

Annual Report FY 2015

»» WE'RE BUILDING POWER

Throughout the last year, the DC Abortion Fund has pondered strength, power, and how the two shape our work as an abortion fund. We've been asking ourselves: What does it mean to be a strong fund, a source of strength in our local community and the national choice community? How do we empower the patients we serve? How do we maintain the strength of our volunteer base and our donors? How do we develop all of that to become better public servants?

By all accounts, FY2015 was one of tremendous growth. We nearly doubled our number of trained case managers to work our three helplines. We expanded our donor base. We grew our efforts to bring awareness to our fight for true reproductive freedom. And yet we know that we'll need to remain tough to make sure patients in DC, Maryland, and Virginia are able to access the abortion care they need.

For us, building power means keeping our patients and our values of compassion, authenticity, and justice at the center of our work. We work to make sure that no matter how many obstacles patients face at the hands of politics, stigma, or extremists outside the clinic, at the very least, economic barriers will not stand in the way of them exercising the right to a safe, legal abortion. Even as our patients face more and more challenges, DCAF is stronger than ever and can do more to help them overcome those challenges.

Our patients, too, are examples of strength. They know their own stories, and they know what is best for themselves and their families. Trying to raise the money for an abortion, particularly in the District, can make someone feel powerless. It is DCAF's privilege to empower our patients to make the decisions that they know to be right for them.

But we can't be the support our patients need us to be without two pillars of strength: Our volunteers and our donors, who are often one and the same. DCAF is one of the largest all-volunteer funds in the country. Our case managers work our helpline 365 days a year. They work directly with clinics to ensure access for our patients. They are always behind the scenes, making the DCAF ship sail smoothly. And none of that would be possible without our donors, the backbone of our organization. Without them, our work simply wouldn't be possible.

No one is an island. Together, we all make DCAF a strong and vibrant force for good. We are deeply grateful to our volunteers, supporters, and case managers who made it possible. The road ahead will not be easy for the reproductive health community, but knowing we have passionate people on our team who demand all people have access to abortion care, we'll survive and thrive for many years to come.

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

DCAF operates a helpline that provides safe and confidential information on how to access abortion care. Our work and the support of our donors makes the freedom of choice a meaningful reality for more patients who seek our help. DCAF serves individuals residing in or traveling to the DC metropolitan area, including Maryland and Virginia. We partner with quality health care clinics to remove financial barriers to care. In some instances, DCAF also 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 our patients as the primary decision-makers in their lives.

» A MESSAGE FROM DCAF'S BOARD PRESIDENT



Val Vilott, DCAF Board President

Friends and Supporters,

Several years ago, I tacked a quote above my desk:

“Let us make our future now, and let us make our dreams tomorrow’s reality.”

The quote, from Malala Yousafzai, came to my attention at a time when the DC Abortion Fund board and I were struggling with big picture questions. While I was losing sleep, worrying about whether our then-limited capacity could support a growing, professionalizing organization, Malala reminded me of something important: you have to dream big and make great things happen in the short term in order to believe that even greater things are possible in the long run.

With that reminder, we began to dream of a stronger DCAF with long-term sustainability built-in — knowing, of course, that our “tomorrow” may be a few years down the road. I’m happy to report that, together, we **have** made our future “now.” We’ve experienced firsthand what a privilege it is to see yesterday’s dreams and vision made into reality, and we’ve proved once again that we have a tangible impact on our community.

We achieved two important goals this year that reinforce our efforts in our community: the expansion of our volunteer program and a honed strategy for leadership development.

First, we decided to maximize the capacity of our **volunteer program**. Volunteers are the lifeblood of many organizations, but as a direct-service organization with no staff, we could never sustain our operations without the talent of a volunteer base. Within the last year, our volunteer corps has grown to almost **200** strong. Institutionalizing recruitment, training, and management is a lofty task that our team has risen to meet time and time again.

Second, we set out to complement the growth of our volunteer base with **leadership development**. Recognizing that a growing organization like ours simply requires stronger leadership, firmer organizational structure, and more skilled board leadership, we focused energy on identifying and recruiting new leaders to fulfill a few key gaps and build a pipeline of leadership. The addition of a volunteer manager partway through the year helped to manage our explosive growth, and we identified a development manager who joined in the final quarter of the year to help with our heightened fundraising needs. Additionally, we added a completely new vice president role to the board, which will expand our executive committee and provide needed sustainability to our fund’s leadership.

I won’t lie — realizing our dreams took ample hard work. We slowly and sometimes clumsily managed to build a rock-solid foundation of support in hopes of a stronger tomorrow. The pages of this report provide a glimpse at what your support has enabled us to do, but it is only just scraping the surface. Truthfully, every time we overcome a new challenge or get another patient seen at a clinic, I wish more than anything that our supporters, partners, and volunteers like you could see how much a difference your generosity and hard work makes.

All in all, these strategies for growth would not matter, had they not made a direct-service impact for our patients. But the proof is in the numbers: We served 3,401 callers. We gave out \$135,536. We hosted numerous events, staffed three volunteer helplines without interruption, trained dozens of volunteers, raised and managed a budget of nearly \$250,000, and juggled hundreds of new and existing donors.

Every time we pledge to another patient or train a new volunteer, I know our hard work has paid off. Our future **is** now, and our dreams are becoming reality. Thank you so much for being a part of what we’ve accomplished. I can’t wait to see what the coming year holds.

In Service,
Val Vilott

» DCAF IN THE COMMUNITY

Over the last year, DCAF had a packed calendar, which helped us to stay in better touch with our friends, supporters, volunteers, and donors. Here are some highlights from FY2015's calendar of events:

Our first **Taco or Beer Challenge**, part of a nationwide movement sparked by righteous choice advocate Andrea Grimes, was a smashing success. Spearheaded by our good friends at the Women's Information Network, #ToBC14 raised \$900 for DCAF. It turns out that a lot of our supporters like eating tacos and drinking beers anyway, so doing it for a great cause only made things better.



DCAF's board of directors celebrates at Peace, Joy, and Choice 2014. *Photo courtesy of Colleen Crinion*



DCAF supporters enjoy a night of fun at our holiday party. *Photo courtesy of Colleen Crinion*



National Network of Abortion Fund summit. *Photo courtesy of Sasha Matthews, Green Tangerine Photography*

Our holiday party, **Peace, Joy, and Choice**, was an incredible success. Braving protesters who lined the street outside, more than 200 DCAF supporters joined us for a night of celebration, and we raised \$15,000 along the way.

In February, we were fortunate to be the beneficiaries of **Punk Rock Karaoke**, which raises money for other awesome nonprofits on the East Coast. For one night, we felt like the queens of the neighborhood, and our pals at PRK helped raise more than \$800 for DCAF.

The National Abortion Access Bowl-a-thon, or in our case, **Billiards-a-Thon**, is a national event to have a little fun and raise a big chunk of DCAF's budget in the process. It takes balls to raise money for abortion funds, and our volunteers had 'em: With 100 participants, including more than 60 brand-new volunteers, we sunk previous fundraising goals and pocketed more than \$52,000 for our patients!

In June, DCAF took a contingent of 10 volunteers and board members — our biggest group yet — to the **National Network of Abortion Fund's Annual Summit** in St. Louis. There we schmoozed with other funds from around the world and learned best practices to better serve our patients. Several of our members were also able to present workshops offering DCAF's tools, tips, and advice to our peers in the choice community.

On top of all that, we hosted volunteer happy hours and case management trainings every month. We'd love to keep you in the loop—make sure to sign up on our website to join us for the next one and you won't miss out!

Contact Information

DCAF's mailing address is:

**DC Abortion Fund
PO Box 65061
Washington, DC 20035**

Of course, we can also be reached at **info@dcabortionfund.org**, and on the Web at **dcabortionfund.org**.

Keep in touch — we'd love to hear from you!

DCAF BY THE NUMBERS: Highlights

 **3,408**

approximate number of calls
our helpline screened

1,229 

individuals were offered
grants to help pay for a
portion of their abortion
procedures

 **922**

patients used our pledges and
received funding

DCAF BY THE NUMBERS: Patient Demographics

AGE

Approximately **9%** of the patients offered grants were **under 18 years of age**, **59%** were ages ranging from **18 to 24**, **28%** were ages **25 to 34**, **4%** were ages **35 or older**.

RACE/ETHNICITY

Of the patients offered grants, **74%** reported being **Black or of African-American descent**, **16%** were **White or Caucasian**, **6%** were **Latina or Hispanic**, and **4%** fell into numerous **other** categories.

AREA

Approximately **30%** of those seeking funding lived in the **District of Columbia**, **29%** in **Maryland**, **32%** in **Virginia**, **9%** **outside** the DC metropolitan region

»» CASE MANAGEMENT — WE'RE GROWING & EXPANDING!

The case management program is the lifeblood of the DC Abortion Fund. When patients reach out for help, our case managers are the first — and often the only — supporters that they interact with. Case managers help patients navigate the decision-making maze of finding a reputable provider and coordinating funding from multiple organizations to cover the cost of their abortion care. These volunteers are the face and voice of DCAF in the community.

This year was the most successful the DCAF case management program has ever experienced. We trained 43 new case managers at 10 separate volunteer trainings. In addition, we provided continuing education for existing case managers with the help of our partners at the National Abortion Federation to ensure we are providing the most current information to patients. Thanks to the generosity of long-time DCAF volunteers, we expanded our on-the-job training to include a mentorship role for veteran case managers to take new trainees under their wing and provide guidance and support before new case managers fly solo. With the program growing so quickly, it became clear that the case management leadership team need to expand as well. At the close of our fiscal year, we created a deputy director of case management position to put us on solid footing for the new year.

With so many new volunteers taking an interest in DCAF, we felt it was important for us to acknowledge that case management isn't for everyone. However, just because someone isn't interested in case management doesn't mean they can't volunteer for DCAF. To help match the skills and interests of non-case manager volunteers to the needs of DCAF, last year we created a new volunteer manager position dedicated to making sure anyone who wished to help DCAF would have the opportunity to do so.

Lindsey Wahowiak stepped up as our volunteer manager to keep volunteers engaged with DCAF and organize monthly events for case managers and non-case manager volunteers alike. Not only does Lindsey work to keep volunteers engaged with DCAF, but she also organizes events for all DCAF volunteers — case managers and non-case managers alike — to bring everyone together about once a month. Because our volunteer base works remotely, we believe these events are very important for volunteers' camaraderie, since it is a way to meet other volunteers with similar experiences and share useful information about their experiences. Since joining the board, Lindsey has organized more than a dozen events to bring everyone together, from happy hours to ice cream socials and everything in between.

Finally, this year we began laying the groundwork with some community technology organizations and experts to help us develop a more robust data infrastructure that we hope will be a prototype for other abortion funds. Together we continue to invest in our case managers and our case management infrastructure so our team can deliver the financial counseling and support the community has come to expect from DCAF.

Board of Directors, FY2015

Val Vilott,
President
April Carson,
Secretary

Emily Crofoot,
Treasurer
Andrea Gleaves

Atima Omara
Alwala
Colleen Crinion

Colin Fleming
Danielle Geong
Diana Philip

Kate Vlach
Travis Swanson
Lindsey Wahowiak

» PARTNERS, VOLUNTEERS, & CLINICS — IT'S BETTER WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER

Partners

Baltimore Abortion Fund
 National Abortion Federation
 Carolina Abortion Fund
 Women's Information Network (WIN)
 Punk Rock Karaoke
 Catholics for Choice
 National Network of Abortion Funds
 NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland
 NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia
 Planned Parenthood of Maryland
 Blue Ridge Abortion Access Fund
 Richmond Reproductive Freedom Project
 Women's Medical Fund
 Whole Woman's Health Reproductive Health Technologies Project (RHTP)
 Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
 Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
 Center for Reproductive Rights
 League of Women Voters of the United States
 National Women's Law Center
 Lake Research Partners Inc.
 Team Scratch Hyde

Clinics

A Capital Women's Health Clinic
 A Preferred Woman's Health Center
 A Tidewater Women's Health Clinic
 A Woman's Choice of Raleigh
 All Women's Medical
 Boulder Abortion Clinic
 Charlottesville Medical Center for Women
 Cherry Hill Women's Center
 Falls Church Healthcare Center
 Femi Care Surgery Center
 Feminist Women's Health Center
 Germantown Reproductive Health Services
 Gynemed Surgical Center
 Office of Dr. Nathan Bobrow
 Parkmed Women's Center
 Piedmont Carolina Medical Clinic
 Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington DC
 Potomac Family Planning Center
 Prince George's Reproductive Health Services
 Richmond Medical Center for Women
 Roanoke Medical Center for Women
 Silver Spring Gynecology and Family Planning
 Southwestern Women's Options
 Virginia League for Planned Parenthood
 Washington Surgi-Clinic
 Whole Woman's Health of Baltimore

Volunteers

Alena Y.	Arona K.	Colleen C.	Jenn R.	Lauren R.	Megan Anne D.	Rose D.
Alex K.	Ashley M.	Cori F.	Jennifer W.	Lauren W.	Meghan F.	Sarah B.S.
Alexa S.	Atima O.	Cynthia S.L.	Jenny W.	Lindsay S.	Melissa M.	Sarah Mil.
Alison J.	Austin M.	Danielle G.	Jess P.	Lindsey W.	Merrill M.	Sarah Min.
Alli V.	Benny D.	Deepika S.	Jose G.	Lisa M.	Mindi W.	Sarah W.
Amalia L.	Bethany O.	Diana P.	Judith N.	Lisa W.	Paige A.	Sharita G.
Amanda H.	Bethany V.	Elizabeth B.B.	Kassaundra E.	Lizamarie M.	Patricia H.	Steph D.
Amber B.	Caitlin Q.	Ellen W.	Kate D.	Lynda D.	Prava C.	Stephanie S.
Andrea G.	Carolyn B.	Emily C.	Kate V.	Maggie R.	Rachel L.	Taylor T.
Andrew F.	Carrie E.	Erich S.	Katie B.	Malinda F.	Rachel S.	Travis B.
Annie S.	Cassandra R.	George E.	Katie M.	Mandi Y.	Rebecca C.	Travis S.
April C.	Cate O.	Harum H.	Keely M.	Marie L.	Rebecca H.	Val V.
Ari F.	Christine R.	Helen B.	Kelsey C.	Mary G.	Rebekah H.	Vanessa R.
Ariel T.	Claire G.	Ingrid G.	Laura B.	Mary W.	Richard H.	Victoria C.
	Colin F.	James A.	Lauren L.	Maryjo O.	Robyn S.	Zoe B.W.

DCAF BY THE NUMBERS: How Did You Find Us?

Patients were referred to DCAF in a number of ways:

52% A Clinic

25% Google Search

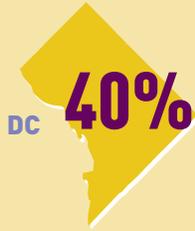
13% National Abortion Federation

6% A Friend

4% Another Abortion Fund

DCAF BY THE NUMBERS: Clinics

DCAF disbursed funds to clinics located in



and **4%** in other nearby states.

»» PATIENT STORIES

These are just a few glimpses into the lives of thousands of patients that call DCAF each year. To us, they're not just numbers — they're real people with real stories. It's our honor to serve them.

DC

Dani was home from school for holiday break when she realized she was pregnant. Though at first she wanted to get an abortion before she went back to school, the clinic her OB-GYN referred her to was very expensive and did not offer any funding suggestions. Dani had \$200 from Christmas presents that she could put toward her procedure. Her DCAF case manager let her know there was a less expensive clinic near her school, and because she went to school in a different state, she was able to call the abortion fund there for assistance as well. With help from DCAF and a sibling fund, Dani was able to have her abortion and get back to school before classes started for the spring semester.

Maryland

When Emily's partner found out she was pregnant, he kicked her and her children out of their apartment. Emily called DCAF from the shelter where she was staying. She did not have access to any money for her abortion. Emily's case manager put her in touch with the National Abortion Federation and emergency funding sources. She made several appointments before she could come up with the funding for her procedure. Every week she had to push back the procedure, it got more expensive. But DCAF case managers helped Emily navigate different clinics and multiple donors to help her get her procedure. Emily was then able to focus on finding permanent housing for herself and her kids.

Virginia

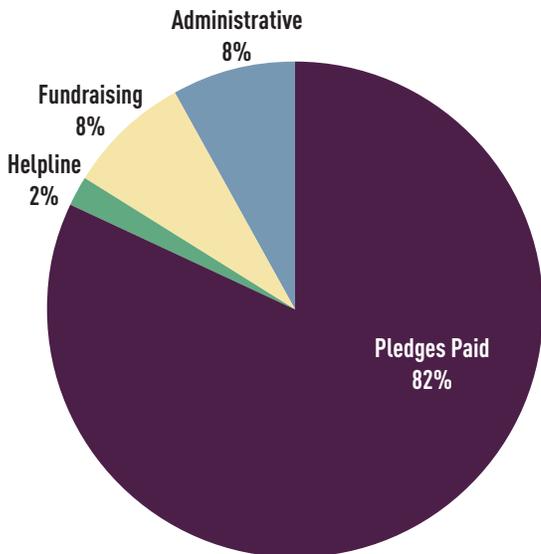
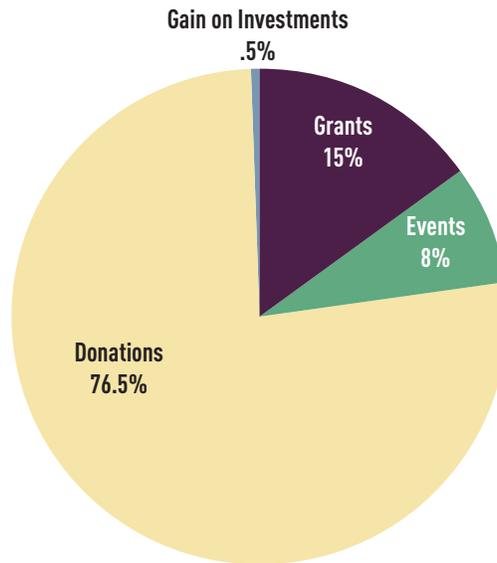
Cheryl called DCAF as soon as she knew she was pregnant, but she didn't know how far along she was. Working with her case manager, Cheryl found out her insurance would cover an ultrasound, but not an abortion. She used her insurance to figure out how far she was into her pregnancy, and was able to find an inexpensive clinic close to her home. Fundraising seemed like it might be an impossible task, but after discussing it with her case manager, Cheryl was able to borrow money from her sister for part of her procedure. DCAF and the Blue Ridge Abortion Assistance Fund were able to cover the rest. Cheryl called DCAF after her procedure to say thank you.

» DCAF FINANCIALS

Assets at the end of FY 2014: \$263,618

Income

Grants	\$32,000
Events	\$16,701
Donations	\$163,472
Gain on Investments	\$1,092
Total	\$213,465



Expenses

Pledges Paid	\$137,536
Helpline	\$3,128
Fundraising	\$13,167
Administrative	\$13,940
Total	\$167,771

Undeposited Funds	\$1,694
Accounts Payable	(\$7,422)

Assets at the end of FY 2015: \$300,270

DCAF BY THE NUMBERS:

Funding

1,052

Number of pledges made

802

Number of pledges paid

\$178,528

Dollar amount pledged

\$135,678

Dollar amount paid

\$170

Average pledge amount

\$169

Average pledge paid



DC Abortion Fund
PO Box 65061
Washington, DC 20035



Our monthly donors are critical to our organization, providing DCAF with reliable income to 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!

More information about the pendants is available on our website:
dcabortionfund.org/donate

Credit: M. Kinsey Bruns