

WHO

Women Have Options supports reproductive choice for all women

Spring 2012

Get Ready for the Third Annual Women Have Options Bowl-a-Thon!

Help Us Strike Down Barriers to Abortion Access

This year, the bowl-a-thon is about giving choices back to the women of Ohio. Lawmakers have done everything in their power to take away women's choices, but we are standing up defiantly and giving those choices directly back to women. Our goal for this year's bowl-a-thon is to raise **\$15,000**. We know that we can reach this goal, but only with your help!



**NATIONAL ABORTION ACCESS
BOWL-A-THON**
bowlathon.nnaf.org

The bowl-a-thon is first and foremost a fundraising event; the proceeds go toward helping women afford their choices. Participants have until the end of April to raise as much money as they can, and then we come together for a bowling party on April 29. So don't worry, non-bowlers—your success in this event is completely unrelated to your bowling skills! Your goal is to fundraise.

There's still time to start a team, join an existing team, or donate to a bowler. To get involved, go to bowlathon.nnaf.org, click on "Find an Event," and then click on the "Women Have Options" link. On our page, you can register, make a donation, find fundraising tips, and learn more about the bowl-a-thon. When you register, a personal fundraising page with a unique link is created just for you. This link is super easy to share—you can e-mail it, put it on your blog, post it on your Facebook page or Twitter feed—and your supporters can go directly to your page to sponsor you. (Offline donations are also welcome, of course!)

Each participant is responsible for donating or raising a minimum of \$50 (just \$30 for students) in order to attend the event, but we encourage everyone to raise at least \$100. Every person who raises at least \$100 will receive a Women Have Options coffee mug. There will also be great prizes for the top fundraisers,

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WHO / O BOARD MEMBERS

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including a Sony Bloggie Touch camera and a \$200 wine tasting for 10 at Signature Wines.

We would love it if all participants could join us on April 29 for a fun afternoon of bowling with Ohio's pro-choice community, but attendance is totally optional! Even if you're out of the area, you can create or join a team and be a "virtual bowler," and get involved by fundraising for choice.

So far, 22 teams have registered for the Women Have Options bowl-a-thon and have already raised an incredible \$8,048! Local sponsors of the event include Brezel, Capital Care Network, Evolved Body Art, Pattycake Bakery, PUSH! Dayton, Signature Wines, St. James Tavern, ThoughtCo, and Wholly Craft.

Remember, the money you raise will have a direct impact on women's lives. Without your support, women who reach out for help won't be able to access the abortion they need—in some cases because they're as little as a few dollars short of the necessary amount. The bowl-a-thon accounted for a significant part of our budget last year, and without the funds we raise through this event, clinics will be forced to turn women away. So, please join in and help us raise money to give choices back to Ohio women!



In January, Women Have Options gathered for its first-ever board retreat. Board members spent the day sharing their ideas and values, reflecting on the group's achievements, and developing an action plan for the rest of this year and beyond.

Donor's Corner

One of our donors explains why she gives a monthly donation to Women Have Options:

"When I had my abortion, a friend helped me out with some money. I've never paid that back, so I'd like to pay it back through your fund."

—Michel Coconis

If you would like to schedule a recurring donation, visit www.womenhaveoptions.org and click on the "Donate Now" button. This will take you to our page on the Network for Good website. Click on "Donate Now," and then enter the amount you would like to contribute. Under "Donation Preferences," you can choose to make this a recurring donation that is deducted monthly, quarterly, or annually.

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Follow us on Twitter



twitter.com/WHOohio

Check out our website and blog

www.womenhaveoptions.org



Stories of the Women You Have Helped

Every year your donations make a difference for hundreds of women who, without your help, could not afford their reproductive choices. The stories of just a few of these women (each of whom received funding from Women Have Options) are highlighted below.

*Kate

Kate was enlisted in the U.S. military and suffered from the traumatic effects of war. She required hospitalization before she could return home. When she came back to the United States, war images continued to haunt her. She awoke screaming, shaking, and crying from constant nightmares, and eventually she went to a VA hospital for assessment. During this time, Kate found out that she was pregnant, and she knew that becoming a mother was simply beyond her abilities at that point. She went to one of the clinics funded by Women Have Options for help.

Lindsey

Lindsey was a single mother of a 5-year-old. She depended on the wages from her part-time job and sporadic financial assistance from her parents to support herself and her daughter. After four months of scrimping and saving to collect about \$185, and even with a contribution from her partner, she still didn't have enough to afford the procedure she desperately wanted. In her request for funding from the clinic, Lindsey said that she simply did not have the means to give another child the life he or she deserved.

Elizabeth

Elizabeth was 41 years old and had been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. She had to take quite a bit of time off from work after the initial diagnosis and lost her job as a result. She was recently divorced, lived by herself, and had no source of income. Elizabeth also suffered from severe depression and had lost all of her vision in one eye due to complications from the MS. Given her condition, she felt that she could not raise a child and had no choice but to terminate her pregnancy.

Abby

A single mother of two young children, Abby was a full-time student in nursing school who was laid off from her job. She immediately began looking for a new one, but because of the hours she had to spend working toward her degree, she found it impossible to get a job that could accommodate her schedule. By the time she went to the clinic seeking an abortion, her checking account was overdrawn. She had no one else to turn to for assistance.

*All names have been changed.

This year is the **20th anniversary** of Women Have Options. Since **1992**, we have granted more than **\$250,000** to Ohio clinics so that **thousands of women** could afford their reproductive choices. We do this one woman at a time. On average, a woman receives **\$100** of assistance from Women Have Options. \$100 is all it takes to help a woman **maintain control of her body and her future**. In a just world, abortion funds wouldn't exist because they wouldn't be necessary—every woman would be able to afford her choice. Until that day comes, **we need your support** to make abortion access a reality. **Because if a woman can't afford her choice, she doesn't really have one.**

WOMEN HAVE OPTIONS

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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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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.*