

## What Does IMAF Do?

Every year across the U.S., tens of thousands of poor women and teens are forced to carry a pregnancy to term because they cannot afford to pay for an abortion. Many thousands more would be denied this fundamental right if not for community-based funds like IMAF that help women pay for abortions.

The mission of IMAF is to raise funds for loans to Iowa women needing an abortion. For years, IMAF has relied on supporters largely in East Central Iowa, but diminished funding to women from state and federal programs has increased the demands on fund providers like IMAF.

We must expand our donor base. Today 28% of our requests for loans come from central Iowa, yet the majority of our donations come from a geographically limited donor list in east central Iowa.

IMAF is the only independent abortion fund provider not associated with a clinic in the state of Iowa, and we provide loans to

women across the state. We cannot meet the need for funds throughout the year without finding additional contributors .

Already in 2006, we have been forced to refuse requests for help for three months because of funding shortfalls. It is impossible to budget because the demand varies from week to week and the cost of the procedure has doubled in the last ten years.

Abortion access is a matter of justice. The Hyde Amendment and governmental limits to Medicaid funding deny abortion rights and reproductive freedom to the most disadvantaged women in society – those who depend on the government for their health care. Other obstacles to abortion

access that burden poor women include mandatory waiting periods, mandatory parental involvement laws, and the shortage of abortion providers. Because it takes so long for poor women to find the money for an abortion, they tend to have later and more costly abortions.

**Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, Iowa ranked:**

- ◆ 48th in service availability;
- ◆ 10th in laws and policies;
- ◆ 39th in public funding, and
- ◆ 36th overall.

## A New IMAF Initiative: Take2

The fact is that we have not yet reached most Iowans who are willing and able to contribute. This summer, IMAF is asking our supporters to help to reach more pro-choice people, and ensure continued abortion loan assistance to Iowa women. How?

Simply TELL A FRIEND about the IMAF. This is the IMAF **Take 2 Initiative**: Two response envelopes – one for you, and one for a friend – are included to help spread the word about IMAF.

IMAF maintains strict standards of confidentiality ; however, with discretion comes the problem of low recognition across the state, and a modest donor pool. That fact

can spell tragedy to the women forced to carry a pregnancy to term that they are physically, emotionally or economically unable to support. because they cannot afford the \$400-\$500 for an abortion.

IMAF supporters understand that there are many hard reasons abortion is a necessary option. We honor a woman's wisdom to know what is best for her. We respect her right to choose. We strive to keep economic constraints from limiting reproductive freedom of Iowa women.

Remember to **Take2**: tell a friend or a co-worker about IMAF. Share this newsletter, recommend people to our mailing list, or visit our website. Spread the word!



*The freedom to choose abortion should be available to all women regardless of income. IMAF helps fill the financial gap when women lack the resources to pay.*

*As many as one in three low-income women who would have an abortion if the procedure were covered by Medicaid are instead compelled to carry the pregnancy to term.*

*IMAF is the second-oldest fund in the nation, and assists women in financial need throughout Iowa.*

Visit the IMAF web site for info and easy giving:

[www.imafund.org](http://www.imafund.org)

Iowa has the 8th lowest teenage pregnancy rate of any state. Of the 6,020 teenage pregnancies each year in Iowa, 63% result in live births and 22% end in abortions.

Abortion access is an important matter of racial justice as well as economic justice and women's rights



Every public dollar spent on family planning services saves the federal and state government three dollars in Medicaid costs for prenatal and newborn care.

# imaf iowa medical aid fund

## Timed donations help everybody

Do you hate getting letters repeatedly imploring you for money — even from your favorite organization? We can now offer a simple solution: tell us how much you'd like to contribute and how often (monthly? quarterly?)

Your designated amount will be applied according to your instructions, and you can enjoy the great feeling of supporting IMAF without receiving repeated mailings and the fuss of writing checks.

We will send you a statement for your tax records instead of more requests for contributions — nice!

For IMAF, it means we know we can count on your donation and help more women receive funds.

## IMAF Endowment

Imagine: *this month, twice the bills you planned on have appeared, and your income has suddenly dropped without warning. Last month was totally different: there was plenty of money and bills were paid. You have no idea what will be due next month.*

That's how it is with IMAF: there is no way of anticipating how many women will need funds, or when the ensuing clinic bills will arrive, or if contributions will be coming in when the need is greatest.

To stabilize IMAF's finances, John and Polly Ely created an endowment with a generous initial gift in 2005. Thanks to their foresight and stewardship, IMAF can count on regular endowment income. The greater the endowment, the greater the financial buffer will be in lean times. As the endowment grows, IMAF's ability to help women in need is ensured. Please consider contributing. Check our web site for more information: [www.imafund.org](http://www.imafund.org).

## Where Are the Abortion Providers?

- ◆ In 2000, there were 1,819 abortion providers in the United States. This represents an 11% decrease from 1996, when there were 2,042 abortion providers. 33% of these providers were hospitals, 25% were abortion clinics (clinics where more than half of all patient visits were for abortion), 21% were clinics where fewer than half of all visits were for abortion, and 21% were private physicians' offices. 71% of all abortions were provided at abortion clinics, 22% at other clinics, 5% at hospitals and 2% at private physicians' offices.
- ◆ In 2000, there were 8 abortion providers in Iowa. This represents no change from 1996, when there were 8 abortion providers.
- ◆ In 2000, 87% of U.S. counties had no abortion provider. 1/3 of American women lived in these counties, which meant they would have to travel outside their county to obtain an abortion. Of women obtaining abortions in 2000, 25% traveled at least 50 miles, and 8% traveled more than 100 miles.
- ◆ In 2000, 95% of Iowa counties had no abortion provider. 64% of Iowa women lived in these counties. In the Midwest census region, where Iowa is located, 28% of women having abortions traveled at least 50 miles, and 10% traveled more than 100 miles.
- ◆ In Iowa, 2 metropolitan areas lack an abortion provider: Dubuque, Waterloo-Cedar Falls.

Source: Alan Guttmacher Institute, "State Facts about Abortion" (2006)

### It's Auction time! October 21, 2006

Save this date to attend our annual auction

Tapas, wine and desserts are on the menu



If you are not already on our mailing list, please return the form on the back of this newsletter or visit our web site.

## Facts about Abortion

Abortion is a common experience: At current rates, about one in three American women will have had an abortion by the time she reaches age 45.

Moreover, a broad cross section of U.S. women have abortions. 56% of women having abortions are in their 20s; 61% have one or more children; 67% have never married; 57% are economically disadvantaged; 88% live in a metropolitan area; and 78% report a religious affiliation. No racial or ethnic group makes up a majority: 41% of women obtaining abortions are white non-Hispanic, 32% are black non-Hispanic, 20% are Hispanic and 7% are of other racial backgrounds.

Contraceptive use is a key predictor of women's recourse

to abortion. The very small group of American women who are at risk of experiencing an unintended pregnancy but are not using contraceptives account for almost half of all abortions—46% in 2000. Many of these women did not think they would get pregnant or had concerns about contraceptive methods.

The remainder of abortions occur among the much larger group of women who were using contraceptives in the month they became

pregnant. Many of these women report difficulty using contraceptives consistently.

Abortion is one of the safest surgical procedures for women in the United States. Fewer than 0.5% of women obtaining abortions experience a complication, and the risk of death associated with abortion is about one-tenth that associated with childbirth.

In the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a woman, in consultation with her physician, has a constitutionally protected right to choose

abortion in the early stages of pregnancy—that is, before viability.

In 1992, the Court upheld the basic right to abortion in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. However, it also expanded the ability of the states to

enact all but the most extreme restrictions on women's access to abortion.

The most common restrictions in effect are parental notification or consent requirements for minors, state-sponsored counseling and waiting periods, and limitations on public funding.

Source: Alan Guttmacher Institute, "Facts About Abortion" (2006)

*Abortion is one of the safest surgical procedures for women in the United States.*

In most states, Medicaid rarely covers abortion. Yet the cost of a first-trimester abortion can be more than a family on public assistance receives in a month. Even many working women do not have enough extra money for an abortion. Poor women and girls delay their abortions as they try to scrape together the money they need. Often, these delays can force them into more expensive and complicated second-trimester abortions. Sometimes, they never get the money they need. As many as one in three poor women, who would obtain an abortion if the state paid for it, are forced to carry the pregnancy to term because they do not have the money to pay the cost of a safe, legal abortion.

Source: NNAF June 2006

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Visit our new website at  
<[www.imafund.org](http://www.imafund.org)>

## OUTREACH Response: Mail-in or online!

**T**o help IMAF operate effectively and to make the most of the resources and ideas you, our supporters, have to offer, please take the time to complete this form, share this newsletter with others, and visit our website for more contribution options. Donations over \$50 will receive a receipt for tax purposes.

- I know a group that would like to hear more about IMAF's mission, history and needs:

Name of Group \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person/e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to receive information and requests via e-mail. (Note address below)  
 I know someone who would like to know more about IMAF. Please contact them by:

e-mail or  snail mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to receive information about the 2006 IMAF Auction on Oct. 21 in Cedar Rapids.  
 Please contact me because  
 I am interested in making regularly timed donations to IMAF's general fund.  
 I am interested in a larger, one-time donation to IMAF's Ely Endowment Fund.  
 I'm enclosing a donation to IMAF general fund today.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

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*Restrictions on  
Abortion in Iowa,  
As of December  
2005:*

*The parent of a minor  
must be notified  
before an abortion  
is provided.*

*Public funding is  
available for abortion  
only in cases of  
life endangerment,  
rape, incest or fetal  
abnormality*



*Visit the IMAF  
web site for info  
and easy giving:*

[www.imafund.org](http://www.imafund.org)