

THE FUND UPDATE

Central Florida Women's Emergency Fund Newsletter

P.O. Box 536522, Orlando Florida 32853

All Eyes are Watching

20-week Abortion Ban

On October 3, the House passed legislation that would criminalize abortions after 20 weeks. On October 16, the Senate Majority Leader said the Senate will be putting it to a vote, although he did not specify when that would take place, and since the Republicans would need 60 votes, it's unlikely to pass. Seventeen states currently ban abortion after 20 weeks, though many of those laws are being contested in court. Florida allows abortion up to around 24 weeks, however, the percentage of the procedures done that late are very small, (According to Guttmacher Institute, only 1.2% of all the abortions in the United States take place after 20 weeks gestation) but research indicates that while most are of the procedures are performed for medical issues, there are also circumstances such as limited financial resources and logistical delays involving travel to an abortion provider. This is why it is so important for CFWEF to continue to provide funding to those women who do not have the money, so as to help them avoid delaying the procedure.

Board Members Activity

Central Florida Women's Emergency Fund has been busy across the country fighting for reproductive freedom. Our newest board member, Julie Deily joined us in the spring and has this to say: Hi, I'm excited to be on the Board and help build power in our community. I have resided in Central Florida for over 30 years. My background as a software engineer

and as a full-time blogger will help us technology-wise and on social media!

I attended the NNAF Summit this year and really enjoyed the inclusivity of the conference. One of the things I learned that stuck with me is that we need to make sure we don't look at the persons we are helping as victims, nor should we judge them. And we need to be inclusive in our language and how we treat each other and the people we help.

Summit 2017! – Board members Stephanie Pineiro and Julie Deily traveled to Arizona in June 2017 to Summit NNAF. They learned about different ways of supporting people who are getting abortions and continuing to promote the message that abortion is an act of love and compassion.

Stephanie was selected to join We Testify, National Network of Abortion Fund's abortion storytelling collective. Through this work Stephanie has been able to expand the reach of CFWEF and has been featured in articles in [Jezebel](#), [Rewire](#), [NYLON](#), and [Thinkprogress](#). Stephanie will be speaking with We Testify representing CFWEF at the 1st Women's March Convention in Detroit on October 28th. Stephanie is an abortion rights advocate in Central Florida. She is a clinical social worker dedicated to empowering the community through education. She is the current Board Vice-President of CFWEF and joined the board in 2015. She is our National liaison focusing on coalition building and outreach. Stephanie is also a member of We Testify, National Network

of Abortion Fund's abortion storyteller leadership program.

Summit 2017 - The biggest takeaway for both is remembering that abortion is an act of love and compassion.

CFWEF

Since January, the fund has given assistance to 250 women in need. Compared to the same period as last year, we saw an increase in funding for the 15 – 17, go from six to twelve, for the 26 – 30 go from 41 to 68, and the 31 – 35 doubled from 25 to 51. We can't determine what caused these numbers to increase, and can only speculate that increased cost might have added to the requests for funding.

11 to 14 years	0
15 to 17 years	12
18 to 20 years	23
21 to 25 years	70
26 to 30 years	68
31 to 35 years	51
36 to 45 years	26

Profiles of Women Helped

Most of the women aged 26 – 45 had at least one child, usually two or three. It appears from the data that although they are working, their salaries are low and they are just getting by. Many were single or divorced and living from paycheck to paycheck, trying to survive, and the last thing they needed was another child to take care of. These aren't just stories, they are reality.

Christi, a 17-year old who lives with her parents who are about to get evicted. Her parents don't

know where they are going to go, but they wanted her to finish high school.

Lisa, a 32-year old with breast cancer going through chemotherapy, has two children, ages 4 & 7. Not knowing her future, she and her husband decided it would be best to terminate the pregnancy. Her insurance does not cover abortions. NAF granted \$300 and CFWEF \$250.

Olivia, a 30-year with two children now living with her parents because of domestic violence, arrived at the clinic with her body covered with bruises. Following the procedure, she planned on moving out of state to escape her husband. The patient was only able to provide \$200 and CFWEF paid the rest.

Clarice, a 42-year old woman lost her home during hurricane Irma. She and her family had been living a shelter. NAF granted \$350 and CFWEF covered the balance of \$200.

Connie, 37 years old, three children, diagnosed with ovarian cancer decided to terminate the pregnancy before beginning chemotherapy.

How You Can Help

Donations to the Fund are tax deductible. Our address is CFWEF P.O. Box 536522, Orlando, Florida 32853. We are now able to receive credit card donations on-line www.cflwef.org. When a donation is made, we are notified by email so that the standard tax donation letter can be sent out. Because our staff is all volunteer, almost every dollar you contribute is used to assist desperate women throughout Central Florida. Your support over the years has helped hundreds of cases like those listed above. Thank you so much.