



“Challenging People to Shape
a Better Future Now”

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Planned Parenthood in the Community

Every February, we celebrate the achievements of the African-American community and the advances that have been made toward full racial equality, and we honor the giants of the civil rights movement whose lives still affect us today. At the same time, Black History Month reminds us that there is still work to be done, especially when it comes to equality in health care.

In the United States today, African-American women face barriers to accessing the health care that would improve both their lives and the lives of those around them. Particularly in the South, many people do not have access to affordable, high-quality health care. As a result, African-American women are dying at higher rates than their white counterparts due to breast cancer, cervical cancer, HIV and other illnesses that can be detected early.

Fortunately, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has laid the ground-work to provide nearly 6.8 million uninsured African Americans the opportunity for affordable health insurance. African Americans are more than 55 percent more likely to be uninsured than their white counterparts — a staggering gap that we can reduce by making sure that people understand their options under the Affordable Care Act and have the information and tools they need to enroll in new



PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Peggy C.
Ross

health insurance plans.

Under the ACA, insured Americans have access to critical preventive health care services such as annual wellness exams and contraception without co-pays, and they cannot be denied coverage based on pre-existing

Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette is here to help. Local, in-person experts can help you complete your application and understand your health insurance options. To schedule an appointment, please call 503-260-0682 (English) or 503-260-1630 (Spanish).

The African-American adage “each one teach one” is a call to stand together and share pertinent information to help improve the lives of every person in the black community. At Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette, we take this responsibility seriously by standing with organizations like The Skanner Foundation,

throughout our history, Planned Parenthood and the black community have worked together to break down barriers to health care access posed by poverty, racism and politics.

Planned Parenthood believes that all people deserve high-quality, affordable health care — no matter who they are and where they live. We believe that when people are truly cared for, they make their lives, families and communities stronger.

As we celebrate Black History Month, let us remember the words of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.: “Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.” We must work together to ensure that access to quality, affordable health care is available to every person — regardless of race, resources or ZIP code.

Peggy C. Ross is the Director of Equity and Inclusion for Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette, the largest nonprofit family planning and reproductive rights organization in Oregon and Southwest Washington. Since 1963, PPCW has provided a wide range of youth education programs and preventive healthcare services, including lifesaving cancer screenings, birth control, STD testing and treatment. For more information visit PPCW.org.

African-American women are dying at
higher rates than their white
counterparts due to breast cancer,
cervical cancer, HIV and other
illnesses that can be detected early

conditions like being HIV-positive, having breast cancer or being a victim of domestic violence.

Through February 15th, eligible Oregonians can sign up for affordable health insurance — and

Urban League of Portland and Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia NW to increase opportunity and health care access in the black community. The history of the reproductive rights movement is as complicated as the nation’s, but

LBJ Doesn’t Deserve Credit for Selma

Joseph Califano’s statement that Selma was Lyndon B. Johnson’s idea is patently false. Although the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee had come to Alabama earlier to organize to obtain the right to vote, for me, the Alabama Right to Vote movement began the day the four little girls were killed in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham.

That was Sunday, September 15, 1963 — before Lyndon Johnson became president.

James Bevel, my-then husband, and I believed that a man and a woman would not allow those four little girls to be murdered and do nothing.

On that fateful Sunday, in Edenton, N. C. in Golden and Mrs. Frinks’ living room (Golden Frinks was a Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)



NNPA GUEST COLUMNIST

Diane
Nash

dren from things like the church bombing.

Bevel and I resolved that no matter how long it would take, we would get the right to vote in Alabama. We took the plan to SCLC and subsequently, SCLC, including us as staff persons, began organizing in Alabama for the right to vote.

When Jimmie Lee Jackson was killed, (He died February 26, 1965), Bevel said we should take his body to Gov. George C. Wal-

He called for the Selma-to-Montgomery march.

Lyndon Johnson was president—the executive branch of the federal government. It was his job to enforce the law. He should not have waited until Jimmie Lee Jackson’s, James Reeb’s and Viola Liuzzo’s lives were taken. He should not have waited until peo-

tions developed by descendants of enslaved Africans in America have been misappropriated. We learn about presidents, battles and dates. The impression too often perpetuated in history books and in popular culture is that that you have to be a president, someone special or White to have an important idea or to achieve major

It was the courage, work,
thoughtfulness, sacrifice, discipline
and determination of citizens of the
United States that obtained our right
to vote

ple were beaten and bloodied on Pettus Bridge before he enforced Negroes’ right to vote in the South. I appreciate LBJ’s enacting and signing the Voting Rights Act, but I wish he had been a self-starter when it came to our right to vote, so it would not have been necessary to go to the lengths that we did—organizing a mass movement and risking our safety—in order to get the vote.

It was the courage, work, thoughtfulness, sacrifice, discipline and determination of citizens of the United States that obtained our right to vote.

Historically, inventions, musical innovations and many more accomplishments and contribu-

accomplishments. This is an idea that disempowers citizens and should not be propagated further.

Diane Nash, a native of Chicago, was instrumental as a change agent in the nonviolent movement for civil rights that began in 1959 when she was a student at Fisk University. In 1960, she became one of the founders of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and from 1961-1965 was actively working with SNCC and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). Today, she continues her work as an activist in civil rights and peace issues.

We believed that if Negroes in
Alabama could vote, they could
better protect their children from
things like the church bombing

staff person.), James Bevel and I conceptualized and wrote the plan that became the Selma Right to Vote movement. We believed that if Negroes in Alabama could vote, they could better protect their chil-

lace and present to Wallace the results of his racist policies. Within a day or so, Bevel apparently recognized that Jackson should be buried and modified his proposal.