



NETWORK FOR REPRODUCTIVE OPTIONS

2012

Oregon Retains Public Funding for Abortion, For Now...

We don't know why initiative 25, the proposed ballot measure that would take away public funding for abortion in Oregon, failed. The simple answer is that they didn't get enough signatures, of course, but did they fail to get enough signatures because most Oregonians believe that low-income women on OHP have as much right to make their own reproductive health decisions as women fortunate enough to be able to afford private insurance? We hope so, but the truth is we don't know.

What we do know is that it is unlikely that anti-abortion activists will give up on this. We are grateful to have averted the expensive battle we would have had to wage this fall but we can't let this small victory let us get complacent. Now is the time to go on the offensive. We need to build strong support, both at the grassroots and in the legislature, for the right of all women to comprehensive health care – no matter who foots the bill. We know that our supporters who read this newsletter already support reproductive justice: you

prove it every year with generous donations and volunteer efforts.

Now we must ask you to take your support a little further: talk to your friends, your neighbors, your relatives, your co-workers and colleagues about the important work that NRO does, about what reproductive justice means for you and for the women of Oregon. Write a letter to your state representative to let him/her know that you support public funding for abortion, and ask some of your friends to do the same. We need to take this opportunity to build our opposition to abortion restrictions – now, while we have time, while we have space (because we know those opposed to abortion will keep trying), before any restrictions have a chance to take hold and impact the lives of women in our state. We don't want to spend the few resources that we have to fight laws and ballot measures that we know will hurt women and hurt our ability to help women. We want to use what we have to keep making women's lives better, to keep improving the health care sys-

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Board of

Coordinators

Penny O'Leary

Gerald Morsello

Sarah Macrorie

Vanessa Georgiades

Jeanie Schauerman

Staff

Susanne Boling

Jennifer Webster

Empowering women & promoting reproductive justice by eliminating barriers to abortion access, providing opportunities for comprehensive, grassroots sexual & reproductive health care education, and supporting access to a full range of reproductive options for all women

Since 2002



A Decade of WIN for NRO

For our 10th Anniversary we want to share a little bit about how NRO started, the work that was done to make us into a vibrant abortion fund & how we've held on to that vision to provide a vital service to women over the years. Contributed by founding member, Kate Weck.

Early one evening in July of 2002, I received a call from an old friend and co-worker. We had worked together at one of the few freestanding and only non-profit abortion clinics in Oregon. "The clinic has been closed. Everyone lost their jobs and we only had a few hours to gather our things." I had not worked at the clinic for a couple of years, but the brief silence that followed these statements was painful nonetheless. We had all worked so hard

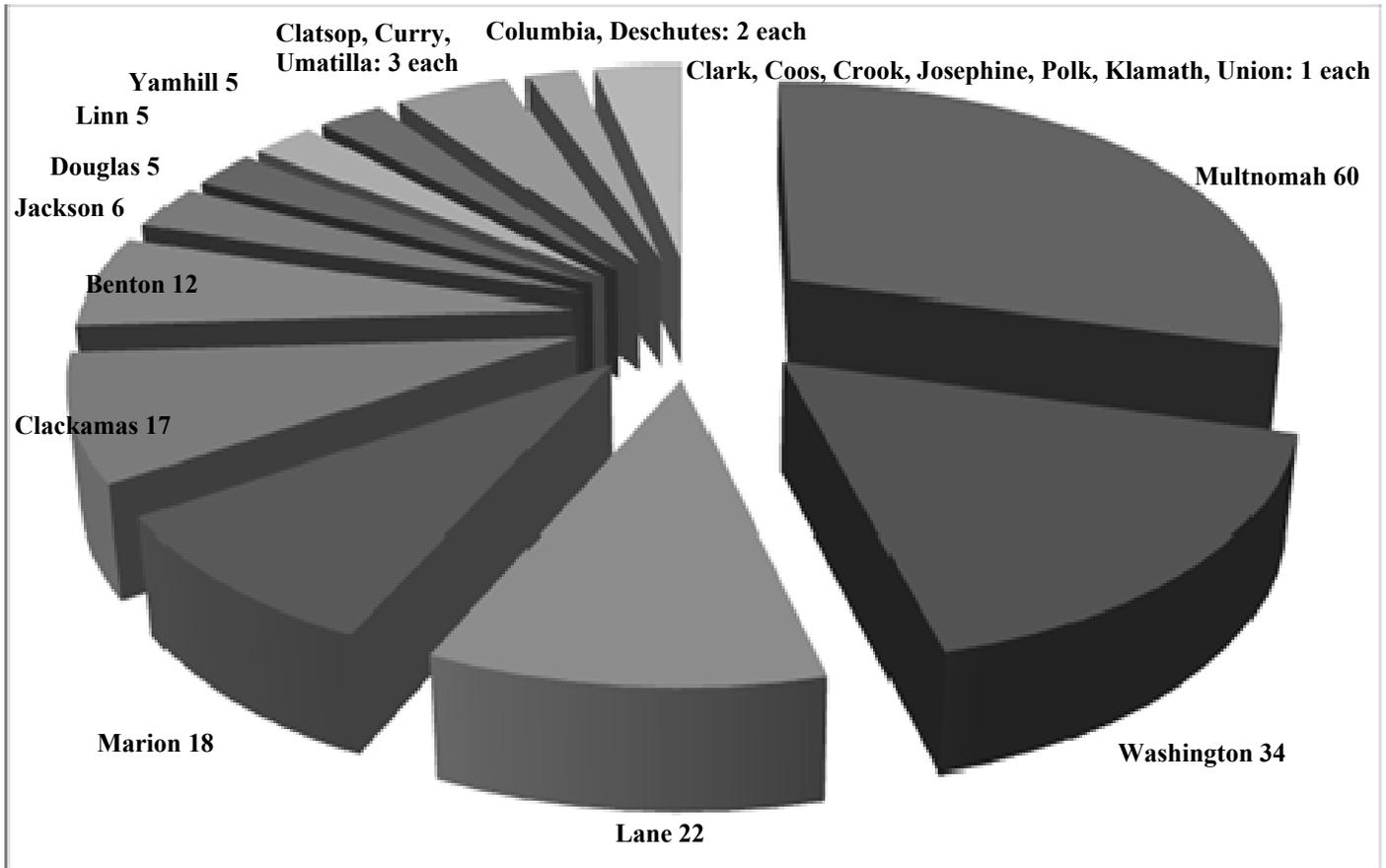
over the years to provide the best care possible to women coming from all over the Pacific Northwest seeking abortion care. There were few other clinics in southern Oregon. Where were women going to go?

This wasn't just any clinic. It was a feminist clinic, rooted in the self-help movement of previous decades and based on the idea that knowledge is power. This power

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2011 Women In Need Statistics



Total Hotline Calls:	762	Age		Ethnic Identity	
Total WIN recipients:	374	15-18	24	White/Euroamerican	91
Average gift per woman:	\$191	19-25	93	Latina	44
Total given in 2011:	\$71,254	26-35	93	African American	8
		36-45	30	Asian American	5
		45 +	1	Native American	2
				Other/Mixed	9

Number of women whose primary language is not English 40
 Spanish Speaking 33

**Support reproductive justice
 in your lifetime and beyond.**

Designating Network for Reproductive Options as a beneficiary in your will, life insurance policy, retirement plan, or IRA is a great way to provide long-term support for NRO's mission. Planned giving is an important decision for any person. Contact an attorney or financial advisor for guidance since many of these options offer some tax deductions or other tax advantages.



As NRO celebrates its ten year anniversary our organization continues to grow and evolve.

Our staffing has again reconfigured this year as we said goodbye to both our Office Assistant and long-time Campaign Fundraiser. Former Program Administrator Susanne Boling has transitioned into a new role as the organization's **Executive Director**, and our **Projects Coordinator** (and long-time staff member) Jennifer Webster is continuing in her role. We are currently in the process of hiring a new **Campaign Fundraiser**.

In addition, NRO welcomed **three new board members** this year! Sarah Macrorie is a midwife and former co-founder of NRO. Vanessa Georgiades is a hotline (and former office) volunteer with NRO, based out of Portland. Jeanie Schauerman, a long-time social justice activist, is also a hotline and office volunteer as well as our newly elected Vice President. Our new board President Penny O'Leary is also an NRO co-founder. Rounding out our slate of officers for this year is long-time board member Gerald Morsello who is continuing in his role as our Secretary-Treasurer.

The infusion of energy from our new board members and other volunteers has led NRO to launch two new Standing Committees. **Grassroots Health Education Committee** members presented at Women's Health Week at Portland Community College's Women's Resource Center. Plans for this year include focused outreach at college campuses around Oregon, and the expansion of the GHE Presenters Team. The GHE Committee **will host quarterly trainings** (the next one will be in October) for those interested in being trained to conduct our comprehensive Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health presentations. Our **Fundraising and Outreach Committee** hit the ground running in organizing our upcoming **benefit event at Cowfish Dance Club in Eugene on August 3rd**. This committee is also coordinating a tabling event calendar to increase our outreach beginning with **Pride Day on August 11th** and the **Eugene Celebration on August 25th & 26th**. In addition, this year NRO is **marching in the Celebration Parade** on Saturday morning, and **we invite any and all of our supporters to come and march with us in support of Reproductive Justice!** If you would like to participate please contact our office! The FO Committee is also begin-

ning to plan for our annual Wine Tasting event coming up in the fall.

In other fundraising news, our **third annual Bowl-a-thon Fundraiser** was expanded this year to include an event site in Eugene in addition to our traditional Portland location. Bowlers worked over several months at fundraising and when the bowling started they had **raised nearly \$11,000** to help low income women to access abortion services!

Another major accomplishment for this year was the launch of our **newly revamped organizational website**. We are still at the same web address (<http://www.nroptions.org>) but the site is brand new! Come visit us!

Our Women In Need (WIN) Hotline Program recently conducted volunteer trainings in Eugene & Portland and we have now added **five new Hotline Advocates** volunteers to our ranks. Additional training may be offered later in the year if there is sufficient interest. We are now **urgently seeking bilingual English-Spanish speakers to serve as translators** for our Hotline Advocate Team! If you are interested please contact our office!

Finally, thanks to all our supporters who have signed up over the last year to support NRO through **GoodSearch.com!** GoodSearch.com is a search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities that its users designate. For anyone who has not tried it- it's easy! Just go to the GoodSearch.com homepage and enter **NRO** into the "enter your charity here" field and click verify. Then just search the Internet as you normally would — the site is powered by Yahoo!, so you'll get high-quality search results. And now there are two new ways to support NRO through GoodSearch. Shop at dozens of popular online sites with **GoodShop** and take advantage of special discounts and great deals with a percentage of each purchase donated to NRO. When you sign up with **GoodDining** you can support NRO just by eating at **your favorite restaurant**. Six percent of each meal purchased will be donated to NRO. For more information about participating online companies and restaurants in your area and how to support NRO through these programs, check out the GoodSearch.com website.



The State of Reproductive Justice

It was a year for the record books according to a recent report from the Guttmacher Institute.* Adding to the already troubling trend of increased restrictions on abortion access, 2011 brought over 1,000 attempts to further restrict abortion in all 50 states. Only (only?) 92 of those attempts were successful and, thankfully, Oregon remains one of the few states with little restriction on abortion. However for the millions of women who live in states where increased restrictions were implemented, abortion has become more and more inaccessible. Here's a rundown on some of what happened in 2011:

Late term abortion ban (bans abortion for any reason after 20 weeks past fertilization, which equals 22 weeks gestation on the grounds of 'fetal pain' – a scientifically disputed notion): Nebraska enacted this legislation in 2010 and in 2011 five states followed suit: Alabama, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas and Oklahoma.

Ban on telemedicine (used primarily for dispensing medical abortion in rural areas so women don't need to travel): Seven states prohibited telemedicine in 2011: Arizona, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Tennessee.

Forced ultrasounds (require women to obtain an ultrasound prior to obtaining an abortion, sometimes with a waiting period): Texas enacted the most egregious of these laws, requiring women to obtain a trans-vaginal ultrasound prior to an abortion procedure; Arizona, Florida, Kansas, North Carolina followed suit and several other states have attempted but failed to legislate medical practice in this way.

Restricting insurance coverage: Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Utah have successfully restricted all private insurance coverage of abortion, while Florida, Idaho, Indiana and Virginia have created restrictions for any insurance plan in the health care exchanges that will become available in 2014. These laws have dire implications for the future of insurance coverage for abortion.

By 2011, nearly half of women of reproductive age (15-44) were living in states hostile to abortion, up from less than one-third in 2000.

*- Guttmacher Institute**

Waiting periods: Currently, 26 states require that a woman waits 24 hours (following mandatory counseling) before proceeding with an abortion. In 2011, South Dakota passed legislation that would increase the waiting period to 72 hours; the law was blocked from going into effect by court ruling. In May of 2012, a similar law went into effect in Utah requiring women to wait 72 hours; unlike the South Dakota version, Utah women

can obtain the required counseling by phone, so they do not have to make two trips to a clinic.



Fetal Personhood: We thought we'd seen the last of this when it was defeated in Colorado for the second time.

But Mississippi defeated a ballot measure in 2011 that would have granted rights to fertilized eggs. Sadly, defeat in Mississippi was not enough to deter these antis; both Oregon and Ohio faced potential ballot measure on fetal personhood this fall, which, fortunately, did not get enough signatures in either state.

This year is shaping up to be similar: some 39 new legislative restrictions on abortion have gone into effect during the first half of 2012. Laws that require an ultra-sound prior to abortion have been introduced in several states, though the trans-vaginal requirement seems to have been dropped as too invasive in almost every state except Texas. Mississippi just passed a law that would effectively shut down that state's last abortion clinic. As we go to press the law was prevented from going into effect by the courts and the clinic is trying to see as many women as they can accommodate knowing that they could be shut down at any time.

Oregon narrowly averted losing coverage under the Oregon Health Plan for abortion this year. This would have been tragic, given the success that we've seen over the past year for women getting their applications processed quickly (thank you again, Bayla Ostrach and Jessica Matthews! See our 2011 newsletter). The antis were busy this spring gathering signatures for a ballot measure that would have ended the state's public funding for abortion. Fortunately, they fell far short of the signatures necessary to put the measure on November's ballot. Unfortunately, this is probably not the last we've heard of this. We expect they will next try to get legislation passed and, failing that, they will almost certainly attempt another ballot measure in the future.

Finally, some good news: the Affordable Care Act was upheld by the Supreme Court. While this won't improve women's access to abortion (and it's not clear what impact it will have on abortion access), it does ensure insured women's access to contraception and other preventative health care without added cost (i.e., no co-pays, deductibles do not apply). The Affordable Care Act is far, far from perfect, as it codifies the Hyde Amendment to continue restricting Federal money to be spent on abortion. However, like *Roe v. Wade*, the new health care reform should be seen as the foundation for building a more just and equitable healthcare system, not the pinnacle of achievement – especially not for women's reproductive health.

* *Troubling Trend: More States Hostile to Abortion Rights as Middle Ground Shrinks* By Rachel Benson Gold and Elizabeth Nash <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/gpr/15/1/gpr150114.html>



Celebrating NRO's First Ten Years!



Join us this summer in Celebration!

August 3, Anniversary Party/Benefit at Cowfish
9pm-close

August 11, Eugene PRIDE Celebration in Alton
Baker Park, Eugene

August 25-26, Eugene Celebration—we'll have an
information booth and a parade entry (and we need
folks to march with us!

Later this Fall, Grassroots Health Education Training, Wine
Tasting, Wine Lover's
Auction and more!

**Stay Connected!
Follow Us on Twitter!
@NROfundsAB**

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was not just for the women needing abortion services, but also for the people providing the care. It was about how to better take care of ourselves and each other while doing this sometimes difficult and very important work.

Clinic staff, volunteers, fundraisers, ex-board members and concerned community members came together quickly to figure out what to do. We had a lot of ideas, questions and grief to work through. What was needed? What did we have the capacity to do quickly to be as supportive of the community as possible? What was the vision for the long haul? We wanted to create something that was inclusive of all reproductive healthcare choices for women and their families, and we wanted to connect and work with all communities doing work around ideas of justice, equity and positive sexuality. We wanted an organization that reflected those values, and with these ideals Network for Reproductive Options was founded.

Creating an organizational structure, writing bylaws and articles of incorporation, fundraising and community outreach planning was daunting to say the least for a group of volunteers that had little experience with building an organization from the ground up. We perse-

vered through a ton of learning and growing with each other, and always kept the reproductive healthcare needs of women as our focus while looking to accomplish our goals.

We were well aware that in addition to needing information about where to go for an abortion, many women faced financial obstacles in paying for one. Many women who lived paycheck-to-paycheck would forego paying bills, skimp on groceries, go without car insurance, sell personal items, and much more to try to pay for the abortion that they needed. Many times it wasn't enough. So we set up a hotline and started a fund that would give meaningful amounts of money to women who needed abortions. We called it the Women In Need Fund.

To this day, the WIN Fund is our strongest program. We have worked with thousands of women and provided more than \$500,000 over the last 10 years to cover the costs of an abortion appointment.

There is certainly no lack of work to do when it comes to improving access to health care for our community's most vulnerable women and girls. We know that paying for abortions is just a small piece of that puzzle, but knowing that we change women's lives every day is a great honor for us.



Abortion & Life by Jennifer Baumgardner



Here is a 175-page book, eminently readable which, right from the start, asks difficult questions and which engages the reader to think in-depth about the subject of abortion.

The author begins with an introduction that contains some memorable quotes [see boxes]. Her recounting of abortion history in the U.S., beginning with Connecticut restrictions in 1821, is a precise synopsis of events that have

brought us to today's legal framework. But, despite the legality and technical availability of abortion, three factors continue to diminish women's access: 1) restrictions, such as waiting periods, parental consent mandates, slanted counseling materials, bans on insurance coverage, penalties for taking minors across state lines to obtain abortions, and military denials; 2) provider shortages, resulting from lack of medical school training, inadequate support from other physicians, and danger from violence; 3) lack of money due to inadequate public funding (only 17 states provide public funding while the Hyde Amendment prohibits use of federal funds.

It's always fascinating to learn how projects begin. Baumgardner provides the background of how she began the "I had an abortion" project, which became the basis for both a film and t-shirts. The boldness which accompanies the wearing of a t-shirt with a clear unambiguous message like this always raises issues of whether it is better to advertise and risk organ-

"Supporting abortion rights is the most ethical position one can take...abortion is the result, not the cause, of social problems. Dilemmas such as inadequate access to health care, female poverty, and sexual violence remain pernicious, and if we addressed those issues, we'd reduce the need for abortion."

-Abortion & Life, page 11

ized opposition or to remain more secretive, where no one benefits from existing knowledge and experience, but there is no backlash. Baumgardner is clear where she stands.

In a chapter entitled "The Rise of Pro-Voice," Baumgardner deals in many subtleties, and examines the beginnings of Exhale, a non-judgmental post-abortion talkline. If 10% of women need emotional support after abortion, that's still a lot of women. Tough questions: How can I want one kid and not the other? Why do I feel sad about something I chose? Finding answers is not the immediate goal; being able to talk about the

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



The Network for Reproductive Options gratefully acknowledges that our work providing reproductive options to women in Oregon would not be possible without all of you who generously support our programs!

NRO also extends appreciation to the following foundations for grants awarded in 2011-2012:

- The 100th Monkey Foundation
- The Eugene and Layton Borkan Family Foundation
- The Brenner Family Foundation
- The Campbell-Oxholm Foundation
- The Gradison Family Foundation
- The Isis Foundation
- The Jarvey-McCord Foundation
- The L'Chaim Donor Advised Fund of the McKenzie River Gathering Foundation
- The McGeady Family Foundation
- The North Star Foundation

subjects with sympathetic listeners allows women to move on with better resolution of the issues.

Can you be a Feminist and Pro-Life?, asks Baumgardner in Chapter 4. Yes, she says, and points out that prioritizing abortion rights is not the only test of commitment to women's rights. Marching in Washington, counseling friends to have abortions, choosing abortion oneself are not necessary to being a champion of women. But, she adds, there are several things that can be done by feminist pro-lifers: a) work to ensure women who want to raise children have the support to do so, b) support sex education, birth control and emergency contraception, c) work to improve early access to abortion – when they are easier emotionally and financially, d) actively condemn clinic violence, and e) understand adoption and work towards giving the birth mother a voice.

Fifteen portraits and stories form the centerpiece of the book, ranging from the other-

"We can sit together and learn from one another, drawing from the unguarded, personal shades of people's lives, rather than the black-and-white aggressive rhetoric of opposing sides"

-Abortion & Life, page 48

wise unknown to well-known feminist Gloria Steinem, author Barbara Ehrenreich, SisterSong coordinator Loretta Ross and singer Ani DiFranco. Personal stories, as Baumgardner points out, give any movement its authenticity and strengthen its political position.

Before ending with a

resource guide covering a wide range of relevant subjects and media choices, Baumgardner includes two short chapters which, each in their own way, stress the importance of forthrightness, of not being afraid to speak out as either external circumstances or one's inner resolve demands. Only by being open will we arrive at a favorable destination. The book concludes with a reprint of a commentary from Bitch Magazine about the "I Had an Abortion" t-shirt project which reveals the complexity of the subject of abortion even among its staunchest supporters.

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS!

Our library continues to grow, thanks to the generous support and contributions from community members. As always, we would welcome donations of (current or classically important) films and books in good condition on any of the subjects of reproductive health & justice, feminist health, LGBTQA health, sexual health, contraception, menopause, fertility or anything else that seems relevant to a library dedicated to reproductive and sexual health for our community! If you have questions, just call the office!

In 2006, Jennifer Baumgardner generously donated a copy of her film "I Had An Abortion" to NRO. If you are interested in organizing a viewing of the film, please contact our office for information on how to do so.

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tem – so that it can better support children and families and women. We have an incredible opportunity right now because Oregon is at the forefront of re-organizing the health care system. This summer, the way OHP is administered around the state is going to change. We must raise our collective voice to ensure that as this process unfolds, Oregon retains the tradition of ensuring low-income women have access to comprehensive reproductive health care and remains one of the few states that does not restrict abortion access for any woman.

At NRO, we are proud of the abortions we help to fund. We hope that you are proud of them too. We hope that you

will speak out and share your pride in being part of an organization that recognizes the right of every woman to make her own health decisions and to determine the course of her life. We hope that you are proud of the fact that through your efforts, your generosity and your support every woman who calls our hotline – desperate, at her wits end, unsure of what she's going to do and afraid that her life is beyond her control – gets the support she needs to make decisions about her health and her body and her family that are right for her.

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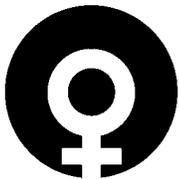
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Come visit us on-line!
<http://www.nroptions.org>



Resources—Links to information on sexual & reproductive health care and reproductive justice organizations

News & Views—What's happening locally & nationally in reproductive health and justice

Get Involved—Learn how you can make a difference

Donate—Help NRO assist Women In Need



Your one-stop resource for Reproductive Justice