

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 1, 2021
Contact: Lucy Marshall
Phone: 630-399-2664
Email: bowlwmfwi@gmail.com



Women's Medical Fund Wisconsin Holds Virtual Fund-a-Thon to Raise Money For Abortion Support

MADISON/MILWAUKEE – Wisconsin activists are joining forces with Women's Medical Fund and the National Network of Abortion Funds to make reproductive justice a reality in Wisconsin. As people experience more barriers to abortion access than ever before during the pandemic, WMF Wisconsin and its supporters are rising up to offer critical care in the face of crisis.

People who are accessing abortion funding now need more financial support than ever. In 2020, WMF granted \$477,773 to support 1,124 people with their abortion costs, which was 25% more than the previous year, and the need is expected to increase even higher in 2021.

The hardships brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic are scaffolded on top of attacks on abortion access at the local and state level, and an anti-abortion majority on the Supreme Court poised to gut Roe vs. Wade.

- Wisconsin has among the most restrictive abortion laws in the nation. Low-income and rural folks are particularly hard hit by these laws. People of color are historically, and currently, prevented from accessing their reproductive options at higher rates than white people.
- There are only four abortion clinics in the state of Wisconsin (Milwaukee, Madison, and Sheboygan). Folks who live far away from these cities are forced to travel to these cities, acquiring burdens of travel costs, time off from work, child care, and other barriers.
- A first-trimester abortion in Wisconsin can cost \$650, including a mandatory counseling appointment at least 24 hours prior to when the abortion is performed.

Abortion funds are responding to this moment by showing the world that abortion is a necessary part of health care, that all people should have full insurance coverage, and that community care means making sure people can access the abortions they want and need.

"Now is the time for us to double down on our care for each other. We are excited that the community is coming together in a fun and positive way to dismantle the barriers that prevent people from getting the abortion care they seek and to support this crucial aspect of self-determination," says Katrina Morrison, Co-Chair of WMF's 2021 Fund-a-Thon.

WMF, which has been operating since 1972, is a group of volunteers organizing to help those struggling to access abortions make ends meet while receiving the care they deserve. In March and April, WMF will host a series of virtual Fund-a-Thon events and fundraising challenges as part of the National Abortion Access Fund-a-Thon. Fund-a-Thon participants and teams engage with their networks to raise not just money, but also awareness about barriers to abortion. Through the end of April, all donations are matched right now for double the impact.

Visit fund.nnaf.org/wmfwi to see how much has already been raised and join local events happening around Madison and Milwaukee.

###

For more information or to schedule an interview, contact Lucy Marshall at 630-399-2664 or bowlwmfwi@gmail.com