

Personality Profile on Lucy Calderon

By Lucy Calderon

In a predominantly conservative state, one teen has made it her mission to spread the polarizing message from one of the last standing Planned Parenthoods in Kentucky. With so many people, including the U.S. President, trying to shut down the non-profit organization, 18-year-old Lucy Calderon is making her voice heard. Lucy believes this plan was set in motion eleven years earlier.

In 2007, Lucy moved from New York to Kentucky. Lucy's parents saw it as a great place to raise a family, but knew that it would be challenging raising a socially and culturally active child in the Bible Belt.

"I know this sounds corny and canned, but I grew up in a home where the TV was always tuned in to CNN or MSNBC. I thought that made me a politically and socially engaged rock star," she said, "but it wasn't until November 8, 2016, that I realized being informed wasn't enough."

After a long night of watching the election on TV, Lucy's mom woke her up early for school with the outcome. "I can bring myself back to that chilling morning," Lucy said. "Simply, I was scared." Lucy's mom allowed her one day of mourning, and, as Lucy put it, "hold vigil for our country."

Lucy spent the majority of that day in pajamas, on the couch, glued to the TV.

It wasn't until Hillary's concession speech that she began feeling better. "Hillary said, 'This loss hurts, but please never stop believing that fighting for what's right is worth it. It is--it is worth it. So we need -- we need you to keep up these fights now and for the rest of your lives.'"

In that moment, Lucy felt mobilized.

Throughout the 2016 presidential race, the debate over Planned Parenthood's funding resonated with Lucy. She applied to Planned Parenthood's Teen Council, a group of teens interested in promoting healthy decision-making and sexual health topics among teens.

"Being a member of a peer-lead education program helps me make a difference. Now, because of my efforts, more teens are accessing the healthcare and information they need," she said. "That is my definition of community service. Identifying a need in one's community, and finding a way to volunteer to serve that need."

Lucy addressed State Officials at the 2018 Planned Parenthood “Rally Day” in Kentucky’s Capital, Frankfort. “69 counties in Kentucky do not have access to an OB/GYN. Those 69 counties make up 57.5% of Kentucky.”

“I know teens are going have sex. They should be taught how to have safe sex and know the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationships. I want to provide teens with comprehensive sex education and knowledge to make safe decisions for themselves and their body,” Lucy said.

Lucy’s goal is get all Kentuckians access to affordable reproductive necessities. For now, she is devoted to helping local teens receive affordable contraception and reproductive healthcare, and continues to visit Middle and High Schools across the state.