ANNUAL REPORT
2019

MEDICAL STUDENTS FOR CHOICE
“Thank you from the bottom of my heart, for allowing me to receive training through the MSFC. This program allowed me to learn, to grow, and to stand up for what I believe in as a medical student, as a woman, and as a human.”

Talia, 2019 ATI Participant

“I learned so much, not only about abortion but also about caring and advocating for women. [The clinic staff] were incredibly welcoming to me, and taught me more than I had ever imagined. I learned so much from the women themselves, and feel like I have a way better understanding of why people get abortions, and about how important the procedure is in medical care. I have left the externship only feeling more passionate that this is what I want to do in the future and that it is so important. I am so grateful for this opportunity.”

Anna, 2019 RHE Participant

“I want to thank you for your support of this incredible organization. MSFC has inspired me and helped me find my passion as a future abortion provider and given me an opportunity to learn about this area of healthcare when I otherwise would not have. I come from an area that is very hostile toward the pro-choice movement, but I still feel very passionate about providing care here. I plan to be an OB/GYN and provide abortion care in the Midwest. With MSFC, I have found a community and mentors who have guided and supported me. Thank you again for your donation to MSFC!”

Ariana, 2019 ATI Participant

“Thank you so much for your generous support of MSFC and future physicians like me. The ATI has been so inspiring and I will be returning to my school motivated and prepared to show what I’ve learned with my peers to continue fighting for reproductive health care access and the respect women deserve. We couldn’t do this without you! Thank you!”

Leah, 2019 ATI Participant

“Thank you for all of your support! Without people like you, these educational opportunities would not be possible. Coming from a state that is anti-choice, I appreciate having the chance to gain knowledge about issues surrounding abortion, choice, and patient autonomy. I know this experience will allow me to provide the best care for my future patients so... Thank you!”

Morgan, 2019 RHE Participant
During this past year, MSFC has been preparing for a huge transition. Lois will be retiring later this year after almost 19 years leading our organization. In preparation, we have been working closely to ensure that MSFC will continue to make strides in our work with medical students to strengthen reproductive education.

This past year has been no exception. MSFC added its first chapter in Mississippi, welcomed groups of medical students in four additional countries, and has pivoted its programming to sustain student activism during the disruptions caused by the pandemic. MSFC’s values of service to our mission and our members has provided us all with clear direction as we have confronted these new challenges. Lois’s leadership played no small part in our success. Our students, in turn, have created countless opportunities for education and advocacy in this time, supported largely by the proactive and creative work of MSFC staff. More than ever, the relationships that MSFC members and staff have built during Lois’s tenure have positioned us for success.

New partnerships across our movement have enabled MSFC members to contribute directly to engaging new voters and in raising awareness of the lack of healthcare equity across all our countries that have become so obvious in this pandemic. We are joining together as groups engaged in promoting social and health equity in 30 countries around the world. The tremendous strength of medical student voices at 230 medical schools is a force that will change the world for the better.

It is a real privilege to serve this wonderful organization. We know that together, we can ensure that this momentous change will be a positive one. Thank you for all your support.

Sincerely,

Mugdha Mokashi, MPH
President 2020-2021, MSFC Board of Directors
Harvard Medical School

Lois V. Backus, MPH
Executive Director
229 chapters in 26 countries held over 2,000 education events for their classmates and communities.

MSFC’s presence on medical school campuses has grown new reach. In 2019, MSFC supported 229 chapters in 26 countries, including 11 new or revitalized chapters in the US, including the University of Mississippi, Texas Tech, and Washington State University and 4 new chapters in Africa, in countries with highly-restrictive abortion laws.

With your support, MSFC chapters held a record number of educational events this year (over 2,000!) to fill in crucial gaps in their formal medical school curriculum.

96 students from 10 countries, representing 18 medical schools, came together in Kigali, Rwanda for our African Regional Meeting (ARM), a one-day intensive experience.

Regional meetings are a wonderful way for students who cannot travel for the annual Conference on Family Planning to learn best practices around contraception and safe abortion.

“I learnt so much and I can’t wait for yet another opportunity to be a part of such a big vision. I’ve fallen in love with MSFC and I believe we can bring the change women need most.”

Geofrey, 2019 ARM Attendee
Improving Medical Education for Everyone

MSFC members are constantly working to change how abortion is approached (or ignored) within their own programs. In fact, over 1/3 of our chapters are trying to enhance medical education for all their classmates at a given time. This can often be a length process met with resistance from school administration and pro-life student groups, but our students persevere. One highlight this past year was the addition of family planning content to the curriculum for all five years at St. Augustine University in Uganda. Read more about this incredible win in MSFC chapter leader and fourth-year medical student Paul Mulyamboga’s blog post.

Abortion Training Institutes

120 students attended the Abortion Training Institute, an intensive educational weekend, taught by family planning experts.

Our Abortion Training Institutes are intensive, hands-on training for students passionate about becoming abortion providers. Thanks to your generous support, these weekend-long trainings are fully subsidized, ensuring that cost is never a hinderance to receiving training. This year, 120 medical students walked away with both clinical and advocacy skills, armed to make a difference!

“I’ve always wanted to be an abortion provider, but I haven’t ever been sure that it was a real possibility for me. The ATI gave me the confidence that it’s not only a safe, necessary and worthwhile career choice, but that it really is the only thing I can see myself doing with my life. I feel more inspired and supported than I thought possible. Thank you so much!”

Ally, 2019 ATI Participant

Hands-on training sessions at the Abortion Training Institutes.
The Reproductive Health Externship

155 students and residents received hands-on clinical training through our Reproductive Health Externship funding program.

Real-life experience cannot be replicated and thanks to your gift, 155 students and residents were able to spend two weeks fully immersed in the day-to-day life of an abortion clinic. Our ability to serve is limited only by training site capacity. MSFC staff are constantly working to find new partner sites to expand the program. Thanks to a fruitful partnership with Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana, we were able to support 26 externs from Africa!

“I very much enjoyed the exposure to offering safe comprehensive abortion care using the MVA and medical approach. Family planning services provided also exposed me to wide range of modern contraceptive options and gave me the platform to learn and practice on the job. It was indeed a mind-blowing encounter. I made up my mind to ultimately pursue a career in Obstetrics and Gynecology after my experience.”

Matthew, 2019 RHE Participant

Building a Network at the Conference on Family Planning

426 attendees joined us at our annual Conference on Family Planning, a two-day event full of networking, training, and inspiration.

In 2019, 327 medical students from 79 schools and representing five countries, met in Philadelphia, PA for MSFC’s annual Conference on Family Planning. Your support ensured that MSFC could provide travel assistance and conference subsidies to new chapters and those located in hostile areas. MSFC alumnae joined movement partners to present educational content and training on a variety of topics in a welcoming pro-choice environment.

2nd and 4th year medical students from Tulane University at the 2019 Conference on Family Planning.
Partnering with ally organizations is a key to MSFC chapters’ success on campus and in impacting the world around them. Over 90% of our chapters collaborated with local clinics and other interest groups in 2019. The MSFC chapter at Wake Forest School of Medicine partnered with the Carolina Abortion Fund to host a seminar and volunteer training for medical and law students. Read about the event on our blog!

MSFC also joined the Center for Reproductive Rights as a plaintiff in a successful lawsuit against the Trump administration’s Denial of Care Rule. We were proud to sign on and fight a rule that would have been detrimental to patients’ health and well-being and also to medical education.

“Medical Students for Choice is challenging the Denial of Care Rule because this rule will negatively impact our members’ ability to receive the education they will need to adequately care for their patients, greatly harming the quality of care everyone will receive from all future doctors nationwide”

Lois Backus
INCOME

- Individual and Trust Contributions: $418,898
- Foundation Grants: $1,155,760
- Investment Income: $95,441
- Net Gain/(Loss) on Investments: $343,683
- Meeting Registrations: $67,725
- Other Income: $2,033

Total Income: $2,083,540

Total Net Assets: $4,576,418

EXPENSES

- Student Organizing: $627,070
- Conferences and Meetings: $361,652
- Externship Program: $157,485
- Outreach and Communication: $132,104
- Management and General: $234,759
- Fund Development: $124,957

Total Expenses: $1,638,027

Program Expenses: 78%
Support Expenses: 22%
Foundation Supporters • 2019

Anonymous
The 1661 Foundation
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
The Isabel Allende Foundation
The Leavens Foundation

The Lisa & Douglas Goldman Fund
The Rockefeller Family Fund – Alki Fund
The Scherman Foundation
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