

PRETERM ANNUAL REPORT

RELEASED JULY 2011

One Story at a Time



We're excited to bring you Preterm's first online annual report. This virtual report helps us reduce costs in these tight economic times while giving us lots of room to share our stories with you.

At Preterm we have the rare privilege of listening to women talk about their lives. We hear about the circumstances that brought them to the decision to end their pregnancies. We learn about their daily struggles to give their children a good life or to realize their own hopes and dreams.



Most of the debate about abortion is missing the simple truths that come from hearing women's stories. A recent poll found that people who know someone who has had an abortion are much more likely to support keeping abortion legal and accessible. In fact, we all know someone who has had an abortion, but we seldom talk about it.

As an abortion provider we respect women's right to privacy around their abortion decisions. But as a society we can no longer afford the secrecy around those decisions. We share our stories in the hopes it will encourage others to share theirs. Together we can end the silence—one story at a time.



CONTENTS

Let's Talk	2
Our Stories	3
Women's Stories	6
The Inside Story	8

Preterm's Mission

Preterm advances women's health and reproductive justice by providing safe, respectful and accessible abortion care.

Board of Directors

Laura Hauser, President
April Alvis
Sue Berlin
Joyce Jentoft, PhD
Gail Long
Keith Mathews, MBA, CPA
Dorothy Miller, PhD
Beki Poitras
Linda Robson
Dallas Schubert
Amanda Shaffer, MA
Lauren Tews Harbert, MPH
Chrisse France,
Executive Director

Let's Talk...

by *Chrissy France, Executive Director*

Every day Preterm works to create a positive, nurturing environment for women in need of abortion services, but lately it has been hard to stay upbeat. ■ **There's an incredible backlash going on against abortion.**

We're in the thick of it in Ohio, where legislators have introduced seven anti-choice bills just since January. Among them is the "heartbeat" bill banning abortions after the sixth week of pregnancy and a "viability" ban on abortions after 20 weeks. A recent court ruling on medication abortion put this safe and early option out of reach for most women in our state. And this is just the early stages of the anti-abortion tidal wave.



■ **The news is so bad that women are calling us to ask if abortion is still legal!**

I'm angry for the women who are no longer allowed to choose a medication abortion. I'm worried about the women who will be denied later abortions because they struggled too long trying to get the money together. I'm afraid for the women who will need later abortions because of their health or a fetal anomaly. I'm sad for all the women who are trying to better their lives and are shamed into believing that their decisions are morally wrong and irresponsible.

■ **I'm also optimistic that we can do something about it.**

The Public Religion Research Institute just released a report based on one of the largest polls ever conducted about abortion attitudes in this country. Among their conclusions was that, although many of us are morally conflicted about abortion, a solid majority (56%) believe that it should remain legal in all or most circumstances. The study also found that knowing someone who has had an abortion has a significant impact on

public support for abortion. ■ **Those who know someone are more in favor of keeping abortion legal (61% vs. 49%) and having abortion services available in their communities (65% vs. 48%).**

The study confirmed what we already knew to be true: we can make a difference by simply talking about our personal experiences with abortion. This was the rationale behind Preterm's "My Abortion, My Life" campaign which we launched in 2010. You can read more about the campaign in this annual report or visit our website at www.myabortionmylife.org.

■ **Our campaign is based on the simple premise that honest dialog about abortion can begin to shift the public debate and end the shame and secrecy.** Women who have had abortions will no longer feel so alone. Women who are considering abortion will be supported to make good decisions for themselves and their families. ■ **The public will begin to view abortion as part of the full spectrum of women's reproductive lives and health.** And hopefully our elected officials will listen.

■ **Talking openly about abortion—and listening with an open mind and open heart—may perhaps be the only way that we can stem the anti-abortion tide.**

So let's have a conversation. We'll tell you our story. We'd love to hear yours.

Millions of women's lives and futures will depend on it.

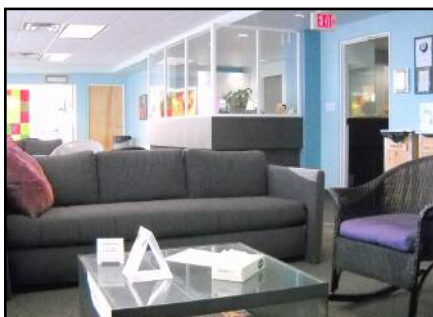


This quilt, made by board members, welcomes women to the second floor waiting room.

Our Stories...

LEED at Last!

After more than three years of building and operations improvements, Preterm became the first medical facility in the nation to be



Abundant natural light, low VOC paints, and recycled carpet tiles make our waiting rooms green and comfortable for visitors.

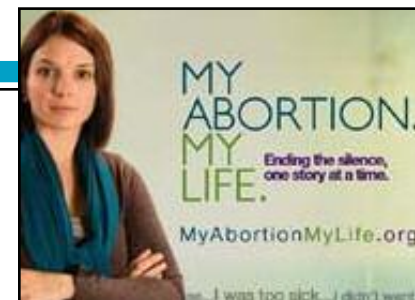
awarded LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver certification for an existing building. Many new buildings are being constructed to meet LEED standards for environmental sustainability, but transforming an existing building is rare, especially for a small organization like Preterm. This achievement embodies our conviction that environmental health and sustainability are intimately linked to women's health and reproductive justice. Read our press release to learn more.

Or better yet, call us to schedule a tour and see what a green medical clinic looks like.

Launch of "My Abortion, My Life: Ending the Silence One Story at a Time"

We launched our "My Abortion, My Life" public awareness campaign with a forum featuring Charlotte Taft, executive director of the Abortion Care Network. Her presentation was called "What Does It Take to Silence 50 Million Women?" and addressed the stigmatization of abortion and its impact on women and society. "My Abortion, My Life" is an ongoing campaign that includes public forums, house parties, street advertising, and social media designed

to foster positive dialog and reduce stigma around abortion through the sharing of abortion experiences. Check out the www.myabortionmylife.org website to learn more.



Volunteers have distributed thousands of hotcards carrying our campaign message.

Training the Physicians of the Future

Because so few abortions are performed in hospitals, ob/gyn and family practice physicians rely on places like Preterm to learn about high quality abortion care. Last year we expanded our role as a training facility to include medical students as well as medical residents. We offer educational experiences ranging from half-day observations to in-depth training over several weeks. Seventy residents and students participated in training sessions during 2010.

"I've learned a great deal about the abortion process as a whole—from the counseling room to sonogram to the procedure room. I appreciated being able to sit in on counseling sessions and hear what patients are told about the procedures performed and to listen to how the counselors spoke to women about their complex feelings of shame, guilt, sadness and relief. It made me proud to see how the women were treated with such respect and kindness."

— a third-year medical student

Our Stories...

Contributing to a Better Understanding of Women's Health

Preterm was one of 30 clinics across the country that participated in a "Turnaway Study" to investigate the mental health, physical health, and socioeconomic outcomes of receiving an abortion compared to carrying an unwanted pregnancy to term. Conducted by ANSIRH (Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health) at the University of California, San Francisco's Bixby Center for Reproductive Health, the study compares the experience of women who receive an abortion and women who are declined an abortion because they're too far along in their pregnancies. To date, most research has focused on whether elective abortion causes mental health problems and has been conducted by individuals with an agenda of making abortion illegal and inaccessible. The ANSIRH researchers are following participants over five years and will begin to release results in late 2011.



Protesters march in front of Preterm as part of a national "40 Days for Life" campaign.

The Plague of Protesters

Anti-abortion picketers came out in greater numbers than ever to harass our patients and staff, displaying posters, distributing leaflets, and urging our patients to "save" their babies. We hired off-duty police to supplement our security measures, which include cameras, an onsite security guard, and a metal detector.

During the year protesters made 1,456 appearances. We're grateful to our Pledge-a-Picketer supporters, who contributed a total of \$2,666 in monthly donations based on the number of protesters. If you want to join this generous team of supporters, please visit our website at www.preterm.org and click on Support Us.

Finding Peace

Preterm's Reflection Room continued to serve as a place for meditation and spiritual comfort. This multi-faith sanctuary, which we created in 2008, offers patients and their significant others prayers, affirmations, and other resources to help them find peace and clarity



Patients and their families can visit Preterm's Reflection Room for spiritual comfort.

around their abortion decisions. Feedback from patients included, "It helped me talk with my partner, we cried together and healed each other," and "It affected me a lot, I said a prayer and it kept me calm."

Our Stories...

Staff and Board Highlights

Dallas Schubert, chair of Preterm's board of directors for six years, stepped down from her role but continues to volunteer her immense skills and talents.



Laura Hauser

Laura Hauser became the new chair of Preterm's board of directors. She brings to Preterm a passion for women's rights and abortion access as well as her legal knowledge as a partner with Thompson Hine LLP.

Dr. Lisa Perriera joined our team of doctors as part of a collaboration with University Hospitals, allowing us to expand our services through 23 weeks of pregnancy. Nationally less than a quarter of providers offer abortion services beyond 20 weeks so we're pleased to be able to offer our high quality care to women seeking later abortions.

Jamie Hecker, Preterm's director of patient services, retired after 34 years of service. She was instrumental in fostering our compassionate and comprehensive approach to patient counseling. Preterm promoted three staff members to take over her director responsibilities.

Preterm's adoption specialist and director of counseling **Samara Knox** was a workshop panelist at the annual conference of the Abortion Care Network. She discussed how Preterm integrates adoption services into our clinic to better support women's full range of pregnancy options.



Preterm patient advocate Chelsea Doohan conducts weekly yoga classes to help staff relax and rejuvenate.

As part of our commitment to our employees' health and welfare, we started offering weekly on-site yoga classes conducted by staff member and professional yoga instructor **Chelsea Doohan**.

Preterm ended the year with a staff of **44 dedicated professionals**. As a testament to their compassionate and competent care, we achieved patient satisfaction ratings ranging from 97% to 100% during the year.



(left to right) Preterm board members Linda Robson, Sue Berlin, and April Alvis joined executive director Chrissy France and outgoing board president Dallas Schubert to host an open house for Preterm staff and their families.

Women's Stories...

■ "I am a full time student about to graduate within a year with two degrees. Without this I would've had to put school on hold. My body cannot handle pregnancy – I get extremely sick and put on bed rest. At this point in my life, it would be a disaster and possibly ruin everything I have worked so hard to achieve."

■ "During my teen years, I was very involved in my church youth group. One of our activities was protesting abortion clinics. I held



up signs letting people know that abortion kills children. I told people that abortion was murder. Then I became pregnant and unmarried at a young age and I knew I would keep my baby. Being a mom completely changed my life for good. I went on to have 3 more children. It's not easy, but it is awesome.

Having them helped me to see that being a parent is not for everyone. It's an important job and takes a lot of work. I also realized it's not for everyone and should not be forced on anyone. My opinion on abortion changed dramatically at 37. I was dealing with a failing marriage, a lot of debt, and 4 kids that kept me extremely busy. Still, I knew I would not be able to keep this baby. I was in love with the idea of being pregnant, and while I was I let this child know that I was grateful for the sacrifice it was going to make. Having a safe, supportive place to go for my abortion made it a much easier decision. There was no judgment, no pressure. I was surprised to meet many women here in my exact situation. The "other side" leads you to believe in a stereotype of women who have abortions and of the clinics. None of it

was true. I feel very lucky to be able to make my own choice. I made the best choice for the 4 beautiful kids I already have at home."

■ "I am a single mother of two, working and going to community college. I would like to thank you for your help so that I can continue my education without interruptions and be a productive part of the world and my children's lives."

■ "I am a struggling parent who was working full time until October 2010. I hurt my shoulder at work, which led to my losing my job and falling into financial hardship. Recently, I learned I was pregnant. Myself and my fiancé, who I already have a 4-year-old daughter with, came to the conclusion that we just cannot afford another child at the moment. Thank you for assisting me and my family."

■ "I am only 14, so if I couldn't get an abortion I would be in my first year of high school with a baby, and I have no money to pay for it, so it would be a horrible life for me, my family, and the baby. Also, it wouldn't have much of a father figure. Thank you."

■ "I am a struggling mother of two. I recently found that with this pregnancy the child has a very rare chromosomal disease. I would not be able to take care of a disabled child and provide my other



Preterm staff chalked the sidewalk with positive messages to counteract protesters.

Women's Stories...

two children with the care and attention they need. Nor will I be able to provide this baby with the attention and care it will need. I am so thankful I was able to receive financial assistance; without it this procedure would not have been possible and I am forever grateful."



■ "I'm 22 years old and had an abortion this past year. I love children and always was pro-choice but never thought I would actually have my own abortion. I found out I was pregnant this year 2 weeks after my then boyfriend domestically assaulted me and then left town. At first I had every intention of giving the baby up for adoption but as the first few weeks progressed the father of the child decided he

wanted to be a part of the child's life, and would not take no for an answer. As some of you may know, if one parent of the child does not want it to be put up, then it cannot be. I was devastated that I wouldn't be able to help a family because I know there are many people who cannot have children of their own that would make great parents. The father then wouldn't leave me alone even though there was a restraining order on him. He was not only abusive but over time I came to terms with the fact that he was a sociopath, someone so out of touch with reality that he was dangerous. I am not one to just throw a term out there like that either, I did my research and it took me a long time to actually admit that it was

true. I was scared for myself and my child. Living in fear of what could be or what kind of life my child was going to be subject to. I knew in my heart that this wasn't right. I made my decision to terminate my pregnancy and within a week I went in for surgery. I DO NOT and WILL NOT ever regret what I did. At that time it was what was right for my child and my life. You always must stand up for what you believe is right no matter what people think, this is your life, you are the one that lives it, nobody else."



Message walls around the clinic let patients leave messages of support for each other.

To read more women's stories and to share your own, visit Abortion Stories on preterm.org or Sharing Our Stories on myabortionmylife.org



The Inside Story...

INCOME & EXPENSES

for fiscal year ending June 30, 2010

Income

Fees for medical services	\$2,010,457
Annual contributions & grants*	662,649
Investment income	254,046
Other	21,316
	\$2,948,468

Expenses

Clinic	\$2,493,715
Education & advocacy	37,066
Administration	136,618
Development	165,662
	\$2,833,061

*Includes \$42,322 in capital campaign contributions to Preterm's green transformation

Abortion Funding

for fiscal year ending June 30, 2010

To help overcome the economic barriers to abortion and advance reproductive justice, Preterm provides financial assistance in the form of subsidies and grants to low-income and uninsured women. Much of this assistance goes to women on Medicaid because Ohio bans Medicaid coverage for abortion.

Total financial assistance	\$557,182
Number of clients receiving assistance	4,498
Percent of clients receiving assistance	91.7%

Preterm has provided \$6.6 million in subsidies and grants to more than 80,000 women since we opened in 1974.

Clients Served

for fiscal year ending June 30, 2010

Abortion services

Medication abortions	624
First trimester surgical abortions	3,244
Second trimester surgical abortions	1,035
Total abortions	4,903

Emergency contraception 199

Walk-in pregnancy testing 1,531

Other services 564

Total clients served 7,197

Total clinic visits 14,063

Thank you

Our deepest gratitude to the 338 individuals, foundations, and organizations who supported our work last year through contributions to our Access Fund for indigent patients, our general operating fund, and our capital campaign.

To continue to support us or to join our family of supporters, please visit our website at www.preterm.org and click on Support Us or click here to go directly to our online donations page.