

PO Box 200662  
Austin, TX 78720-0662

Phone/Fax: 877-659-4304  
Email: [info@lilithfund.org](mailto:info@lilithfund.org)  
[www.lilithfund.org](http://www.lilithfund.org)

## We're Open!

Our determination to open the Lilith Fund has only grown during this time of increased terrorism towards abortion providers and pro-choice advocates. So it is with great pride that we announce the opening of The Lilith Fund.

Currently we are working with clinics in Austin to provide financial assistance to low-income women, with plans to begin funding women throughout the state during 2002.

To see all our hard work finally come to fruition, even earlier than anticipated, is very exciting for us. When we came together at the beginning of the year, we knew that we had plenty of work to do and a lot to learn. In addition to incorporating, writing bylaws, attaining nonprofit status and setting up administrative procedures, we had to reach out to the community for funds.

We weren't daunted by these formidable tasks and we plunged right in, sponsoring events, participating on panel discussions about access, holding yard sales and anything else we could do to raise awareness and funds so we could begin helping the women of Texas.

In order to achieve our next goal of funding women from every corner of Texas, we will be

reaching out to concerned citizens across the state. To accomplish this we need your support. You can help us by asking your friends, family, co-workers and neighbors to support us. With your help, not only can we assist more women financially, but we can also reach another one of our goals: starting a practical support network throughout the state to provide women with assistance for transportation, lodging and childcare.

With the decline in abortion providers, assistance with transportation and lodging is vital in our goal to help women access abortion services. The vast rural areas of our state have no provider, which further limits low-income women who must travel to receive reproductive healthcare.

Prior to providing financial assistance, we provided counseling and referrals to women who called our toll-free hotline number. Recently Linda, a resident of Midland, called our hotline for help. Linda was too far along in her pregnancy to be seen by the only clinic in the Midland-Odessa area so she would have to travel to Dallas. Linda couldn't afford the gas or lodging expenses and also had a toddler and no babysitter to look after him.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Board of Directors:

Heather Busby, *President*  
Emily Cowley, *Vice-President*  
Chevit Meerdink, *Treasurer*  
Tish Garcia, *Secretary*

Amanda Acklin  
Cindy Beringer  
Melissa DeHaan  
Bryan Hadley  
Amy Juried  
Hanna Kim  
Lesley Ramsey  
Destin Ray Smith  
Katy Stein

## The Lilith Fund's Reception and Fundraiser: An Event to Remember!

On Sunday October 21<sup>st</sup>, more than thirty activists and supporters gathered in Austin at the home of Emily Cowley for the first house party benefiting the Lilith Fund.

The reception opened with a warm welcome and introduction to the Lilith Fund given by our hostess and a founding board member, Emily Cowley.

The featured speaker was Sarah Weddington, winning attorney in the landmark Supreme Court case, *Roe v. Wade*. Sarah eloquently described the hard-won victory that she and countless others fought for in order to secure the right to choose for American women. She described the barriers to abortion services and the criti-

*(Continued on page 2)*



Sarah Weddington, Liz Carpenter, Dorothy Juried and Board Member Amy Juried take time out from a discussion on how lack of access affects low-income women's ability to get an abortion to smile for the camera.



While showing us her book, "A Question of Choice," Sarah Weddington shares memories of when she argued *Roe v. Wade* before the Supreme Court. Before 1973, legal abortion was the issue of the day. Today one of the biggest threats to reproductive freedom is the lack of abortion access.

## The Lilith Fund's Reception and Fundraiser: An Event to Remember!

*(Continued from page 1)*

cal role that abortion funds, such as the Lilith Fund, play in the lives of women.

We were also delighted to have a surprise guest of honor, **Liz Carpenter**, former press secretary to Lady Bird Johnson! Liz talked about how far the pro-choice movement has come yet how much work we still have to accomplish. Also, State Representative **Elliott Naishtat** articulated his struggles for pro-choice legislation in the House of Representatives and stressed

the importance of voting for pro-choice candidates. It was an inspirational afternoon for both seasoned supporters and new activists.

The reception was a great success and we wish to thank our sponsors, Word of Mouth Catering, Austin Rent-All, Private Affairs Catering, and Amy Juried for the unbelievably delicious cuisine; as well as those who attended and generously contributed to the Lilith Fund. We couldn't have been successful without you!

## We're Open!

*(Continued from page 1)*

Linda felt she couldn't turn to her strict Catholic family for help. She needed help paying for the abortion, finding a place to stay, arranging for transportation and finding someone to care for her child. We were able to help her find a hotel near the clinic and refer her to other funds that could help with her financial needs. We also worked with her to assess her own resources and determine how she could find someone to care for her child while she went to her appointment.

Linda was so appreciative of the assistance we were able to provide that she expressed an interest in helping other women in her area and decided to donate her time to the Planned Parenthood of West Texas.

Linda's case is not unique. Many women

in Texas could benefit from abortion assistance funds and a practical support network. Linda's case also illustrates one of our lesser-known objectives: to empower women to discover their own resources and become advocates in their own community.

The Lilith Fund is excited to be able to help women like Linda. Now that we're open, we have plenty of hard work ahead of us, especially as we work towards opening statewide and developing a practical support network. We depend on you to help us with monetary and in-kind contributions as well as volunteer support. We couldn't do this work without you. Thank you for your commitment to reproductive rights and in making the theoretical "right to choose" a concrete reality!

### Holiday Shopping at iGive.com

Think of how much money could go to the Lilith Fund if supporters did their holiday shopping at [www.iGive.com/lilith](http://www.iGive.com/lilith), where up to 25% of every purchase is donated to the Lilith Fund! At iGive.com, membership is free! So hurry up and visit the Mall at iGive.com, where you can shop at 240+ stores for all your holiday shopping and you'll be helping the Lilith Fund with no extra costs or obligations to you or us.



## Interested in Becoming a Hotline Advocate?

The Lilith Fund needs people who are dedicated to helping women access their reproductive choices in a supportive and non-judgmental manner. Abortion or pregnancy options counseling experience is not required, just an open mind and a pro-choice attitude. All training is provided.

We're currently collecting names for our first hotline training. Contact Chevit for more information at [chevit@lilithfund.org](mailto:chevit@lilithfund.org) or leave a message on the Lilith voicemail at 877-659-4304.

## Partying All the Way to Opening Day

October and November were busy months for the Lilith Fund. In addition to the house party with Sarah Weddington, we also held a concert fundraiser at the Empanada Parlour and a dj party at a private residence. Both events were huge successes and everyone had a great time!

We would like to thank Ash Corea & the staff of the Empanada Parlour for opening up on a Sunday evening & letting us hold our concert and a huge thank you and job well done to the wonderful bands that played that evening: Rajamani Trio, Divahn and Ojalá. We'd also like to thank Motorblade.com for posting flyers about this event and a warm thanks to all the volunteers that helped out that evening: Karen Banks, Aimee Edwards, Shana Ginsberg, John Kinsey, Jason Mercado, Christina Worle, Martha Norkunas and her three wonderful children. And thank you, Jessica McLaren, for bringing the delicious baked goods!

As many of you are probably aware, the Empanada Parlour is involved in a lawsuit with the nearby Sheraton Hotel. In addition to being so

supportive of Lilith, the Empanada Parlour has been a friend to many groups who work for social justice and local musicians. Ash and the staff of the Empanada Parlour are wonderful people. When you're in Austin, please make an effort to go out and support this local business by seeing a show or stopping by for drinks, pool or a nice evening on the back patio.

And finally, many thanks to Debbie Russell & her roommates for letting us party at their house. And we'd also like to thank the dj's who gave their time and shared their talent with us: dj DCYPL with 781 Crew-On the Level Productions, dj DanK with Prana Audio and DrewP. We're also grateful to the Ra Kapura fire goddesses for their amazing fire dancing performance. And finally, thanks to Joe Cuniff with i2I group for designing the flyer for this event.

Kudos to everyone involved in these events and thanks to all who came! We look forward to seeing you at the next one.



All-female group Divahn got the audience moving with their soulful & rockin' renditions of Middle Eastern & Sephardic songs drawn from the diverse traditions of the Jewish Diaspora and Israel.

## Even the smallest gift...

The Lilith Fund happily accepts in-kind donations. You may also designate your financial contributions for any of these items.

- Free or Greatly Reduced Small Office Space— just a room would be great! Now that we are open, a central administration location is a must! Please email Heather directly at [heather@lilithfund.org](mailto:heather@lilithfund.org)
- Office Supplies: copy paper, printer ink cartridges (HP45, HP78, HP26), ink jet address labels, pens, three-ring notebooks, #10 business envelopes, etc
- Digital Camera
- Tape Recorder
- Bulletin Board
- Fax Machine
- Copier
- Desk & Chairs
- Bookcase/Storage Shelving
- File Cabinet



## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Want to make a difference in the lives of women across the state of Texas? Are you dedicated to reproductive rights and want to do more? Financial contributions are the best way to help a woman in need, but the work of the Lilith Fund cannot be done without hard work and **WE NEED YOU!**

Volunteers are essential to the nonprofit world. Many organizations couldn't do their important work without the help of volunteers and the Lilith Fund is no different. As we continue to learn and grow, assistance from the community will play a vital role in what this organization becomes over the next few years. Please join us! We need volunteers to help with:

- General office help including administrative support, data entry, filing, etc.
- Special events including tabling at community events, mailings, phone banking, etc
- Event planning & staffing
- Writing, editing & mailing solicitation letters
- Researching, writing & editing grants
- Answering hotline calls & case management
- Graphics design
- Writing newsletter articles
- Assistance with flyering & promotional activities
- Be creative! How could you contribute to the Lilith Fund? Do you have any innovative fundraising idea?

Contact Heather to learn more at [heather@lilithfund.org](mailto:heather@lilithfund.org) or leave a message on the Lilith voicemail at 877-659-4304.

# LilithFund, Inc.

PO Box 200662  
Austin, TX 78720-0662

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

77844+6173 20



Please detach here and return bottom portion with your tax-deductible gift to Lilith Fund, Inc.



Yes, I believe that a legal right to an abortion is not enough! I want ALL women to have access to abortion.

Enclosed is my gift in the amount of:

\$50  \$75  \$150  \$300  \$1,000  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to become a sustaining sponsor of the Lilith Fund in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month. I have enclosed a voided check.

*A gift at this level will help one woman afford an abortion.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

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

List my name as a contributor.  I prefer to be listed as an anonymous contributor.

- Please keep me informed about access to reproductive health care & events. Add my email to the alert listserve.
- Please contact me about volunteering opportunities.
- I am enclosing names and addresses of people who may be interested in supporting Lilith.

Please make your tax-deductible gift to Lilith Fund and mail to:

Lilith Fund  
PO Box 200662  
Austin, TX 78720-0662