

WHO OHIO

Women Have Options supports reproductive choice for all women

Spring 2010

Upcoming Events

Prevention First Lobby Day

Wednesday, April 21, 2010 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
YWCA, 65 S Fourth St., Columbus, OH 43215

Sponsored by the Freedom of Choice Ohio (FOCO) coalition

At the Prevention First Lobby Day, you can meet one-on-one with your legislators to urge them to support the Prevention First Act. This bill will help prevent unintended pregnancies and improve the health of women and families in Ohio. Please join FOCO in lobbying representatives on behalf of this important legislation.

In order to schedule the meetings with representatives, Lobby Day participants are required to register in advance. You can complete the registration process online at http://bit.ly/foco_lobbyday2010. The \$20 registration fee (\$10 for students) covers lunch and all informational materials.



**We're going balls out
for abortion funding!**

www.tinyurl.com/bowl4options

Women Have Options and other abortion funds across the country (members of the National Network of Abortion Funds) are hosting bowl-a-thons in their local communities during the month of April. On Sunday, April 25, Women Have Options will bring central Ohio pro-choicers and abortion advocates together at the Columbus Square Bowling Palace for an afternoon of bowling, prizes, and fun.

Don't worry—your success in the bowl-a-thon has nothing to do with how well you can bowl; rather, the goal is to raise as much money as you can for a great cause. Nearly all of the fundraising is done prior to the event (with the help of our easy-to-use online tools). Teams are registering now and working hard to raise money that goes directly to help women in the community pay for abortion care.

To date, 8 teams have registered for the WHO/O bowl-a-thon and have raised a whopping \$4,720 toward our \$6,000 goal. Local sponsors of the bowl-a-thon include ViA, Planned Parenthood of Central Ohio, and Choice Network.

Bowl-a-thon continued on p. 3

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Healthcare Reform and Other News Updates

On March 21, Congress passed the healthcare reform bill, and President Obama has signed it into law. Fortunately, the Stupak amendment, which would have completely prohibited private health insurance coverage for abortion, did not make it into the bill, but other new restrictions did. Health plans participating in the new state-run insurance exchanges will be allowed to offer abortion coverage, but people who receive federal subsidies and enroll in a plan that offers abortion coverage will have to make separate premium payments for that coverage (www.nytimes.com/interactive/2010/03/21/us/health-care-reform.html). Additionally, in order to appease Rep. Stupak and his allies, the president issued an Executive Order that essentially reiterates the bill's abortion coverage restrictions.

Here is a quick roundup of other abortion-related news from around the country.

- **Georgia:** The Endangered Species Project, led in part by Georgia Right to Life, is targeting African American communities with the message that abortion is a racist conspiracy spearheaded by providers and pro-choice activists who simply don't want more African American children to be born.
- **Utah:** A bill that would have allowed a woman to be prosecuted for "reckless" behavior resulting in the loss of her fetus has been temporarily withdrawn. The sponsor is revising the bill and removing the recklessness clause, but

any intentionally harmful behavior by a woman that causes the death of her fetus would still be considered a felony.

- **Oklahoma:** In February, the state's Supreme Court ruled the Statistical Reporting of Abortions Act unconstitutional. The law would have required providers to fill out a detailed questionnaire for every woman who had an abortion, including demographic information (such as age and race) and the woman's reason for having the procedure. This data would have been posted on a public website.
- **Kansas:** On January 29, Scott Roeder was convicted of first-degree murder in the shooting of Dr. George Tiller. The defense wanted to argue that Roeder honestly believed the use of deadly force was necessary because Tiller posed an imminent threat to the unborn, but the judge ruled that jurors were not allowed to consider a lesser charge. Roeder faces a minimum sentence of life in prison, and prosecutors are expected to ask that he remain ineligible for parole for 50 years.

Find Us on the Web!

www.womenhaveoptions.org

twitter.com/WHOohio

www.tinyurl.com/bowl4options

Search for "women have options" in Facebook to find our page

Treasurer's Report

In 2009 Women Have Options was able to provide over \$22,000 to 10 clinics that, in turn, assisted 332 women, most of whom were from Ohio (they represent 39 of Ohio's 88 counties). Although WHO/O provided financial assistance to fewer women last year than it did in 2008, the amounts given to individual women by the clinics was generally greater due to clinics' loss of other funding sources. WHO/O was able to provide this support due to the success of its Spring and Fall campaigns, which, thanks to the generosity of its donors, raised over \$13,000. In addition, WHO/O received numerous individual donations outside the campaigns (over \$5,000 in total) and thus ended the fiscal year in a better financial position than had originally been projected.

In the first quarter of 2010 WHO/O received an unexpected and significant donation. With these funds WHO/O will

increase grants to clinics during the 2010 calendar year and thus will be able to provide additional financial assistance to the women these clinics serve. WHO/O is extremely fortunate to be the recipient of this gift, but it is also fortunate to have the continuing support of loyal donors who support WHO/O year after year.

Women Have Options continues to be concerned that the current economic climate may adversely affect its funding support for clinics, but has set a goal of raising \$16,000 in 2010 through its Spring and Fall campaigns and the bowl-a-thon. Clinics are immensely grateful for our support (we continually receive thank you letters from both clinics and women served), especially as other sources of funding have ended. Our mission is to support them, and we look to our donors to continue the generosity they have displayed in the past.

WOMEN HAVE OPTIONS

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Website:
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Mission statement:
Women Have Options supports reproductive choice for all women.

Member of the National Network of Abortion Funds (NNAF)

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From the Clinics: Profiles of Women We Helped

Last year Women Have Options provided financial assistance to a total of 332 women. Listed below are brief descriptions of some of these women and the hardships they faced. The information is provided by the various clinics to whom we allocate our funds. Not every patient is described here, of course, but these profiles represent some of the common circumstances in which women who need abortions often find themselves.

- * A woman whose pregnancy was the result of violent sexual assault by her father.
- * A full-time student paying for college by herself. She thought it was unsafe to tell her family and could not ask for their help.
- * A woman who had to quit her job to stay home and care for three children after her husband left.
- * A minor (15 years old), still in school and living with her mother, who was a single parent on assistance.
- * A single mother of three who was trying to pay for college.
- * A patient suffering from anxiety, depression, and schizophrenia who was on disability/SSI.
- * A single, unemployed parent of three children, living in a shelter because of a domestic violence situation.
- * A recovering heroin addict who was attending methadone clinics.
- * A 38-year-old woman pregnant with a baby that had a fetal anomaly. She also had a young child who required heart surgery and a spouse who needed brain surgery.
- * A 21-year-old single mother whose pregnancy was the result of a rape after being drugged.
- * A woman who became ill due to her pregnancy and could not work (and received only minimum wage when she did work).

SMALL DONATION, HUGE IMPACT

According to the patient profiles, many women who receive WHO/O funds have managed to save almost enough money to pay for their abortion costs on their own but need just a bit more to cover the total. For example, some women require as little as \$10 or \$20 to be able to afford the procedure. This means that every donation to WHO/O, no matter how small, can have a tremendous impact on a woman's life. Current unemployment rates remain high; many of the women seeking financial help for abortions have been laid off or can find only part-time work, and paying for the procedure completely out of their own pockets would leave them unable to afford their rent payments or buy groceries. In situations like these, every dollar makes a difference, so we are grateful for all donations, large and small.

How to Make Recurring Donations

Some of our donors find that the easiest way to give is to schedule a recurring online donation. They simply choose the amount that they are comfortable contributing on a regular basis, and the funds are automatically withdrawn. It's easy and convenient! Here are two sites you can use to make recurring donations to WHO/O.

Network for Good

- Go to www.womenhaveoptions.org and click on the "Network for Good" button at the top of the page. This will take you directly to WHO/O's page on the Network for Good website. Click on the "Donate Now" button.
- On the next page, enter the amount you would like to contribute, and under "Donation Preferences," you can choose to make a recurring donation deducted monthly, quarterly, or annually.



Facebook

- Log in to Facebook and search for "causes" to find the Facebook Causes application. On the application's homepage, enter "women have options" in the search field to find the WHO/O cause page.
- On our cause page, click the "Donate" button, and then select the amount you would like to give. Recurring donations will be deducted on a monthly basis.



Bowl-a-thon continued from p. 1

The April 25th event will consist of bowling (but only for those participants who wish to bowl!), along with food, fun, and raffle prizes. Every bowler who meets their goal of \$100 will receive an event t-shirt. For every \$10 raised, participants will get a raffle ticket for the drawing. Fabulous prizes have been donated to the event by local pro-choice businesses as well as WHO/O board members.

Women Have Options is encouraging bowlers to be creative with costumes, fundraising ideas, and team names. Remember, it's not too late to participate or donate!

Please visit www.tinyurl.com/bowl4options to learn more about the event, register a team, or make a donation.

For more information, or if you have any questions about the bowl-a-thon, please contact Andrea Martinez at 614.432.9048 or womenhaveoptions@gmail.com.

P.O. Box 5
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W O M E N H A V E O P T I O N S

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, PO Box 5, Granville, OH 43023

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____

- I would like more information about WHO/O.
- I would like to help with special events.
- I would like to help with the newsletter.
- Add my friend's name and address to your mailing list: _____

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

E-mail _____

*Contributions to WHO/O can be made through **United Way** by choosing the Donor Option and naming Women Have Options to receive your dollars. You can also make donations directly on our website (www.womenhaveoptions.org) or by joining our cause on Facebook.*