



A Fund for Reproductive Equity

LILITH'S VOICE

WINTER 2005

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We've Reopened

With a Little Help From Our Friends

When the Lilith Fund Hotline Committee realized we had to [close down the hotline](#), we did not know how soon we could reopen. It was a shocking revelation that, due to the massive increase of phone calls and helping Katrina victims, we were simply out of funds! Though this was not a decision to be taken lightly, we did what was the best for us as a fund and in turn best for the women of Texas. After phoning all of the clinics we sat back, took a collective deep breath and thought, "Now what?"

Moiv, in Dallas, knew what to do. She wrote. On [her blog](#) she poured out her passion for what she believes in and told the story none of us could – the story of the lost women of Katrina, and the fund taken down in her wake. And she included a plea for donations to help Texas women.

Moiv's post was then picked up by major blogging sites like the [Daily Kos](#) and like a little snowball at the top of a hill, this diary entry started to roll...and get bigger and

bigger. Responses numbered over 80 posts, ranging from "How sad" to "What can I do?" Donations totaling \$3,900 poured in through our website and PO box by December 1. These donations, representing 20 states plus the United Kingdom, showed that people nationally and internationally care about Texas women.

We found ourselves in a unique position, thanks to Moiv and the donors spurred to action by her post, to reopen sooner than we hoped. As an early Christmas present to the women of Texas, in honor of their "benefactors", the Lilith Fund reopened on December 15th. We felt emotionally ready and financially strong.

Thank you, Moiv! And thanks to all the wonderful individuals who offered words of support and contributions!



OUR CLIENTS

	As of 8/31/04	As of 10/31/05
Number of women served	1177	1701
Number of women following through with abortions	755	1339
Minors assisted	174	247
Women in their second trimester	395	551

We are expanding our board!

On December 6, 2005, Joanne Richards and Ghazaleh Moayed participated in the Greenlights Board Summit. This event was designed to introduce prospective board members to nonprofit board service and link them with non-profit organizations that can best use their skills. This proved an exciting opportunity to introduce Lilith Fund to individuals who are interested in being on a non-profit organization board.

Lilith Now Has A Blog

In response to requests for more information about the Lilith Fund - who we are, who are the women we serve, what are their stories - our hotline manager, Sascha Tunney, has started a Lilith blog to be updated weekly by her and other volunteers. We have recently seen the power of online conversation through the miracle of fundraising initiated by Bethany at Routh Street, and we think this is a great way to join in the conversation.

The blog is now live at <http://lilithfund.blogspot.com>. Please check in frequently for news and updates concerning the Lilith Fund and our clients.

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Board of Directors:

Joanne Richards, President
Sharene Hughes, Treasurer
Shannon Walton, Secretary

Sabine Berghammer
Charlie Lenk
Ghazaleh Moayed

The Lilith Fund assists women in exercising their fundamental right to abortion by removing barriers to access.

Save a Tree!

Now you can enjoy reading about Lilith Fund activities even more knowing that you will be saving paper! Help us save money on printing and postage on future newsletters so more of your contributions will go into direct services for women. Sign up to receive the electronic version of the newsletter today by emailing info@lilithfund.org with the subject "electronic newsletter." This issue, along with past issues, is also available in PDF format on our website: www.lilithfund.org.

Lilith Honors Peggy Romberg with Reproductive Equity Award

We are thrilled to announce that the honoree of Lilith's 3rd Annual Reproductive Equity Award (REA) Celebration will be Ms. Peggy Romberg.

Ms. Romberg has been an advocate for women's health, family planning and reproductive freedom since 1968, both as a professional and a volunteer. She is the executive director of the Women's Health and Family Planning Association of Texas (formerly the Texas Family Planning Association), a position she has held since September 1980. Prior to joining WHFPT, she was the first executive director of the Texas Abortion Rights Action League.

Honored by the Texas Women's Political Caucus in 1988, Ms. Romberg was named Woman of the Year, and she received its Good Gal Award in 2000. She has also received awards from the Texas Council on Family Violence and the National Organization for Women.

However, Ms. Romberg's highest honor was awarded in 2002, when she received the Irvin M. Cushner Award from the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association in Washington, D.C. This is the association's highest award presented to someone whose dedication and efforts to family plan-



Peggy Romberg at the second annual REA

ning and NFPRHA have been exemplary.

Ms. Romberg will celebrate her latest accolade along with other

Lilith supporters at the Third Reproductive Equity Award Celebration to be held in Austin on Thursday, April 27, 2006.

Join the Celebration

Plans are underway for the Lilith Foundation's Third Reproductive Equity Award Celebration to be held in Austin on Thursday, April 27, 2006.

The affair will feature, live music, tasty food and drink, a fabulous silent auction, and the inspiration that comes from mingling with hundreds of other passionately pro-choice Texans.

Lilith's annual event committee is hard at work planning this wonderful evening of fun and fellowship and we need your help. For more information on opportunities to sponsor, donate, or volunteer, please give us a call at (877) 355-1463 or write to info@lilithfund.org.

Unprecedented Need Forces Hotline to Shut-Down

The Lilith Fund experienced a record spike in call volume during the summer and fall of 2005. In September 2005 our volunteers fielded 797 calls, a 72 percent increase from April's 463 calls. Last year we had spend \$17,474 on direct client services. By November of this year, we had spent \$38,000. This unprecedented need forced our hotline to shut down for the first time in Lilith's history until more funds could be raised.

Several factors play into this increase, including the massive influx of women into Texas following hurricanes Katrina and Rita. After watching our neighbors lose everything in the Gulf Coast hurricanes, Texans have joined together to help those displaced and disrupted by the disasters. While the federal government failed to help our fellow citizens, local volunteers, generous businesses, and non-profits made strides in the recovery efforts. The Lilith Fund is proud to join the extensive list of non-profits working tirelessly to assist hurricane evacuees. Not only did women affected by these hurricanes lose their homes and most of their possessions, they also lost money and time invested in their abortion appointments in Louisiana. These women needed immediate assistance to obtain abortion services in Texas, and Lilith gladly helped pay for many of these procedures.

Another leading factor for the escalation of women in need can be attributed to other national funding organizations, like WRRAP and Make a Difference Fund, being completely tapped of their resources with no promise of fund availability in the near future. Although Katrina and Rita have not been the cause of drought for all national organizations, most groups have diverted all existing funds to hurricane evacuees. This has left the Lilith Fund and poor women in Texas in dire straits. As Texas women were denied national funds, more women desperately turned to Lilith – the only Texas organization that serves the entire state - for assistance. The funding drought experienced by the national organizations coupled

with recent natural disasters ultimately led to a rapid rise in call volume for the Lilith Fund, causing the hotline to shut down in November.

What does this mean for Texas women? Despite a national political climate increasingly hostile to the right to choice, the number of women needing quality abortion services persists. While all women are affected, poor women are the most susceptible to losing access to abortion. On average, a first trimester abortion costs between \$400-\$500, with the price close to \$3,000 for a later second trimester abortion. In a state where more than 16% of the women live in poverty, the cost of an abortion is overwhelming, if not impossible.

The Lilith Fund needs your help now!

Thanks to the generosity of donors through the internet (see related article on page 1), we were able to re-open the hotline in mid-December. We want to ensure that we never have to close the hotline again and that we are able to increase the average size of grant to women in need.

Please [donate](#) what you can and don't let the doors to abortion access remain shut for any more women in Texas. Even though the traditional "season of giving" has passed, please remember that the right to choose means nothing if all women do not have equal access to quality abortion care.

Please give generously.

LILITH ABOUT TOWN

Celebration of Choice

Members of the Lilith team joined fellow supporters of pro-choice in October for the 19th Annual NARAL Pro-Choice Celebration of Choice.

The event, held at Antone's Blues Club in Austin featured a silent auction, a fabulous food buffet, and music by some of Austin's finest prochoice performers including Toni Price, The New Hot Damn with Kacy Crowley, Trish Murphy, Renee Woodward and Carolyn Wonderland.

Master of ceremonies for the event was Terrill Fischer.

Among the special guests for the evening were Antone's Club owner Clifford Antone, Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos, musician Guy Forsyth, Austin City Council Member Brewster McCracken, and Austin Mayor Will Wynn.



Top left: A "soldier for choice" at the NARAL Pro-Choice Texas annual benefit. Top right: Lilith Board Secretary Shannon Walton with Kacy Crowley, a pro-choice singer who performed at the benefit. Left: Sarah Wheat, editor of NARAL Pro-Choice Texas; Shannon Walton; and Joanne Richards, president of the Lilith Board.

End of the year events for Lilith Fund



The Lilith Fund both helped sponsor, and participated in, The Abortion Conversation Project in Austin at the Airport Hilton on Dec 5, 2005. The Abortion Conversation Project is committed to eliminating the stigma of abortion by creating new ways and opportunities to talk about abortion honestly and publicly.

The real life experiences of providers and women themselves will enable people to understand and appreciate the complex moral decision-making surrounding a pregnancy decision. The Project pledges open conversations that do not demonize those with differing views, or convince anyone that a particular point of view is "right". Decisions about pregnancy bring up issues of life, death, sex, parenthood, and so much more.

The Abortion Conversation Project wants to create safe spaces for women and men to consider what is best for their lives. Learn more about the group at www.abortionconversation.com.

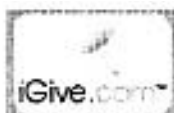
An account of our experience at the this event will be featured in our next newsletter.

The Lilith Fund

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



How iGive.com Works

1. Join iGive for FREE at www.iGive.com/lilith
2. Shop online at any of the 330+ stores in the mall at iGive.com. You'll see all your favorites, including Amazon.com, CDNow, Barnes & Noble, and JC Penney!
3. **The Lilith Fund** receives a check for up to 26% of each purchase!

It's free, it's easy, and every purchase you make generates a donation to The Lilith Fund.

Buy for Charity

Up to 35%

of your online shopping goes to
THE LILITH FUND

1. Log on to BuyForCharity.com.
2. Shop online at any of the 350+ stores, including your favorite merchants like J. Crew, 1-800 Flowers, PETS MART, and more at **no extra cost!**
3. **THE LILITH FUND** will receive up to 35% of each purchase that you make at **BuyForCharity.com**.

Donate Online

To make an online donation, go to the Lilith Fund website at

www.lilithfund.org

and click on:



From time to time we may make our mailing list available to other grassroots organizations on a one-time basis. Our list may be shared with organizations that we feel might be of interest to our supporters and that can provide us with the opportunity to attract additional support. If you would rather we did not include your name, please write us, email mfo@lilithfund.org or call 1-877-355-1463 and we will respect your choice to opt out of receiving these mailings.
