



Blue Ridge  
Abortion Fund  
VIRGINIA

# FUNDING ABORTION IS RADICAL CARE



IMPACT REPORT 2021

Dear Supporters,

In 1989, a group of friends gathered donations to pay for the first abortion funded by what would eventually become the Blue Ridge Abortion Fund. We'd bet they never imagined the incredible impact it would have on Virginia.



**Over these 30+ years we have offered nearly 7,500 people support** so they could have their abortions. That's 7,500 people across Virginia — and in some cases the country — who were able to make the decision that was best for them.

Today, our abundance mindset means that we continue to listen to the needs of our callers and **seek to meet those needs, fully**, without demanding anything from them. Understanding that the cost of the abortion appointment is only one piece of actually getting the abortion, we have expanded resources for callers to include robust practical support. This looks like paying for: hotels, travel, gas money, childcare, road trip food, and companion expenses, all of which are necessary for the caller to get to their appointment.

*Funding abortion isn't just about giving people money: it's also about giving people information and connecting them with the resources they need.*

— Taylor Walle, volunteer

In the last year, **we've grown from a staff of 2 to a staff of 5**, one of whom is dedicated to supporting Spanish-speaking callers. We've strengthened our collaborative relationships with other funds as we all brace for what is already happening — abortion care that requires enormous amounts of hustle, money and logistical planning. We know what to do — we've been

doing it for over 30 years — and **we are unstoppable when it comes to getting people to their abortions**. We know you feel that way, too.

We're so grateful to be doing this work with you.

*The Blue Ridge Abortion Fund team*

## Today's Blue Ridge Abortion Fund

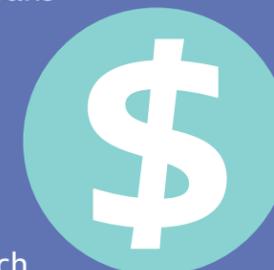
In 2021, **over 1,800 callers** received commitments of support for their abortions, totaling over **\$600,000**.

How does that happen?

Folks call the Blue Ridge Abortion Fund and our intake staff work with them to develop a plan of support that best suits their needs. Callers whose language of origin is Spanish know that our Spanish-speaking intake staff can support them throughout the process. Some callers simply need abortion funding support, and that's it. More and more callers are requesting more robust practical support as abortion bans and restrictions impact folks' ability to get to clinics.



Callers with abortions later in pregnancy may need to arrange for multi-day appointments and longer distance travel. In those cases, we might work with other funds to share the expense of that abortion, which could be \$3,000 or more. Some folks just need to hear that their abortion is normal, is common, and is OK.



We're committed to meeting the full need of callers whenever possible — meaning if we are someone's first call as they seek funding, we will fund them completely, so they don't have to call other funds to piece together financial resources.



**Taking the stress and "hustle" out of abortion access is a priority.**



We've funded **7,500 callers** over 30 years — 6,000 of those callers in the last 5 years.

Year	Callers pledged	Pledged amount
2017	697	\$150,887
2018	1,010	\$254,983
2019	1,355	\$350,047
2020	1,185	\$317,079
2021	1,856	\$600,458

*By funding abortions, we center dignity.*

# THE WORK OF FUNDING ABORTION

Virginians received care at 35 clinics in 6 states



1,856

CALLERS SERVED

*"I need to say thank you. You helped me find the best clinic for me, even though it meant leaving Virginia and traveling to North Carolina. And when I unexpectedly needed a hotel, you stepped in and made arrangements for me. You made such a difference in my life."*  
— a caller

\$  
600,458  
FUNDING COMMITTED



In 2021, Blue Ridge Abortion Fund began serving callers from throughout Virginia. We supported them, and those traveling to Virginia, at 15 clinics in the commonwealth.

\$ ABORTION IS EXPENSIVE \$

In Virginia, abortion costs start at \$375 and increase to nearly \$2,000. Any costs for travel, lodging and childcare can result in an additional \$1,000 to \$2,000 in expenses.

Abortions later in pregnancy can cost more than \$10,000, and often require plane tickets for travel to one of very few clinics in the country. Total costs can be up to \$20,000.



In 2021, telemedicine abortion became available in Virginia.

**Solidarity Funding** is support offered to callers who aren't from or traveling to Virginia. Solidarity funding supports people who need to travel long distances for care, or whose abortion and logistical support costs are more than any one fund can support. Abortion funding and access depend on an extensive network of local expertise that has been built through working collaboratively to ensure callers can get their abortion care. We supported callers from **20 states** traveling to clinics in **7 states**.



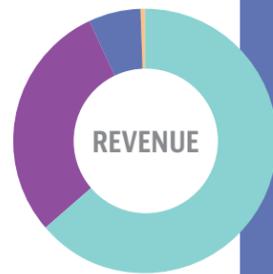
We provide community members with financial support, transportation, and lodging assistance for abortions.

The Blue Ridge Abortion Fund depends on generous community support to meet the needs of our callers. Last year, **925 people supported abortion access with their donations.**

## 2021

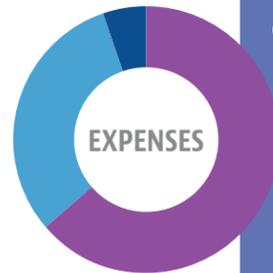
### Revenue

Grants	\$504,750.00
Donations	\$234,574.00
Fund-a-Thon	\$50,049.00
Other	\$2,458.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$791,831.00</b>



### Expenses

Abortion & Practical Support	\$470,863.00
Salaries & Benefits	\$230,528.00
Other Expenses	\$38,536.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$739,927.00</b>



\*unaudited

**Question:** *I already give to another large national abortion-forward organization. Why would I support an abortion fund, too?*

Abortion advocates and clinics are amazing! We work closely with them. Abortion clinics provide abortions. They charge fees for their services, and their patients who can't cover the cost call abortion funds for support. Abortion funds make sure that callers have the financial and logistical resources to get to the clinic.

We work closely with these funds to get callers to their abortions:



### Board of Directors

- Sydney Bufkin *President*
- Caitlin Blunnie *Vice President*
- Sara Sprague *Treasurer*
- Catherine Kane *Secretary*
- Cindy Janechild
- Noah Strike

### Staff

- Tannis Fuller *Executive Director*
- April Greene *Operations Manager*
- Deborah Arenstein *Director of Development*
- Katherine Diaz Garcia *Intake Coordinator*
- Val Washington *Intake Coordinator*

# Funding Abortion is RADICAL CARE

**Question:** *Is the end of Roe v. Wade coming?*

Yes. And for many people, the protections guaranteed by Roe are already meaningless.

Without waiting for a SCOTUS decision, state after state is restricting access or eliminating it altogether. We also are seeing increased criminal scrutiny of pregnancy outcomes, where every miscarriage looks suspicious to anti-abortion activists.

All of this means it's harder for everyone to get an abortion. Even in states with access, abortion funds are spending a lot of money to move people to their appointments, and callers are having to put in a lot of effort to get to the clinics.

Abortion restrictions anywhere impact abortion access everywhere. There is a ripple effect when people are forced to travel for abortion care. When you layer on the financial and logistical barriers combined with the time-sensitive nature of the procedure, the reality of access, even for folks living in states where abortion is more available, becomes almost untenable. **That's where the expertise and power of abortion funds makes a difference.**

Abortion funds have been organized for years around the work of moving people to their abortion appointments with financial and practical support. Working as a network, and in partnership with clinics, abortion funds know how to do this. Yes, it will be more difficult, complicated and stressful, but we are ready. We have collaborative relationships, skillful staff and volunteers, and an engaged and committed community of supporters that understand the pathway to abortion access in our current situation is funding.

*Your presence and support for both patients and Falls Church Healthcare Center has been invaluable. We're thankful for how you work so hard to get folks the abortion care they need.*

People should have supportive and compassionate care in their community.





PO Box 5082  
Charlottesville VA 22905

We believe funding abortion is an act of radical care and that all community members should have the agency and resources to make their own decisions about their bodies and lives.

#### VISION

We envision a world where everyone receives supportive and compassionate abortion care in their community.

#### MISSION

We provide community members with financial support, transportation, and lodging assistance for abortions. Through education and community outreach, we reduce stigma and increase awareness.

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[blueridgeabortionfund.org](http://blueridgeabortionfund.org)

Tax ID: 27-1343669

*I believe that the right to control what happens to your body is fundamental. Efforts to restrict abortion cut at the very core of what it means to determine the arc of one's life.*  
— a donor