

Annual Report FY 2010

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.

Abortion Care is Health Care

Like many Americans, we at DCAF watched in amazement as Congress passed landmark healthcare reform legislation last year. Yet, it was excruciating to hear politicians repeatedly say that there should be no taxpayer funding for abortion. While health reform will improve many things for women – including the elimination of gender rating, a prohibition on pre-existing condition exclusions, and subsidies to help purchase insurance – it came at a great cost to abortion rights. With the national mid-term elections over, patient advocates must now work on how abortion will be handled in the state-run insurance exchanges.

Among the general benefits, The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will increase the number of individuals eligible for Medicaid, require no cost-sharing like co-pays or deductibles for preventive care services (hopefully including contraception), and ensure that all Americans will be able to purchase health insurance. Each state must establish an insurance exchange where individuals and small businesses will be able to purchase health plans.

But due to a political compromise with anti-choice Sen. Ben Nelson (D-NE), there are three ways abortion coverage will be treated differently than other kinds of health care coverage:

- 1) A state may ban abortion coverage within its state-run insurance exchange. Five states have done so ALREADY. A state may ban abortion coverage in all circumstances, including cases of rape, incest and life endangerment, which would make some state bans even more restrictive than the Hyde Amendment's ban on Medicaid funding for abortion.
- 2) If a state does not ban abortion coverage, then each insurance company will decide whether or not to offer coverage.
- 3) If the insurance company does offer abortion coverage then the insurance company must collect TWO payments from each person buying coverage – one for the cost of the abortion coverage and one for the remaining cost of the insurance plan. The insurance company MUST keep separate accounts for the funds, as well as a third account for government subsidies and tax credits. Only private premiums can be used to pay for abortion coverage. Each state's insurance commissioner will have the authority to audit the plans to ensure compliance.

We find it outrageous that a legal and necessary medical procedure utilized by one-third of American women in their lifetime would be subjected to such differential treatment. We see abortion care as part of basic, reproductive health care that deserves to be covered like any other needed and routinely used medical service. We are concerned that even where states do not ban coverage, the burdensome requirements that Congress has imposed will make abortion coverage too unpopular to be selected by consumers or offered by insurers. Healthcare advocates should pay close attention to coverage offered both inside and outside their state exchanges as well as the quality and inclusivity of the care being offered.

In the meantime, we are celebrating a victory at home. The FY 2010 federal budget finally allowed the District of Columbia to determine for itself whether to cover abortion under its Medicaid program. At this time, DC is still ironing out its implementation strategy, but we are monitoring this process and are hopeful that more women will receive the health care they deserve. However, we are concerned that this policy may become a target of the newly conservative House of Representatives. We will provide updates as they develop at

www.dcabortionfund.org.

DCAF operates a hotline 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. In some instances, DCAF partners with funds from other parts of the country to assist those in extra-ordinary 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

Volunteer Case Managers

Maritza A Rains A. Georgia A.M.
Mirah B. Colleen C. Kayla C. Sharita G. Aleya H. Ionna H. Carolyn K. Anna K. Kyle L. Michele R. Elisabeth S. Katie V. Amy W. M. Alexis Z.

Events Volunteers

Raina A. Julia A. Erin B. Colleen C. Katie C. Megan E. Johanna G. Regan G. Sharita G. Amy H. Jessica K. Sarah L. Brittany M. Kate M. Jessie N. Emily P. Jennifer R. Cara T. Liz W.

Board of Directors FY2010

Tiffany Reed,
President

Jessica Arons,
Secretary

Allison Mitchell,
Treasurer

Alexis Zepeda,
Director of Case Management

Elisabeth Sowecke

Cristina Villegas

Dina Morad

Catherine Algeri

Diana Philip

Amy Whitehurst
Morrison

Dear Pro-Choice Friends,

In the FY 2009 Annual Report, I began my president's message remembering our American hero, Dr. George Tiller. While his memory lives on forever, I get to start off on a more positive note this year.

As an all volunteer-run organization, I want to commend the incredible volunteers of DCAF. It is their strength, their dedication, their hunger for equality, and their desire to make Washington, DC and the surrounding areas the very best they can be that makes DCAF such a success.

Another year is now behind us, and as we say goodbye to amazing long-time board members Alexis Zepeda and Allison Mitchell, we welcome new, hard-working, dedicated women who have fresh energy, fresh eyes and fresh perspectives. The more than 50 DCAF volunteers that we can call on at a moment's notice are the foot soldiers of a movement that will never die. I am grateful for every day that DCAF exists, and it wouldn't be possible without the help of so many. To anyone reading this who has ever checked the messages on our voicemail system, called a client back within 24 hours, secured a venue for an event, researched a grant, printed our materials, found an event sponsor, written a piece on DCAF, asked a stranger to contribute, made an in-kind donation to offset administrative costs, recruited a volunteer, stuffed an envelope... **THANK YOU.**

We pledged money to over 400 women for their abortions in FY 2010. We don't say "no" to a woman in need, and we hope we never have to. It is because of the work of our incredible volunteers, coupled with the generous financial contributions from our monthly donor program, Friends of DCAF, our major donor program, The Rosie Circle, our wonderful friends at The Moriah Fund and The Washington Area Women's Foundation, and the more than 500 individual donors who have made it all possible.

We had two exciting "firsts" at DCAF this past year. We sponsored *Words of Choice*, a traveling play about the wide range of emotions and situations regarding abortion. *Words of Choice* takes on the political, the religious, and the familial, all in one 80-minute breathtaking and thought-provoking play. We are proud that we could bring such a powerful production to the DC area.

Second, we participated in our first Bowl-a-Thon organized by the National Network of Abortion Funds! DCAF volunteers battled local sister funds to find out who reigned supreme in the ultimate abortion fundraising battle. DCAF came in third nationally for total fundraising at over \$14,000, behind New York City and Boston. We had so much fun that we can't wait to do it all over again this May! We hope you can join us!

On behalf of the entire DCAF board, I want to extend my gratitude to those of you who have stood next to us in this fight for access to abortion. Together, we gave hope to women across DC, MD, and VA who believed that no one else cared.

By supporting DCAF you showed them that YOU do.

In Sisterhood –

Tiffany Reed

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A Story from Maryland

Alicia was a 26 year-old graduate student. She described her life as "hectic." Her mother had been recently murdered and after that, Alicia felt her life had shut down. She was having trouble working, keeping up with school and supporting her one year-old baby. Because she was so behind on the rent, Alicia feared getting evicted. She had no idea she was pregnant until she went to her school clinic to obtain birth control and took a pregnancy test. She found out that she was 19 weeks along.

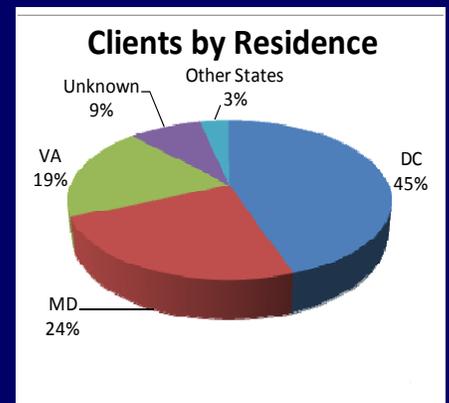
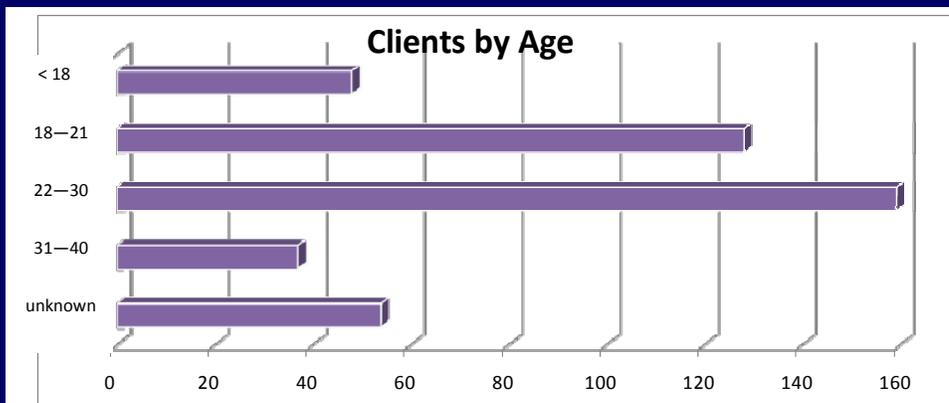
Because she did not know she was pregnant and had been through so much in prior months, Alicia had been drinking heavily. She knew what it meant to bring a healthy baby into the world because she had done just that with her first child. Alicia was scared about how this unknown pregnancy would turn out and what kind of life she could provide for a second child and her one year-old.

Alicia contacted the National Abortion Fund Hotline, who had given her clinic referrals and offered to help her with a percentage of her procedure's cost. She also learned about DCAF. Our case manager helped her come up with some other ideas for raising money, including getting an emergency medical loan from her college and asking friends to each help with a small amount. Her sorority sisters gathered together a couple hundred dollars. Alicia raised some money on her own by selling her TV and her iPod. In the end, the clinic gave her a discount, and DCAF was able to contribute the final \$200 so she could afford her abortion care.

- 1,766 women and girls called the DCAF hotline, averaging 147 calls per month. The volume of calls has nearly doubled compared to the last fiscal year (971 calls).
- 426 individuals were offered grants to help pay for a portion of their abortion procedures. Of these, 291 patients used their pledges and received funding.
- The average amount of funding assistance given for each patient was \$149. The costs of the procedures ranged from \$250 to \$5,600.
- Average pledges made to patients covered 13% of the cost of first trimester abortions and 23% of second trimester procedures. This is a 4% increase in the amount pledged per procedure compared to last year.
- A total of \$63,193 was pledged and \$43,477 disbursed to clinics on behalf of DCAF clients.
- Of the clinics that received funds from DCAF to help cover the costs of patients' procedures, 72% were located in DC, 10% in Maryland, 4% in Virginia and 14% in states such as New Jersey, New York and Delaware.
- Demand for services has increased over 300% during the last four years:

| <u>Fiscal Year *</u> | <u>2007</u> | <u>2008</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1st trimester pledges | 37 | 49 | 112 | 153 |
| 2nd trimester pledges | 60 | 113 | 223 | 273 |
| Total grants pledged | 97 | 162 | 335 | 426 |
| Grants disbursed | 77% | 58% | 70% | 68% |

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



Financial Report July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Assets carried over from FY 2009: | \$19,829 |
| Income FY 2010 | |
| Grants | 22,000 |
| Events | 4,529 |
| Monetary Gifts | 40,036 |
| In Kind Donations | |
| (to meet admin costs) | 9,442 |
| Realized Gain on Investment | 1,760 |
| Total | \$77,768 |
| Expenses FY 2010 | |
| Disbursements | 43,477 |
| Administrative | 12,031 |
| Total | \$55,509 |
| Assets at the end of FY 2010: | \$42,083 |

Bowling for DCAF

In May 2010, DCAF hosted its 1st Annual Bowl-a-Thon Fundraiser along with dozens of other local abortion funds across the country as part of a nationwide fundraiser organized by the National Network of Abortion Funds (NNAF). DC's pro-choice community turned out in droves to bowl, raising \$14,503.25 for DCAF and NNAF. In just one month, 95 DC bowlers on 16 teams created the third largest bowl-a-thon fundraiser in the country. DCAF is so grateful to everyone who raised money and donated to the fundraiser to help us meet expenses in FY 2011.

The event was a twist on the traditional walk-a-thon fundraiser and was inspired by the Richmond, VA annual bowling event organized by the Women in Need Fund. DCAF's new FY 2011 board members, Danielle Geong and Valerie Vilott, were the lead organizers (aka Bowlers-in-Chief) for the DC event, held at George Washington University's Hippodrome Alley.

The Washington Area Clinic Defense Task Force's Repro Rights Roellers Team raised \$1,465 to take the top fundraising prize. Prizes were also awarded for highest individual fundraiser, best team spirit, highest team bowling score, and lowest individual bowling score.



The Visions in Feminism Collective was one of many DC organizations that bowled with us!

A Story from Virginia

When Matilda called us, she had nowhere else to turn. She was fleeing a domestic violence situation where her husband had forced her into prostitution which resulted in her current pregnancy. Recovering from substance abuse, Matilda was unemployed and searching for work while sleeping on a friend's couch with her 3 year-old daughter. She was 27 years old and 13 weeks pregnant.

Matilda told our case manager that she did not know where or how to find an abortion clinic. We gave her the information for a local fund in Virginia, The Richmond Reproductive Freedom Project (RRFP). When she called us back, Matilda had an appointment with a Planned Parenthood clinic, whose staff had taken \$210 off the price of the procedure after they heard about her circumstances. RRFP was able to help her with \$100 and DCAF with \$150.

In the end, Matilda only needed \$65 to cover the remaining cost of her procedure. She raised the funds by not paying her phone bill, selling her food stamps and borrowing some money from a friend. After receiving her abortion, Matilda began rebuilding a life for her and her daughter.

A Story from Washington, D.C.

Deb and her husband, DC residents, had been trying to get pregnant for the last year and were elated when they finally succeeded. She was 35 and had just about given up hope. When they found out their fetus had an abnormality, she was 22 weeks along. Her doctor explained that the fetus had Trisomy 18, which is also called Edward's Syndrome. Though it is related to Down's Syndrome, Trisomy 18 is usually fatal, and either causes death to the fetus before birth or within a few days after birth.

She and her husband decided that the best choice for them was to terminate the pregnancy. They called a clinic and their insurance company. The couple found out that the abortion procedure would cost \$3,600. Deb's insurance refused to cover it. She had to start calling the people she had been contacting a month before to share the good news about her pregnancy and now ask them for help to pay for her abortion. She and her husband raised much of the money through friends and family and by tapping into the savings account they had started long ago in anticipation of a child. However, it was not enough. A counselor at the clinic gave her the numbers for DCAF and the National Abortion Federation (NAF). NAF contributed a percentage of the cost of the procedure and DCAF helped her with \$200. After two weeks of successfully raising funds, she had her abortion. In her last conversation with her DCAF case manager, Deb thanked her for listening and for supporting her decision. It was a difficult decision and one that she did not want to have to make, but one that she felt necessary.

A Focus on Youth

In January 2010, DCAF was awarded its largest grant to date, The Rainmaker's Giving Circle, of \$15,000 from the Washington Area Women's Foundation. The grant made it possible for DCAF to implement its "Full and Healthy Life Project" which supports the reproductive decisions made by women 21 years old and younger in Washington, DC, as well as some surrounding Maryland counties.

In the grant period during FY 2010, the Full and Healthy Life Project allowed DCAF to pledge money for abortion care to 17 young women in the Maryland suburbs totaling \$2,700. Young women who contacted DCAF from Maryland included a 19 year-old parenting college student and a 14 year-old rape survivor.

From Washington, DC, 46 young women received pledges through the DCAF project, totaling \$6,905. Young women offered abortion funding included a 21 year-old unemployed mother experiencing difficulties in accessing public assistance and an 11 year-old survivor of incest.

We will continue to access these funds into FY 2011 until the grant period ends December 31, 2010.



One of DCAF's fundraising strategies is to cultivate and maintain monthly giving. Our monthly donors are critical to our organization and help us forecast support we can count on throughout the year. Below is a sample of how we use our website to promote what we call **Friends of DCAF**. New monthly donors of \$10 or more receive this Coat Hanger Pendant as a token of our appreciation and to promote public awareness of our mission.

We are a fund.

We are a fund that grew out of community need.

We are a fund that came to be because...

...we as a community decided that we trust women to make good choices.

...we as a community believe health care is a fundamental right.

... we as a community know that a woman's rights should not depend on the size of her wallet.

95 cents of every dollar you donate goes to funding abortion care for women from the DC Metropolitan area.



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 2010:

| | |
|---|--|
| Amethyst Health Center for Women | Piedmont Carolina Medical Clinic |
| Association of Reproductive Health Professionals | Planned Parenthood of Maryland |
| Atlanta Surgicenter | Planned Parenthood of Metro Washington DC |
| Atlantic Women's Medical Services | Potomac Family Planning DC |
| Catholics for Choice | Potomac Family Planning Rockville |
| Cherry Hill Women's Center, Inc. | Prince George's Reproductive Health Services |
| Children's Law center | Reproductive Health Technologies Project |
| DC Rape Crisis Center | RH Reality Check |
| Falls Church Healthcare Center | Richmond Medical Center for Women |
| Germantown Reproductive Health Services | Richmond Reproductive Freedom Project |
| Hillcrest Clinic - Baltimore | The Moriah Fund |
| Latin American Youth Center | Visions in Feminism Collective |
| Medical Students for Choice | Washington Area Clinic Defense Task Force |
| Mid-Manhattan Physician Services | Washington Area Women's Foundation |
| NARAL Pro-Choice America | Washington Hospital Center |
| NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland | Washington Surgi-Clinic |
| NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia | Whole Women's Health of Baltimore |
| National Abortion Federation | Women's Information Network |
| National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health | Women's Medical Fund (Philadelphia) |
| National Women's Health Network | Words of Choice |
| Parkmed LLC | Younger Women's Task Force, DC Chapter |