

Network for Reproductive Options

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

Thank you for supporting a woman's right to choose!

Thank you for your support!

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

Network For REPRODUCTIVE Options

Board of Coordinators:

Kate Ojerio
Marti Black
Jennifer Webster
Christine Mosbough
Jessica Nunley
Gerald Morsello
Kristen Curtis

Fundraising from the Trenches

Through the years I have seen otherwise courageous fundraising nonprofit warriors cringe in terror at the thought of picking up the phone and asking people for money, no matter how important the cause. Since I inherited some strange rare gene that carries extreme telephone fundraising enthusiasm, their aversion has worked to my advantage. I usually enjoy solid job security. The other main reason I remain a completely contented telephone fundraiser is that I am never alone in my work. I have all of you out there keeping me company every night, sharing your energy and committing your financial support with almost every phone call. Just when I am tired and discouraged one of you mentions how glad you are that NRO is here or tells me a story about the difficulties you encountered when you had an abortion in the old pre Roe v Wade days, lifting my spirits up for the next call.

On a more serious note, I believe that telephone fundraising remains one of the most effective tools a nonprofit organization possesses to build long term meaningful relationships with contributors. Without your willingness to accept a brief call every year, Network for Reproductive Options would not today be the

major force that it has become in insuring women's reproductive choice in Oregon. Since we launched the ongoing telephone campaign in September 2003, individual gifts have represented well over half the total amount of NRO's annual financial support. Thanks to you, NRO was able to give financial assistance to over 100 women in Oregon who obtained abortion services at nine provider clinics in Oregon last year.

Though we are presently working hard at diversifying fundraising efforts, NRO continues to rely upon individual contributors to provide the continuing support we require to effectively serve low income, rural, ethnic and racial minorities, and otherwise vulnerable women in Oregon. Currently, the Women in Need Fund faces skyrocketing demands, partly due to a successful public relations campaign we completed last year, raising the level of awareness of NRO services across the state. Referrals to NRO for WIN funding have also increased as it becomes more difficult to obtain assistance for medical services through the Oregon Health Plan. Thank you for all of your support!

Written by: Marti Black Coordinator and Staff Fundraiser

2004 Women In Need Statistics

Hotline Totals:

269 Total Calls
150 Women or their allies called for information, referrals or help applying for OHP.
119 Women received money from the WIN Fund for transportation, lodging and aborting services.
24 women were Spanish speaking WIN recipients.

Average gift per woman: \$323.50

Total amount given: \$38,000

County Statistics of Women Served:

Multnomah 31, Lane 25, Washington 15, Jackson 5, Klamath 7, Marion 5, Clackamas 5, Crook 1, Clatsop 2, Polk 1, Benton 1, Jefferson 1, Wasco 1, Douglas 1, Deschutes 2, Linn 1, Baker 1, Hood River 1, Umatilla 1, Malheur 1, Union 1

*Regional 10, WA, ID, MT (special circumstances: domestic violence, youth, undocumented, sexual assault, etc.)



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The NRO Resource Library

The NRO resource library has been growing by leaps and bounds! Part of our mission at NRO is to empower our community to receive quality and comprehensive reproductive health care. In service to that mission we currently offer our self-health slide show and workshops on fertility awareness. We are also building a fantastic resource library that we hope will enable community members to do their own research on health, nutrition, and comprehensive reproductive care.

A complete list of titles is available from our office and the board of coordinators is currently developing a checkout policy to make the library more accessible.

Our dream is to one day have a bigger space, full of books and periodicals, with computers for doing internet research. A place where we can offer workshops, host discussions groups, and create a community space for sharing information and experiences about our health and our health care options.

At the end of 2004, our library comprised one shelf in our office. Now, thanks to the efforts of several volunteers and funding from a family foundation, we can boast over 100 volumes, offering such information as:

- impacts of nutrition on fertility
- how to do self exams
- options for coping with menopause
- women's sexuality
- history of contraception
- history of the reproductive rights movement, both in the US and globally
- abortion resources
- and much more!

If you know of a good resource, book, periodical, or video that you think would be appropriate for our library let us know! As we grow, we're always on the lookout for good materials!

Book Reviews from the Coordinators

Devices and Desires: A History of Contraception in the United States By Andrea Tone *A comprehensive look at the politics and practicalities of contraception in the United States. Vividly illustrates how the contraception industry was driven by the "market" even in times when contraception was illegal and how little women's bodies were understood by the early medical establishment. Though it touches on the eugenics movement, it fails to offer much analysis of the impact of eugenics on contraception in the US. At turns fascinating and infuriating, it is a fairly informative book.*

Woman: An Intimate Geography By Natalie Angier *A lively, highly readable look at the anatomy and physiology of women. Provides fantastic detail on the functions of hormones, women's life cycle and even our notions of a biological sex. Angier has a gift for presenting the dry details of scientific research without getting bogged down in dry writing. A real feminist look at how women's bodies work that is entertaining, enlightening and celebratory.*

Special Thanks and Information

Thank you Judith Arcana and friends for hosting house party fundraisers for NRO. The events were wonderfully intimate, inspiring and thought provoking.

NNAF National Conference is June 9-12 at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. NRO Coordinators look forward to attending with

great networking and learning experiences to be expected.

Educators: stay tuned to our website for curriculum about first exam and fertility awareness for young women. It should be ready by the fall. Comprehensive sex education is where it is at!

NNAF Prepares to Challenge New Teen Endangerment Act

This article is reprinted from the NNAF Spring 2005 Newsletter

The National Network of Abortion Funds is preparing to challenge the Teen Endangerment Act (also known as the “Child Custody Protection Act” and the “Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act”), which we expect will become law this year. The Act will harm young women throughout the country who face unwanted pregnancies and are unable to involve a parent in their decision to have an abortion. The Act will impose a new federal parental notification and delay requirement on minors who seek abortions outside of their home state, even when both the state where they live and the state where they seek the abortion do not require parental involvement. In addition, caring relatives, abortion funds and others who assist young women who travel out of state with a companion for an abortion will be at risk of criminal and civil liability.

Generally speaking, the Teen Endangerment Act will require young women who live in one of the 23 states that requires parental consent or notification for an abortion to carry their state law with them if they travel with a companion other than a parent into any other state for an abortion. Therefore, in order to avoid the Act’s requirements, young women will be forced either to travel alone or to

comply with the law of their home state plus any law of the state in which they seek an abortion. In addition, any minor who seeks an abortion outside of her home state or in one of the 27 states (or the District of Columbia) that has no parental involvement requirement or allows someone other than a parent (such as a grandparent or aunt) to receive notice of provide consent, will be subject to a federal notification and delay requirement. Thus, under the Act, even if the minor goes with a parent to get an abortion, she will be required to wait 24 hours after her parent is notified in person before getting the abortion. If her parent is notified by mail, she will be delayed for more than 72 hours. The only way she will be able to avoid the new federal notification and delay would be for her to attain a court order from her home state – an option that will not be available to young women whose home state does not have a parental involvement law.

The Teen Endangerment Act places dangers on young women. It will isolate young women from the adults that they trust at a time when they are unable to involve a parent in their decision. It will result in further delays in a teen’s ability to obtain an abortion, thus increasing her medical risks and costs. It will force young women

from troubled families into difficult, even dangerous, situations. It does not include any exception for situations in which a young woman needs a prompt abortion to protect her health. It will force some young women to go to court in two states to obtain judicial permission for an abortion.

The Act adds confusing new federal requirements to existing state restrictions on the provision of abortions. Because the Act’s requirements vary in part according to the state where the young woman resides and seeks abortion services, teens will be affected differently depending on where they live, where they seek an abortion, and whether they have assistance when they travel. They will be affected by the Act even when they choose to go to a clinic in a neighboring state simply because that clinic is the nearest or best suited to their needs. In some cases young women will face new requirements even when they have consulted with a parent or gone with a parent to the clinic.

For more information about the Teen Endangerment Act and how it may affect minors in different states, visit: www.reproductiverights.org/hill_pri_ccpa.html

NNAF Policy Report

The National Network of Abortion Funds (NNAF), of which NRO is a member, has recently published a timely and politically important 20 page booklet entitled, “Abortion Funding: A Matter of Justice.”

The report investigates the realities that the Hyde Amendment (1976), which bans Federal Medicaid funds for abortion, places on low-income women and documents many more obstacles placed in the way of abortion access. Case studies of four NNAF funds from Los Angeles, Seattle, Philadelphia and Delaware are included in the report. These are among the 104 funds that currently make up NNAF. In total, these funds distributed \$2,031,522 to 19,590 women in 2003.

NNAF’s policy report stresses how severe limitations on abortion funding disproportionately affect women of color, young women and low-income women. As a direct result, it is important to recognize that current abortion access, or lack thereof, is a matter of racial and economic justice, as well as a women’s rights issue.

Finally, the report presents recommendations to Congress and to state legislatures to facilitate both the prevention of unintended pregnancy and women’s access to affordable and available abortion services. Ideally this would be required reading for all lawmakers. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the report, contact the NRO office.

You can also view the report online at: www.nnaf.org