



Women Have Options supports reproductive choice for all women

Fall 2015

Founder of Women Have Options Retiring from Board Service - Thank you Emily Rutherford

This spring, the board of directors said a very bittersweet thank you and farewell to our founder, Emily Rutherford, who retired from board service.

Emily Rutherford started Women Have Options 23 years ago in order to keep a promise to her friend. Emily gifted money to a friend to help her afford an abortion by saying it was from a group of people who do this sort of thing. So as not to lie, Emily created Women Have Options.

Fast forward 23 years, we are a thriving, dynamic group granting \$50,000 every year to Ohio clinics, helping hundreds of women each year afford their reproductive choice. Not only did Emily create Ohio's abortion fund, she helped form the National Network of Abortion Funds to link groups like us, so we can better harness our power.

To honor her leadership and service, we launched a fundraising campaign and created an oral history showcasing the beginning of Women Have Options. Many founding board members told us the story of WHO/O and of Emily. To watch this powerful history, visit womenhaveoptions.org.

We are thrilled to report that Women Have Options supporters honored Emily and WHO/O's work by raising more than \$30,000! Thank you to everyone who supported this campaign and were able to join us at our June luncheon, a touching and extraordinary tribute to an abortion fund visionary.

Women Have Options will continue providing much-needed financial assistance to women as they access their reproductive choice, as we have for 23 years. We will do this because of Emily's visionary leadership. Thank you, Emily, for all that you have done to protect reproductive rights and help spark a movement where we can say unequivocally that birth control, emergency contraception, and abortions services are a vital part of healthcare!

WHO/O BOARD

Adrienne Gavula, Chair

Molly Farrell

Adam Fazio

Linda FreemanWalker

Molly Hendrix

Chloe Manor

Andrea Martinez

Mallory McMaster

Tiyi Morris

Abbie Obenour

Nancy Pitts

Danielle Smith

EMERITUS BOARD

Julia Brodie

Karin Dahl

Patricia Finkelman

Flo Gibson

Susan Karian

Sarah Leavell

Emily Rutherford

Judy Stansbury

Judith Thomas

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Women You Helped..... Page 2

Clinic Update..... Page 2

Donor Spotlight and Ways to Give..... Page 3

Stories from Women You Helped

*Katie

I am a single, disabled mother with limited income. My daughter is seven-years-old, and this pregnancy was unexpected. Due to health problems, this would have been a high-risk pregnancy to me and potentially life-threatening. My daughter only has me to care for her, so I had no other choice but to end this pregnancy. Your funding helped make that possible.

*Debra

I am grateful for the extra help. I thought I was going to cancel my appointment because I didn't have the full amount, but the receptionist gladly informed me that Women Have Options would take care of the rest. Thank you!

*Natalie

Having no support emotionally or financially made me feel hopeless and trapped. I felt unsure how I could finance this decision. Finding out there are places that can and did offer funding made me feel relieved, and I felt someone supported my decisions.

*Sasha

Being a part-time student and finding out I was four months pregnant, I had to choose between my tuition payment and paying for this procedure. Luckily, a friend offered to help, but only so much. The funding I received helped me stay in school this semester. Thank you!

**All names have been changed.*

Clinic Update

Ohio is, once again, suffering from new anti-choice legislation that was added last-minute to the state budget. This time, the legislature added an additional requirement that abortion clinics have a transfer agreement with a hospital within 30 miles. As you may recall, a transfer agreement is a burdensome, unnecessary agreement that outpatient clinics have, which says hospitals will accept their patients in emergency situations, despite the fact that hospitals have to accept everyone regardless of any agreement.

This 30-mile provision is a direct attack on the last remaining clinic in Toledo, Capital Care Network, which has a transfer agreement with the University of Michigan Health System in Ann Arbor, about 50 miles away. Capital Care recently won its appeal to stay open. Now, it is in danger of closing again.

Women's Med Center, the last abortion clinic in Dayton, is also in danger of closing. It signed a transfer agreement with Wright State Physicians in an attempt to comply with the new, unnecessary regulations. Anti-choice groups are now stalking and harassing these doctors at work and at home, driving through their neighborhoods in a truck with their pictures on it and sending leaflets to their neighbors.

Women Have Options needs your help more than ever. We are in real danger of losing the remaining clinics in Dayton and Toledo, which means patients will travel farther to exercise their choice. Not only are there travel expenses, but there must be two appointments spaced 24 hours apart, and some clinics have a waitlist. All of this adds up to additional burdens for women accessing their constitutional right to abortion services. WHO/O is Ohio's statewide abortion fund, and we need your support so we can continue helping women access the reproductive healthcare they need and deserve.

Donor Spotlight: Sarah and Her Tax Return

We know there are many ways to support Women Have Options, from individual contributions to participating in bowl-a-thon, or simply by shopping at Kroger.

This spring, we received a contribution from a first-time donor, “Sarah,” who, like many of us, is frustrated by the political climate surrounding access to reproductive healthcare. The Hyde Amendment restricts the use of federal funds to pay for abortion, mainly affecting Medicaid, a healthcare program used by families with fewer financial resources.

When asked what motivated her to make her first contribution to WHO/O, she said: “When my tax refund came back, I realized it was the perfect time to donate and the perfect money to donate, as I am very against the Hyde Amendment. In essence, I am a taxpayer who supports abortion access, and I support using my tax money to pay for those services.”

We are grateful to all our Women Have Options supporters. We know that as clinics across the state face threats of closure, the need is only going to increase. Special thanks to Sarah, who channeled her frustration to help make abortion more accessible and affordable for all!

A big way to fight the Hyde Amendment is to donate your tax refund!

Support WHO/O Everyday

In addition to your regular contribution to Women Have Options, you can easily support us in ways that will not cost you a penny! Every amount counts; sometimes the difference between choice and no choice is only \$10. Visit womenhaveoptions.org for more information

Kroger Community Rewards

- Enroll at krogercommunityrewards.com
- The Women Have Options code is 34940
- Remember to renew your enrollment every April

Amazon Smile

- Visit smile.amazon.com
- Type Women Have Options in the “Pick your own” line
- Select our name and you’re done

2015 Bowl-a-Thon by the Numbers

Sponsors: 12, \$1,400 in donations

Bowlers: 104

Number of people who raised at least \$1,000: 9

Total raised: \$24,931.48

THANK YOU to our generous Bowl-a-Thon supporters

We exceeded our goal by almost \$5,000 this year. Not only does Bowl-a-Thon allow hundreds of us to celebrate and raise money for WHO/O, it provides a reason to talk with the people in our lives about abortion; it helps normalize the conversation around abortion. Thank you to our sponsors, team captains, bowlers, and donors. We hope you will join us for the 2016 bowl-a-thon this Spring! Continue checking our website for details.



Women Have Options
PO Box 1611
Columbus, Ohio 43216

Non-profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Permit #83
Middletown, OH

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. Please send your contribution to: Women Have Options, PO Box 1611, Columbus, Ohio 43216.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____

- Add me to your email list
- I am interested in becoming more active with Women Have Options.
- Add my friend to your list (name, address, email): _____

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-mail: _____