

# Annual Report FY 2011

Supporting Women's Decisions



As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the DC Abortion Fund (DCAF) is a volunteer-run, women-led group that raises money to cover the gap between what a patient can afford toward abortion care and the full cost of the procedure.

## Congress Reinstates DC Abortion Ban

In April, after months of tense federal budget negotiations, the federal government faced a shutdown because of anti-choice lawmakers' opposition to reproductive rights. Majority Leader John Boehner wanted to totally eliminate the nation's family planning program and ban Planned Parenthood from receiving any government funds. The Republican party would not back down without winning a concession for the

With one hour left government a halt, President his now-famous

**Because of the DC abortion ban, our fund gained national attention.**

anti-choice movement.

before essential services would come to Barack Obama made utterance: "John, I'll

give you DC abortion; I'm not happy about it." Less than a week later, local Medicaid funding for abortion was eliminated only weeks after it had finally become available for citizens of the nation's capital. (Because the District's budget is subject to congressional approval, for years anti-choice lawmakers have used the budget process to bar the District from using its own local revenues to provide abortion care to low-income women, something all other states have the option to cover.)

In 2009, the local-funds ban had been lifted for the first time in 14 years. However, it was not until February 2011 that only one clinic, Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington, was able to finalize a contract to accept Medicaid coverage for abortion. In the weeks that followed, demand for DCAF services amongst DC residents markedly decreased.

Once Planned Parenthood began seeing Medicaid patients for abortion services, DCAF case managers referred all eligible clients to the 16th St. clinic where they found ready assistance and were able to use their Medicaid to pay for their care. However, following the budget deal struck with Rep. John Boehner, we received a call from the clinic.

In order to comply with the impending funding ban, DC Medicaid officials announced on April 13th that *(article continues on page 7)*

DCAF operates a helpline that provides safe and confidential information on how to access health care services often restricted or complicated by today's political climate around abortion. Our work and the support of our donors makes the freedom of choice a meaningful reality for more women. Since its inception, DCAF has served individuals in the DC metropolitan area, including parts of Maryland and Virginia, partnering with health care clinics to remove financial barriers to accessing abortion care. In some instances, DCAF partners with funds from other parts of the country to assist those in extraordinary circumstances.

We honor pregnancy in all of its complexity and affirm women and girls as the primary decision-makers in their lives.

# A Message from the DCAF Board President

Dear Pro-Choice Friends,

Thank you for everything you do for the DC Abortion Fund.

I believe that every nonprofit organization has its moment where outside factors profoundly change the organization or the cause. DCAF had that moment earlier this year when Congress voted to prohibit the District from using its tax-payer Medicaid funds to pay for abortions for low income women and girls.

Knowing the intense financial hurdles that low income families in our area face, DCAF was able to rise to action, sending out an emergency email appeal to our activists and donors. We raised thousands of dollars in mere hours and were heartened by the incredible outpouring of support – in DC and around the country. Modest donations to DCAF flooded in from places like Nevada, Tennessee and Florida. We read letters of encouragement and personal stories from women across the nation. Multiple family foundations stepped up and provided us new support. Pro-choice journalists and bloggers gave us the vehicle to get our message out. Friends like Katha Pollitt of *The Nation* brilliantly told our story: how an all-volunteer fund was struggling to take on the financial burden of women's health care when our government could not.

Thankfully, the Planned Parenthood patients were able to get their abortions this past April; yet a “new reality” has penetrated our hearts and minds. It has been a stressful time for DCAF. Due to the heightened media attention, we have seen our call volume sky-rocket and now receive on average 169 phone calls per month on our helpline. This summer, we trained over 20 new case managers to take on our growing need in the community. On top of our direct service work, DCAF continues to mobilize volunteers and supporters to join our allies who are fighting for the state rights of DC residents.

This past year we have also been active in our neighboring states of Maryland and Virginia by working with our partners to have our patients' stories heard in the state legislatures of how they faced barriers to accessing abortion care due to financial need. We collect and tell the lived individual experiences of the incredibly brave women whose lives we have touched, and whose lives have touched our own. We share their stories of empowerment and hope, while waiting for law and public policy to evolve enough to allow all families quality access to reproductive health care so that an organization like DCAF no longer needs to exist.

What we know is that when women are denied Medicaid coverage for abortion, women fall through the cracks of care. At DCAF, we work with our amazing pro-choice community partners and volunteers to ensure every woman is given the opportunity to create the future she wants and deserves. Before the ban was lifted, NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland honored DCAF with the Choice Advocate Award at its 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Evening of Chocolate Gala in October last year. After the ban was reinstated, Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington presented DCAF this October with the Community Partnership Award at its Annual Champions of Choice Luncheon.

On behalf of the entire working board of the DC Abortion Fund, I thank you for your tremendous support, friendship and energy. This annual report reflects the tireless efforts of our local movement, and we look forward to continuing our momentum as we work together to provide better lives for women in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.

Our successes are your successes, and we appreciate your continued investment in DCAF.

In solidarity,

Tiffany Reed

## Board of Directors FY 2011

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DC Abortion Fund  
P.O. Box 33722  
Washington, DC 20033  
202.452.7464

[info@dcabortionfund.org](mailto:info@dcabortionfund.org)  
<http://www.dcabortionfund.org>  
<http://twitter.com/DCAbortionFund>



## A Story from DC

Twenty-one-year-old Chanelle was living in a homeless shelter when she called our helpline. After losing her spot in a subsidized housing program a few months earlier, Chanelle had begun working with a counselor at community resource center dedicated to trauma and abuse recovery. She was committed to overcoming the obstacles she faced and was pleased with the progress she'd made. Upon learning she was pregnant, Chanelle asked her counselor for help. She didn't have a job, and couldn't pay for housing or other basic necessities; she definitely felt she couldn't afford a baby. When Chanelle's counselor called the local Planned Parenthood to set up an appointment for her, the receptionist told her that Chanelle could use her Medicaid card to cover the cost of her abortion care. Chanelle was a little bit nervous about the procedure, but also hopeful about getting her life back on track.

Then the receptionist at the clinic called back with bad news. Earlier that week, politicians in Congress had forced a last minute deal that banned the District of Columbia from using its own locally-raised tax dollars to pay for abortion services in the city's Medicaid program. The day before Chanelle's appointment, city funding for abortion was eliminated. Now she had less than 24 hours to come up with \$450.

We made a \$200 pledge for Chanelle's care, and promised Planned Parenthood that we would commit financial support for every DC resident who was scheduled to be seen the next morning. Planned Parenthood dipped into its own emergency funds as well, and told Chanelle to come in the next day as planned. With the support of the DC pro-choice community, Chanelle was able to have her abortion on April 14 – the day the DC abortion ban was reinstated – and get back to building a better future for herself.

- 2,033 women and girls called the DCAF helpline, averaging 169 calls per month. The call volume has quadrupled since FY 2007 (496 calls).
- 515 individuals were offered grants to help pay for a portion of their abortion care. Of these, 352 patients used pledges and received care.
- The average amount of funding assistance given for each patient was \$163. The costs of the procedures ranged from \$160 to \$8,500.
- Average pledges made to patients covered 27% of the cost of first trimester abortions, 13% of second trimester procedures, and 5% of later term abortion care.
- A total of \$84,830 was pledged and \$57,811 disbursed to clinics on behalf of DCAF clients. The amount of grants awarded to patients increased 24% from last fiscal year.
- Of the clinics that received funds from DCAF to help cover the costs of patients' procedures, 39% were located in DC, 43% in Maryland, 8% in Virginia and 10% in states such as New Jersey and New York.
- Of the 515 patients, 10.5% were under 18 years of age, 29% were between the ages of 18 and 21, 36.5% were between the ages of 22 and 30, 12% were between the ages of 31 and 40, and 1% were between the ages of 41 and 50. The ages of 11% of patients were unknown.
- In terms of residence, 33% of patients seeking funding lived in the District of Columbia, 28% in Maryland, 24% in Virginia, and 8% outside the DC metro region. The state residences of 7% of patients were unknown.

Fiscal Year *	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
1st trimester pledges	37	49	112	153	127
2nd trimester pledges	60	113	223	273	388
Later term pledges (24 wks +)	NA	NA	NA	NA	48
Total grants pledged	97	162	335	426	515
Grants disbursed	77%	58%	70%	68%	68%

\*DCAF's fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30

# Financial Report July 1, 2010- June 30, 2011

**Assets carried over from FY 2010: \$38,628**

## Income

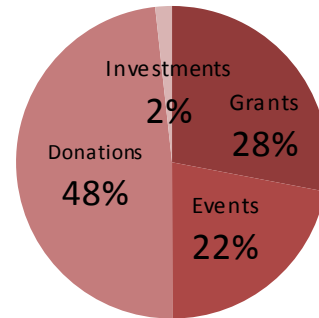
Grants	68,000
Events	53,347
Donations	117,341
Gain on Investments	4,218
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$242,906</b>

## Expenses

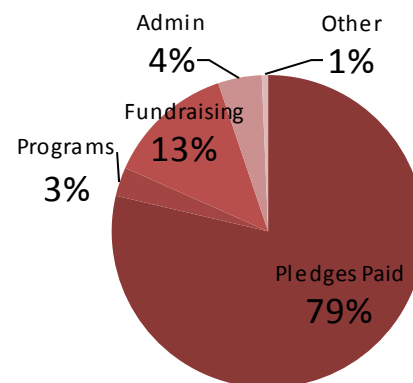
Pledges Paid	57,881
Programming	2,214
Fundraising	9,687
Administrative	3,329
Loss on Investments	480
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$73,591</b>

**Assets at the end of FY 2011: \$207,943**

## Income



## Revenue



## A Story from Virginia

Camille was a 19-year-old teenager who had graduated from high school the year before and was living at home with her father. She called the DCAF helpline, whispering her message into the phone. She had been raped a few months ago and had not wanted to tell anyone about it, but realized she was pregnant and decided to have an abortion. The man who assaulted her was her dad.

A case manager from DCAF called Camille back, following the instructions Camille had left in her voicemail message to say the call was “about a job,” in order to protect her in case her father happened to pick up the phone. The case manager was the first person Camille had told about the assault, and after she listened to Camille’s story, she reassured Camille that we could help her find an abortion clinic, but also offered her referrals to a rape-crisis hotline and other health resources.

Camille was scared of what would happen if she reported her dad to the police, but without a police report, she couldn’t use her Virginia Medicaid to cover her procedure. On top of that, she was 18 weeks pregnant by that point, meaning she would have to go out of state since most clinics in Virginia only provide first-trimester abortion care. The case manager gave Camille the number to several women’s health centers in Maryland and DC that could help her, and one center agreed to discount her price to \$985. Camille decided to talk to some of her other family members about her situation, and together, they managed to cobble together just over \$700 towards her costs. Her cousin even volunteered to give her a ride into the city. DCAF sent the final \$285 pledge to the clinic so that Camille and her cousin would have enough money left over to pay for gas. Before her procedure, Camille thanked her case manager for providing a listening ear when she felt like she had no one else to turn to.

# FY 2011 Events Summary

DCAF experienced a huge outpouring of community support this past year, and we had a number of new volunteers to help us create a great year of programming. In August 2010, we hosted a free screening of *The Coat Hanger Project* at Bloombars in Columbia Heights, and participated in a discussion afterward with film director Angie Young. In November, we held a volunteer appreciation event at Board President Tiffany Reed's home. In December, we hosted our annual Peace, Joy, and Choice holiday party fundraiser at the Topaz Hotel. This event raised almost \$12,000 and packed the room with pro-choice supporters of all ages. In January, we hosted a happy hour at the Laughing Man Tavern to celebrate the 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision.

After Congress reinstated the DC abortion ban this spring, our DC activist network stepped up to help us fight back. In April, 109 bowlers raised over \$28,000 for the 2011 DC Abortion Fund Bowl-a-Thon fundraiser at George Washington University. Bowlers dressed as penguins, superheroes, jurists, and more, competing for top fundraising awards. The honors went to Jill M. for top individual fundraiser and the Washington Area Bowling Alley Defense Task Force for top team fundraiser.

In May, our community allies DC NOW, the Younger Women's Task Force-DC, and the Women's Information Network hosted a comedy night at Madam's Organ to benefit DCAF. We ended the fiscal year in June with a thank-a-thon evening and volunteer appreciation gathering to thank everyone who had contributed their time, energy, and money toward DCAF's work over the year. We had a great time working with all of these groups and individuals and are excited to collaborate with them as well as our other allies in the area moving forward into the coming years.



Washington Area Bowling Alley Defense Task Force

*DCAF would like to thank the following volunteers for their great assistance and dedication in making our events successful:*

Abbey M.	Iris H.	Maggie R.
Alex W.	Jackie N.	Melissa K.
Allison M.	Jessica K.	Nicole V.
Amy H.	Jessie N.	Olivia H.
Andi F.	Joy W.	Omoniyi A.
Anne S.	Kassandra K.	Paul S.
Bill F.	Kathleen M.	Regan G.
Catherine H.	Kayla C.	Sarah B.
Colleen C.	Lindsay W.	Tania S.
Emily K.	Liz W.	Paul L.

**Kassandra K. was our volunteer of the year!**

**How DCAF began:** In 1995, several volunteers at the DC Rape Crisis Center Hotline encountered a woman who was pregnant as a result of rape. They reached out to family and friends to raise enough money for her to have the abortion she wanted. The volunteers, in fact, raised more than enough. When they tried to return the unused money to donors, they were told “just save it for next time,” and the DC Abortion Fund was born.

# Overview of Case Management Services

Our volunteer case managers work a week at a time, and can be on the phone from one to five hours a day, depending on call volume. They call each woman who leaves us a message on our helpline to provide clinic referrals, fundraising ideas and advice on navigating the abortion-funding system. Our case managers do a lot of listening, because while all of the women who call us need financial help, many of them need someone to listen to their stories as well. Women who contact the DC Abortion Fund are frequently in one of the more vulnerable positions in their lives. They are calling a stranger to ask for money to get one of the most stigmatized healthcare services in the United States. That we are able to help is just as important as how we help.

**Our case management principles are as follows:**

- **We provide unconditional care and support.**
- **We give advice and respect women's decisions.**
- **We do the best we can for every woman.**

DCAF started with one volunteer case manager who fielded calls during lunch breaks from her job and on evenings and weekends. Eventually word got out about DCAF and the call volume began to increase. In 2008, three more women joined the team with each staffing the helpline for one week a month, for a total of three months of case management per volunteer per year. Since then, our system has evolved in size and complexity. This summer, we conducted a day-long training, bringing our case management team to a total of 20 dedicated volunteers, with two supervising board managers and one case management volunteer coordinator.

**Activity on our helpline has increased from almost 500 calls in FY 2007 to over 2000 calls in FY 2011.**

As we actively extend our organization's reach through boosting referrals from community partners and healthcare providers, a confluence of external factors has also contributed to an increased demand for DCAF's services. The economic downturn has caused many women to lose their jobs, health insurance, and other resources that would typically have allowed them to obtain care on their own. In addition, the changing political landscape in many parts of the country has resulted in new restrictions on abortion providers in many states. This means that women are increasingly traveling to areas like the Washington, DC metro region to receive essential abortion care services and calling us for help.

To effectively address the increased call volume, we are continually adding to our case management services. Last year, we invested in an email fax system to transmit pledges to our partner clinics more efficiently. In the next fiscal year, we will be increasing the number of lines to our voice mail system and obtaining dedicated cell phones for our case managers to use. We are currently making a switch from one to two case managers

*DCAF would like to thank the following volunteer case managers for their time, energy and passion in assisting the many women and girls who contact our helpline:*

<i>Abbey M.</i>	<i>Danielle F-M.</i>	<i>Emily C.</i>	<i>Leigh C.</i>
<i>Alexis Z.</i>	<i>Georgia A-M.</i>	<i>Lonna H.</i>	<i>Kayla C.</i>
<i>Aleya H.</i>	<i>Jessie N.</i>	<i>Omoniyi A.</i>	<i>Carolyn K.</i>
<i>Amy M.</i>	<i>Kate V.</i>	<i>Kassandra K.</i>	<i>Katelyn B-C.</i>

**Katelyn B-C. was our volunteer case manager of the year!**

per week to better manage the growing call volume. We are exploring ways to move to an online secure data system so case management teams can better share information with one another. Finally, DCAF is developing new training and tools to make sure our case managers have the support they need.

Our monthly donors are critical to our organization and help us forecast support we can count on throughout the year. New monthly donors of \$10 or more receive this Coat Hanger Pendant as a token of our appreciation and to help us promote public awareness of our mission as **Friends of DCAF**. Thank you to our monthly donors!



We thank the following for their very generous support in response to the abortion ban placed on DC Medicaid disbursements:

*Catholics for Choice — matching gift campaign*

*The EMA Fund — matching gift campaign*

*The Irving Harris Foundation*

*The Moriah Fund*

*The Jack D. & Fredda S. Sparks Foundation*

*The Summit Fund of Washington*

*(continued from page 1)*

coverage for abortion services would end at midnight. Twenty-eight DC Medicaid enrollees had abortion appointments scheduled at Planned Parenthood for the very next day. These women now had less than 24 hours to come up with hundreds of dollars each to pay for their care. After receiving the call from Planned Parenthood, DCAF sprung into action, sending out an emergency fundraising appeal, alerting the news media, and calling other local and national partners across the country to make sure these women were able to get their procedures as planned. The outpouring of support was astounding. Not only we were able to raise an unprecedented amount of funds in such a short period of time, but we gained more allies and partners across the nation.

In addition, city lawmakers decried Congress's use of DC women's health as a bargaining chip, undermining DC's autonomy. Mayor Vince Gray and six city council members joined 35 Washington residents in an act of civil disobedience: they sat in the middle of Constitution Avenue during rush hour and subsequently were arrested for their protest. The following week, the local democracy group DC Vote held a rally on Capitol Hill where a large crowd of supporters heard about the ban's impact on abortion patients. As a result of the media coverage, donations rolled in for weeks. On behalf of DC women and girls, we thank those who responded in this time of crisis. We vow to do our best while helping our allies reinstate DC's right to funding abortion care for low income families.

## A Story from Maryland

Jamie was a 29-year-old mother of four children. She stayed at home to provide full-time care to her son with special needs. When Jamie's fiancé was discharged from the Army with a traumatic brain injury, the family sold their TV and several other items of value to pay for his ongoing special care. Their finances were stretched and Jamie was struggling to care for her children and fiancé when she learned that she was pregnant.

At first, Jamie wasn't sure that she wanted to have an abortion, but she knew she wouldn't be able to take care of another child given the uncertain prognosis for her fiancé, whose injury had caused memory problems and other complications. After saving up for a couple of weeks, she scheduled an appointment with a women's health center in Baltimore, but panicked when she found out her procedure would cost \$850. That's when she called us.

Her DCAF case manager reassured her that we could help and also connected her with the National Abortion Fund Hotline, which chipped in a percentage of the cost. Jamie pawned a necklace her fiancé had given her before he left for Afghanistan, and her sister and aunt loaned her \$75 each. DCAF contributed the last \$180 Jamie needed. Ultimately Jamie was able to get her abortion and turn her focus back to taking care of herself and her family.

Supporting Women's Decisions



DC Abortion Fund  
P.O. Box 33722  
Washington, DC 20033



*Join the Friends of DCAF monthly giving program!*  
<http://www.dcabortionfund.org>



## DCAF thanks the following clinics, allies and friends for their support during FY 2011

Abortion & Contraceptive Clinic of Nebraska  
Amethyst Health Center for Women  
American Women's Care  
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals  
Capital Women's Health Center  
Cherry Hill Women's Center, Inc.  
DC NOW/51st State Chapter  
DC Rape Crisis Center  
Falls Church Healthcare Center  
Femi Care Surgery Center  
Feminist Majority Foundation  
Germantown Reproductive Health Services  
GWU Feminist Majority Leadership/NOW  
Gynemed Surgical Center  
Hillcrest Clinic - Baltimore  
Lagana Printing Services  
Latin American Youth Center  
Medical Students for Choice  
Midwest Health Center for Women  
NARAL Pro-Choice America  
NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland

NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia  
National Abortion Federation  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
National Network of Abortion Funds  
National Organization for Women  
National Women's Health Network  
Parkmed Women's Center  
Planned Parenthood of Maryland  
Planned Parenthood of Metro Washington DC  
Potomac Family Planning - DC and Rockville  
Preferred Women's Health Clinic  
Prince George's Reproductive Health Services  
Reproductive Health Technologies Project  
Richmond Reproductive Freedom Project  
Southwestern Women's Options  
Visions in Feminism Collective  
Washington Area Clinic Defense Task Force  
Washington Surgi-Clinic  
Whole Women's Health of Baltimore  
Women's Choice of Raleigh  
Women's Information Network