

### At a Glance

**Major**  
Philosophy

#### Immediate Post-Grad Pursuits

- Odd jobs to make money – glazing windows, packing books
- Bryn Mawr College Admissions Officer

#### Continuing Education

- Cambridge University – History and Philosophy of Science
- Johns Hopkins University – Philosophy

#### Current Title

Foundation/Corporate Manager

#### Employer

Planned Parenthood Southeastern Pennsylvania

#### Further Opportunities in Field

- Special Events Manager
- Annual Giving Manager
- VP for Development

#### Contact Information

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## “Stand up for what matters”

### Funding women’s health services with Cate Hancock BMC ‘91



“This is a good position to have in the non-profit world if you don’t want to starve,” Cate Hancock jokes. She held a variety of odd jobs in and out of the non-profit realm before to returning to her Quaker roots in Philadelphia by taking a job at Planned Parenthood in 2002. After leaving her post-graduate education, which she did not enjoy, she worked for several organizations in Washington D.C. such as SMILE and the Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Although she had no experience, SMILE hired her because she could write, and the organization offered her an entrance into development work, where she enhanced her skills in grant writing.

While Cate enjoyed her grant writing positions, she wanted to work for a much larger non-profit organization. After turning down several offers in Philadelphia, Cate accepted a position at Planned Parenthood. Her preference for larger organizations and for Planned Parenthood specifically comes from her belief that they are more solid and are “insulated from the economy.” More importantly, as a contrast to a general trend of non-profits, Planned Parenthood hires a complete staff

and pays women what they’re worth. Thus, Cate is content to walk to work to the secure Planned Parenthood building on Locust Street.

Once at work, deadlines and a calendar drive Cate’s day. She writes applications to foundations and corporations to fund many programs. Planned Parenthood’s applications vary in scope and require effort – they range from two to fifty pages long and each foundation or corporation has different requirements for funding initiatives and follow-up reports. Although most of Cate’s work is grant writing and networking, she stresses that mathematical sensibility is important too. “If you’re not afraid of numbers” she said, “that’s a very good thing.”

Producing follow up reports and budgets requires that Cate communicate with many sectors of the organization. She enjoys this because it means she gets to work with people outside her own department. Surprisingly, and “groovy” for her, she does not spend that much time on the phone. Most of her work is done over e-mail or in infrequent meetings, and she finds that her work is often lively. The network of the national organization is strong and therefore the flow of her day is up to her and based upon her needs – she also appreciates that she can keep a 9-5 workday.

Due to the nature of its work, Planned Parenthood inevitably raises some controversy. Its services include emergency contraception, abortion, prenatal care, OB/GYN care, and full counseling. Cate finds her work, which fundamentally raises the financial support for these services, to be valuable, but she also faces many challenges on a regular basis. Various protesters and political debate remind Cate of the cultural dissonance surrounding these services, and thus reinforce her commitment to sustaining them. “We’re so much more than abortion and I feel very strongly that people should have access to family planning,” Cate said. “I feel like I’m helping men and women every day.”

--Sheila Webb-Halpern BMC ‘04 and Kristy Fellica BMC ‘06