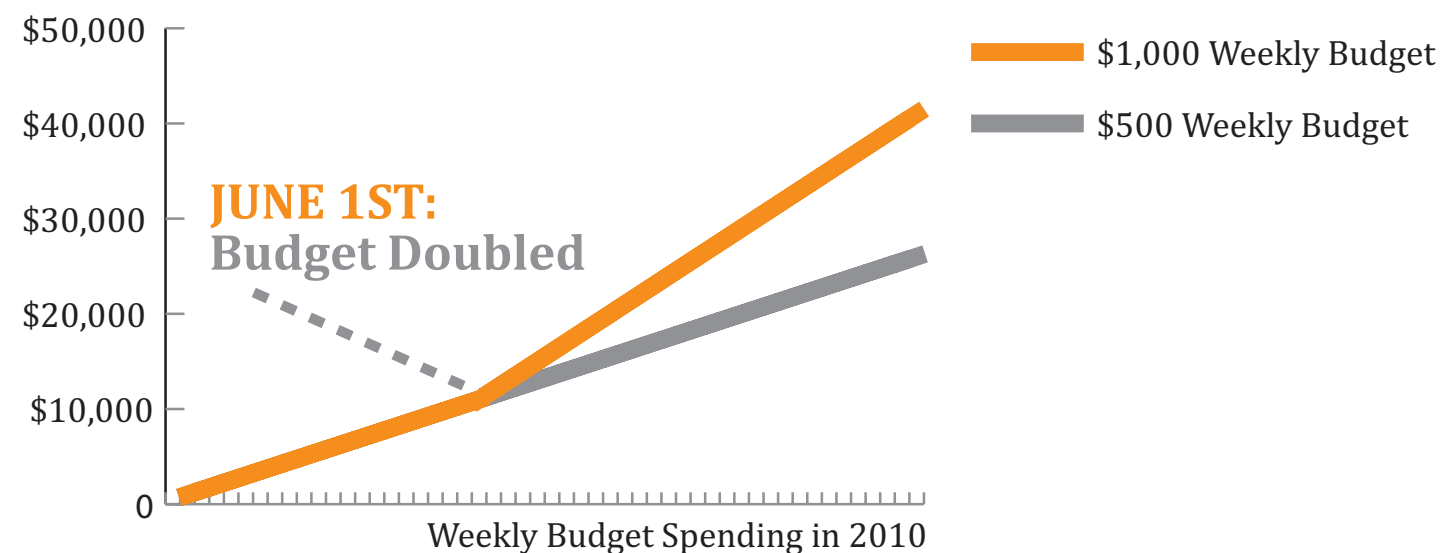


EMA BY THE NUMBERS

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THE IMPACT OF DOUBLING OUR BUDGET



After the success of our first-ever Billiards-a-Thon in May (organized locally as part of the National Network for Abortion Fund's nationwide Bowl-a-Thon), the EMA Fund had **already raised more money in the first half of the year than we had planned to raise in all of 2010!** Flush with resources, the EMA Fund's Board of Directors met to discuss what to do with the increase in funds—stow it away for a rainy day, or immediately begin putting it in the hands of our callers? Is there any doubt as to what we did? By June 1st, the Board had voted to immediately double the weekly budget volunteers use to provide funding to callers living in Eastern Massachusetts—from \$500 per week to \$1,000 per week.

Your support and the support of a newly expanded community activated during the Bowl-a-Thon has dramatically improved outcomes for our callers. We still are not in a position to pay for any one caller's abortion, but we are spending less time trying to convince callers to put off paying an electric bill for a month so they can help raise that much more money to pay for their procedures. With the resources we have now, we can give out the \$100, \$150, and \$200 sums that make such a difference to the people we serve. It's great for our callers and fantastic for the morale of our committed volunteers who feel the impact of their efforts go farther.

WEEKLY AVERAGES

* Calls per week: **20**

* Number of callers given funding per week: **7**

* Average amount given to a caller (last 6 months): **\$200**

* Callers for whom we provide financial strategizing, referrals, or whom we can't reach: **13**

* Number of intake volunteer hours spent per week: **15**

* Specific referrals to MassHealth: **5**



P.O. Box 390412
Cambridge, MA 02139

SUSTAIN US: BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

Now providing \$1,000 per week to callers, the EMA Fund is helping more people than ever, but the need is still greater than the money we have to give. Your financial support is the **ONLY** way the EMA Fund has money to help our callers pay for their abortions.

If you make an occasional gift to the EMA Fund, please consider making this gift a monthly donation. If you already provide a monthly donation to the EMA Fund, please consider increasing the amount.

Monthly donations ensure that the EMA Fund has reliable resources as we fund callers from week to week. For simple instructions on monthly giving, visit www.emafund.org/donate.

Questions? Contact EMA Fund Board Member Nicole Hendrickson at nicole@emafund.org.

On behalf of the hundreds of callers we work with each year, thank you for your continued support.

YOU MAKE THIS POSSIBLE!

\$10 PER MONTH
EQUALS

\$120 per year a common amount of money given to callers who've raised 80-90% of the cost of their abortion on their own—the money that closes the gap

\$20 PER MONTH
EQUALS

\$240 per year the cost of providing a two-day intensive volunteer training for 10 new EMA Fund activists

\$55 PER MONTH
EQUALS

\$660 per year the going rate for a first trimester abortion at Planned Parenthood in Boston (\$610) plus the money it takes to pay for transportation and related costs



A Friend in Need

The EMA Fund's Semi-Annual Newsletter

proudly helping people pay for their abortions since 1999 **FALL 2010**

Eastern Massachusetts Abortion Fund P.O. Box 390412 Cambridge, MA 02139
617.354.3839 | www.emafund.org

ABORTION CARE IN MASSACHUSETTS: WHERE EMA FITS By Gretchen Sisson



What does abortion access really mean? At the EMA Fund, we recognize that we're working on one piece of the "access" puzzle, by making sure that callers are able to get the money they need to keep their appointments. But access, of course, involves much more: Is the procedure legal? Are there providers performing that procedure, and are they geographically accessible to the people who need them? Is it affordable?

Of the counties with providers, all have less than one provider for every 10,000 women of reproductive age.

The number of hospitals providing abortion care has also declined. **Currently only 12 of Massachusetts's 55 hospitals provide abortions to people who are not already patients.**

As abortion providers grow fewer and farther between, anti-choice Crisis Pregnancy Centers become even more prevalent. These CPCs present themselves as legitimate healthcare providers, but instead provide misinformation, biased counseling, and no referrals to abortion providers.

The answer to the first question is yes—in Massachusetts, abortions are allowed by law (though there remain legal obstacles for women under 18 years old). This big piece of the puzzle is brought to you by *Roe v. Wade*, but this is about as far as *Roe* gets us. There are still many other pieces necessary to complete the picture.

Seeking answers on the second piece of the puzzle, the availability of procedures, our friends at NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts examined access to care throughout the Commonwealth—and the findings aren't filling in the picture as prettily as we'd like.

Since 2002, Massachusetts has experienced a decline in the number of clinics providing abortion care, as well as significant change in regional distribution. **Forty-three percent of counties have no abortion providers at all.**

This lack of access strongly influences how expensive abortion can be. A person doesn't only pay for the procedure itself, she has to consider travel expenses and the loss of wages through increased time off from work. Furthermore, the difficulty of obtaining an abortion means she'll likely have to postpone the procedure until she can negotiate her work schedule, transportation, and childcare—and delaying the procedure will often increase its expense.

This is where the EMA Fund comes in. We consider all the expenses—not just the medical bill—that will influence a person's ability to get her abortion. We help her make that appointment before the price goes up. We do our best to make sure that the last puzzle piece, affordability, isn't the one she's missing as she strives to access the care she needs.

STORIES FROM THE PHONE LINES

Mary wrote to the EMA Fund after we worked with her daughter to fund her abortion. When Mary's daughter came to her asking how she could get an abortion, Mary wanted to simply open her wallet and make it happen, but she couldn't. With just \$10 in her checking account, she didn't have the funds to support her daughter's decision. Her daughter, a part-time worker without insurance, didn't have the means to fund her abortion either.

Mary encouraged her daughter to call Planned Parenthood, which directed her to the EMA Fund. The first time she spoke with our volunteer, she was sobbing, convinced she would have to carry her pregnancy to term because of money. According to Mary, who spoke to her daughter afterwards, the EMA Fund volunteer gave her hope, assuring her that she didn't have to remain pregnant if she didn't want to.

The volunteer referred her to MassHealth to see about getting coverage that pays for abortions. She continued checking in with Mary's daughter over the phone, reassuring her... *Continued on page 4*





Board of Directors

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Deepani Jinadasa
Sarah Morton
Erin Kate Ryan
Tali Ruskin

Newsletter Editors

Dustin Kight
Amy Mortensen

Statement of Purpose

The Eastern Massachusetts Abortion Fund provides funding, financial strategizing, and logistical support to people who live in, or are having abortions in, Eastern Massachusetts and are unable to pay for their abortions. Additionally, the EMA Fund reduces social and economic barriers to abortion services through movement building, advocacy, and education.

Vision

The EMA Fund envisions a world where every person has the right to bodily self determination, including the means to access an abortion or carry a pregnancy to term without social or economic barriers. We envision a world where every person has the right to determine their own future.

Connect with EMA

P.O. Box 390412
Cambridge, MA 02139
617.354.3839 | www.emafund.org

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[Twitter.com/EMA_Fund](https://twitter.com/EMA_Fund)
[Myspace.com/EMAFund](https://www.myspace.com/EMAFund)

The Eastern Massachusetts Abortion Fund is a 501(c)(3) organization and an affiliate of the National Network of Abortion Funds. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law.

EMA FUND EXPANDS HOUSE PARTY PROGRAM TO RAISE AWARENESS & FUNDS

HOST YOUR OWN!

House parties are fun and easy at-home events that serve as excellent grassroots fundraisers for small organizations like the EMA Fund. Specifically, they provide us great ways to:

meet our newly doubled fundraising goals

get people new to the EMA Fund informed about and involved in our work

expand and strengthen our network of donors, volunteers, and supporters.

In 2010, we met our goal of hosting four house parties around Eastern Massachusetts! Many thanks to Charlotte Clark, Lindsey Piper, Samantha Porter, and Mel Larsen for inviting their family and friends over for an EMA-filled evening. Through just these four house parties, we were able to raise several thousand dollars this year.

With the success of our 2010 house parties, we've decided to double our house party goal for 2011. Will you sign up now to host one of the eight house parties we'll be hosting in 2011? If you are interested, please contact Mel Larsen, House Party Coordinator, at mel@emafund.org for more information and a step-by-step planning guide.



EMA Fund volunteers ham it up at a recent Halloween House Party

STORIES CONTINUED...

along the way. Just two days after the initial call, Mary's daughter was on MassHealth, a process that can often take weeks. Mary's daughter made an appointment for her abortion that she knew she could keep. As Mary wrote in her e-mail to the EMA Fund about the EMA volunteer that worked with her daughter, "I don't know who this person was, and I'm sure I never will, but I can never express the gratitude I feel for what this stranger did. She effectively held my daughter's hand when mine were tied. The pain of not being able to help your child is incredible, and I will be forever grateful that EMA was there." Mary is now planning to attend our next volunteer training—to begin taking calls from people like her daughter, to ensure, as she says, that people become parents because they want to, not because they have to.

EMA FUND'S MASSHEALTH TASK FORCE EXPLORES PUBLIC INSURANCE OPTIONS FOR CALLERS SEEKING ABORTIONS

By Deepani Jinadasa and Eunice Ko



MassHealth is one of the public insurance options afforded to Massachusetts residents through the 2006 health insurance reform laws. The EMA Fund created its MassHealth Task Force nearly a year ago when we realized we

could be a leader in creating institutional change in the way abortions are paid for.

People who are eligible for MassHealth are able to get their abortions fully paid for. Sounds like a great deal, right? While Massachusetts is one of only 17 states where state-funded insurance can be used to pay for abortions, the process of financing an abortion using MassHealth can come with a number of barriers. In the end, many eligible people don't end up using MassHealth to cover the costs of their procedures.

Seeing the great potential in the public health insurance system and also being aware of its numerous challenges, the EMA Fund's MassHealth Task Force charged itself with systematically finding out what issues were making it difficult for people to have their abortions paid for by MassHealth. The Task Force, in collaboration with sister funds across Massachusetts, is now undertaking a statewide research project, which includes asking our callers about their experiences with MassHealth.

Between April and May of this year, the Task Force undertook follow-up conversations with callers who were referred to MassHealth by their original intake volunteers. Preliminary findings show that **callers were more than twice as likely to pay for their abortions out of pocket or with the help of an abortion fund than to have their abortion paid for by MassHealth.**

The biggest barriers to utilizing MassHealth were delays due to the length of time it took to enroll in MassHealth, and information gaps, as many callers were not aware that MassHealth covers abortions, with the result that many callers were unable to get on MassHealth before the date of their procedure.

The following story illustrates the challenges that one caller experienced:

Ivy had just begun a new job when she found out she was pregnant. She had health insurance through her school, but it was set to expire before she could schedule an abortion. Her new job did not provide her with insurance. She called the EMA Fund and was given a grant to help pay for her abortion care.

Ivy was advised to call Health Care For All once her insurance expired. In her follow-up call two months later, she said she had delayed her abortion by two weeks while she attempted to come up with the remaining funds. Although she had been told to contact Health Care For All, Ivy said, "No one explained to me what I was supposed to ask." She did not realize she may have been eligible for MassHealth, and was also unaware that MassHealth can cover abortion care.



Members of the MassHealth Task Force lead intake volunteers through a MassHealth training in October 2010.

The EMA Fund looked at the results of our initial research and took immediate action to ensure that all intake volunteers understand MassHealth's abortion coverage and systematically explain it to our callers.

The Task Force put together interactive trainings for intake volunteers as well as interested board members. The purpose of the trainings was to both educate volunteers on how to advise callers about MassHealth enrollment and to present some of the findings of the follow-up calls.

Two trainings were organized—one in Jamaica Plain and one in Cambridge—which participants thoroughly enjoyed. At the trainings, the Task Force stressed the importance of understanding the great resources MassHealth provides so that volunteers can clearly and competently pass that information on to callers. Volunteers were also instructed to tell callers to disclose their pregnancy status and intent for an abortion when enrolling in MassHealth.

If you are interested in learning more about our MassHealth Task Force or want to get involved, we welcome all questions and support. The MassHealth Task Force can be reached at deepani@emafund.org.

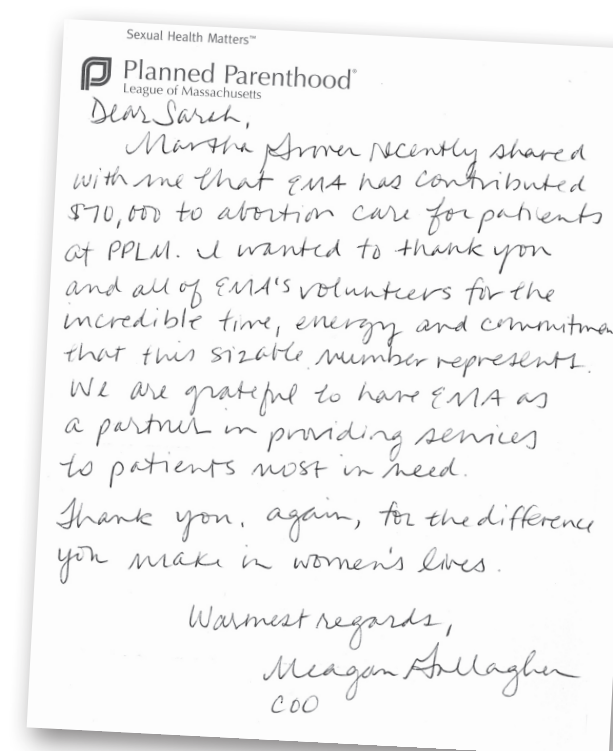
WORKING WITH CLINICS: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS THAT INCREASE ACCESS TO CARE

It goes without saying that the EMA Fund could not do its work without abortion clinics and providers operating in Massachusetts and other states. Qualified and caring professionals willing to embark on often hard-to-find abortion training are the first ingredient in making abortion access possible. We also recognize and respect the tremendous psychological stress that can come with being a provider and operating a clinic—especially considering the amount of violence and stigma associated with abortion in this country.

Many EMA Fund volunteers are associated with area clinics, sometimes as paid staff and other times as volunteers and supporters. We build and maintain rich relationships with the clinics our callers go to for their procedures. We have a volunteer position dedicated specifically to maintaining good relations with area clinics—our clinic coordinator. Through these relationships we have been able to establish ongoing discounts for our callers at some clinics. Planned Parenthood in Boston, for instance, gives \$80 to \$100 off to callers whose abortions are paid for in part by the EMA Fund.

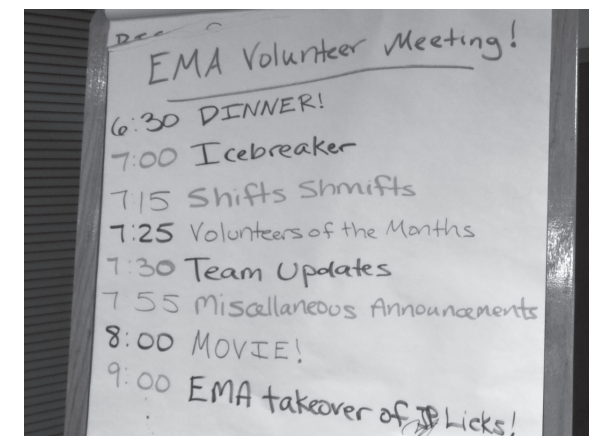
We recently received a note from the Chief Operating Officer at the Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts (PPLM) thanking us for contributing more than \$70,000 in our 10 years of existence to abortion care for patients at PPLM. This simple note is a testament to the incredible network of grassroots funders, activists, volunteers, providers, and professionals working to ensure consistent and affordable access to abortion in Massachusetts.

Other clinics the EMA Fund regularly works with include the Planned Parenthood in Worcester; Women's Health



Services of Chestnut Hill; Alternative Medical Care of the North Shore (in Lynn); Four Women Health Services (in Attleboro); Merrimack Valley Women Health Services (in Methuen); North Shore Women's Health Services (also in Lynn); ParkMed (in New York City, for later abortions); and the Planned Parenthood of Rhode Island Center (in Providence).

ATTEND OUR NEXT VOLUNTEER TRAINING



Quite literally, volunteers are the lifeblood of the EMA Fund. As an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff, each and every ounce of work that goes into growing and sustaining the EMA Fund's initiatives is donated by exceptional individuals.

At present, we are more than 40 volunteers strong. Most volunteers take bimonthly shifts fielding calls from people seeking abortion funding. Many serve in multiple capacities—as board members, newsletter editors, grassroots fundraisers, MassHealth Task Force organizers, caterers for volunteer meetings, and more! If you've got a skill and a desire to contribute, the EMA Fund will make good use of your time.

All new volunteers are required to attend a two-day, training before taking on the phone line, to ensure the best experience for our volunteers and callers.

Our next volunteer training will take place Saturday and Sunday, January 8th and 9th, from 10am to 3pm both days. The training will take place at a T-accessible location in Boston. If you're interested in attending or finding out more about ways to volunteer, contact Mirian, our volunteer coordinator, at mirian@emafund.org.

WWW.EMAFUND.ORG/VOLUNTEER-APP