preschel uses the service a few times each week. Preschel finds the service easy to use and says it has been particularly helpful with an increasing number of patients who speak Karen or Burmese.

"UHPP utilization of the Language Line has helped remove language as a barrier for service access," states Pluviose. "As word spreads that our staff are trained in the use of this interpreter service, we hope more non-English speaking men and women will come to our health centers." ●

## Mobile Version of [www.uhpp.org](http://www.uhpp.org)

In October of this year, Planned Parenthood Federation of America launched a mobile version of their website which included a mobile version of [www.uhpp.org](http://www.uhpp.org). According to studies done by Planned Parenthood, by the year 2014, 50 percent of all internet browsing will be done on a mobile device. Our mobile version was created to optimize the user's experience, based on the type of device they are using. (i.e. Blackberry, iPhone, etc.) The mobile version will offer health service information, as well as a location finder. According to Katherine S. Bruno, UHPP's Director of Marketing, "the new mobile version provides a great new vehicle for reaching new and current patients and for providing information in an easy, accessible way."



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## Election Wrap Up

With a small number of races still unresolved as we go to press, the overall results of the recent election are beginning to become clear. Voters in New York State elected strong statewide pro-choice leaders, including a new Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and Comptroller. We also sent two strong supporters, Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, back to the US Senate. That is the good news. On the down side, anti-

choice forces gained strength in both the US Senate and the US House of Representatives, which will pose new challenges for reproductive health and rights. In our UHPP service area, our Congressional delegation is now split. Voters returned pro-choice Congressman Paul Tonko, who represents Albany and the eastern part of Rensselaer County, but replaced Scott Murphy in Columbia and Greene Counties, with Chris Gibson, who is anti-choice. Our New York State Legislature saw major gains by Republicans, including many who are anti-

choice. With some races still undecided, it is unclear if Republicans or Democrats will control the Senate. The NYS Assembly retained a Democrat and pro-choice majority. Our own UHPP representation remains the same, with the exception of Tim Gordon, a pro-choice Assemblyman, who was replaced by Steve McLaughlin. ●

**NYS Senate Switchboard:**  
**(518) 455-2800**

**NYS Assembly Switchboard:**  
**(518) 455-4100**

**Capitol Switchboard:**  
**(202) 224-3121**

## BY THE NUMBERS

### US Senate

45 pro-choice, 44 anti-choice, 10 mixed, 1 race undecided.  
51 Democrats (down from 57), 46 Republicans, 2 Independents.

### NYS Representation in US Senate

Kirsten Gillibrand and Chuck Schumer, both Democrats and both pro-choice.

### US House of Representatives

247 anti-choice (up from 204), 158 pro-choice, 25 mixed, 5 races undecided

### NYS Representation in House of Representatives

20 pro-choice, 5 anti-choice, 1 mixed, 1 unknown, 2 undecided  
20 Democrats, 7 Republicans, 1 undecided

### UHPP Representatives

Paul Tonko (D-21st District) pro-choice  
Chris Gibson (R-20th District) anti-choice

### New York State Leadership

Governor: Andrew Cuomo (D) pro-choice  
Lt. Governor- Duffy (D) pro-choice  
Attorney General: Eric Schneiderman (D) pro-choice  
Comptroller DiNapoli (D) pro-choice

### New York State Legislature

NYS Senate  
27 pro-choice, 23 anti-choice, 5 mixed, 4 undecided, 3 undecided  
29 Democrats, 30 Republicans

### UHPP Senators

Neil Breslin (D-46th District) pro-choice  
Roy McDonald (R- 43rd District) pro-choice  
James Seward (R- 51st District) mixed  
Stephen Saland (R- 41st District) anti-choice.

### NYS Assembly

79 pro-choice, 65 anti-choice, 5 undecided  
105 Democrats, 40 Republicans

### UHPP Assembly Members

Ronald Canestrari (D-106th) pro-choice  
Tony Jordan (R-112th) anti-choice  
Peter Lopez (R-97th) anti-choice  
Jack McEneny (D-104th) pro-choice  
Marcus Molinaro (R-103rd) anti-choice  
Steve McLaughlin (R-108th) unknown  
Robert Reilly (D-109th) mixed



UHPP staff members and supporters were among the many volunteers who worked with Planned Parenthood Advocates of New York (PPANY), Upper Hudson chapter this fall to support pro-choice candidates. PPANY volunteers are pictured above at the rally for Scott Murphy in Saratoga Springs featuring former President Bill Clinton.

## LIVE ACTION Camp Trains Students in Advocacy

On September 25, UHPP held a “Live Action Camp” at our new Albany location to provide local college students with an opportunity to learn about—and practice—advocacy for reproductive rights. The program was organized by UHPP Education Director, Meaghan Carroll and former UHPP intern and VOX leader, Alexandra Fitz. Both women received a scholarship to attend a PPFA Regional Conference last spring on Grassroots Organizing and utilized their new knowledge in planning the event.

The event began with a presentation by Blue Carreker, UHPP’s Vice President for Public Affairs and Marketing, on the

history of the reproductive rights movement. She was followed by Alisa Costa, of Family Planning Advocates, who talked about the legislative process and our efforts to pass bills supporting sex education. Over lunch, Meaghan Carroll used a computer to show examples of creative visibility activities used by youth organizers across the country. In the afternoon, everyone went down to LarkFEST and put their training to work. We talked to over 100 people and collected petition signatures about the importance of ending federal funding for abstinence education and expanding support for comprehensive sex education. ●

## Ribbon Cutting at 855 Central Avenue



New York State Senator Neil Breslin and Albany Mayor Jerry Jennings joined Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood Board President Geoffrey Moore, President/CEO Patricia McGeown and three local philanthropists—Phoebe Bender, Charles M. Liddle and Dr. Mary C. Kahl—in cutting the ribbon at the new UHPP health center and administrative offices at 855 Central Avenue. The event included an Open House for supporters, collaborative community partners and those involved in both the Capital Campaign and the design and construction of the facility.

At the event, Moore welcomed the attendees and McGeown thanked a long list of those who helped make the move possible. The mayor spoke of how impressed he was by the beauty of the center and its clear reflection of the professional medical services provided. He also noted that the new location is in the midst of an increasingly active and important business corridor. Senator Breslin praised the hard work and dedication of the staff and supporters and noted that both clients and staff will be free of much of the harassment they have had to endure for many years on Lark Street.

Phoebe Bender and Charles M. Liddle are Honorary Co-Chairs, and Dr. Mary C. Kahl is Campaign Chair for the Expanding Access\* Meeting Needs Capital Campaign still in progress to raise \$1.692 million for the relocation. As of the event, just under \$300,000 was still needed to meet the goal.

## University Students Launch Birth Control Matters Campaign

The University at Albany pro-choice student VOX group went all out for a local launch of the national Birth Control Matters campaign (see pg 2). VOX members started with a “dorm storm” on Tuesday, October 12, knocking on doors to let students know about the campaign and passing out flyers promoting a Thursday event on campus with “candy, comedy and contraceptives.” On Wednesday, they tabled outside of the campus center, collecting signatures for the Birth Control Matters petition.

On Thursday, October 14th, the evening campus event featured the University at Albany improv group, The Sketchy Characters. More than 30 students attended and were drawn in by the comedy group who improvised scenes related to birth control and sexuality. Blue Carreker, UHPP Vice President of Public Affairs and Marketing, followed with a brief talk about the campaign and the importance of student activism. A member of the College Democrats emphasized how important it was for young people to get out and vote in the coming election and the VOX Vice President gave away pink Birth Control Matters t-shirts to students who had the correct answers to questions about sexual health. Petitions were circulated and signatures gathered. It was a terrific kick off to an important campaign. ●



To Stay Updated:  
“Like” UHPP  
on Facebook!

[www.uhpp.org](http://www.uhpp.org)



## Keeping an Eye on the S.T.A.R.S.

School is back in session and the S.T.A.R.S. (Seriously Talking about Responsible Sex) peer educators are once again making a difference in their schools and communities. Their training and activities are balanced between providing sexual health education programming and role-modeling positive youth development. Here are some recent highlights:

- Hudson and Albany S.T.A.R.S. peer educators represented UHPP at the annual Capital District AIDSWalk, helping with set up, raising funds and walking as part of their “service learning.”

### Former S.T.A.R.S. Peer Educator Update...



Marielle McKasty-Stagg was a Columbia County peer educator from Taconic Hills High School from 2000 to 2002. After high school, Marielle attended the University of Albany where she served as VOX President. She graduated in 2006 with a Bachelors degree in Liberal Arts, with a major in Women’s Studies and a minor in Spanish.

Currently, Marielle is the Director of Human Resources at UHPP where she has worked since 2006. She recently applied to graduate school for Non profit Management and she hopes to start attending this spring.

Marielle recently married her longtime girlfriend, Nicole, in Cape Cod. She loves travelling, walking her dog and non-competitive volleyball.

- At UHPP’s recent fundraiser, “Condom Nation Celebration,” S.T.A.R.S. members representing both Hudson and Albany peer education teams engaged attendees in a “Fact or Crap” interactive activity based on common myths in sex education.

- The Albany S.T.A.R.S. program hosted a Community Advisory Council Meeting on November 3 which was attended by representatives from several community and government agencies. The peer educators described their program goals and activities and attendees were given a tour of the new facility. Attendees were also invited to evaluate some of our new teen outreach materials.

- With great support from both faculty and the new principal, the Albany S.T.A.R.S. program has initiated an after-school “Drop-In Center” at Albany High School (AHS), to be held twice a month on Tuesdays, from 3 to 4 pm. The Center is staffed by S.T.A.R.S. peer educators, as well as UHPP Education staff, and provides a school-based alternative to the teen clinic we offer at our own health centers on Thursday afternoons from 3 to 6 pm. Students who stop by can grab a healthy snack, get answers to specific concerns or questions, or participate in sexuality themed games and activities with the peer educators. They can even win a prize for attending.

- Similarly, the City of Hudson Youth Department has enabled our Columbia County S.T.A.R.S. program to offer a drop-in mentoring program for girls ages 7 to 13. The program is offered as one of several activities available to youth who come to the Youth Department building on Fridays from 4 to 5pm. ●



S.T.A.R.S. peer educators from Albany and Columbia counties at AIDSWalk.



Above: S.T.A.R.S. peer educators at the “Condom Nation Celebration” event at the Palace Theater in Albany.

Below: S.T.A.R.S. peer educators: Amber, Azhane, Dylan, Darian, Isabel and Adnan



## Donor Profile: Chuck and Barbara Manning

When the Hyde Amendment passed in 1976 barring the use of federal funds to pay for abortions, Chuck and Barbara Manning made the decision to make Planned Parenthood—both locally and nationally—their top priority for philanthropic support. According to the couple, they “had to do what we could to make up for that loss.” The Mannings believe strongly that abortion is an important option for women that must be safe, accessible and affordable.

But their support for UHPP is not just about abortion. “I support UHPP,” explained Barbara, “because I believe that all women should have access to

affordable, quality healthcare.” The Mannings also believe that better and more widespread sex education is the key to reducing our nation’s high rates of unintended pregnancy, and especially teen pregnancy.

These beliefs led the Mannings to make a generous capital campaign gift to specifically support UHPP’s Albany Teen Clinic at the newly opened facility at 855 Central Avenue. They said “we believe in the S.T.A.R.S. (Seriously Talking About Responsible Sex) peer program. We understand that high school peer educators are much more effective than adults at engaging kids



UHPP President/CEO Patricia McGeown with Chuck and Barbara Manning

when they first become sexually active and then helping them to learn about birth control and STD prevention.”

“Our gift,” says the couple “is for hope and the future.” ●

## Condom Nation Celebration!

On Thursday, October 21, Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood hosted a Condom Nation Celebration at the Palace Theatre in Albany. Attendees walked beneath the Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood name emblazoned on the theatre marquee and feasted on an amazing array of hot and cold hors d’oeuvres catered by Classé Catering. During the reception, guests were approached and engaged in discussions by UHPP staff Rob Curry, Senior Vice President for External Affairs, and Meaghan Carrol, Director of Education, who took on the respective personas of a 1950’s gym teacher and Health teacher. At one point, targeted “girls” and “boys” were separated and lectured on the “birds and the bees.”

Not to be outdone by staff, the UHPP S.T.A.R.S. high school peer educators then engaged attendees in a more modern sex education exercise called “Fact or Crap” based on common myths about sexual health. The reception also included condom art displays created by Paige Fletcher, daughter of UHPP board member, Dr. Tara Lindsley.

The featured speaker for the event was author Alexandra Lord Ph.D., whose book, *Condom Nation: The U.S. Government’s Sex Education Campaign from World War I to the Internet* recently won the Award for the Public Understanding of Science, first prize for popular medicine in the British Medical Association 2010 book awards. A choice of desserts was offered with coffee before guests returned home.

A special “thank you” to Albany Medical Center for their sponsorship of this event. ●

## Gifts in Tribute

Giving tributes is a special way to remember or honor someone special, while helping others in our community. If you would like more information about tributes, please call (518) 434-5678 x121.

**In honor of the Students of Albany High School:  
Good New School Year**

Michael A. Karp

**In memory of Bertha Burch**

Ms. Katherine I. Moss

**In honor of Don Cashman**

Ms. Beatrice Herman and Mr. Robert Herman

**In honor of Mary Kahl**

Dr. Myron Gordon and Ms. Karol Gordon

**In memory of Miriam Netter**

Dr. Myron Gordon and Ms. Karol Gordon

**In memory of Pola Yolles**

Ms. Barbara C. Manning and Mr. Charles W. Manning

**In Honor of Beth Scher**

Barry and Sara Lee Larner

**In honor of Catherine Volk**

Lawrence J. Volk

**In memory of Pola Yolles**

Mr. Mark Yolles and Ms. Mary A. Freeman

In our recent publication of the 2009 Annual Report, we regret that the following donors were not recognized: President’s Circle: Ms. Cathy Love and Mr. George Berg; Guardian’s Circle: Ms. Deborah Smead.

This list is inclusive from July 23, 2010 to October 21, 2011. Please notify us if we have made any errors and accept our apologies.



Photo left: UHPP Board Chair Geoffrey Moore and President/CEO Patricia McGeown with Alexandra Lord, author of “Condom Nation: The U.S. Government’s Sex Education Campaign from World War I to the Internet.”



Right: Dr. Tara Lindsley and daughter, Paige Fletcher, designers of the reception’s condom art.