Dear Friends,

Imagine a future where every abortion is fully funded and accessible. Where we can all get the care we need in our communities and make the best decisions for ourselves and our families, free from stigma and unending barriers.

Your support of the National Network of Abortion Funds is helping to make this future a reality. You know the constitutional right to an abortion in the United States granted via Roe v. Wade has never been a promise to actual abortion access. As the attacks against us ramp up, we can’t settle for more of the same. It’s time for a radical change in the logistics, structure, and funding strategy to ensure abortion care.

Right now, if you can’t pay for an abortion, you do your best to reach out to family and friends to lend you money. You make multiple calls, explaining your story more times than you might like, wait for callbacks, all while the clock is ticking. This shouldn’t be how we access healthcare. Abortion funds, who are mostly staffed by volunteers, want to change this reality and are doing their best to be a respite from the hustle. Last year, abortion funds helped nearly 30,000 people access abortion.

We’re doing the job that our government fails to do – and we’re proud of what we’ve accomplished. And we need to do more. More than 120,000 abortion fund callers were turned away last year because abortion funds run out of money every month.

We’re designing a future where people don’t have to face the hassle of calling multiple abortion funds or being derailed by fake clinics, where transportation is ready for those needing to move across state lines to get their abortions, and where compassionate faces meet them on the other side.

Our strategy calls for staffed abortion funds with strong infrastructure and budgets that match the ever-increasing need of callers. It calls for more opportunities for abortion funds to connect and share knowledge, to invest in the leadership of abortion fund callers, and to align our values to build anti-racist, compassionate abortion funds.

We’re confident that, with you by our side, we can meet this crisis head-on and chart a path forward where no one is left behind.

Let’s embody the future we deserve today, where investment in abortion funds is equitable and matches the creativity, wisdom, and collective power we’re capable of.

In Solidarity,

Yamani Hernandez
Executive Director
This year, we’re celebrating 10 years hosting the National Abortion Access Bowl-a-Thon, the largest grassroots abortion access fundraiser! While we have been holding Bowl-a-Thon as a network-wide event for 10 years, it was originally dreamed up by Our Justice, which has an abortion fund serving people in Minnesota.

We spoke with Megan Peterson, former Development Director at Our Justice, about the beginnings of the Bowl-a-Thon and its early introduction to NNAF as a powerful opportunity to raise money for abortion funds across the network.

When I joined what was then called Pro-Choice Resources, the organization had hosted a Bowl-A-Thon for a number of years but it was entirely done by paper. My first year, I sent letters to all the former Bowl-A-Thon captains in the mail and then people would mail back cards signing up to be a captain. People would show up at the event with their envelopes full of cash and checks and their records. I did that one year and thought, there has to be a better way. We moved to an online fundraising system and a peer-to-peer platform the next year and had a giant increase in our fundraising.

Megan later became the Development Director of NNAF and shared the story of Bowl-a-Thon’s success for Our Justice as a powerful opportunity for collective fundraising across the network.

From the beginning Bowl-a-Thon was not just a great fundraiser, it was a great way to introduce energetic, young leadership, and new volunteers to abortion funds.

The Bowl-a-Thon raised $175,000 that first year and has grown by leaps and bounds every year since. This year, our fundraising goal is $2 million! Bowl-a-Thon has boosted the resources and visibility of abortion funds all while being seriously meaningful and tons of fun.

Read more: abortionfunds.org/bowl10

SPOTLIGHT ON FUND TEXAS CHOICE

Share three words to describe Fund Texas Choice.

Radical - By covering travel expenses and providing practical support, we make access to abortion a reality for folks who might not have otherwise been able to make it to their appointments.

Compassionate - We have made the conscious decision to not use complicated eligibility criteria. We trust our clients to know their needs best, so we avoid asking intrusive questions and provide judgment-free support.

Revealing - While we support clients throughout the process of having an abortion, we strive to remain mindful of people’s intersecting identities. The work we do illuminates the many other issues that impact folks including institutional racism, systemic poverty, and domestic violence.

What should people know about your area of service?
Texas is a vast state with a dwindling number of clinics. Unless you live in the city of your appointment you may be facing a round trip of anywhere from 80-1,400 miles. This can mean lost wages, a scramble to find childcare, or worrying that you won’t have enough food for the trip.

Tell us more about your work coordinating travel:
We are known as the abortion access travel agency because we make all the necessary travel arrangements for our clients and keep in touch with them along the way. This includes booking hotels, purchasing bus and/or plane tickets, and assisting with rideshares or gas if necessary. Making sure our clients feel supported and empowered throughout their trip is one of our top priorities.

Are you participating in Bowl-a-Thon?
Yes! The way we join is through a Pup-a-Thon! Pup-a-Thon plays a huge role in increasing visibility of the need for policies that truly promote access to abortion and reproductive health services generally. Added bonus: Pup-a-Thon helps us normalize conversations about abortion and makes asking for money to support it (which is a potentially scary thing) a little more fun.

Read more: abortionfunds.org/fundtexaschoicespotlight
I’m 23, and I have polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) and irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)-C/D, which means I’m in a constant state of pain; I have absent and irregular periods, nausea and vomiting, weight fluctuation from the PCOS, as well as cramping and more from the IBS-C/D, all of which are symptoms of an early pregnancy.

Unsure of what to do after I learned I was pregnant, an aide at my doctor’s office sent me to a clinic that turned out to be an anti-abortion crisis pregnancy center. I started to feel weird about the way they were trying to convince me not to have an abortion. They handed me six ultrasound images and said I was 16 weeks pregnant. After realizing they were never going to help me, I left. The next day I went to a hospital near my home to get a real ultrasound. That’s when I couldn’t believe what they told me: I was actually 26 weeks pregnant.

When I finally saw a doctor who could provide me with an abortion, she said she had to get approval from the hospital board because of hospital policy, which was denied. I cried. Despite living in Oregon, a state with one of the most progressive abortion laws in the nation, I had to travel to New Mexico, and the abortion would cost $10,500, plus $1,500 for blood work and ultrasounds, and about $1,000 to fly there. My insurance would only cover $200.

Thankfully, the Northwest Abortion Access Fund (NWAAF) helped me cover $1,000. It seemed insurmountable. But thanks to some loved ones, I was able to raise the money. Because of their generosity, I joined the board of directors at NWAAF to ensure no one experiences the challenges I did. I’m proud to be an abortion funder.

Read more: wetestify.org/stories/beth-teen-vogue/
AUTONOMY
We believe that every person has the non-negotiable human right to determine whether, when, and how to create family. Autonomy includes unrestricted access to the rights, information, and resources to care for ourselves and our families.

COLLECTIVE POWER
We believe the best architects of solutions are the people who are most directly impacted by structural barriers and are building a base of shared power that centers their voices, experience, and leadership.

COMPASSION
We believe reproductive coercion, burdens, and barriers to reproductive healthcare are all forms of violence, and that compassion is key to changing culture and policy for abortion access.

INTERSECTIONALITY
We believe a comprehensive vision of justice for our communities must involve working towards economic, racial, gender, and reproductive justice.