

WHO/O

Women Have Options supports reproductive choice for all women

Fall 2011



2nd Annual Bowl-a-Thon Raises More Than \$13,300!

For the second year, Women Have Options participated in the National Abortion Access Bowl-a-Thon organized by the National Network of Abortion Funds (NNAF). Our event this year was a resounding success and exceeded everyone's expectations. We raised more than \$13,300, representing a nearly 50% increase over last year's fundraising total. Sponsors included Betty's, Capital Care Network, Choice Network, Evolved BodyArt, Jolie Laide, Pattycake Bakery, and Wholly Craft.

We had nine teams, with 59 total bowlers, including teams representing Planned Parenthood of Central Ohio, St. James Tavern, SEIU Local 1199, Wholly Craft, Betty's, NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio, Pattycake Bakery, WHO/O board members, and other local activists.

We are excited to see our donor base expanding and thrilled that more activists throughout central Ohio are genuinely enthusiastic about participating in our annual bowl-a-thon and supporting WHO/O.

Nationally, over 300 teams and 5000 contributors in dozens of cities across the country participated in the bowl-a-thon, raising more than \$320,000. We are proud that the WHO/O bowl-a-thon was #9 in the country for fundraising! Thanks to everyone who planned, donated, fundraised, attended, and secured sponsorships. Together, we made the 2011 bowl-a-thon a tremendous success. Next year, we'll aim even higher!

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WHO/O Makes a Difference: In the Public Arena and in Women's Lives

Making a Difference in the Lives of Ohio Women

In 2010 Women Have Options (WHO/O) received over \$30,000 in individual donations and \$10,000 in grants. With these funds WHO/O provided \$32,500 to 10 clinics that in turn provided assistance to 363 women. As of June 30, WHO/O had received \$31,200 from the Bowl-a-Thon and other individual contributions, positioning us to continue our support to clinics and the women of Ohio in 2011.

Your donations affect hundreds of women who, without your help, could not make reproductive choices for their lives. Here are the stories of some we have funded in 2011.

- Jordan was a 14-year old rape victim whose parents were unemployed.
- Kylie, 25 years old and a single mother of 2 children, recently fled an abusive husband in another state and moved in with her parents in Ohio.
- Ashley was 19 years old with a wanted pregnancy. At 20 weeks, the fetus was diagnosed with a fatal condition— at a religious hospital that would not perform an abortion.
- Amanda was a single mom who lived with her parents because of substance abuse and sexual abuse.
- Lalei was a single mother of three whose ex-husband refused to pay child support. Her only income came from a small child care business run from her home.
- Cora, a single mother of four, returned to school to complete a degree. After three C-sections with serious complications, she was terrified to be pregnant. Friends and family refused to help pay for her abortion.



Board Chair Nancy Pitts on the steps of the State Capitol at the Freedom of Choice Ohio (FOCO) coalition's press conference, speaking in opposition to the so-called "Heartbeat Bill."

WHO/O Board Chair's Letter Published in the Columbus Dispatch

Sunday July 31, 2011 3:22 AM

There is a simple step federal policymakers could take this summer to hold down the rising cost of health care: make contraception more affordable ("Insurance-paid birth control? Religions react," *Dispatch* article, Monday). Studies show that covering contraception in health-care plans is cost-effective and likely will save plans money.

Every dollar spent on contraception saves about \$4 in pregnancy-related costs. It also helps families to space births, which saves money as well by making babies and mothers healthier.

Last week, the Institute of Medicine agreed that affordable family planning is critical to the health of women and their babies. Between 98 percent and 100 percent of American women use contraception during their lifetimes. No specific religion should prevent sound public-health policy from helping millions of American women.

Therefore, when the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops strongly opposes including contraception in the preventive services that insurance companies should cover without extra co-pays, I wonder: Whom exactly do these bishops speak for? And why do they think their radical views should have any place in a discussion of public policy?

We can take an enormous step forward in women's health by adding birth control to the list of preventive services for which there are no co-pays.

NANCY R. PITTS, Chair
Women Have Options

NNAF 2011 Organizing Summit

Earlier this summer, two WHO/O board members attended the 2011 National Network of Abortion Funds (NNAF) Organizing Summit in Denver. Linda FreemanWalker and Nancy Pitts represented Women Have Options at the summit, which was attended by about 150 people from more than 50 abortion funds around the country and overseas. Being surrounded by reproductive justice advocates from around the world was inspiring...and fun too!

Over three days, we attended workshops on many topics related to the work of abortion funds, including advocacy training, fundraising, working with abortion providers, reproductive justice in communities of faith, social media, volunteer recruitment, and our personal values regarding abortion and pregnancy options.

During the final evening, Kinga Jelinska of the group Women on Web presented the keynote address. Women on Web is a web-based organization that smuggles abortion medication into countries around the world where abortion is prohibited and then conducts trainings on using the abortion pills. Simply, her presentation was unbelievably moving. Our favorite quote: "Trust women. I mean really, radically, trust women." We left inspired, revitalized, and motivated.

Reception and Gift Bazaar: Save the Date



Looking for an alternative to holiday mall madness? Meet and mingle with other members of Ohio's pro-choice community while picking up handcrafted gifts and supporting reproductive access at our Reception and Gift Bazaar on the evening of Thursday, December 1.

Learn more about WHO/O's recent activities and enjoy exclusive access to a marketplace of fine locally made goods. Get a head start on holiday shopping this year at the Gift Bazaar where a portion of all sales will benefit Women Have Options.

Local artisans featured at the event will be selling handmade stationery, jewelry, housewares, fine art prints, luxury bath goods and much more. A unique gift of a letter-pressed greeting card, a hand embroidered tablecloth, or fused glass pendant from the Gift Bazaar will support both the Ohio artisan economy and the efforts of WHO/O to ensure access to reproductive choices for all Ohio women.

The Fall Reception and Gift Bazaar will be held at the Columbus home of WHO/O supporter Stephanie Sherwood. Please RSVP to info@womenhaveoptions.org for the event address and driving directions.

Refreshments will be provided and board members will also be in attendance to discuss the current state of reproductive rights in Ohio and goals for the coming year. We hope you can join us!

Making a Recurring Donation Is Easy and Convenient

Some of our donors find that the easiest way to give is to schedule a recurring online donation. You choose the amount you'd like to contribute on a regular basis, and the amount is automatically withdrawn—no need to worry about remembering to make your donation! Here is the site you can use to make recurring donations to WHO/O.

Network for Good



- Go to www.womenhaveoptions.org, click on the "Network for Good" button at the top of the page, and you'll go directly to WHO/O's page on the Network for Good website. Then 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.

WOMEN HAVE OPTIONS

Women Have Options supports reproductive choice for all women.

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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, 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.
- 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.*