

Network for **REPRODUCTIVE** Options

Thoughts from a Hotline Advocate

It is such an honor to be working with such strong and determined women who are seeking financial assistance for abortions, but it also contains bittersweet feelings as well. I always have a small amount of anxiety and heartbreak when I take the NRO hotline phone for my shift. It can feel like trying to patch a hole in a dam with your finger. These women are wading through so many barriers: physical, emotional and institutional, that I am constantly amazed at their strength and resourcefulness. The human spirit is so strong willed. The women that we serve are all ultimately thinking about how to best take care of their families, the ones they have and the ones they are going to have.

There are many experiences and feelings that we can't quantify with statistics when speaking with women on the hotline phone. Here are a few voices of the women and families we've assisted:

· I don't have insurance and can't get on OHP because my husband makes too much. His wages are garnished for child support from

his first marriage so we are barely making ends meet.

· My 15 year old daughter is pregnant. We just moved to the state and have lived here such a short time that we are not eligible for OHP. Our moving expenses were high and we just can't afford it right now.

· I have three payday loans, and can barely afford my current bills.

· My daughter's friend is pregnant. I caught them talking about it and ways to "get rid of it". I am scared of what they will do if we can't help her. Her parents are separated and not involved in her life. She practically lives at my house.

· My fiancé is in Iraq. Our insurance is through the military and federal employees are not covered for abortion services. I can't have this baby alone.

A tremendous thank you to all of our donors who make this fund possible. Until we have true reproductive justice, hotlines like ours will be needed.

Board of Coordinators

Kate Ojerio

Marti Black

Jennifer Webster

Christine Mosbaugh

Gerald Morsello

Kristen Curtis

Women In Need Statistics January-October 2005

320 total hotline calls

200 women or their allies called for information, referrals or help applying for OHP.

120 women received money from the WIN Fund for transportation, lodging or abortion services.

23 WIN recipients were Spanish speaking.

17 WIN recipients were from the Pacific NW region (special circumstances: domestic violence, youth, undocumented, sexual assault, etc.)

WIN recipients

By County:

Multnomah, 33; Washington, 15; Lane, 18; Clackamas, 10; Marion, 6; Yamhill, 5; Douglas, Benton, Umatilla, Malheur, 2 each; Lincoln, Wasco, Clatsop, Klamath, Linn, Coos, Union, Baker, 1 each

By Age:

15-19 y.o. 23

20-29 y.o. 68

30-39 y.o. 27

40-49 y.o. 2

Average gift per woman: \$458

Total amount given to date: \$54,900



Empowering communities
with abortion access,
grassroots health
education, and
reproductive options

Getting Real About Women's Lives

"Judith Arcana [gives] voice to thousands of women who have abortions but do not have the freedom or safety to talk about their experience. She draws connections between the pre and post Roe v. Wade realities of women's lives by deconstructing stereotypes and demonstrating the complexity of each woman's private decision for herself and her family."

- Kate Ojerio, Network for Reproductive Options

Judith Arcana's newest book *What if your mother* is a powerful look at the passions of life as a woman. Drawing from her work as a reproductive rights advocate (Arcana is a former member of Jane, the pre-Roe abortion service in Chicago) and the lives of women who have touched hers, Arcana paints a portrait of women's emotional landscape that is as poignant as it is poetic.

This book, though the characters are fictitious, is about the reality of women's lives, as daughters, lovers, mothers, and women who chose not to be mothers. The poems run the gamut from light-hearted

to deeply heart wrenching. "Courage Under Fire" calls to question why men are called heroes when they make life and death decisions, while a woman's judgment about what is best for her life, her body, her family is constantly called into question. "The Facts of Life" is a lyrical portrayal of the cyclical nature of living and dying. It calls on us to question why we make such a fuss about death. The title poem, "What if your mother" sums it up precisely: "get real." This book is what it is all about: the beauty, the pain, the tragedy, the joy and the power of women's reproductive lives.

SAVE THE DATE!

December 6th

(call the office for time and location)

Come celebrate Judith Arcana's new book and the lives and work of women who inspired it

A percentage of all book sales at this event will go to funding NRO's programs.

Grassroots Health Education Program Update

Thanks to a generous grant from the Anna Lalor Burdick Program and the dedicated support of our other donors, NRO's resource library and grassroots education presentations are taking a giant step forward! We are hosting two interns this fall, one from the University of Oregon and another from Lane Community College, who will be working to update and expand our educational offerings.

We will be purchasing a laptop and projector to bring our slide show into the 21st century and to facilitate diversifying our presentations. We plan to have our new and improved slide show ready for viewing in early 2006 along with expanded offerings for workshops on fertility awareness, birth control options and self-exam.

As always, we are happy to have more volunteers. We're particularly looking for folks to help with Spanish translations. And, as always, if you would like to participate in a workshop or presentation, contact our office.

NRO Wish List

Large capacity photocopier
Office desk
Office chairs
Locking file cabinet
Office computer
Printer
Books and Videos for our resource library
(maybe even a bigger office!)

NRO would like to thank all of our generous donors. Our work to provide women with access to reproductive options wouldn't be possible without you!

We also wish to acknowledge the support of the following foundations:

The Calypso Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation
Charla Richards-Kreitzberg Foundation
Evergreen Hill Education Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation
Isis Foundation
The Jarvey-McCord Foundation
The Anna Lalor Burdick Program of The Lalor Foundation
The McGeady Family Foundation
North Star Foundation
Oregon Country Fair Board
PGE Foundation
Ralph Smith Foundation

A Message from the Board of Coordinators

When most folks think about serving on a board of directors, they think about all the work and responsibility that entails. While it is true that being a member of the Board of Coordinators at NRO is a serious responsibility, we work hard to ensure that our Coordinators also get something out of it.

The Board sets the direction and evaluates the progress of the organization. Our members are committed to reproductive justice and upholding NRO's mission, both in the day-to-day and in creating long term goals and strategies. As a working board, our Coordinators believe in the effectiveness of volunteerism and each coordinator makes the following commitments:

- attend at least 75% of Coordinator meetings (we meet twice/month)
- help with fundraising (can be through planning events, grant writing, or making personal contributions)
- be involved in program and/or administrative work to keep the organization running

While we expect a lot from our Board of Coordinators, we also expect that individuals serving on the Board will gain something from their

One Coordinator shares his experience

If you think being on the NRO Board must be dull, just like being on any other board, think again. The NRO Board functions well, with lots of laughter interspersed with our seriousness. We decide lots of interesting things: Shall we attend this conference or that workshop? Which grants shall we apply for? How do we better advertise our services? Are there legislative bills that need our involvement? Are our hotline and funding guidelines clear enough?

And if that isn't enough, consider the mouth-watering goodies that we take turns providing to each meeting (which rarely last more than 90 minutes). If working with NRO interests you and you've been wondering how to volunteer, being on the Board gives you the best possible insights into how to become a voice for NRO.

work for NRO. To this end, we have trainings and support Board members in taking classes or attending workshops (i.e., fundraising, meeting facilitation, consensus decision-making). This benefits NRO by building the skills of those who are already committed to our work and benefits our volunteer Coordinators by giving them skills and experience they can use elsewhere.

As an organization, NRO is committed to the principles of non-hierarchical decision-making, which means everyone on the Board has an equal voice in making decisions. We are also committed to acknowledging different strengths and abilities which means we do not ask Coordinators to

do more than they feel capable of doing. We honor each individual's ability and unique contribution.

If you have a passion for reproductive justice and think you would be interested in serving on NRO's Board of Coordinators, we'd love to hear from you. Currently, the Board meets twice a month in Eugene, but we are interested in expanding our membership to include voices from other parts of the state so if you live outside Eugene/Springfield (and even if you live in Eugene/Springfield!) we'd love to talk to you about your interests and NRO Board of Coordinator responsibilities.

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Empowering communities with
abortion access, grassroots health
education and reproductive options

Thank you for supporting reproductive freedom!

Thank you for your support!

We have enclosed an envelope within the newsletter to make the donation and volunteer process easier.