

# REFLECTING ON 2020

## Whole Woman's Health Alliance



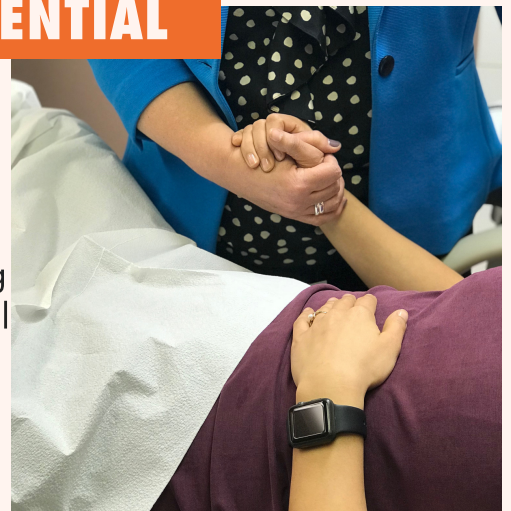
### WWHA PERSERVERES

To say that 2020 has been wrought with an unprecedented set of challenges is an understatement. As we look forward to 2021 there are reasons to be hopeful, but the continued threat to abortion access remains as urgent as ever due to the changes in the makeup of the Supreme Court. No matter what challenges we face,

Whole Woman's Health Alliance promotes abortion as a moral and social good by providing compassionate, abortion care in the Midwest and South, leading purposeful litigation, and engaging in bold thought leadership and cultural conversations. In March, our clinic and advocacy staff rallied together as the Supreme Court delivered a win in June Medical v. Russo. But the fight continues as we expect to see further challenges to abortion access reach the highest court in the land. Our Whole Woman's Health Alliance (WWHA) clinics are all open and have been safely caring for patients throughout the pandemic. Please support our team of essential healthcare workers who are on the front lines, providing access to abortion care services during COVID-19 – they are the embodiment of WWHa's mission and vision.

### ABORTION IS ESSENTIAL

In March and April, the governor of Texas used the COVID-19 pandemic as a bogus pretext to ban abortion with an executive order naming it non-essential health care. Hundreds of patients were notified that their upcoming appointments were cancelled indefinitely; leaving them confused, afraid, and desperate in an already stressful time. During this period, Whole Woman's Health of Austin was one of the only clinics in Texas that continued to provide medication abortion care; quickly pivoting protocols to minimize the risk of exposure to patients and staff. We also worked closely with abortion funds to help patients travel out of state to get their procedures while simultaneously filing a lawsuit and fighting all the way to the Fifth Circuit to restore people's right to an abortion. We won, and Texas clinics reopened to provide the essential medicine of abortion care.





## THE LITTLE CLINIC THAT COULD

**Whole Woman's Health of South Bend** celebrated its 1-year anniversary of providing medication abortion in June, despite the consistent efforts of anti-abortion extremists to shut us down. Protesters are a constant presence at the clinic, but our dedicated staff and supporters tune out their dangerous and demeaning rhetoric, and never back down.

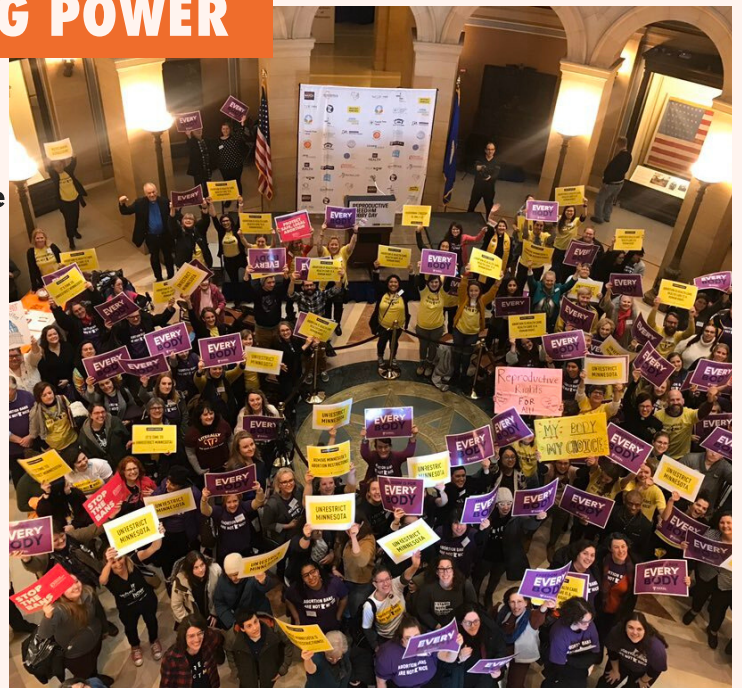
While the staff provide compassionate care inside, the dedicated volunteer escorts make sure patients can access the clinic safely and provide a comforting presence and a sympathetic ear. Our community supporters have spent countless hours beautifying the clinic property with bushes, trees and flowers that both look lovely and serve as visual reminders of the property lines that the protestors cannot cross. In addition to harassment from protestors, we have also taken on the state of Indiana, challenging multiple burdensome regulations that provide no health benefit for patients, and serve only to curb access to abortion. Along with co-plaintiff [All Options](#), WWH of South Bend's lawsuit against the state of Indiana is scheduled for trial in March 2021. -

In October, Amy Coney Barrett, who supports the extremists that protest outside the clinic, was confirmed to the United States Supreme Court. Despite this opposition, [Whole Woman's Health of South Bend continues to provide the abortion care the community wants and needs.](#)

## BUILDING POWER

WWHA is a member of the [UnRestrict Minnesota \(MN\) Coalition](#) working to educate and inspire Minnesotans to engage in the process of expanding abortion access throughout the state. WWH recognizes that reproductive health is part of a larger framework of racial and reproductive justice that supports safe and sustainable communities. In the immediate aftermath of the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, WWH worked closely with UnRestrict MN community partners to provide resources and mutual aid support to the Twin Cities community.

WWHA supports a state lawsuit challenging multiple mandates in current laws that directly violate the state constitution, provide no health benefits and hinder abortion access for our patients. Repealing these mandates will expand access and provide more reproductive freedom for all Minnesotans.







## VIRGINIA IS FOR REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

Amidst the challenges of 2020, Virginia emerged as a **bright spot for abortion access**. WWHHA celebrated the 3rd anniversary of opening Whole Woman's Health of Charlottesville this October. Since opening in 2017, WWH of Charlottesville has been providing abortion care, and working hard to push back against medically unnecessary abortion restrictions in the Commonwealth through both purposeful litigation and legislative advocacy. Through both efforts, a host of restrictions were repealed. Today people can get the abortion they need without being subject to a 24-hour waiting period, biased counseling or a mandatory ultrasound. While there remains work to do, this was a huge step toward ensuring reproductive freedom for Virginians during a time when surrounding states continue to enact more and more restrictions.

## THIS IS WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE

Elections have consequences. Voting sends a strong message to public officials about how they handle pandemics, openings on the Supreme Court, systemic racism, violence against Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities, and abortion regulations.

That's why WWHA was proud to help Get Out The Vote (GOTV) by registering people to vote in all three of our clinics and running a sustained, visual, 6-week GOTV social media campaign encouraging people to vote early, get to the polls, and engage their trust in the democratic process.



A new year brings new beginnings, yet none of us know what 2021 holds in store. What we do know is that **WWHA will continue to provide compassionate abortion care** while countering anti-abortion rhetoric and pushing back against restrictive regulations.

Independent, non-profit abortion providers like WWHHA rely on donations from supporters like you.

**PLEASE DONATE TODAY!**