Women's Medical Fund, Inc.

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Thanksgiving Appeal, 2012

Dear Friend,

You have not heard from us since Mother's Day, 2012, our "motherhood-by-choice" appeal. We knew you would be helping those political candidates who support abortion rights, but now it is time to remember the very needy Wisconsin woman who may have access to abortion but does not have the funds to pay for one.

Here are brief biographical notes about some of the women recently helped by the Women's Medical Fund or who will need our help in the next two to three weeks. Some of these women also are being helped by a national fund, privately endowed. Our typical gift of \$200 - \$400, often combined with other resources, make their choice of abortion possible.

- She is 12 years old, a seventh grader, one of five children: 6, 9, 12, 15, and 17. Her mother supports the family, working as a certified nursing assistant. The 12-year-old was raped by "a friend of her uncle" who has been reported for the crime. The fund paid \$300 of the abortion cost.
- She is 13, another seventh grader with teenaged boyfriend, she needed \$250.
- 14, a ninth grader, one of six children, she was raped by a 26-year-old. As the pregnancy progressed, she repeatedly and believably threatened suicide. In the late second trimester, she needed to travel out-of-state. We were one of three funds helping her; our help was \$500.

(Over, please)

- 15, a high school sophomore, raped by 18-year-old, the rape was reported to police, her mother earns \$800 monthly from a factory job, we helped with \$400.
- 16, high school junior, stranger rape reported to police, our help was \$400.
- 19, lives with her 5-month-old in a facility for the homeless, suffering from depression, 26-year-old impregnator was no help, clinic gave reduced rate, our help was \$200.
- 24, married, no children, fetal abnormality, a severe case of hydrops, oversized placenta producing extra fluid, left side of heart not developing, kidney failure, huge cyst on neck bigger than head, our help \$400.
- 25, stage 3 breast cancer, a student in medical training, one child age 3, our help \$400.
- 33, four children: twin 11-year-olds, 9, 6, she has seizures and serious depression, her 6-year-old, born at 2 pounds, has stroke, cerebral palsy, her husband unemployed, we helped with \$400
- 19, two children, 4 and 1, stranger rape at a party, our help \$300
- 20, one child age 3, date rape, she has sickle cell anemia, \$400 in help from the WMF.
- 23, 4 kids: 5, 4, 2, and 1, not married but same dad, she asked for tubal after 2^{nd} child, but told she was too young, we helped with \$300.
- 33, 1 child age 12, genetic problems with the pregnancy (Duchennes), our help was \$400.
- 22, kids 3 and 1, asked for tubal but denied, she was told since both her children were girls, she should have a boy before tubal! She was short \$200 for the abortion, which was supplied by the fund.

USEFUL BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR NEWCOMERS

The Women's Medical Fund was established in 1976 by Professor Robert West, the late Peggy West, and Anne Nicol Gaylor. It is believed to be the oldest continuously operating abortion fund in the country.

More than 20,000 Wisconsin women have been helped, with 640 helped so far this year (through November 15, 2012).

All donations to the Women's Medical Fund are deductible for income tax purposes. The fund is completely volunteer-driven. There are no salaries and overhead is tiny, with expenses such as office space, printing, and postage donated. Highly skilled Fund treasurer, Nora Cusack, has found several grants for us, a real boon. Over the years, a majority of funds have come from concerned individuals.

Checks from the Fund are written to the clinic, hospital or physician involved. This assures that money is used for the intended purpose. Each year the Fund works with 6 to 8 different providers, although most women use a clinic in Madison or Milwaukee. The impossibly sad cases have always come out of Milwaukee.

We welcome your recruitment of new donors. Thank you all donors, big and small, and our always caring and involved board of directors.

Anne N. Gaylor Administrator

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P.S. Women's Medical Fund - Wisconsin now has a Facebook page! Show your support for WMF by "liking" our page, as well as donating to our tax-deductible charity.

Visit https://www.facebook.com/WMFWisconsin for WMF updates and relevant abortion news.