



SUMMER 2009

Our mission is to help provide funding for abortions for women and girls who are faced with an unintended or problem pregnancy, which they cannot afford to terminate. EMA will preserve their privacy and dignity, and make sure they are provided safe medical care.

"If you don't have money, you don't have a choice".

Harriette Glasner

The Loss of a Champion for Women's Lives

Women across the country have lost a true champion. The cold-blooded assassination of Dr. George Tiller in church Sunday May 31 is a **stark reminder that women's bodies are still a battleground**, and health care professionals are on the front lines. Dr. Tiller was one of only a few doctors who performed late abortions because of devastating fetal anomalies that if brought to term might only live hours or days in an ICU or because continuing the pregnancy would risk the mother's life. Despite astonishing levels of harassment, violence against him and his clinic, and constant assaults, Dr. Tiller never strayed from his commitment to reproductive health care and, in particular, his commitment to women and their families. Dr. Tiller explained his commitment to providing abortion care for women: "Make no mistake, this battle is about self-determination by women of the direction and course of their lives and their family's lives. Abortion is about women's hopes and dreams. Abortion is a matter of survival for women."

"The murder of Dr. George Tiller is an incalculable loss – to his family, to the women who need care at his clinic, to the providers still courageously assisting women, and to all of us in the reproductive rights and justice communities," said Stephanie Poggi of the National Network of Abortion Funds. "But to those who believe that the murder of Dr. George Tiller will set back the movement, we remember what George Tiller said when his clinic was bombed in 1986. He hung a sign outside the rubble that said, 'Hell, No. We Won't Go!' And he set up services in temporary quarters.

"In the face of this tragedy," said Poggi, "we will redouble our efforts to make sure all women get the abortion care they need – and all women are treated with dignity."

This is the story of patient we sent to Dr. Tiller a year ago:

"Cindy" was a 23 years old married woman with one 3 year old child. This was a planned pregnancy and she and her husband had just found out the extent of the fetal anomalies. The fetus had spina bifida with a very large hole and the brain was deformed. They'd been told if the child survived to term, its expected life span would maybe be 3 years and of course the medical expense would be astronomical. She consulted with several physicians and they all advised termination. Unfortunately...she was 29 weeks.

This family had seen some very hard economic times on top of this. Her husband had been unemployed for the past 6 months and just took a job making \$8.00 per hour. They had no medical insurance; she was on Medicaid which was no help with this problem (Medicaid will not pay for abortions). They lost their home and had to move in with "Cindy's" parents. Her father then lost his job and had not yet found another one and "Cindy" lost her job. The only vehicle that they had was repossessed, as well.

Your donations and those of many across the country helped send "Cindy" to Dr. Tiller.

The recession hits! Call volume doubled. Expenses Tripled.

Our fundraising for the 1st quarter was about on par for the same time last year, in spite of the current economic environment. However, our expenses **tripled** for the same period for 2 reasons:

	2008	2009 1st qtr	Apr & May '09	Total through May
Income				
# of patients	120	82	36	118
\$ donated	\$ 33,456	\$ 6,712	\$ 7,400	\$ 14,112
Grants	\$ 5,000			
Abortion Expenses	\$ 24,136	\$ 10,148	\$ 7,998	\$ 18,446
Projected needs for 2009 - \$40,592				

1) Our call volumes have increased by over 100% this year due mainly to the economic downturn with many of these women choosing to terminate because of a lost job or a lost home, resulting in EMA funding over twice as many women.

2) We had 5 cases of fetal anomalies recently. Because diagnosis is so late for these cases, the costs are much higher, \$1,500 to \$2,000, versus a 1st trimester abortion cost of \$500.

We have applied for several grants, but because our mission is to fund abortions, few foundations will support our services. Those that will take our application are already out of funds for 2009 because of the difficult economic climate; but, we are now applying for 2010. We are also working to expand our donor base. As with most charitable giving the bulk of donations comes from individuals like yourself who care deeply about an issue and support it as best they can.

After tabulating April's expenses and assessing the first quarter funding trend, we projected the money on hand would last through June. We approached several angel donors we knew would help us in an emergency. **A few of these generous, committed donors have graciously donated a combined \$10,000 with the expectation that our other supporters would at least match that. So the challenge is on... Send your donation today, and contact friends to support our work. Help us be strong and to grow to meet the expanding need. Let's at least double this donation by Labor Day! You may send your donation in memory of Dr. Tiller.**

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■ It takes a lot of courage to think about "choice". Many women don't ever think about abortion and most don't think it is something that will ever affect them. However, when a woman is faced with the decision of terminating a pregnancy, *her* pregnancy, she quickly discovers an entire new world of challenges. For many women they receive a crash course on judgment, faith, friendship, health care, and finances! More so, when a woman or a couple must make the decision to terminate because of a fetal anomaly or demise, the lessons come hard and fast with very little time to adjust to the idea of losing a pregnancy. This isn't a "choice" but a necessary component of women's health care.

■ EMA is very crucial to these women. When the details involved in termination seem almost overwhelming, the financial aspect is enough to cause many women to lose hope. EMA strives to help these women finance their procedure and possible travel arrangements, without having to decide whether to pay the electric bill or skimp on groceries.

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Author Addresses Standing Room Only Crowd

On March 23, 2009, in an effort to spread the EMA mission, the group invited author Elizabeth Brundage to Palm Beach County. While raising money and awareness for the much needed assistance fund, Ms. Brundage also reminded the audience that not only does it take courage to provide abortions, and raise money for abortions, it takes courage to write about the subject, as well. Her novel, *The Doctor's Wife*, tells the story of an abortion provider and a community which embraces the culture of hate surrounding the provider and its supporters. Most interesting was the difficulty the author faced while trying to get her book published since the subject matter dealt with abortion. At the level of her peers, editors and publicist, she was amazed to find the hypocrisy and disdain for her pro-choice views. She saw fear from so many in being involved in or connected to a controversial topic. Of course, she triumphed and the book was finally ready for the public. It is powerful and real, and reminds us all that the fight for reproductive freedom is still hanging by a thread.



We raised over \$4,000 at this event and made many new friends. To put this in perspective, our expenses for April were over \$5,000 due to several cases of fetal anomaly. We are very grateful to Ms. Brundage who also graciously provided copies of her new book, *Somebody Else's Daughter*, to sell as an additional fundraiser. EMA has 5 of the books left for sale at \$10 a piece and donations are always welcome to help the patients that call in need everyday.

This chart shows the expenses related to a pregnancy termination. We rarely fund a patient the total amount. We encourage them to raise as much money as possible. If they are eligible they also get funding from the National Abortion Federation. In an effort to stretch our money to help as many women as possible, we have instituted temporary caps on funding, limiting our funding to \$75 for 1st trimester abortions and \$175 for 2nd trimester abortions. But, we feel we must continue to make case by case exceptions for extreme situations, like fetal anomalies, health or life of the mother, and rape.

Since providers are limited in Florida we sometimes help women from outside our immediate area. Travel expenses then add to the costs. These cases are funded by the other funds in Florida. We have developed a collaborative procedure with other funds. We also help each other with particularly costly procedures.

What Does an Abortion Cost?

Costs of Abortions	
1st Trimester	\$450-\$500
Additional Costs	
Medications	\$50
RH Negative	\$90
Overweight	\$100
Cardiac Issues	\$100
Each Additional Week	\$75 - \$125
Travel Expenses	\$65/night
Birth Control	
Depo Provera	\$65

Your Donations At Work

"Christine" is a single mother with 2 children. The children's father is a truck driver who lost his job. He has a drinking problem and is in and out of their lives. He does not provide child support. She works as the manager of a restaurant and when she is able she makes \$280 per week. She was using birth control pills when she got pregnant and had decided to have the baby. Then at 21 weeks she found herself 3 cm dilated and having severe cramps. Her doctor couldn't do anything to help her because she was high risk. She went to the emergency room and was told that if she made it to 24 weeks they would sew up her cervix. Both suggested bed rest which was impossible. It is necessary that she keep her job to be able to care for her children.

The names of the patients have been changed to protect their privacy.

For more stories from our client base visit our web site :
<http://emawpb.org/clientstories.html>



"Jennifer" and her fiancé desperately wanted this baby as she had 2 girls from a previous marriage and he had 3 girls from his previous marriage. This child would be their first together and had been determined to be a boy. Sadly the fetus had a severe anomaly and she was told that it would not survive more than a few days after birth. Her doctor suggested that termination would be easier than to deal with the death and expense of a severely deformed baby. She was quoted \$2100. She works as the office manager at a gym and her hours had been cut back due to the economy. Prior to her cutbacks she made \$350 per week. Her fiancé works in construction but his hours had been cut back as well. They had \$800 but the procedure needed to be done that day in order for the price to not go up by another \$200.

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