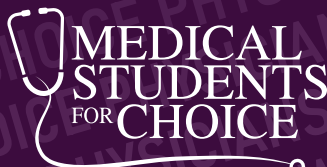


ANNUAL REPORT

2022



FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Abortion access is about justice. While Roe was never enough, its overruling has most harmed the communities that get systematically denied care. In the US's privatized and segregated healthcare system, it is poor people, Black and Indigenous people, queer and trans people, undocumented people, and people of other marginalized communities who feel its impacts most.

At Medical Students for Choice, we are working toward a world in which abortion is accessible, in policy and in practice. For the past thirty years, MSFC has tried to increase access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare training in medical schools, fight against abortion restrictions, and support students in their local movements for reproductive justice.

In the wake of intensifying restrictions, MSFC has been a space of strength, catharsis, and community. I've had the privilege of witnessing the organization continue to help students access abortion training, while trying to address the roots of this issue through legislative advocacy. Our fearless staff, with the bold leadership of our executive director Pamela Merritt, has accomplished this in many ways. They created an advocacy toolkit for student chapters, hosted webinars with student leaders, and partnered with reproductive justice organizations to fight legal cases within the US's rapidly changing landscape.

MSFC has done this, all while working to shift power to chapters outside of the US. With the guidance of Nicole Clark Consulting, LLC and board members Rose Al Abosy and Jess Mecklosky, our strategic plan tries to grapple with how white supremacy, capitalism, patriarchy, and US imperialism shape who can access and provide abortion care.

Our strategic plan includes:

- Revising our mission statement to center reproductive justice rather than reproductive "choice." This shift in language

reflects a change in the politics and membership of our chapters.

- Strengthening shared leadership models across the organization to break down patriarchal, top-down ways of working together.
- Engaging alumni to connect medical students with practitioners committed to reproductive justice. Relationships are at the core of our work.
- Supporting student leaders navigating hostile environments not only by increasing access to training, but also by equipping them with the tools to advocate within their communities.
- Shifting power outside of the US, with an awareness of the extractive patterns of many US-based nonprofits working globally. Concretely, this includes moving personnel, programming, and funding outside of US headquarters to elevate existing work globally.

I am grateful for this community, and for the opportunity to work toward these goals together! What I love about MSFC as an organization is that it moves beyond the made-up boundaries between the personal and political, and that caring relationships are at the center of this work. I'm honored to follow the steps of our fabulous former presidents Dango Mwambene and, before Dango, Kalin Gregory-Davis. Thank you to the MSFC staff for making this work real, and thank you to our student leaders for what you do every day in your communities. You are the essence of this work.

With gratitude,



Hanna Amanuel (she/her)
President 2023-2024, Board of Directors
Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When the US Supreme Court struck down Roe v. Wade, it created a national healthcare crisis that threatens the integrity of medical education in sixteen states, sparked chaos and confusion in hospitals and within the medical profession, and put the health and fertility of millions of people at risk. Our work at Medical Students for Choice has never been more important, and we continue to be fully committed to ensuring all medical students have access to abortion and family planning education.

We don't need to speculate about the impact abortion bans may have on medical education and training. MSFC student leaders attending medical school in abortion ban states have reported hostility toward medically accurate abortion education, challenges in receiving course credits and liability insurance coverage for abortion training out-of-state, and administrators who openly welcome anti-abortion student groups that distribute medically inaccurate propaganda on campus. It's not surprising that in the first national residency match day post-Roe, programs in states with abortion bans saw a 10.5 percent decrease in OB-GYN applicants in 2023 compared to 2022. In comparison, states without abortion bans saw a 5.3 percent decrease.

MSFC programs and student leaders are critical to efforts to mitigate harm while rebuilding a healthcare system that honors bodily autonomy. We are expanding our advocacy programs to include training in state and local government advocacy, and media and harm reduction training. MSFC has also engaged our legal partners to provide advice and guidance for medical students and physicians in training. And we continue to nurture our global community of chapters

in order to learn from each other, find support and encouragement, and increase access to abortion training.



A wise woman once told me that a plan binds anxiety, and we can find comfort knowing MSFC finalized our new strategic plan last year. Our strategic planning process engaged MSFC's Board, membership, and staff to create priorities that will guide our work supporting medical students or physicians in training seeking abortion and family planning education. Over the next five years, MSFC will review and refresh the mission statement, explore shared leadership models, increase alumni engagement, continue to support chapters through abortion bans and restrictions, and become a more global community.

MSFC programs support the future physicians necessary to truly nurture healthy communities free of violence and oppression. I can't wait to see what we accomplish together.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Pamela Merritt'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'P'.

Pamela Merritt
Executive Director

2022 by the numbers



312 chapters in **34** countries held **1,995** educational events for their classmates and communities

42 chapters engaged in curriculum reform efforts and **102** in advocacy work



397 attendees joined us at our second fully virtual Conference on Family Planning



43 students attended Virtual Abortion Training Institutes to safely learn about abortion



98 medical students and residents received funding to get training in clinical settings through the Reproductive Health Externship



MSFC provided chapters with supplies for **195** training workshops on vacuum aspiration abortion, IUD insertion, and No-Scalpel Vasectomy



Conference on Family Planning

In December 2022, MSFC hosted the second virtual Conference on Family Planning. 397 attendees, including 280 medical students and residents, convened in a fully virtual setting to attend sessions led by 28 MSFC alumni, faculty, and Experienced Student Leaders (ESLs).

The theme of the conference was *Physicians as Advocates: Liberating Abortion Through Training and Education*. It featured interactive and didactic sessions focusing on issues including advocacy, reproductive justice, abortion care, and family planning in a global context.

The keynote speaker MSFC Founder Jody Steinauer, MD, PhD led a panel discussion on patient-centered care and mitigating moral distress in a post-Roe world. Pre-conference sessions included Values Clarification with Catholics for Choice, Organizing 101 with Pregnancy Justice, and Curriculum Reform with the Reproductive Health Project of the American Medical Student Association.

Attendees were able to interact and share ideas with medical students from MSFC chapters globally at the community board and networking tables, as well as connect with current abortion providers, residency programs and pro-choice organizations at the speaker panels and virtual exhibit booths. The closing plenary session highlighted international MSFC alumni and their unique perspectives on global reproductive justice work.

“

I liked the opportunity to hear from various providers in different settings, especially those coming from more restrictive states. It gave great perspective on the current obstacles and challenges faced by many providers in the country and really inspired me to continue my pursuits in OB-GYN and becoming an abortion provider.

”

2022 Conference Attendee

Regional Meetings: Canadian Symposium

The 2022 Canadian Symposium organized by MSFC drew in 54 registrants, with an average of 30 participants attending on each of the two days. The event featured an engaging lineup of lectures and discussions. On the first day, topics covered included Reproductive Care in Remote, Rural, and Indigenous Communities, Introduction to HPV, and 1st and 2nd Trimester Abortion.

The second day of the symposium offered sessions on Intro to Canadian Abortion Landscape/Legal Perspective Panel, IUD Insertion, and Trans Reproductive Health. The symposium provided a valuable platform for MSFC to contribute to the knowledge sharing and advancement of reproductive health and rights in Canada.

Abortion Restrictions on the Rise

On June 24, 2022, the US Supreme Court released its decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*, which overturned *Roe v. Wade*, ending a nearly 50-year precedent of federal protections for abortion access in the US. MSFC entered its most restrictive abortion landscape and as a result, our US chapters have spent the last year finding ways to adapt and advocate.

MSFC Chapters from the University of Iowa's Carver College of Medicine and Des Moines University met for the **Do No Harm Rally for Reproductive Rights** at the Iowa State Capitol.



"We are the future of healthcare, and we have concerns about entering the practice of medicine in this changing environment, where physicians are being asked to carry out the acts of the legislators in a way that's harmful to patients," said Margaret Fuller, a former co-president of the MSFC University of Iowa Chapter.

MSFC members have been actively ensuring that legislators hear their voices. Organizers provided a template for emails to the lawmakers, and as the rally was drawing to a close, passed out green ribbons.



A green ribbon, a symbol of commitment to the fight for reproductive rights.

Students from related healthcare professions joined the MSFC members at the rally in the State Capitol. We find inspiration in the words of MSFC's founder, Dr. Jody Steinauer, "Everyone can play a part in making it easier for people to serve their communities as abortion providers."

Ensuring Abortion Education Has a Place in Curriculum

In 2022, MSFC chapters maintained strong programming, encompassing advocacy and training. They successfully organized 1,995 educational events that comprised interactive workshops and various training opportunities, effectively involving chapter members and fostering stronger connections within the movement. With a significant increase from 2021, 96.38% of chapters underwent leadership transitions. This shows a shift from pandemic numbers and indicates our chapters' effectiveness and high levels of internal engagement. Below are highlights from our chapters' campus events and initiatives in the US:

- Oregon Health Science University hosted an #AskAboutAbortion Twitter event to engage in digital activism in a post-Roe world about how abortion bans may impact future training. Events like this are crucial to organizing the global movement of medical students interested in abortion and reproductive healthcare and sharing factual information in a time of uncertainty.
- Florida International University hosted a virtual book club centering discussion related to abortion as they occurred in the novel *My Notorious Life* and had book author Kate Manning join them as a guest speaker. Creating intentional space for discussion and engaging others in the movement is a powerful way to ensure that conversations around abortion are ongoing and meaningful.
- Baylor College of Medicine chapter started a chapter-wide volunteer program to educate teens and preteens on reproductive and sexual health. This increase in educational outreach is important for building education and relationships moving forward.
- Washington State University Spokane chapter partnered with the University of Washington School of Medicine: Idaho to develop a website for abortion access in the area. The developed website will be a crucial tool when collaborating with other universities.

Liberate Abortion Coalition

MSFC partnered with the Liberate Abortion Campaign, a national effort comprised of more than 150 reproductive justice and rights organizations, groups, and abortion providers working in coalition to fight for abortion care that is available, affordable, accessible, and stigma-free for anyone who needs it. This coalition's ultimate goal is to achieve reproductive freedom.



Some of the projects we've collaborated on through the Liberate Abortion Campaign include: highlighting ways to take action, compiling press and media resources, and sharing best practices. This project is a meaningful way for reproductive healthcare organizations to create and sustain a community.

MSFC developed an Abortion Liberation Toolkit with the aim of mobilizing efforts to dismantle reproductive oppression. The toolkit includes various components, such as open letters addressed to school Deans of both Reproductive Oppression States and Abortion Liberty States. Additionally, it features a petition addressed to the Liaison Committee on Medical Education to incorporate abortion training into undergraduate medical education. The toolkit also provides messaging guidance, both in English and Spanish, to help effectively communicate the message of liberating abortion. Together, these elements form a comprehensive resource to advance the cause of abortion liberation.



Scan this code or visit the page msfc.org/toolkit to access MSFC's Abortion Liberation Toolkit.

Voices of our student leaders

■ Texas A&M School of Medicine

Texas A&M School of Medicine launched a petition to protect abortion education in Texas. This petition received over 500 signatures and was important in signifying medical students' deep investment in abortion education.

■ University of Florida College of Medicine

The University of Florida School of Medicine chapter wrote a letter to their House of Representatives about Bill SB5 to use their expertise and unique perspective as medical students to advocate for the importance of reproductive healthcare education.

■ University of Miami Medical School

The University of Miami Medical School chapter wrote a newsletter they sent to chapter members about legislative events in Florida and opportunities for advocacy. Sharing this localized information allows members to stay informed and engaged in their local healthcare issues.

■ Texas A&M School of Medicine

Texas A&M is working on a week-long elective on campus in Family Planning/Reproductive Justice/Abortion Care to kick off next Spring or Fall. This brainstorming results in creative programming that keeps the institution accountable.

■ University of Miami Medical School

University of Miami Medical School created a petition in response to the Roe v. Wade reversal. They got over 300 signatures and sent it to their Dean. This was an essential step in letting their medical institution know that students are advocating for abortion and the full scope of reproductive healthcare training.

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Thank you to every individual donor who has supported MSFC during this past year. We could not continue this work without your generosity and support.

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If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice

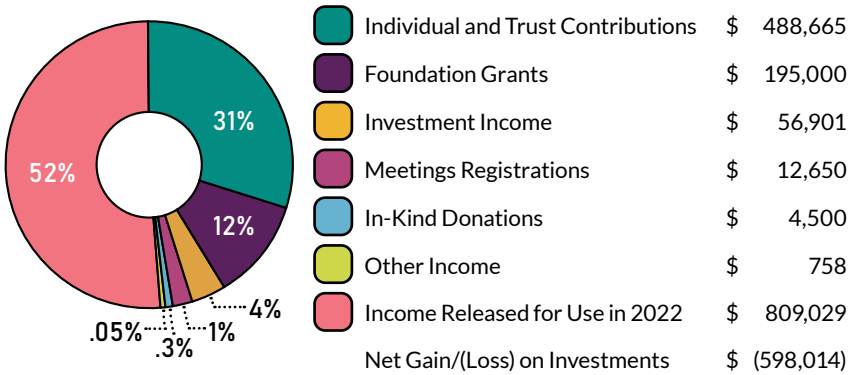
Lin-Fan Wang, MD, MPH

Einstein Montgomery Family Practice

Allison Whitney, MPH

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2022

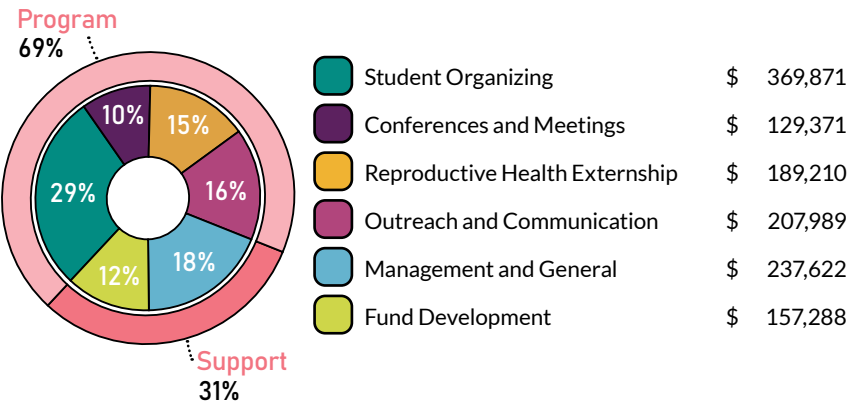
Income



Total Income
\$ 969,489

Total Net Assets
\$ 5,082,903

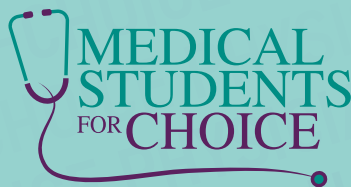
Expenses



Total Expenses
\$ 1,291,351

THANK YOU!

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to our valued partners, supporters, and the incredible medical students who have consistently demonstrated unwavering dedication, activism, and boundless energy in advancing our mission. Your continued support has been fundamental in our efforts to promote reproductive healthcare education, advocacy, and access.



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