

WHO/O

Women Have Options supports reproductive choice for all women

Fall 2012



Women Have Options is turning 20! WHO/O will host an anniversary art and fundraising gala on Thursday, October 4, at local winery, Signature Wines, in Columbus. We are inviting all friends, supporters, neighbors, and art-lovers to share an evening with us celebrating abortion access in Ohio, art for social change, and wine. The event will include a cash wine bar, light appetizers, an art/wine raffle, and a toast to 20 years of Women Have Options and our amazing founder, Emily Rutherford.

The evening will feature an art exhibit by Illinois-based artist and activist Heather Ault. Her nationally touring exhibit, *4000 Years for Choice*, develops visual narratives about the practices of contraception and abortion around the world throughout history. The project celebrates, inspires, and empowers women and men in their reproductive lives. We are proud to bring Heather's art to Columbus for the first time. Come see art, buy art, and celebrate the reproductive roots of abortion and contraception!

We would like to thank our host committee for supporting this event:

Peggy Anderson	Susan Karian	Lydia Strauss
Kay Bork	Danielle Smith	Sandy Theis
Larry Hayman	Stephanie Craddock Sherwood	Judith Thomas
Terrie Hubbard		Anita Waters

Join us on Thursday, October 4, from 5:30–7:30pm. Signature Wines is located at 3816 April Lane, Columbus, Ohio 43227. Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased online via our website (click on Donate Now and make a \$30 donation using Network for Good) or via cash or check at the door.

If you have questions, please email info@womenhaveoptions.org.

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Stories of the Women You Have Helped

***Janna**

Janna was 41 years old and had chosen not to have children. With multiple chronic medical conditions, she had recently become disabled, without income or health insurance. When she discovered she was pregnant, she was scared and asked the clinic for help: "I had seen on Facebook the bowl-a-thon for Women Have Options, and so I asked the patient advocate for assistance. I was able to get funding assistance for my life-threatening procedure. For that, I am eternally grateful. Thank you so much! Blessings, love, and light!!!"

Kylie

Kylie was under the age of 18 and seeking both an abortion and long-acting contraception to prevent another pregnancy. Although she and her family had saved enough to afford the abortion procedure, long-acting contraception, like the Depo-Provera shot, usually costs significantly more than contraception which requires daily use. Long-acting contraception, however, is some of the most effective contraception available, so it is especially tragic that cost is a barrier for so many women. We are proud that we funded Kylie \$50 so she could afford the type of contraception that was best for her.

Val

Val was a pregnant 27-year-old single mother of two children, ages 4 and 6. She lived in a tiny mobile home with her sister and her sister's two children. Val dropped out of school when she was a sophomore in high school. She worked full time as a cashier in a store and was starting a GED program. Your help allowed her to begin creating a better life for herself and her children.

Wendi

Wendi was separated from her husband, who had been unfaithful and kicked her out of their house. Wendi and her son were living with friends—and she had almost nothing. To pay for the \$50 initial consultation at the clinic, Wendi sold her wedding ring. Thank you for helping Wendi afford the choice she wanted for her life.

*All names have been changed.

Donor's Corner

Laura Bidwa got involved with Women Have Options when a friend recruited her to participate in the 2011 bowl-a-thon. She appreciates the straightforward nature of our funding mission: "I really like that WHO/O doesn't bury recipients in paperwork to get the support that they need."

She emphasizes that we have to empower each woman to shape her own experiences, even when making difficult decisions regarding pregnancy and child-rearing. We're thankful for all the intelligent, thoughtful donors like Laura Bidwa who join us in helping women afford their reproductive choices!

In Memory of Phyllis Shwartz

Women Have Options notes with sadness the death of Phyllis Shwartz in May of this year. Phyllis was involved with many community groups promoting women's rights and reproductive freedom. She and her late husband, Myron, arrived years ago at a WHO/O event with a most generous check, becoming our first "major donor." The entire pro-choice community will miss her energy and commitment.

Bowl-a-Thon a Huge Success!

A huge thank you to the sponsors, team captains, bowlers, and donors who made the 3rd annual Women Have Options Bowl-a-Thon a tremendous success! Together we raised more than \$27,000 for abortion access in Ohio—that's \$12,000 over our original goal!

Lawmakers have done everything in their power to take choices away from Ohio's women. On April 29, we stood up defiantly and gave women their choices back. Throughout the month of April, abortion funds around the country participated in the National Abortion Access Bowl-a-Thon organized by the National Network of Abortion Funds (NNAF). WHO/O joined the fun with 31 teams made up of 161 bowlers from around the state. Teams representing Planned Parenthood of Central Ohio, Denison University Students for Choice, VOX at OSU, Women Have Options board members, and others joined us to celebrate choice and strike down financial barriers to abortion access. Our bowl-a-thon was more than a great fundraiser: it was a great way to build community, bringing together progressive people who support women's equality.

Read more about the bowl-a-thon on our blog.



WHO/O receives NNAF's award for
Most Impressive Advocacy

Read more about the 2012 Summit on our blog

We are going digital!

We are transitioning to an e-newsletter. To make sure we have your current email address, please send an email with your name and current email address to info@womenhaveoptions.org.

Help us save on printing and mailing costs, so your donations go further. Thanks!

WOMEN HAVE OPTIONS

Address:
P.O. Box 5
Granville, OH 43023

E-mail:
womenhaveoptions@gmail.com

Website:
www.womenhaveoptions.org

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

Member of the National Network of Abortion Funds (NNAF)

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Granville, OH 43023

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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, P.O. 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.
- 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) using the Network for Good, or by joining our cause on Facebook.*