

## OUR HISTORY

The Fountain Street Church Choice Fund has been in existence for almost 40 years. Established prior to Roe v. Wade, it was originally connected with the Clergy for Counseling Problem Pregnancies.

In 1968, a group of five local ministers began offering “problem pregnancy” counseling to women in the Grand Rapids community. Requests for help came from women of all social, economic and religious backgrounds. It was a monumental task for this small group of committed clergy to meet the needs of local women.

Back-alley abortions were being performed, many with tragic results. The ministers, and some physicians in the area, were very concerned about women’s safety. They began making medical referrals to physicians and clinics overseas and assisted in coordinating the arrangements. A few “safe houses” within the United States were also identified that could perform medically-safe abortions.

In the 1973 landmark case of Roe v. Wade, the United States Supreme Court ruled 7-2 in favor of a woman’s constitutional right to obtain an abortion. Fountain Street Church ministers obtained a loan to establish the first abortion clinic in Grand Rapids. That loan was repaid within one year and women were finally able to receive safe, legal abortions in this community.

The fund continued to exist, but on a much smaller scale, until December 1988, when the state of Michigan placed a legislative ban on Medicaid funding for abortions. Since that time, through media coverage and word of mouth, referrals have increased dramatically.

To date, the Choice Fund has helped over 5,000 women. It is only through your private donations that this critical service continues to exist.

## DID YOU KNOW?

It is estimated that one in three American women will have an abortion by the age of 45.

48% are over 25 years of age.

35.6% are married.

88% report a religious affiliation.

More than 60% are economically disadvantaged.

No racial or ethnic group makes up a majority.

Approximately 5,000 women died each year from back-alley abortions before the U.S. legalized abortion in 1973.

89% of abortions are done in the first trimester.

88% of U.S. counties have no abortion provider.

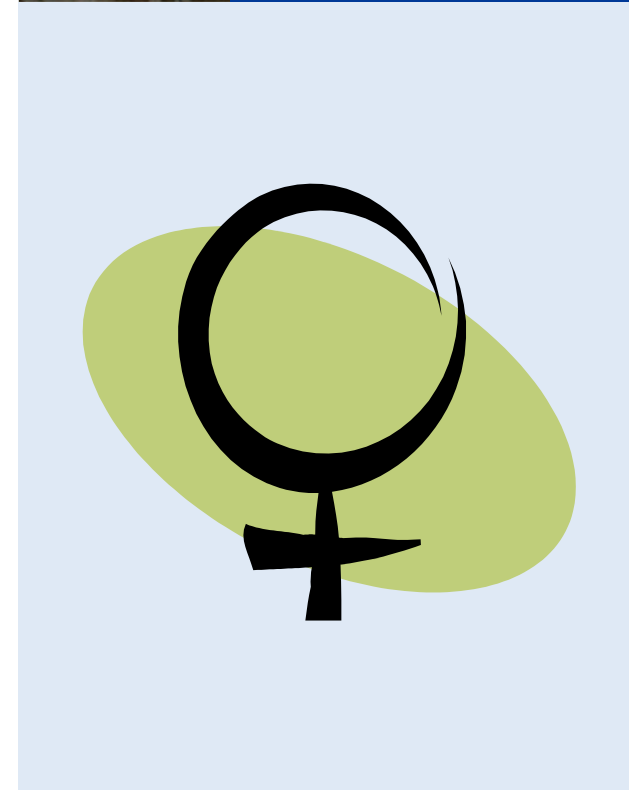
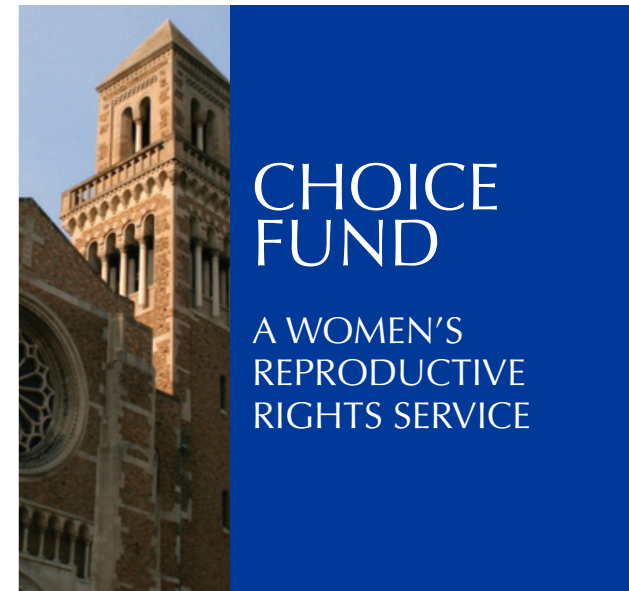
Abortion is one of the safest surgical procedures for women in the U.S. Fewer than 0.5% of women obtaining abortions experience a medical complication.

Over 500 bills limiting women’s access to abortion are filed in state legislatures every year, and over 350 anti-choice bills have become law in the past decade.

Sources:  
Guttmacher Institute  
National Abortion Federation



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*A woman’s right to  
make child-bearing decisions  
is fundamental to her right  
to control her own life.*



*A place to grow the soul*

# THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE

The Fountain Street Church Choice Fund is a privately funded program that provides loans to low income women seeking abortion services. It was founded, and endures, based on the qualities of compassion, appreciation, and respect...

- *compassion* for the women and families who face unintended pregnancies;
- *appreciation* for the difficult circumstances with which they struggle;
- *respect* for their capacity and their fundamental right to make their own decisions regarding pregnancy.

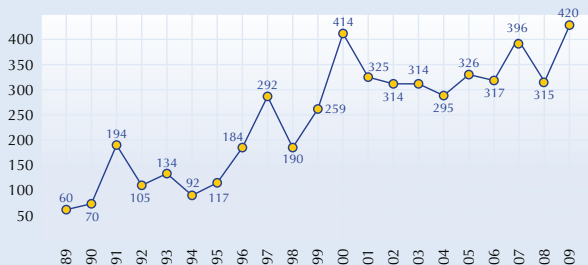
Because this is a privately funded program and not a part of the regular budget of the church, we depend on donations from individuals like *you* to support these women, their families, and their Right to Choose.

## LOCAL SERVICES

Local abortion services are provided through an accredited National Abortion Federation (NAF) clinic. NAF clinics must meet high standards for affiliation. Their counseling explores all available options and offers a wide range of resources to assist women in their decision-making.

Financial need is determined by the professionals at the clinics, who then make referrals to the Choice Fund. The Choice Fund is often the only available source of financial assistance. Calls have increased dramatically over the years.

## FSC CHOICE FUND CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE



History has shown that whether or not it is legal, safe, or sanctioned, abortion – by whatever means – will continue to occur.

## RESTRICTED ACCESS

Increasingly, the legal right to have an abortion does not guarantee that women will have access to services. Barriers include:

- a dramatic shortage of trained abortion providers
- fewer hospitals and clinics providing services
- restrictive state laws that cause unreasonable emotional and financial hardships
- threats of harassment and violence
- increasingly restrictive insurance coverage
- laws that threaten confidentiality of both patients and providers.

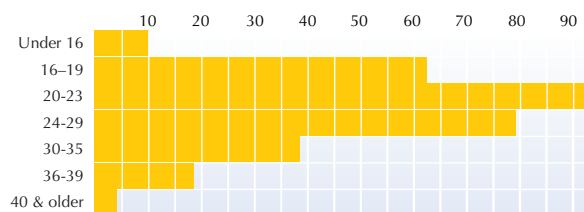
## A REALITY CHECK

**50% of pregnancies in the U.S. are unintended.**

The circumstances are as varied and unique as the individuals facing them. The challenges with which they are confronted include rape, incest, domestic violence, child abuse, drug addiction, poverty, illness, fetal abnormalities, lack of education and lack of family planning services.

Women confronted with unplanned pregnancies represent a diversity of social, ethnic, and religious backgrounds and a range of ages. What they have in common are private struggles and the desire for a better life for themselves and for their families.

## APPROVED FOR FUNDING BY AGE - 2009



# PLEASE HELP US HELP OTHERS

Please help regenerate a sense of hope for these women and families by donating to the Fountain Street Church Choice Fund. **95% of money received goes directly to support the women who need assistance.**

**CHECKS:** Please make payable to "FSC Choice Fund" and mail to:

Fountain Street Church  
24 Fountain Street SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

**CREDIT CARD:**  MasterCard  Visa

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*A receipt for your gift will be mailed to you.  
All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.*

*Thank you for your support.*