

# CommuniTEA

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW



**Abortion  
Funds Are  
Mutual Aid**

# A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

I am sure you can all join me in saying 2020 has been a wild year! We came into the year fighting against local abortion bans in court and before we knew it COVID19 affected our nation, challenging all of our lives. As we shifted and adjusted to our new reality along with the rest of you, we began to focus our energies on how to support our callers in the midst of a global pandemic. And, we innovated new ways to increase financial support after having to cancel our two biggest spring fundraisers Fund-A-Thon and First Bloom. We couldn't have done this without you.

Early on in the pandemic we witnessed Texas elected officials use COVID19 as an excuse to target abortions by banning them and further stigmatizing and shaming people who have abortions. TEA Fund supported providers as they fought that ruling and eventually won, but not before it created panic and uncertainty for our callers. Our Helpline was overwhelmed. Fortunately for us, we can turn any crisis into an opportunity. This attention attracted more volunteers and donors, including large regional out-of-state foundations. With the collective power of our community, we were able to recoup some of those budgetary losses from Fund-A-Thon and First Bloom. We are proud to have an excellent network of support!

We quickly pivoted to virtual communications and learned how to Zoom along with many of you. We hosted a number of virtual events throughout the year, including Town Halls, Abortion 101, Trivia Night, virtual trainings and informational happy hours. Our calendar has been full all year with a variety of virtual events and we've been having a great time navigating this new reality. One thing about TEA Fund that I am most proud of is our capacity to triumph over adversity. In the spirit of Beyoncé, our TEAm has been making lemonade out of lemons in the middle of a pandemic!



Kamyon Conner, Executive Director



## NEW PROGRAMMING

### TEXT LINE

We are very proud of this new program that serves as a resource for people seeking abortion care. People can now text 1-844-TEA-FUND (1-844-832-3863) to reach volunteers who can answer questions about where to get an abortion, how to get help paying for care, and connect them to support networks.

### VIRTUAL CLINIC COMPANION

Our Virtual Abortion Clinic Companion (vcc) program provides judgement-free, compassionate support to individuals while at the clinic for their abortion procedure. Our VCC volunteers provide textual emotional support to texters during their initial consultation appointments and abortion procedures in addition to information about relevant community and online resources. How to get in touch with a VCC? TEXT 844-TEA-FUND (844-832-3863). The text line is safe and confidential!

### TEXAS ABORTION ACCESS NETWORK

TEA Fund joined other abortion funds, practical support organizations, and abortion activists to launch TAAN—Texas Abortion Access Network. TAAN is growing the next generation of abortion-forward thought leaders by training volunteers how to develop their leadership skills. It was launched in August and features a map of what towns in Texas proposed, adopted, have considered, or denied abortion ban ordinances, as well as what cities are proactive in supporting abortion. Members of TAAN can teach people across Texas how to be an advocate for abortion rights and become community leaders. We are proud that this launched and that we have been able to recruit and train new volunteers and activists.

### GEMs – GIVING EVERY MONTH

We rebranded our donors who Give Every Month as our very special GEMs. Being a GEM is the best way to support our programming and ensure that folks calling or texting us for support are able to get the abortion care they need. Help us increase the number of GEMs who support our work next year by becoming a GEM today.

### TIKTOK INTERNSHIP

TEA Fund recruited four new interns to help increase our visibility by creating educational TikTok videos. Hoping to create a "Texas Abortion Hype House," we're looking forward to engaging people about abortion care, advocacy for abortion, reproductive justice, how to support people who have abortions, and how folks can get help through TEA Fund to access their abortion.

# ADVOCACY

## SUPREME COURT DECISION: JUNE MEDICAL SERVICES VS. RUSSO

TEA Fund's ED, in a historic moment, supported our partner clinics in Louisiana as well as our Texas clients who access that care by being present at the hearing in March. We're proud to fight alongside people from all over the country for the June v Medical decision that allowed Louisiana clinics to remain open.



## FIGHTING BANS IN CARTHAGE

Our executive director, TEA Fund Advocacy Intern, and TEA Fund former client and Abortion Storyteller attended Carthage City Council meeting to testify against the Sanctuary City for the Unborn Ordinance being considered. TEA Fund supporters faced adversity and online targeting from anti-abortion extremists in this town. With dedication of trusted volunteers and staff in this small rural Texas town, TEA Fund assisted in convincing Carthage City Council to vote against city wide abortion ban.



## NEW ADVOCACY & OUTREACH DIRECTOR

We welcomed Nikiya Natale full time as our Advocacy and Outreach Director. Her work as an abortion storyteller will support our mission. We are excited to have her strengthen TEA Fund's advocacy and outreach efforts locally and across the state to further build upon our Client Engagement Program.



## KEEP OUR NAMES OUT OF YOUR MOUTH!

TEA Fund along with, Lilith Fund, and The Afiya Center filed a lawsuit against anti-abortion extremists for defamation. We filed our lawsuit to reject the lies and damaging language spread by them about us and to remind Texans that we're here to help them access abortion.



## ABORTION ORDINANCE LAWSUIT

Supported by the ACLU of Texas, TEA Fund sued 7 municipalities for claiming that our organization is a "criminal entity." These extreme ordinances are a tactic for abortion opponents to score political points by infringing on our ability to educate and activate communities about their rights and the resources available to them.



TEA Fund supporter and Lego enthusiast Anneliese created pro-abortion Lego installment in response to a supplier for Lego hobbyists coming out publicly against abortion.



TEA Fund partnered with All Above All in January to do outreach at the Creating Change Conference about ending Hyde.



Former gubernatorial candidate Lupe Valdez and Dallas County Commissioner Teresa Daniel show their support for reproductive justice for all at the Dallas Women's March.

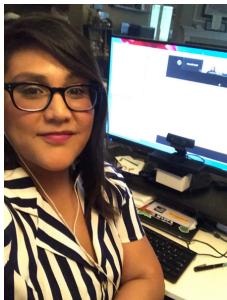
# 2020 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Bold AF Bus Tour
- Creating Change Conference
- Dallas Women's March
- Our Bodies Our Lives
- Dallas Fund-a-Thon Launch
- Denton Fund-a-Thon Launch
- Virtual Town Hall
- Abortion 101
- Public Policy 101

- Community Convo: Let's End Slut Shaming
- Self Care During COVID
- Lunch + Letters with Repro Dallas
- The LGBTQIA Fight for Equality Includes RJ
- Ours To Tell Virtual Screening
- How To Fight Anti-Abortion Ordinances
- Leading With Values Messaging Training
- WTF Just Happened: Scotus Edition
- Self and Community Care

- Texas Abortion Access Network Launch Party
- Abortion Funding Power Hour
- Abortion Kit Donation Drive and Drop Off
- Better Allies, Together
- Virtual Happy Hour and Trivia with HRC
- Crafts and Conversation: Honoring Rosie Jimenez
- Mobile Mental Health Clinic
- Rabble and Rouse Beyond Roe IG Live
- Roe to Today
- Abortion Access in the Age of COVID-19

During the pandemic, TEA Fund was able to quickly adjust to virtual events and educational opportunities.



TEA Fund supporters enjoying themselves at our Dallas Fund-a-Thon kick off prior to the pandemic.

TEA Fund Advocacy & Outreach Director Nikiya talks to a supporter at Our Bodies Our Lives in January.

## NOTES FROM OUR CLIENTS



Thank you for helping when my personal funding fell through. I promise I'll give it back and pay it forward.

The money provided was a blessing. I was concerned with upcoming rent and utilities but now I will be stress free to deal with the healing process.

I wish I had been told about TEA Fund sooner b/c I would have done this weeks prior, making it less risky for me and not having to travel to an unknown area. TEA Fund helped me more than I was expecting and was very kind and understanding. Thank y'all so much!