

Tara Regan, B.A. English, Literature, 2004

By Allison Gregory

Corporate & Foundation Relations Development Officer, Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio



Tara Regan (2004) is the Corporate and Foundation Relations Development Officer for [Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio](#) (PPGOH). She is responsible for identifying, developing, and submitting grant requests to foundations that support PPGOH's work. In addition, she oversees creating proposals for the principal and major gifts officers to help close their gifts. She also stewards funders, represents PPGOH at community events, and prepares reports to show how awarded funds have been utilized and follow the donors' intent.

Regan started her career as a grant writer and has progressed within the nonprofit sector to her current position. Her English degree is essential to her job as researching, writing, and relationship-building are the cornerstones of her work. She believes that writing is critical to nonprofit organizations: "Grant writing is often described as both an art and a science. There is a technical aspect to it that is at the core of the work, and the art portion of it is really getting to know the audience you are writing for and tailoring the request to them specifically."

She earned her BA in English at Western Kentucky University and her MA in English at the University of Akron. Regan believes that the best lessons she learned at WKU were: "(1) You have to have the skills for the job and always be willing to learn new things, and (2) developing and sustaining relationships is critical to your personal and professional success in any position you hold." She realized that in order to build these relationships, she needed to gain experience with non-profit organizations. To get the needed experience, Regan volunteered while at WKU; she advises current and future English students to volunteer and get internships in order to be better prepared for their future careers. She advises, "Know that [nonprofit work] is more than just a job; it is a calling. You will not make the type of money your counterparts do in large

corporations, and your hours will not always be 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Find an organization that you are passionate about and where you feel like you can make an impact.”

