

# R E P O R T

*Your United Way of Broome County investment at work*

March 2002

## Planned Parenthood: Trusted Resource That's Only a Phone Call Away

There have been big changes at Planned Parenthood in Binghamton recently. On Jan. 1, 2002, Planned Parenthood of Broome and Chenango Counties joined with Planned Parenthood Association of Delaware and Otsego Counties. This partnership of two local organizations resulted in the new entity, Planned Parenthood of South Central New York, Inc. When James O'Hora, the CEO of the Broome and Chenango organization, retired at the end of 2001, Debra Marcus, the Executive Director of the Delaware and Otsego organization assumed the same role for the new combined Planned Parenthood. The new organization maintains offices in both Oneonta and Binghamton.



Debra Marcus

sources, relying on peers and the media for help in making very important, even life-threatening decisions. When they need straight answers, I'm glad I can be there for them."

Many of the clients who visit Planned Parenthood's education department have compelling reasons. A young teen struggling with pressure to become sexually active; a newly wed couple just starting out and not ready to start a family; a couple trying desperately to conceive; a worried woman or man who just received an abnormal test result and needs information; a mother or father fearing that a son or

daughter may be involved in risky behaviors; a homeless person needing health care information; or an older person needing information about menopause.

***A sexually active teenager who does not use contraceptives has a 90 percent chance of becoming pregnant within one year.***

***While 20 percent of the decline in the pregnancy rate among sexually experienced teenagers in the early-to-mid 1990s is because of decreased sexual activity, 80 percent is due to more effective contraceptive practice.***

sheets are also available for research. The library is available to staff, parents, teachers, and community groups on topics including developing communication skills, self-esteem, healthy relationships, teen pregnancy, contraception, and sexually transmitted infections.

Planned Parenthood's Binghamton health center is located at 168 Water Street (across from Boscov's). Services are available on a sliding fee scale, and no one is turned away due to inability to pay. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 723-8306 or toll-free at 1-800-230-PLAN to be connected to the health center nearest you. Visit the website at [www.ppscny.org](http://www.ppscny.org).

### Common Thread is Trust

But regardless of the new name, people come to our local Planned Parenthood to learn about or discuss issues they may find difficult to talk to anyone else about. Trained educators provide a wide range of cutting-edge responsible sex education programs to *hundreds* of youth and their parents annually throughout Broome County. Educators regularly talk with teens and young adults in classrooms, community centers and college campuses. Staff are always greeted with an audience full of ques-

***93 percent of Americans believe sexuality education should be taught in high schools, and 84 percent believe it should be taught in middle schools.***

tions. Some are full of wonder, some seek information, and others are just looking for understanding. According to one educator, "The young people I meet are struggling to reach an understanding of themselves, their behavior, and their desires. Without a program like ours, young people are often left to their own re-

### There's No Place Like Home for Sex Education

Parents are the primary and most important sexuality educators of their children. Recent studies have shown that teenagers who perceive that they have a better level of communication with their parents are less likely to engage in sexual intercourse. It's no surprise that many parents count on Planned Parenthood to provide resources to help them in their role as primary sexuality educators for their children.

"As the mother of two autistic daughters, I face a lot of challenges everyday. But I wasn't prepared when they started to go through puberty. Thank goodness Planned Parenthood was there to help us. Their educator met with us at home and helped us to get this important conversation going."

Planned Parenthood also offers a reproduc-



**United Way**  
of Broome County, Inc.

P.O. Box 550, Binghamton, NY 13902-0550  
phone: (607) 729-2592 / fax: (607) 729-2597  
e-mail: [info@uwbroome](mailto:info@uwbroome) / Internet: [www.unitedwaybroome.org](http://www.unitedwaybroome.org)