

Annual Report FY08-09

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 an abortion and the full cost of the procedure.

A Tremendous Time of Need

The DC Abortion Fund is the only local group in the metropolitan area dedicated to pledging financial

support to residents who cannot afford the full cost of an abortion. We see firsthand how women and girls face a multitude of local, state, and federal restrictions designed to

deny their access to reproductive healthcare. These restrictions disproportionately affect low-income individuals and their families. DCAF works to make "choice" a reality for everyone who contacts us because we believe the right to healthcare should not depend on the ability to pay. We believe the path to reproductive freedom for all women and girls requires unrestricted access to healthcare and pregnancy options.

As the fiscal year progressed, it became apparent that the demand for abortion funding was

increasing due to the severe economic downturn. It has been a challenge for a small fund like ours to keep up. This past year, we received

nearly 1,000 calls for assistance—a record number for us—and provided three times the amount of funding we offered just three years ago. It has been rough, yet we remain inspired by our clients. They are brave and resilient. As a volunteer organization with no paid staff, we are proud that 95% of contributions go directly to help women and girls access quality abortion care. In the community of women, it is both our honor and our duty.

We believe the path to reproductive freedom for all women and girls requires unrestricted access to healthcare and pregnancy options.

Our work and the support of our donors makes the freedom of choice a meaningful reality for more families. Since its inception, DCAF has served individuals in the District of Columbia's metropolitan area, including parts of Maryland and Virginia, partnering with health care clinics to remove financial barriers to accessing abortion. In rare instances, DCAF partners with funds from other parts of the country to assist women 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 member of the
NNAF
national network
of abortion funds
Connecting Rights to Resources

A Message from the DCAF Board President

Dear Pro-Choice Friends,

Dr. Tiller was my hero.

The man meant so much to us, and in this post-Dr. Tiller era, many more women now understand how his death affects their lives too. Whether you knew him intimately, or became aware of his heroism in the wake of tragedy, it is clear that Dr. Tiller is a person to remember, an incredible human being. DCAF Case Managers referred DC, Maryland, and Virginia women to Wichita Women's Health Services and they felt good doing it. At DCAF, we already knew that Dr. Tiller would do anything for women...even give up his life. In June 2009, we honored Dr. Tiller and our wonderful local abortion providers with an event to remember the courage and strength of Dr. Tiller, as well as all abortion providers who risk their lives on a daily basis, and to invoke strength and courage in ourselves. We did everything we could to turn a devastating death and blow to women's reproductive health care into a binding sisterhood experience.

The economy has had a huge effect on DCAF: our fundraising numbers are down, and our call and pledge numbers are at an all-time high. With the news that grants and awards we relied on would no longer be available, DCAF implemented the **Friends of DCAF** program in the fall of 2008, which is an automatic monthly giving program for individual donors. When we look to fiscal year 2009-2010, we know that the Friends of DCAF program will be an essential piece to sustaining our monthly budget. With the help of our pro-bono graphic designer, Mukti Desai, of Nectar Design Studio, we branded the program with a special logo and managed an aggressive and successful online monthly giving marketing campaign. By the end of fiscal year 2008-2009 we had acquired 17 monthly donors, which provided a monthly income of \$420. Since then this amount has more than doubled.

In December of 2008, we hosted our annual DCAF Winter Holiday Party which is always one of the highlights of the year. The Winter Party brings in roughly 75% of our event revenue and this past year we had our largest turnout yet with over 150 pro-choice friends attending. The party's success is directly associated with the 20 + volunteers who served on last year's Events Subcommittee.

In honor of the anniversary of Roe, we held the premiere DC screening of the documentary **"The Coat Hanger Project"** directed and produced by DCAF supporter Angie Young. The event was held in the gorgeous screening room at the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals. The film interviewed the late, beloved activist and DCAF supporter Rachel Falls, who we still miss and hold in our hearts. The screening drew a packed house and was one of the most popular events in DCAF history!

We also were very active in collaborating with the Women's Information Network on a series of Spring 2009 events which helped promote DCAF among younger DC pro-choice women, which we are very excited to be a part of!

On behalf of the entire DCAF Board, I want to thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to the work we do. Thank you for your time, financial support, and personal commitment to the mission of DCAF. We look forward to working with you in 2010 and beyond.

In Sisterhood-

Tiffany Reed

DCAF Board of Directors

Tiffany Reed, *President*

Jessica Arons, *Secretary*

Allison Mitchell, *Treasurer*

Alexis Zepeda, *Director of
Case Management*

Elisabeth Sowecke

Cristina Villegas

Dina Morad

Incoming FY09-10

Catherine Algeri

Diana Philip

Client Stories and Statistics

A Story from Virginia

Twenty year-old Sherell was approaching twenty-four weeks in her pregnancy when an ultrasound revealed several fetal anomalies. A genetics counselor indicated that if Sherell chose to carry her pregnancy to term, she would most likely experience a stillbirth. Sherell had previously miscarried twice and had immensely struggled emotionally and physically following each experience. Grateful to be pregnant and healthy once again, she had intended to keep the pregnancy.

Sherell's husband, Dan, a disabled military officer, initially contacted DCAF when he learned that their health insurance through the military did not cover medically-necessary abortion services. Since his return from Iraq, they had been living in his mother's basement with their 4-year-old son. Sherell needed to obtain a twenty-five-week surgery in Washington, DC for \$6200.

Sherell had never completed high school and was unable to secure long-term employment, so the family of three owned nothing over \$100 in value, and lived off of Dan's modest disability checks and his earnings from working construction for his uncle.

They raised \$2000 between their emergency savings and contributions from his mother and uncle, and were able to obtain a new credit card with a starting balance of \$2000 that they were willing to pay toward the surgery. National and local funds pledged an additional \$1200.

DCAF asked supporters attending a Roe Anniversary screening of the film *The Coat Hanger Project* in Washington, DC to donate the additional \$1000 balance and they were generous. Sherell was able to obtain a surgery on the last day possible, so her family could grieve and try to move forward with dignity.

- 971 women and girls called the DCAF hotline, averaging 81 calls per month.
- 335 individuals were offered grants to help pay for a portion of their abortion procedures. Of these pledges, 234 received the funding.
- The average amount of funding assistance given for each patient was \$190.
- Pledges made to patients on average covered 9% of the cost of first trimester abortions and 19% of second trimester procedures.
- Demand for services has increased over 200% over the last three years:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>06-07</u>	<u>07-08</u>	<u>08-09</u>
1st trimester pledges	37	49	112
2nd trimester pledges	60	113	223
Total pledges	97	152	335
Percentage of grants disbursed	70%	58%	70%

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Washington, DC
20033
Tel: 202.452.7464
E-mail: info@dcabortionfund.org
<http://www.dcabortionfund.org>



A Story from Washington, D.C.

17 year-old Takeya rushed to an emergency room one night with her mother because Takeya was doubled over with severe stomach pains. An ultrasound technician informed her that she was approximately nineteen weeks pregnant.

Takeya's mother was shocked because she believed Takeya was not yet sexually active, but Takeya revealed that she had been raped by a classmate at a social gathering. A nurse referred Takeya to the DC Rape Crisis Center (DCRCC) for further counseling, and the DCRCC referred Takeya to DCAF because she wished to terminate the pregnancy.

There is only one clinic in the DC metropolitan region that provides abortion beyond eighteen-weeks gestation, and the cost of Takeya's surgery was \$3200. While some women opt to travel to New Jersey, New York, or Georgia to afford an abortion at a lower rate, Takeya's family was unable to travel with such short notice and with Takeya so close to the gestational limit.

Takeya's mother worked part-time as a cashier and received no benefits, and her father was incarcerated. During their initial call to DCAF, they had a little over \$100 for a \$3200 surgery Takeya would need to obtain within one week before the price rose even higher.

Takeya and her mother raised \$1200 by asking several family and friends for modest donations and withholding 50% of their rent payment. Takeya contributed \$40 alone by babysitting various neighbors' children over the span of three days. In addition, she called several local and national funds requesting assistance and received donations from the National Abortion Federation, the Hersey Fund, The Third Wave Foundation, the National Network of Abortion Funds, and The Richmond Reproductive Freedom Project, as well as DCAF.

After six days of relentlessly gathering funds to afford the surgery, Takeya still fell short by \$200. DCAF contacted the clinic on Takeya's behalf and the clinic agreed to perform her surgery based on her personal circumstances and the strong effort she made to raise funds for the full cost of the surgery. Takeya began classes at the University of the District of Columbia this fall, majoring in early childhood education.

An award that helped us through FY08-09:

On March 11, 2008, the DC Abortion Fund was honored to receive The Washington Area Women's Foundation Leadership Award, recognizing our responsiveness to community needs and innovative work to assist low-income women and girls in the area of health and safety. We received a \$10,000 grant used for direct services. The experience gave us the opportunity to not only connect with other small, like-minded non-profit organizations that support women, but also the chance to receive wonderful advice from the foundation's staff on grant writing and funding opportunities. The support we continue to receive from the Women's Foundation is immeasurable, and being affiliated with the foundation has opened doors for DCAF to other funding channels.

A Story from Maryland

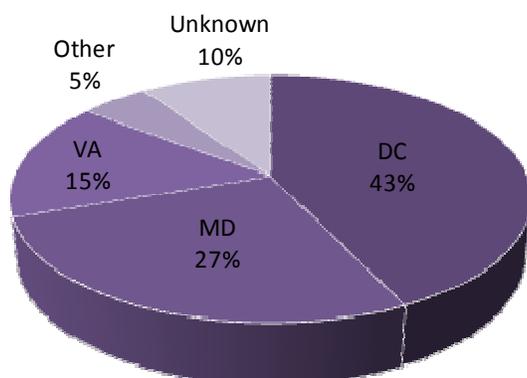
Jessica was 16 years old and uninsured. She found DCAF when her school security guard contacted the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) on her behalf. Jessica was nineteen weeks pregnant and attending a charter school due to behavioral issues. Prone to physically fighting with classmates and instructors, Jessica's security guard served as a confidante--someone who understood her over time and cared. Jessica became pregnant through a consensual relationship with a classmate, but when she revealed she was pregnant, he ended the friendship and denied having sexual intercourse with her. When Jessica began visiting the nurse's office frequently with nausea and backache, the school nurse ran a pregnancy test.

Jessica lived with her mother and brother, and had a documented history of physical and verbal abuse at home, so administrative officials opted to bring her mother into school to announce Jessica's pregnancy. Her mother became irate, declared no desire to be involved, and threatened to disown Jessica if she carried the pregnancy to term. Jessica threatened to hurt herself, punching her own stomach, because she believed there was no one to help her obtain an abortion.

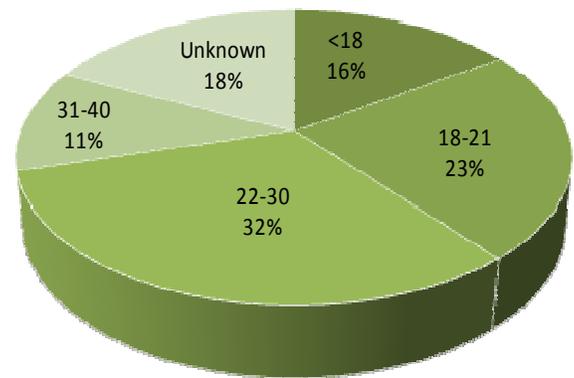
Jessica was tearful and scared during her initial phone conversations with a DCAF case manager. The school security guard was helpful with filling in the necessary details. Jessica needed to raise \$2200, but only had \$50. She had started a hostess position at a diner three weeks prior to reaching out to DCAF. She had hoped to obtain the abortion without assistance, but over time the surgery cost was just too high.

When the DCAF case manager indicated that Jessica would need to obtain an abortion within one week to realistically afford her chosen option, Jessica became determined. She requested additional shifts and asked schoolmates for small contributions. The DCAF case manager requested personal donations from NAPAWF associates and made phone calls to several national and local funds. In addition, DCAF sent an online appeal to supporters. Within seven days, Jessica was able to raise \$260 on her own, while several individual and foundation donations completed her balance.

Clients by Residence

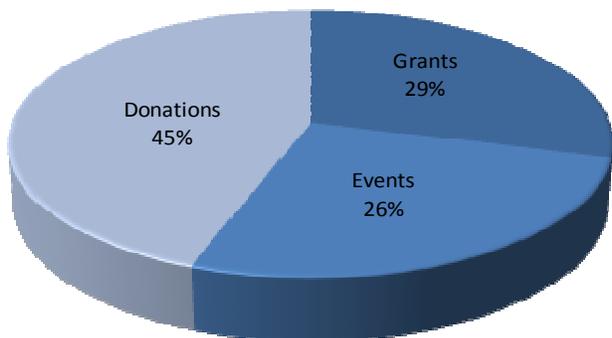


Clients by Age

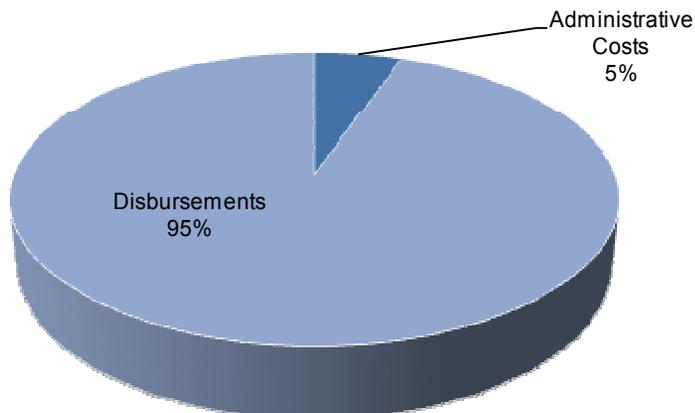


DCAF Financial Report July 1, 2008—June 30, 2009

Income FY08-09



Expenses FY08-09



Assets carried over from FY07-08: \$46,237

Income FY08-09

Grants	7,000
Events	6,275
Donations	10,627
Realized Loss on Investment	5,423
Total	\$18,479

Expenses FY08-09

Disbursements	42,390
Administrative	2,498
Total	\$44,888

Assets at the end of FY08-09: \$19,829

Things to know about DCAF:

- We operate a hotline that provides safe and confidential information on how to access healthcare services often restricted or complicated by today's political climate around abortion. Our case managers offer financial and pregnancy options counseling to clients. We work with area health clinics that also supply birth control and other reproductive health information and services to those who seek it.
- Residents of DC, Maryland (Prince George's, Montgomery, and Howard counties), and Virginia (Arlington, Fairfax, Loudon and Prince Williams counties) are eligible for services, including those who end up seeking services outside the immediate geographic area. Women from other states who travel to the DC region for an abortion are also eligible. DCAF works with other funds around the country to make this possible.
- DCAF raises awareness in the DC metropolitan area about how abortion restrictions - like the Hyde Amendment, which forbids federal Medicaid coverage of abortion services under most circumstances - harm women's health and are linked to a rollback of women's rights.
- DCAF conducts outreach through public events, email alerts, Facebook and Twitter.

Answering the Call to Service

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 founded.

Since then, the hard work of DCAF is done entirely by volunteers whose dedication and generous spirit are greatly appreciated:

Case Manager of the Year: Kate Vlach

DCAF's 2009 Case Manager of the Year, Kate Vlach, has been an essential part of our volunteer Case Management team since late 2007 when she innocently inquired about volunteering for a grassroots, women-led abortion fund. Kate has weathered the storm wrought by changes in our Case Management structure through the years. Whether she was working with 2 cases or 20 cases at a time, her dedication to DCAF's clients never waned and each client received compassionate, accurate, and empowering advice, in addition to financial assistance. She is a tireless advocate for women and girls in the DC area. When not being a pro-choice warrior on behalf of DCAF, Kate serves as Policy Associate at NARAL/Pro-Choice America. DCAF thanks Kate for her years of service and commitment.

Volunteer Case Managers

Raina A.
Erin B.
Mirah B.
Sharita G.
Della K.
Jillian H.
Aleya H.
Cara K.
Anna K.
Amy W. M.
Christine R.
Tiffany R.
Elisabeth S.
Sarah S.
Kate V.
Alexis Z.

Events, Outreach and Office Support Volunteers

Julia A.
Erin B.
Amanda B.
Katie C.
Megan E.
Regan G.
Johanna G.
Sharita G.
Amy H.
Sarah L.
Brittany M.
Emily P.
Jennifer R.
Jen S.
Cara T.

Volunteer of the Year: Amanda Bogden

Amanda has been DCAF's pro bono accountant for more than three years. By day, she is a staff accountant at Raffa, Inc., a full-service accounting and consulting firm that specializes in non-profit management and stability. Before Raffa, Amanda worked for three years as the staff accountant for EMILY's List, a pro-choice political action committee. She brings a wealth of accounting skills and expertise to DCAF, and we wouldn't be able to pay our bills without her! As she spends hours each week working on DCAF, we thought she was a perfect choice for our 2009 Volunteer of the Year Award!

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

Akron Woman's Medical Group
American Women's Services
Amethyst Health Center for Women
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
Atlanta Women's Medical Center
Boulder Abortion Clinic
Catholics for Choice
Cherry Hill Women's Center, Inc.
Chicago Abortion Fund
DC Rape Crisis Center
EMW Women's Surgical Center
Falls Church Healthcare Center
Family Planning Associates Medical Group
Feminist Women's Health Center—Georgia
Germantown Reproductive Health Services
Hillcrest Clinic—Baltimore
A Jacksonville Women's Health Center
Maryland Women's Abortion Clinic
Meadowbrook Women's Clinic
Medical Students for Choice
NARAL Pro-Choice America—DC
NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland
NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia
National Abortion Federation
Office of Dr. Mildred Hanson
Parkmed LLC
Philadelphia Women's Center Inc.
Planned Parenthood of Annapolis
Planned Parenthood of Maryland
Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington DC
Potomac Family Planning DC
Potomac Family Planning Rockville
A Preferred Women's Health Center
Prince George's Reproductive Health Services
Summit Family Planning
Washington Area Clinic Defense Task Force
Washington Hospital Center
Washington Surgi-Clinic
Whole Women's Health of Baltimore
Women's Health Care Services—Kansas
Women's Health Practice— Illinois
Women's Information Network