## 2021 Annual Report

# PROOF

# BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE

A year of grassroots activism and empowering the public



## **2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

# Raising Women's Voices (RWV) for the Health Care We Need

With the NWHN's assistance, 25 Raising Women's Voices (RWV) Regional Coordinators (RCs) continued to provide emergency COVID-19 relief to struggling women across the nation, all while continuing to work

all while continuing to work virtually. The Afiya Center in Dallas, Texas provided thousands of dollars in direct financial aid, found people apartments, and facilitated releases from overcrowded jails. SisterReach in Memphis TN created a COVID-19 emergency fund that has helped over 2,000 families with food security, housing, and utility services. And in Arizona, Trans Queer Pueblo (TQP), created a radical well-being fund that helped raise over \$50,000 for the community to help with rent, groceries, and bills.

- The first-ever RWV Pregnancy and Oral Health summit held virtually November 16<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> was a roaring success. Hundreds of advocates from states with little or no Medicaid coverage for dental care during pregnancy convened to learn about policy options and advocacy strategies for improving coverage and access to care in their states. Participants also learned about a pilot project in NYC which integrates dental care into a pre-natal health clinic serving low-income patients, and about how doulas, dental therapists, and community health workers can help improve awareness about the need for dental care among pregnant people.
- Chloe Mondesir began in July 2021 as the new coordinator for all RWV activities. She got right to work building relationships with stakeholders and utilized her considerable networking and public speaking skills in service of an RWV fundraiser just two months after

her start date. The Catalysts of Change fundraiser, held on September 30th, highlighted the work of five emerging women's health activists and raised over \$15,000 in direct program support.

## Challenging Dangerous Drugs and Devices

The COVID-19 pandemic created an enormous public health emergency and financial crisis, which fell particularly hard on women and Black, Indigenous, and other people of color. The NWHN responded to this crisis by creating a wealth of resources to help our members navigate changing public safety protocols, push for public policy change, and learn more about emerging **COVID drugs and vaccines**. Specifically, we were one of the first organizations to explore how the COVID-19 vaccine can affect menstruation, whether the vaccine is safe for pregnant and lactating individuals, and what we know about the Johnson & Johnson vaccine's safety for women. All our COVID-related materials can be found on our COVID-19 landing page, which is updated weekly with the latest news and scientific developments.



In December of 2021, the NWHN began recruiting doctors, nurses, PhDs in medical education, and other qualified medical professionals for the new Volunteer Health Officer program. These VHOs will now support NWHN staff as they answer member questions, and are in the midst of a project to update and expand consumer health information on our website so that it reflects the latest research and is more responsive to the public's needs. Over 40 web pages on topics like osteoporosis, UTIs, sex drugs for women, period tracking apps, and more are set to be expanded with the help of the VHOs in the coming months.

# Securing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Autonomy

The NWHN's #MailTheAbortionPill campaign to eliminate politically motivated and medically unnecessary restrictions on this safe and effective treatment paid off! Thanks to advocacy arguments and specific language crafted by the NWHN, the FDA permanently removed medically unnecessary access restrictions to the abortion pill in December of 2021. It is no longer necessary to have these drugs dispersed inperson, which will improve access to this life-saving medication as we brace for a likely post-Roe America.

- The NWHN was one of the first organizations in 2021 to create and disseminate a comprehensive digital Abortion Access Guide geared towards at-risk women in states with restrictive abortion laws. To date, this guide and companion web pages have been accessed by **over a quarter million people** looking for trustworthy information on how to obtain abortions and other related services. You can find and share the guide at www.nwhn.org/syaabortionaccess2021.
- The NWHN identified a need amongst young people engaging with us online for high-quality sexual education, and we sprang into action. In 2021 we launched our now wildly popular #SexEdSaturday series, an Instagram campaign that leverages sexual health expertise and activist art to make information on topics like consent, sexually transmitted infections, and healthy intimacy practices in relationships more accessible to the public. You can access the latest #SexEdSaturday posts right on our home page at www.nwhn.org.

- The Spring Virtual Awards honoring five emerging activists taking the women's health world by storm.
- A Disaster Preparedness webinar co-hosted by FEMA and tailored to our supporter's needs.
- Free the Pill: From Righteous Disruption to Over-the-Counter Advocacy hosted by former NWHN Executive Director Cindy Pearson.
- Catalysts of Change, a virtual fundraising event showcasing grassroots health activists and Raising Women's Voices regional coordinators.
- The Pregnancy & Dental Care convening facilitated by Raising Women's Voices that helped frame a lack of dental care before, during, and after pregnancy as a reproductive justice issue.
- A webinar exploring the intersections of hair discrimination, chemicals in cosmetics, and women's health, co-hosted by the NWHN and Black Women for Wellness.

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The Network, like all of us, has been through a lot in the past couple of years. Last year, our longstanding Executive Director, Cindy Pearson, retired after decades of leadership. Other familiar faces, on the staff and on the board, ended their tenure with the organization. And we all continue to face the fear and tumult of a devastating pandemic. The Board had a lot to learn during this time - but we answered the charge, and have made it to a better place. We have an interim Executive Director who is leading the way to a new chapter of our work and helping us draw the map to get there. We have a new Director of Policy and Partnerships who is reshaping our agenda to focus on the most critical issues in women's health today. We have a new Board Chair who is quickly learning the ropes and striving to keep pace. And we have a former Board Chair stepping back onto the Executive Committee as Vice Chair. No matter what happens, the Network will still be here. We have been through a lot we all have — and we are still fighting, together.

Chair, and Kimberly Robinson, 2022 Vice Chair

# **OUR EVEN**

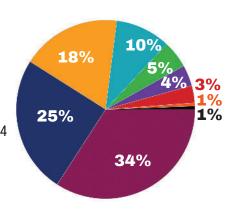
Total Income
Total Expense
Beginning Net Assets \$606,111
Change in Net Assets \$224,123
Ending Net Assets

### INCOME

**Sponsored Projects** \$1,030,980 **Donations** \$751.532 **Grants** \$545.000 **Membership** \$300,692 **Bequests** \$149,881

Google Adwords In Kind \$113,644 Fiscal Sponsor Fees \$95,069 **Annual Event \$17,927** 

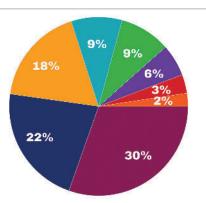
Other Income \$17.448



### **EXPENSES**

Sponsored Programs \$700,032 Member Services \$502.650 **Communications** \$410.615 Raising Women's Voices \$212,272 Health Policy \$212,161 **Board** \$132.737

Fundraising \$78,195 **Administration \$54,648** 





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**INSTAGRAM: THENWHN** 







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These individuals have included the NWHN in their estate plans. For more information, please contact the Development Department at 202-682-2640 or membership@nwh.org

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