



September 2008

Dear Friend of Cedar River Clinics:

Recently I attended the National Abortion Federation's annual meeting. Each year it's the meeting where I recharge my batteries by spending time with the incredible and inspiring longtime and new clinic directors, counselors and doctors from the United States, Canada, and for the first time this year, Mexico. Surrounded by activists and experts I have long admired, I realized that **people around the nation now look to Cedar River Clinics as a center of excellence** in reproductive health care. They recognize the knowledge and expertise based here.

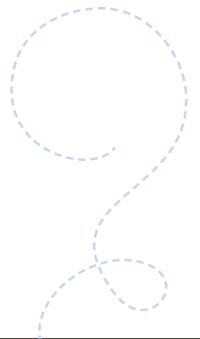
Today we serve more than 8000 women a year who travel to our sites from throughout the Pacific Northwest. We have indeed come a long way from the time in May 1980 when, with a dream of women's health in women's hands, Deborah and I worked night jobs to be able to open the doors to a feminist health center in Yakima, our home town.

Thanks to the support of the generous donors who contributed to the No Matter What Happens campaign, Cedar River Clinics has made great strides in the past year.

- We've significantly upgraded our data systems. We bought and installed a new client records database called NextGen. It's an essential instrument for scheduling, insurance billing, financial statements and monitoring trends.
- We're now adding electronic medical records (EMR) to complete the renovation of our client record keeping systems.
- Collaborating with the Northwest Women's Law Center, we helped achieve a Board of Pharmacy rule prohibiting a pharmacist to delay or deny medications to our clients. Since our clients have actually experienced pharmacy denial, we are assisting with the continuing legal case.
- Our Medical Director attended the Global Safe Abortion Conference in London making worldwide contacts we hope will lead to collaborations for training providers in distant regions of the globe.
- We increased our donor base by over 25% with 163 new donors.
- We published the Birth Control Comparison Chart and companion website providing a useful tool for women to select a method, and for teens and adults to learn about options.

**But this letter is about the future, not the past.** Cedar River Clinics needs your help.

Because you care about local access to choice, we believe you would want to know about the challenges and opportunities facing our organization.





Our Renton health center must move out of the building we currently lease which is slated for demolition.

Because we are committed to keeping abortion care accessible in South King County, we are exploring all options, including purchase or lease, to ensure that clinical services continue in South King without interruption. The stumbling block to securing a site that meets our unique needs is the amount of money it will take.

That's why we are launching the **Building Futures** campaign. **Building Futures** is a two year capital campaign to raise funds for our facilities.

We know from the experiences of other doctors and clinics across the country, as well as our own, how difficult it is for a facility that provides abortion to find clinical space.

After the third firebombing of our Everett clinic in 1984, the leases were cancelled on both our Everett and Yakima sites. When one of the perpetrators settled out of court and his home-owner insurance policy paid reparations, we used the funds as the down payment to purchase our current Yakima site. That's how we bought our independence the first time.

In Tacoma in 2003 when the lease was not renewed because of anti-abortion pickets, supporters' donations and a loan from the Washington Health Care Finance Authority made it possible to purchase and renovate a building there.

This time we are looking to the strength of our supporters to assemble the funding to make possible the next location for our Renton clinic.

**Your support is urgently needed now.** Please consider the long-term impact that local access has on the well-being of women in our community. Then make your two-year pledge to the **Building Futures** campaign.

I look forward to talking with you personally about the details of **Building Futures**. There are exciting possibilities before us, but we cannot do it without you.

Best wishes,

Beverly Whipple  
Executive Director and Co-Founder  
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P.S. I'm enclosing a booklet about the **Building Futures** campaign, hoping that you'll want to know more.

