

# WHO OHIO

*Women Have Options supports reproductive choice for all*

Spring 2014

## 5th Annual Women Have Options Bowl-a-Thon

**Your help needed now more than ever!**

Women Have Options is a grassroots group of activists coming together to raise our voices – and money – to make reproductive rights a reality for all Ohio women. On Sunday, April 27, 2014, we are hosting our largest fundraising event, and we need your help to reach our goal of raising \$27,000! At a time when financial and legislative support for women's health is increasingly under attack in Ohio, we ask for your support.

Whether you are a pro-bowler or a novice, you can help us strike down barriers to abortion access. Through our annual bowl-a-thon, we raise a significant portion of our funding for clinics. This money is used to help low-income women choose the reproductive option that is best for them. Through these funds, we support Ohio clinics that in turn help hundreds of Ohio women obtain access to abortion care.

To start a team, join a team, or donate to an existing team, go to [fundabortionnow.org/bowlathon](http://fundabortionnow.org/bowlathon) and scroll down to find the Women Have Options event in Columbus. Each participant is responsible for raising a minimum of \$50 to attend the event, but we encourage everyone to raise at least \$150 so we can reach our fundraising goal together. Please join us in giving choices to the women of Ohio. Prizes, pizza, and fun with other pro-choice activists make the Women Have Options Bowl-A-Thon the must-attend event this spring. Visit [womenhaveoptions.org](http://womenhaveoptions.org) to join the bowl-a-thon fun!



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# Passing the Torch: New Board Chair

**From Outgoing Board Chair Nancy Pitts:** With happiness and gratitude, I am pleased to welcome Sandy Huntzinger as the new board chair of Women Have Options. For four years I was honored to serve as board chair of this wonderful, inspiring group. With a new job that took me out of the Columbus area, it was time for new leadership. During our search, Sandy came highly recommended. In fact, she was recommended by the former board member, Molly Rampe Thomas, who recruited me to the board. It appears Molly is our guardian angel, always recruiting new leaders!

In Emily Rutherford's 2009 newsletter article, she used this opportunity to introduce me (and Linda FreemanWalker, who initially served as co-chair), Emily talked about finding the next generation of reproductive rights advocates and expanding beyond our traditional geographic areas of support. Today, I can happily say that's exactly what has happened.

My experience with Women Have Options has been the most rewarding of my life. I still serve on the board, but I am excited to pass on the primary responsibilities to Sandy—and Adrienne Gavula, who took on the newly created vice chair position last year. I hope all our supporters will join me in welcoming our leaders.

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## Stories of the Women You Have Helped

### \*Kelly

I have six children and just a little over a year of being clean at this time in my life. Another child would have been really hard to deal with – still trying to get my life back together, working full time, and going back to school – trying to fix the mistakes of my past. This is something I usually wouldn't do or believed in the past, but after seven births – one stillborn – and everything else, this was what I needed to do and your help made things a little easier on me, being that I had to do it on my own. I'm truly thankful for the help and hope you are able to continue helping women in need of aid. Sometimes this is what we have to choose to do, as hard as it is. Thank you.

### \*Cara

As a single mother I feel it is most important to take care of my three-year-old and be able to provide him with everything he needs. I cannot imagine not being able to give him the world, and as it is, I go without myself to do this. Every little bit counts for us!

### \*Callie

For starters, I would like to say thank you. The events that led me here were under unpleasant circumstances, which is why this wasn't an option but a decision not to live with physical assault. As unfair as I feel this decision is for my child, it would be unfair to bring him/her into this world with the thoughts and spiteful attitude I have towards it. So I'm saying thank you again because you gave me a chance to leave my past and be present, with a brighter future.

### \*Jenna

Thank you so much for helping me during this difficult time in my life. Words will never express my gratitude. I have had five hip operations and am overwhelmed with medical bills, with only one income in a two-person household. You have restored my faith in humanity. Please know what a difference this has made in my life. God bless you.

\*Names have been changed to ensure confidentiality.

# Clinic Update: Effects of 2013 Budget

Ohio's abortion clinics are starting to feel the effects of the anti-choice provisions added to the 2013 state budget. One of these provisions banned public hospitals from entering into the transfer agreements required for abortion clinics to operate. Transfer agreements are contracts that abortion clinics are required to have with hospitals to ensure they will take patients needing emergency care even though hospitals cannot turn away any patient whose life is in danger. This new restriction also made it more difficult for abortion clinics to receive a waiver from the transfer agreement requirement.

Presently, all of the abortion clinics in the western half of Ohio - Toledo, Dayton, Cincinnati - face real challenges with obtaining their transfer agreements. Their futures remain uncertain.

Most recently, Women's Med Center, one of two abortion clinics in Cincinnati and a clinic with an excellent safety record, lost the latest round of its battle with the Ohio Department of Health regarding its transfer agreement. In January 2014, Women's Med Center had its license revoked and is appealing that decision. The clinic may remain open during the appeal process, which will likely take at least a year, but it is not certain the clinic will win. In the meantime, in September 2014 the other clinic in Cincinnati, Planned Parenthood, will lose its long-time transfer agreement with the University of Cincinnati Medical Center, which claims it is now prohibited from holding a transfer agreement with an abortion clinic because of the restriction in the budget.

Women Have Options provides funding to both Cincinnati abortion clinics and will continue supporting these and clinics across Ohio as they fight the unnecessary and harsh clinic restrictions, restrictions meant to close abortion clinics and make abortion access for Ohio women virtually impossible. With donors and supporters like you, Women Have Options stands ready to fill the gap between choice and access.

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## Donor Luncheon

We are grateful to all of our donors for their generous support of Women Have Options as we work to ensure that all women can afford their reproductive choice. In 2013, more than 700 people made contributions to WHO/O, totaling more than \$60,000, with every dollar going to help increase access to reproductive healthcare for all Ohio women.

Each spring, board members and volunteers gather to celebrate and thank a small, but growing, group of donors who contribute to Women Have Options at a leadership level of \$1,000 and above. Many of these generous donors have supported this work since our organization was founded in 1992. This luncheon gives WHO/O an opportunity to show our appreciation for this committed group of supporters and provide updates about our work.

If you are interested in learning more about the spring donor luncheon or if you would like to make a contribution to help us grow, please contact us at [info@womenhaveoptions.org](mailto:info@womenhaveoptions.org).



**Women Have Options**

P.O. Box 5

Granville, Ohio 43023

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Justice requires that all women be able to make personal decisions about childbearing.

*Please join us in our commitment to women's lives and futures. Your tax-deductible contribution enables women in our community to get help when they need it. Any amount is appreciated! Please send your contribution to:*

Women Have Options, P.O. Box 5, Granville, OH 43023

**Enclosed in my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_ I would like more information about WHO/O.

\_\_\_ I would like to help with special events.

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*Contributions to WHO/O may be made through United Way by choosing the Donor Option and naming Women Have Options to receive your dollars. You may also make donations directly on our website ([www.womenhaveoptions.org](http://www.womenhaveoptions.org)) using Network for Good, or by joining our cause on Facebook.*