

# Public Affairs and Advocacy

## Successes:

**The Healthy Teens Act advanced** through the State Legislature with more support than ever before. The bill had 61 bipartisan co-sponsors in the Assembly and passed that house with a vote of 127-15. The bill was favorably reported by the Senate Health Committee, but Senate leadership failed to bring it to the floor for a full vote despite strong support for age-appropriate medically accurate sex education.

**The Women's Health and Wellness Act** was unanimously upheld by New York's highest court in a decision released in October. FPA and Planned Parenthood submitted an amicus brief to the Court of Appeals defending this important law, which helps to eliminate discrimination in health care by requiring insurance coverage for reproductive health needs including contraception.

**Plan B emergency contraception was approved** for over-the-counter use by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) after more than three years of stalling. FPA appealed directly to the FDA to approve Plan B and supported Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton's efforts to block approval of a new FDA commissioner until a decision was rendered. While the decision was a victory for many women, the FDA denied over-the-counter access to women under 18. FPA publicly objected to this scientifically baseless exclusion.

**FPA's 2006 Annual Conference** featured celebrated actress and activist Kathy Najimy, former FDA Assistant Commissioner Dr. Susan Wood, and author and activist Marge Piercy. State legislators and staff, Planned Parenthood personnel and pro-choice activists from around the state participated in the April 3 event, which included six workshops on timely reproductive health issues and key legislative priorities.

**Two devoted defenders of women's health and rights** were recognized at FPA's Annual Conference Luncheon. Assemblymember Amy Paulin received the Margaret Sanger Award for her work to improve reproductive health policies including sponsoring the Unintended Pregnancy Prevention Act. Dr. Susan Wood, who resigned from the FDA over the agency's handling of Plan B's application to make emergency contraception available over-the-counter, received FPA's Champion of Choice Award for her steadfast commitment to women's health.

**The Unintended Pregnancy Prevention Act** was stalled in the Senate Higher Education Committee, after being passed by the New York State Assembly in February. This legislation, which passed both houses of the Legislature in 2005, but was vetoed by Governor Pataki, would help to increase access to emergency contraception (EC) for women of all ages by enabling pharmacists and registered nurses to dispense EC through collaborative agreements with physicians.

**New York rallied strong opposition to ultraconservative U.S. Supreme Court nominees.** New York Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Charles Schumer led the debate over Samuel Alito's nomination and voiced strong reservations about his record of hostility toward women's rights. The nomination process activated many passive pro-choice supporters who had previously felt confident in *Roe v. Wade*, but saw the danger of a newly constructed Supreme Court. New York volunteers contacted more than 6,000 voters in the target state of Maine to raise awareness of critical Supreme Court nominations.

**The first cancer vaccine was approved by the FDA** and FPA worked to ensure wide distribution of this scientific advancement that will save the lives of countless women. The vaccine, developed by Merck, can protect women from two types of human papilloma virus (HPV) that cause about 70 percent of cervical cancer cases.

**A statewide survey found strong support for sex education** in New York. Republicans and Catholics were among those who affirm that young people should have information about contraception and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. Pollster Celinda Lake presented the findings of the survey commissioned by FPA at a news conference attended by more than a dozen reporters in Albany.

**The Annual Meeting of FPA's Board of Directors** featured Howard Wolfson, the savvy and in-demand political analyst and strategist who served as executive director at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and as communications director for Senators Schumer, Clinton and countless other progressive candidates prior to joining The Glover Park Group.

**FPA awards** were presented at the Annual Meeting on November 16. Kirsten Moore, president and CEO of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project received the Alfred F. Moran Public Advocacy Award. The Shirley Gordon Public Policy Leadership Award was presented to Dr. Alwyn Cohall, principal investigator and project director of the Harlem Health Promotion Center. Lisa Landau received the Reverend Beatrice Blair Courageous Service Award for her work as director of the Reproductive Rights Unit in the New York State Attorney General's Office.

**More than 450 legislative meetings were conducted** in Albany on crucial reproductive rights issues during the 2006 New York State legislative session. Pro-choice activists, Planned Parenthood volunteers, college students and clergy joined with FPA staff to maintain a constant presence in the State Capitol to ensure that New York continues to have the best reproductive health policies and services in the country.

**The New York State Budget** added more than \$5 million in funding for New York's family planning agencies. The New York State Assembly led the effort to ensure that Executive Budget cuts to family planning were restored and new funding was added in the final 2006-2007 budget.

**New York's family planning waiver was renewed**, enabling family planning centers to continue to serve an expanded group of clients. While the waiver was approved, drastic federal restrictions on reproductive health care forced New York State family planning providers to greatly increase the administrative effort needed to serve clients under the Family Planning Benefit Program. FPA has worked tirelessly to mitigate the damages done to this program.

**The Family Planning Expansion Program (FPEP)** was deeply cut because of federal policy changes. FPA successfully worked with Governor Pataki and the state Department of Health to continue this important program, which provides low income women with family planning services for two years after being pregnant.

**Sex education advocate Shelby Knox** came to Albany to meet with teens, legislators and reporters in support of the Healthy Teens Act. FPA hosted a free screening of the award-winning documentary, *The Education of Shelby Knox*, and arranged for more than a dozen media opportunities for this articulate young woman to convey the importance of medically accurate sex education.

**Anti-choice legislation was defeated** when the Assembly Health Committee met in May. Potentially harmful and misleading policies were suppressed that would have imposed 24-hour waiting periods for women seeking abortions; required doctors to "counsel" women using state-sponsored, biased and misleading information about abortion; required parental notification for minors; and enacted bans on abortions.

**FPA's earned media plan resulted in more than 12 million print media exposures** on comprehensive sex education during the first half of 2006, raising awareness of the urgency of passing the Healthy Teens Act. Countless radio and television interviews were also broadcast throughout the state on this topic, which was FPA's top legislative priority during the 2006 legislative session.

**New York State reproductive rights activists met with more than 20 Members of Congress**, as well as Senators Clinton and Schumer, to reduce the impact of the federal Deficit Reduction Act and discourage passage of the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act, which was defeated in September.

**Clergy Day** was held on May 10, bringing more than three dozen religious leaders to the State Capitol. Most of the year's total of 99 visits by clergy to State Legislators took place at this annual event. Clergy spoke about the need for comprehensive sex education, as well as emergency contraception and embryonic stem cell research.

**FPA embarked on a pharmacy access project entitled "Building Bridges"** to work cooperatively with pharmacists and their professional organizations. The project will help to provide important information about contraception as basic women's health care, including the need for timely access to emergency contraception without unnecessary barriers.

**The federal abortion ban** signed into law by President Bush in 2003 was considered by the U.S. Supreme Court in November. Lower courts struck down the ban in both *Gonzales v. Planned Parenthood* and *Gonzales v. Carhart*. This dangerous law, deceptively named the "Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act," would prohibit abortions as early as 13 weeks in pregnancy that doctors say are safe and the best procedures to use, posing serious risk to women's health.

**The Public University Emergency Contraception Act** was held in the Health Committees of both the State Senate and the Assembly. FPA helped to inform pro-choice college groups about this bill which would require SUNY and CUNY colleges to provide information about EC to students and make this safe and effective medication available in campus health centers.



# Education Fund

## Successes:

**The Immigrant Women's Health Initiative** enhanced the ability of family planning providers in New York State to provide culturally and linguistically competent care to immigrant women. In 2006, the third and final cultural competency assessment was completed at Community Healthcare Network's CABS Center in Brooklyn. CABS received an assessment report and a small grant to begin to implement its recommendations.

**A meeting on cultural competency** was held June 15 in New York City. The meeting brought together more than 70 participants from across the state to share the assessment methods, results and lessons learned from the two-year Ford Foundation funded project. Participants also considered future actions to improve access to care for Limited English Proficient (LEP) patients which were contained in the final report entitled *Promoting Cultural Competency among Family Planning Providers: Lessons from the Field*.

**The Get the Facts NY** campaign continued to grow and reach supporters across the state. More than 140 organizations and nearly 20,000 individuals have signed up to support comprehensive sex education and the Healthy Teens Act. Nearly 6,000 e-mail activists receive regular reports on developments in sex education. In 2006, campaign members held community forums and visibility events across the state. They also sent more than 1,000 e-mails to their elected officials to urge passage of the Healthy Teens Act.

**The EC for Rape Victims Partnership** brought together FPA and Planned Parenthood of New York City to work to ensure access to EC for victims of sexual assault. FPA developed and conducted a survey of New York City hospital policies on the availability of EC in emergency departments. FPA analyzed the results and made recommendations about which hospitals should be approached for training.

**FPA supported efforts to fund stem cell research** in the State Budget. Working with New Yorkers for the Advancement of Medical Research, FPA generated more than 550 calls from pro-choice supporters to urge targeted Senators to support stem cell research.

**New York's Stand with the States campaign** was a cooperative effort between FPA and Planned Parenthood to bring voters to the polls. New York helped to get out the vote in Ohio by sending 13 Planned Parenthood and FPA staff to Dayton in early November. Back at home, more than 140 volunteers worked phone banks to encourage Ohio voters to vote early or go to the polls on Election Day.

**A statement supporting over-the-counter availability of emergency contraception** was submitted to the federal Food and Drug Administration in response to the agency's call for public comments on Barr Laboratories' application to make Plan B an over-the-counter medication.

**Stem Cell Research: A Study and Advocacy Toolkit for Clergy** was written, published and distributed nationally by FPA's Concerned Clergy for Choice. The toolkit demonstrates the clear scientific, ethical, policy and religious support for this promising field of regenerative medicine that offers hope to those suffering from Parkinson's disease, juvenile diabetes and other life-threatening and life-altering medical conditions. Education Fund staff made more than 10 presentations throughout New York State on stem cell research and its significance to reproductive health issues.

**Hundreds of youth participated in the Get the Facts NY Youth Leadership Conference** where they learned to advocate for comprehensive sex education in schools. Workshops encouraged students to use their own artistic abilities to get their messages out and taught them skills to work with community leaders and the media. Youth leaders held their own press conference in support of the Healthy Teens Act.

**Concerned Clergy for Choice** expanded its statewide interfaith network to more than 1100 religious advocates. Project Director Rabbi Dennis Ross was selected to serve on the executive committees of Planned Parenthood Federation of America's (PPFA) Clergy Advisory Board and PPFA's Eastern Council. He has been cited in numerous newspaper articles on the need for comprehensive sex education and stem cell research.

**The Mobilizing to Win Public Policy Initiative** funded by Planned Parenthood Federation of America enabled pro-choice supporters in New York State to send 6,900 faxes, make 2,000 phone calls and send 1,000 e-mails to elected officials in support of pro-choice legislation. It also funded efforts to identify more than 10,000 new pro-choice supporters and recruit more than 3,000 of them into the Planned Parenthood Action Network. The initiative has enabled FPA to participate in a national database project to help manage more than 180,000 pro-choice supporters identified statewide since the beginning of the project.

**FPA presented testimony to the Connecticut General Assembly** Joint Committee on Public Health as the legislature considered a law to ensure that rape victims received EC when treated in hospital emergency rooms. FPA's testimony discussed how New York's law improved care for rape victims treated in New York hospital emergency departments.

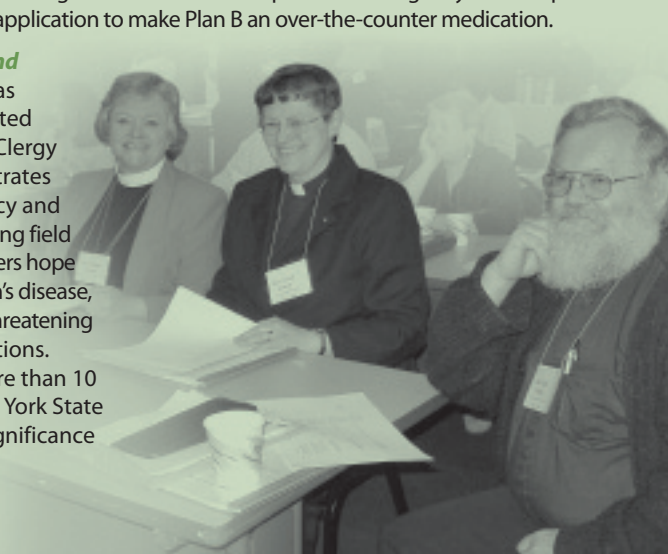
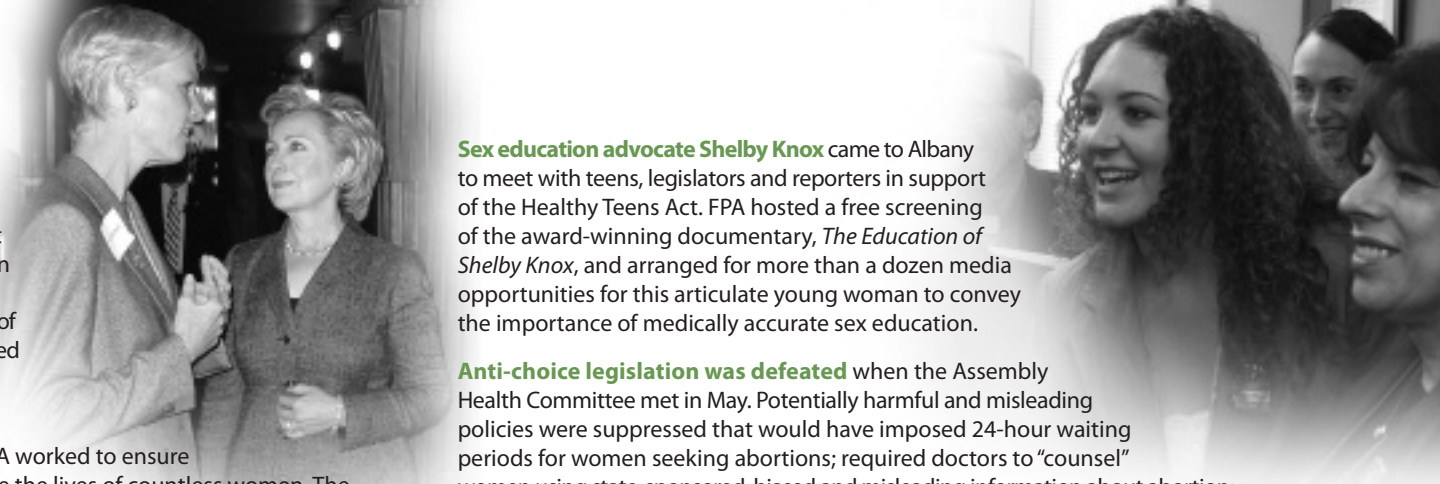
**Comments were submitted to the Citizens Health Care Working Group**, a federal taskforce charged with making recommendations to Congress on creating a health care system that works for all Americans. FPA's statement addressed the importance of including coverage for a comprehensive range of reproductive health services in health insurance benefit packages.

**FPA's partnership with International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network** was continued through a supplemental grant from Planned Parenthood Global Partners program. FPA conducted media activities with members of the European Parliament expressing worldwide concern about the appointment of Ellen Sauerbrey to the position of Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees and Migration.

**The Dyson Foundation supported FPA's work** with a grant for general support to the Education Fund. This funding is used for FPA's Legal Initiatives project, which addresses legal and regulatory issues that affect clinics and women's access to reproductive health services.

**New York State family planning centers provide clinical services** to 446,500 women annually. In addition, centers serve hundreds of thousands of women, men and teens through outreach and educational programming. FPA provides technical, legal and problem-solving assistance so that family planning centers can devote their valuable time to client services.

Education Fund activities are sponsored by:		
The Robert Sterling Clark Foundation	The Dyson Foundation	Planned Parenthood Federation of America:
The City of New York, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	The Ford Foundation	Global Partners
The Compton Foundation	The John Merck Fund	Mobilizing to Win Campaign
	The Ms. Foundation	Invaluable contributions from individual donors
	The Orchard Foundation	





## Family Planning Advocates of New York State



# Annual Report

2006

## Family Planning Centers

- ★ **Allegany County Department of Health Belmont**
- ★ **Amsterdam Memorial Hospital Womens Health Amsterdam**
- ★ **Cattaraugus County Department of Health Family Planning Program Olean**
- ★ **Chautauqua County Department of Health Mayville**
- ★ **Community Healthcare Network New York City**
- ★ **Coney Island Hospital Brooklyn**
- ★ **East Hill Family Medical, Inc. Auburn**
- ★ **Erie County Department of Health Buffalo**
- ★ **Ferre Institute Binghamton**
- ★ **Gouverneur Healthcare Services New York City**
- ★ **Greene County Family Planning Services Catskill**
- ★ **Harlem Hospital Family Planning Center New York City**
- ★ **Highland Hospital Rochester**
- ★ **Hudson River HealthCare Peekskill**
- ★ **Jacobi Medical Center Bronx**
- ★ **Jacobus Center for Reproductive Health Cortland**
- ★ **Kaleida Health Buffalo**
- ★ **Kings County Hospital Center Brooklyn**
- ★ **Livingston County Department of Health Mt. Morris**
- ★ **Medical Health Research Association of New York City New York City**
- ★ **Metropolitan Hospital New York City**
- ★ **Morris Heights Health Center Bronx**
- ★ **Mt. Sinai Hospital Adolescent Health Center New York City**
- ★ **Mt. Vernon Neighborhood Health Center White Plains**
- ★ **Nassau Health Care Corporation East Meadow**
- ★ **New York City Health & Hospitals Corporation New York City**
- ★ **New York Presbyterian Hospital New York City**
- ★ **North Central Bronx Hospital Bronx**
- ★ **North Shore/LIJ Health System Great Neck**
- ★ **Northern Adirondack Planned Parenthood Plattsburgh**
- ★ **Oswego County Opportunities Fulton**
- ★ **Planned Parenthood Buffalo & Erie County Buffalo**
- ★ **Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic Hawthorne**
- ★ **Planned Parenthood Mid-Hudson Valley Poughkeepsie**
- ★ **Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson Utica**
- ★ **Planned Parenthood Nassau County Hempstead**
- ★ **Planned Parenthood New York City New York City**
- ★ **Planned Parenthood Northern New York Watertown**
- ★ **Planned Parenthood Rochester /Syracuse Region Rochester**
- ★ **Planned Parenthood South Central New York Oneonta**
- ★ **Planned Parenthood Southern Finger Lakes Ithaca**
- ★ **Queens Hospital Center Jamaica**
- ★ **Rockland County Health Department Pomona**
- ★ **Staten Island University Hospital Staten Island**
- ★ **Stony Brook University Hospital Stony Brook**
- ★ **Suffolk County Department of Health Family Planning Clinic Hauppauge**
- ★ **Syracuse Model Neighborhood Syracuse**
- ★ **The Children's Aid Society New York City**
- ★ **The Door A Center of Alternatives New York City**
- ★ **Threshold Center for Alternative Youth Service Rochester**
- ★ **Tioga Opportunities Family Planning Center Owego**
- ★ **Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood Albany**
- ★ **Westchester County Department of Health New Rochelle**
- ★ **Wyoming County Health Department Warsaw**
- ★ **Yates Family Planning Services Penn Yan**

\*Indicates official members of FPA



November 16, 2006



Catherine M. Abate



JoAnn M. Smith

## Dear Friends,

In 2006, FPA made great strides towards the achievement of our most urgent goals. Support for medically accurate sex education, emergency contraception and contraceptive coverage gathered significant public support – and inspired legislative and judicial action.

Through collaboration with our allies across New York State, we have been able to realize victories that seemed daunting only a few years ago. But with each step forward, it is important to remember that there is more that we must protect, and *still more to accomplish*.

The Healthy Teens Act advanced through the State Legislature, clearing the Assembly and the Senate Health Committee. While Senate leadership failed to bring the Healthy Teens Act to the floor for a vote, FPA's efforts gained substantial recognition of the need for comprehensive sex education. We are confident that New York's teens will soon be able to get age-appropriate, medically accurate information on sexual health in school – a dramatic change from the current reality in which too many young people rely only on information gathered from popular culture and peers. FPA has laid the foundation for a sex education victory in the near future, *but there is much more to accomplish*.

We were also successful in raising awareness of the need to improve access to emergency contraception (EC) and participated in the nationwide effort to force the FDA to allow Plan B to be distributed over-the-counter. The FDA finally ruled that Plan B could be distributed over-the-counter, but with a stipulation that prohibits women under the age of 18 from accessing this contraceptive directly from a pharmacist. FPA refuses to accept this medically-baseless decision that creates needless barriers for young women. We will continue to work to enhance access to EC through New York's Unintended Pregnancy Prevention Act because we know that *there is much more to accomplish*.

The Women's Health and Wellness Act (WHWA) has been upheld in the highest court of New York State after multiple challenges by Catholic Charities. The Women's Health and Wellness Act helps to ensure that more insurance companies provide coverage for needed reproductive care, including contraception. The constitutionality of this law is undeniable. We must respect every woman's ethical and religious beliefs and ensure that contraception is covered as basic health care. The complainants will likely pursue an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, leaving women's health advocates *with much more to accomplish*.

For the past 29 years, FPA has been an enduring force that has set the agenda for reproductive health care in New York. As we prepare to commemorate our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we know that FPA's work has only just begun. With your help, we will lay the groundwork for another 30 years of excellence, leading the way for future activists to continue our work. We are grateful for your constant support and will continue to count on you as we fight for equality and fairness in reproductive health care.

Sincerely,

*Catherine M. Abate*

Catherine M. Abate  
Board Chair

*JoAnn M. Smith*

JoAnn M. Smith  
President and CEO

## FPA's Mission

To advance public policies that fulfill the rights of individuals to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and education that are consistent with principles of justice and fairness and respect diversity, personal dignity and privacy.

## FPA's Goals

1 Support the wellbeing of families and individuals by advancing policies and programs that guarantee legal, affordable and equitable access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care and education.

2 Retain and increase state, federal and other funding levels to support Planned Parenthood affiliates, other family planning agencies and new reproductive health initiatives to ensure that quality services are accessible to underserved populations.

3 Educate the public and policy makers to uphold the basic human right of each individual to make informed and respectful sexual and reproductive health decisions.

4 Maintain FPA's leadership role in protecting access to sexual and reproductive health services by strengthening and expanding public affairs leadership, technical expertise and grassroots advocacy to meet the needs of FPA's constituency.

J Strengthen FPA by fostering diversity and financial sustainability.

## Family Planning Advocates of New York State, Inc.

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|---|---|
| <b>Catherine M. Abate</b><br>Board Chair                            | <b>Alisa Costa</b><br>Senior Policy Associate                   |
| <b>JoAnn M. Smith</b><br>President and CEO                          | <b>Elizabeth Dedrick</b><br>Program Associate                   |
| <b>Carol Blowers</b><br>Director of Governmental Affairs            | <b>Georgana Hanson</b><br>Grassroots Public Affairs Coordinator |
| <b>Ruth Lyons</b><br>Director of Finance and Personnel              | <b>Valerie Trossbach</b><br>Administrative Assistant            |
| <b>Susan Pedro</b><br>Director of Communications and Public Affairs |   |

### The Education Fund of Family Planning Advocates

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|---|---|
| <b>Karen Anderson</b><br>Director of Public Policy  | <b>Sang Hee Won</b><br>Program Associate                          |
| <b>Ronnie Pawelko</b><br>Staff Attorney             | <b>Rabbi Dennis Ross</b><br>Director, Concerned Clergy for Choice |
| <b>Grace Mose</b><br>Research and Program Associate |   |

## Board of Directors

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Linda Ulrich-Hagner  
Margery Whiteman  
H. Jean Wilkinson  
Marion Williams

Presentations were made to legislative, academic and sister organizations on many aspects of FPA's work. FPA staff have become sought-after speakers on issues pertaining to reproductive rights and advocacy.

A comprehensive operational plan for 2006-2007 was developed that supports the goals set forth in FPA's strategic plan. Specific results and activities focus on guaranteeing equitable and affordable access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care and education, retaining and increasing funding levels, educating the public and policy makers, and fostering leadership, diversity, and sustainability.

FPA's Board sought to increase diversity by embarking on a multicultural assessment process that examines the policies, structures, climate, mission and goals of FPA. By working to become a more multicultural organization with a diverse staff and Board, FPA will be better able to support the increasingly diverse members and communities it serves.

## Ongoing Initiatives

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## New Initiatives

A policy agenda, *A Blueprint for Making a Difference in Women's Health*, was drafted for presentation to the administration of the new Governor of New York State. The *Blueprint* is intended to serve as a framework for improving access to and funding for reproductive health care services.



Legislation to protect the right to contraception and abortion in New York is being drafted in partnership with a diverse range of sister organizations. The legislation will be part of a broad women's health agenda.

FPA's Board of Directors formed a 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee to commemorate FPA's three decades of leadership on reproductive rights in 2007 and plan for a successful future. The Committee focused on developing young pro-choice leaders, fundraising and hosting a gala event at FPA's 2007 Annual Conference.

A Young Leaders Advisory Board was developed to expand the integration of issues important to the sexual and reproductive health of young women and men into the work and mission of FPA. The Board, which consists of 50 young men and women from across New York State, is developing plans for regional events and voter registration drives in conjunction with FPA's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

FPA made investments in membership development including consolidating lists of supporters and creating a plan to communicate more effectively with members, donors, allies and activists. Staff attended trainings on fundraising and event planning that will contribute to FPA's growth.

FPA's websites were redesigned to update the organizations' on-line presence and commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of FPA. Beginning in January 2007, the upgraded FPA site will feature an expanded action center with up-to-date information on state legislation, a legislator database and voting records on reproductive health issues.

The New York State Conference on Increasing Language Access to Healthcare will be funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Planning for the conference is underway with the Center for Immigrant Health at New York University's School of Medicine, the Center for Women in Government and Civil Society at the University at Albany, and the Education Fund of FPA. The conference will bring together researchers, state policy makers, health care providers and advocates to foster the adoption of collaborative strategies to increase language access in healthcare settings.

Planned Parenthood Global Partners funded a collaboration between FPA and the Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA) to enhance the communications, advocacy and legal work of the two organizations. The first exchange trip took place in October in Dublin, when IFPA introduced representatives of FPA to Irish health care leaders, Members of Parliament and the Lord Mayor of Dublin. Plans for a multi-year project were established.

