



OHIO WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

2023

IMPACT

REPORT

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FROM FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RHIANNON CARES



RHIANNON CARNES

Founder & Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Thanks to your investment in the leadership of Black and Brown women fighting for Reproductive Justice in Ohio, Ohio Women's Alliance and Ohio Women's Alliance Action Fund made history in 2023—most notably through our work to permanently protect abortion and reproductive freedom in the Ohio Constitution. **From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you for the part you played in this monumental step toward liberation for our communities.**

As we look to the year ahead, we are poised and ready to defend ourselves against the Ohio legislators who are already working to sabotage the Reproductive Freedom Amendment. But first, I hope you'll enjoy reading our **2023 Impact Report**, which outlines our most successful year yet since our founding in 2019.

As I look back on 2023, I do so with great awe and pride at the things our team was able to accomplish last year, including:

- The **largest field program** for the Reproductive Freedom Amendment
- **Serving over 350 clients** during the first eight months of our launching our Member Assistance Program
- Our third annual **Reproductive Justice Table Fellowship** and our first cohort of OWA Action Fund **Change Makers**
- Our statewide **abortion stigma-busting campaign** that reached over 7 million Ohioans.

As always, thank you for being with us in this fight; we can't wait to see you throughout the coming year!

Rhiannon

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM AMENDMENT TIMELINE



Ohio reproductive health, rights, and justice organizations form Ohioans for Reproductive Freedom

December 2022

Ohioans for Reproductive Freedom files Reproductive Freedom Amendment paperwork with Ohio Attorney General



February 2023

Ohio Ballot Board accepts petition. Signature collection begins.

March 2023

Ohioans for Reproductive Freedom submits over 700,000 signatures to Ohio Secretary of State



July 2023

Ohioans vote down the extreme right's attempt to end democracy in Ohio! ORF joins with physicians to form Ohioans United for Reproductive Rights.



August 2023

57% of Ohioans vote YES on the Reproductive Freedom Amendment, constitutionally protecting abortion, miscarriage care, birth control, and fertility treatments!

November 2023



AUGUST VOTE NO CAMPAIGN PROTECTS DEMOCRACY

In August 2023, OWA Action Fund successfully defeated extremists' attempt to increase the vote threshold to 60% (versus a simple majority) to pass citizen-led ballot initiatives, which are a foundational element of democracy. The August Special Election—which cost Ohio taxpayers \$18 million—was called in direct response to our successful signature-collection campaign that put the Reproductive Freedom Amendment on the November ballot. OWA Action Fund made over 35,000 calls to educate voters about the danger that Issue 1 posed to democracy and bodily autonomy. Fortunately, their attempt to sabotage the Reproductive Freedom Amendment failed, and the August results were called at 8:53 pm, just after polls closed on Election Day. Over 2 million Ohioans cast their vote, and the issue was defeated with 57% of Ohioans voting no, fueling our fight to pass the Reproductive Freedom Amendment in November.

“In August, we turned out in record-breaking numbers to remind anti-democracy and anti-abortion extremists that we are more powerful than they ever will be.”

Rhiannon Carnes



Executive Director Rhiannon Carnes appeared on Capital This Week to discuss the importance of protecting citizens' rights to pass ballot initiatives.



15
canvassers



32,358
phonecalls



57%
no VOTES

“I just talked to someone who had no idea about the election but is heading to the polls right now to vote no!”

Alexis, OWA Action Fund Lead Canvasser



ABORTION & REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM LEGALIZED!

OWA ACTION FUND STATS



50
canvassers



18,932
doors
knocked



1,354,330
phonecalls

With abortion access hanging by a thread after the *Dobbs* decision, Ohio Women's Alliance joined with coalition partners to pass the historic Reproductive Freedom Amendment to the Ohio Constitution, protecting abortion, birth control, miscarriage care, and more.

Read about the impact we made.



OWA ACTION FUND CAMPAIGN YIELDS RECORD NUMBER OF 'YES' VOTES FROM BLACK & BROWN OHIOANS

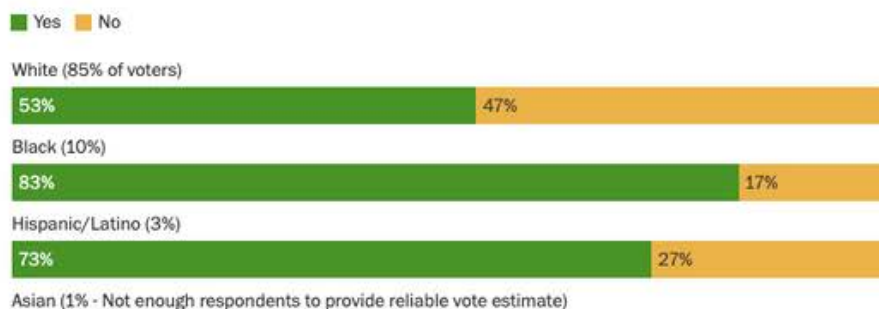


Historically, Black and brown Ohioans face discrimination and disenfranchisement in election cycles. Our communities are often overlooked in the political process until our votes are needed to win ballot initiatives that we had no voice in creating. This is exactly why OWA took a lead role in developing the amendment language, shaping communications to BIPOC Ohioans, and prioritizing Black and brown communities in our voter contact program.

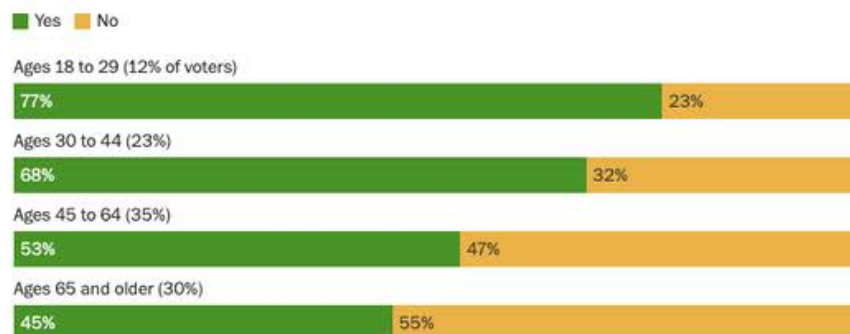
From the beginning, OWA was intentional with our voter education on Reproductive Justice issues, with the goal of creating a culture of trust and support beyond political exploitation. We called **over 1.3 million Ohioans**, knocked **nearly 19,000 doors**, sent **over 150,000 texts**, and joined with the Black leaders of New Voices for Reproductive Justice to host Black Blitz GOTV events across the state. And on Election Day, the voters we contacted told us what we have known all along: **When communities of color are prioritized in the electoral process, we make history!**

Exit Poll Reporting from *The Washington Post*

Race and ethnicity



Age





Reproductive Freedom Amendment: STORIES FROM THE FIELD

"I just spoke to a woman who wasn't aware of Issue 1, but once I shared, she said she's absolutely voting 'yes'. **She's been trying to get her tubes tied for months and having a hard time.** I referred her to the OWA website for support and assistance."

-**Les**, OWA Action Fund Canvasser

"Just had a great call with an older woman who was really confused about Issue 1 due to the [August] Issue 1; she assumed she would be voting no again, but after explaining everything, **she was really grateful for the call and committed to voting yes.**"

-**Alexis**, OWA Action Fund Canvasser

"I just spoke with a 71-year-old who said when she was very young, the local veterinarian in her town performed illegal abortions. **If someone had complications or needed a bit more recovery time, her parents took them in. She remembers her mom and dad caring for those women and always staunchly defending abortion rights.**"

-**Ashley**, OWA Action Fund Canvasser

"I just spoke to someone who said they weren't planning on voting at all this year because they were **overwhelmed by misinformation** about Issue 1 and had received a call from the antis that really confused them. **I was able to talk them through the bill and they're excited to vote yes!**"

Alexis, OWA Action Fund Lead Canvasser

"I have 2 girls under 6. I don't want to be part of a world where I'm responsible for their lack of autonomy."

-Ohio father

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Reflections from OWA Action Fund Campaign Leads



Rhiannon Carnes
Founder & Executive Director

Tonight, we protected abortion for all Ohioans and future generations, and we could not have done it without you! Thank you for the many ways you showed up for this campaign with your time, your donations, and your drive to ensure Ohioans' right to life-saving reproductive health care is protected. **WE DID DAMN THE THING!**

At the heart of our work, we are powered by the unyielding spirit of Black liberation that has been passed down through generations. It has shaped our culture, brought our communities together, and driven historical changes across society. Tonight, we stand on the shoulders of the Black women who have been fighting for centuries to liberate us from the patriarchy and white supremacy that has been trying to control our bodies and our lives for generations. This victory would not have been possible without them, and their legacy lives on in each of us today."

Jordyn Close
Deputy Director



"Ohio Women's Alliance Action Fund and countless other Black and brown organizers have spent the last year uplifting storytellers, fighting for messaging to be more values aligned, countering abortion stigma, educating Ohioans on Reproductive Justice and making sure this campaign was as powerful as possible. Black and brown voters showed just how powerful we are and I am so honored to be a witness to this historic moment for Ohio."

Anastasia Martinez
Director of Campaigns & Policy



"With this win and the August Special Election, Ohioans made it clear—this is our home and we decide what we need. We rejected extremist Republicans' attempts to shove their political agenda down our throats—and we will remember their lies and tricks next year and for years to come. Ohio is not a red state, it is a gerrymandered state, and these wins are the first step toward taking back our Ohio from out-of-touch, power-hungry politicians—and I hope they're scared, because their seats are next."

Lena Collins
Manager of Social Impact



"This is a win not only for all Ohioans, but especially Black and brown Ohioans that helped us over that hump to victory. Together we achieved success because we prioritized our people and uplifted their voices. This directly resulted in turning out 84% Black voters and 74% of Latine voters who voted yes on Issue 1. This is what the fight to achieve true liberation looks like. None of us are free until we are ALL free. This isn't over Ohio, it's just the beginning. The marathon continues."



MEMBER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SUPPORTS HUNDREDS SINCE APRIL LAUNCH

Ten months after the 2022 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs. v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, Ohio Women's Alliance launched its first yearlong direct service initiative, the Member Assistance Program (MAP). The MAP officially launched on April 3, 2023, providing practical support in the form of transportation, lodging, and child care to people accessing abortion care in Ohio or Ohioans traveling out of state for care.

The quality practical support that we provide to clients is made possible by the generous \$500,000 grant awarded to OWA by the City of Columbus back in 2022. OWA's diligence and stewardship of the city grant led to greater recognition of our essential programming, leading Franklin County to award \$259,700 to the MAP in 2023!

Thanks to public funding and the generosity of individual donors, in 2023, we served 370 clients, providing critical support as they accessed abortion care.

We have also provided over \$23,000 in direct funding to clients in the form of meals, travel, childcare stipends, and lost wages, and over \$29,000 in indirect funding for hotel costs, ride-shares, and volunteer reimbursements.

Over the last year, we have cultivated a growing and supportive ecosystem of values-aligned Practical Support Volunteers.

In 2023 alone, the MAP trained and onboarded over 50 new volunteers who assist with transportation and operating the MAP Warmline. The influx of MAP Practical Support Volunteers has allowed us to expand Warmline hours to include evenings and weekends, so **clients can now speak with a live operator 32 hours out of the week in addition to the 24/7 text and voicemail capabilities.**

Our volunteers connect with one another via the MAP Slack channel, where they form relationships and share best practices. Additionally, this year, MAP held three happy hours across the state in Cleveland, Columbus, and Yellow Springs for volunteers to connect in-person. During the events, **over 150 care packages** were made and distributed to Preterm, Women's Med Center of Dayton, and Your Choice Healthcare of Columbus.

MAP staff prioritize and value building strong relationships with clinics, abortion funds, and other practical support organizations (PSOs) in and out of state. These relationships have been integral to the MAP's success in its first 6 months of operation. **89% of referrals to the MAP come directly from clinics**, and MAP Staff collaborate daily with PSOs and funds like the Abortion Fund of Ohio, Kentucky Health Justice Network, Hoosier Fund, and many more.





Member Assistance Program: **CLIENT & VOLUNTEER REFLECTIONS**

“As an older woman with chronic health issues, I thought I could never be a help in any meaningful way to [people] seeking an abortion. However, as a MAP volunteer I can work shifts on the Warmline and never have to leave my home. It has been both simple and rewarding to answer texts and phone calls, as little as one 2-hour shift per month, and be a part of helping pregnant [people] receive the health care services they need.” **MAP Volunteer**

“They were the kindest people I have ever dealt with, and that was during a time that I needed it. I cannot thank everyone enough and I give my up most respect to everyone involved in the program. You guys are truly wonder people!”

MAP Client

“They helped me get a ride to the location, recommended me to the abortion funding site, and Cathy was so nice to give me a ride back and forth and was so comforting throughout the way. Thank you so much MAP for your assistance and everything you do to help women out here. I really appreciate the support.”

MAP Client

“This is one of the most amazing and beautiful organizations I have ever seen and some of the most amazing staff and people I have ever met. You guys are truly a blessing.”

MAP Client

“Literally everything was absolutely perfect. MAP decreased the stress of this appointment completely. I am extremely grateful for them and I couldn’t have gotten it done without their help. I cannot give enough thanks.” **MAP Client**

OWA team members Myia and Colleen oversee the MAP and coordinate our robust statewide network of Practical Support Volunteers!



Myia Rucker
Director of Membership



Colleen Damerell
MAP Service Coordinator

MAP BY THE NUMBERS

2023 Member Assistance Program Stats



370

requests for support

\$29,804

in indirect funding to support clients (hotels, volunteer reimbursements, etc.)

\$23,254

in direct funding to support clients (stipends for childcare, travel, lost wages)



24,456

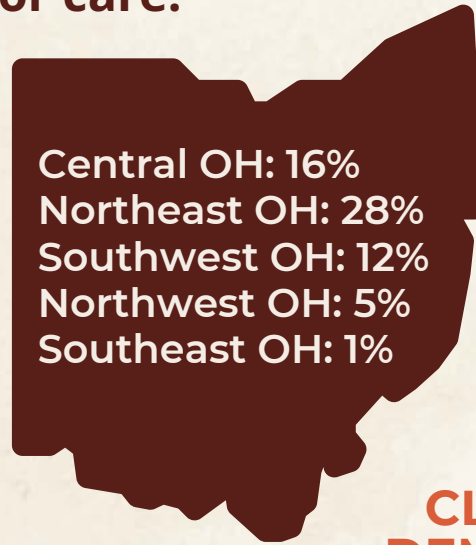
miles driven



172

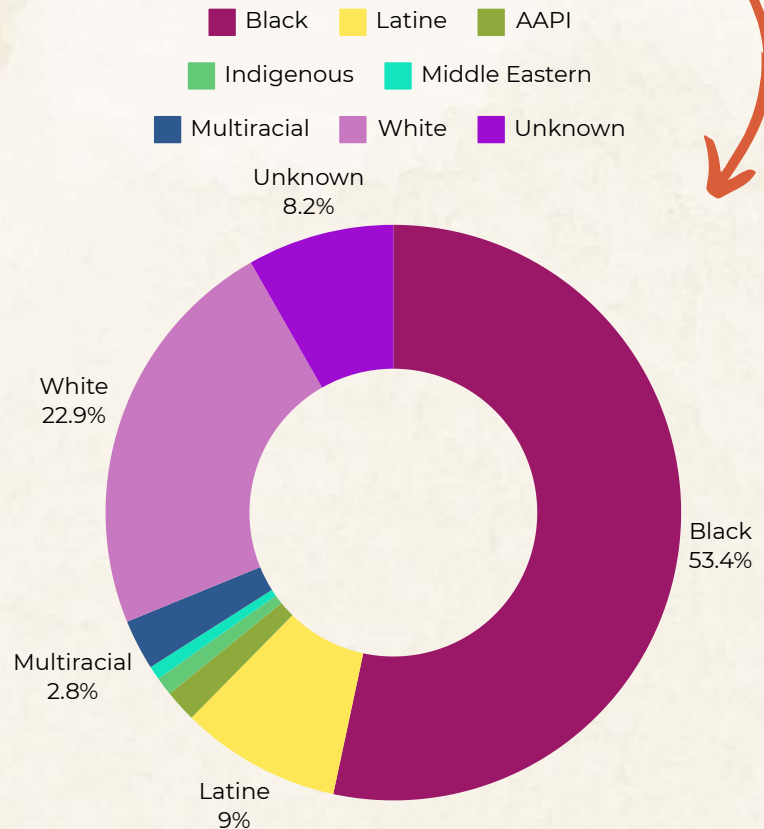
nights of lodging

The MAP serves Ohioans and anyone who comes to Ohio for care.



38% of clients live outside of Ohio

CLIENT RACIAL DEMOGRAPHICS



ABORTION STIGMA-BUSTING CAMPAIGN

Ohio abortion seekers:
YOU ARE LOVED.

Abortion is normal and *essential* healthcare – we decide what’s right for us, not politicians.



In October 2023, Ohio Women’s Alliance joined with **Pro-Choice Ohio Foundation** to launch a visibility campaign to spread awareness about abortion access in Ohio, uplift positive abortion-out-loud messaging, and prioritize and center the experiences of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) accessing reproductive health care—namely abortion care—in Ohio. The campaign consisted of billboards; wheatpasting installments; Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Pandora, and Google search ads; and TikToks from 15 Ohio microinfluencers.

We trained 30 Abortion Defenders who helped challenge hate and misinformation in the comments of the social media ads that were part of the campaign.



OHIO WOMEN'S ALLIANCE



Pro-Choice Ohio Foundation



7.2 million+
impressions



67,500+
engagements

Read more about the stigma-busting campaign.



“My abortion was the best decision I ever made.”

In Ohio, **WE** decide
FOR OURSELVES!

ohiowomensalliance.org/love

Pro-Choice Ohio Foundation OHIO WOMEN'S ALLIANCE



Pro-Choice Ohio Foundation

OHIO WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

WE MAKE OUR OWN DECISIONS NOT POLITICIANS.

Abortion is liberation!

LEARN MORE



A SNAPSHOT OF THE WORK OF THE OWA ABORTION DEFENDERS:

amandamarchetta 11w

Yes! Everyone deserves abortion access-say it loud and proud!

Astrid Black

Nathan Juanakee Penrod there are a lot of people of faith who would disagree with you. People of all religions have abortions and there is nothing sinful about it. Here's some excellent research that demonstrates this reality:

<https://www.gutmacher.org/.../people-all-religions-use...>

Olivia French

Persona Non Grata Every pregnant person has the right to make their own decisions for their life. Every person is the expert on their life and their community and their needs.

Olivia French

Thomas Bockbrader Hi Thomas, We're not here to judge the reasons why someone decides to get an abortion - we trust people to know what's best for them and their lives and make good, informed decisions about their own bodies.

Campaign Stats:

Billboards in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton

3,418,612 impressions

Meta Ads

2,659,857 impressions

TikTok Content

433,500 impressions

Pandora Ads

416,666 impressions

Snapchat Ads

332,348 impressions

Google Search Ads

42,611 impressions

The Stigma-Busting Campaign and Abortion Defender Program was made possible through the generosity of the New Venture Fund!

2023 REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE TABLE



The Ohio Women’s Alliance Reproductive Justice Table is a space explicitly dedicated to helping young women and gender-expansive people in Ohio identify, innovate, and launch their own ideas while being supported by experienced leaders in the Reproductive Justice movement. From March through December, this year’s fellows engaged in trainings on relational organizing, collective strategy, enhancing advocacy campaigns, transformative justice, and wellness practices for movement leaders.

Putting the skills they developed into practice, the 2023 cohort was **instrumental in passing the Reproductive Freedom Amendment** through collecting signatures, tabling at community events to register voters and get out the vote, and canvassing to educate voters. As if to their curriculum and ballot work wasn’t enough, they also **planned and executed the largest Back to School Drive** in OWA history!

The 2023 RJ Table was led by **OWA Manager of Social Impact Lena Collins** in collaboration with our trusted partners at [Relational Uprising](#), [The Ohio Rest Collective](#), [Reale Justice Network](#), [She, Imprints](#), and Malik Willoughby.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL BACKPACK & SUPPLY DRIVE



200
kids received backpacks
with school supplies



56
Columbus families served

race & ethnicity of families

22%	23%	19%	19%	17%
Somali	mixed race	Black	Latine	white



Thank you to our 2023 Back-to-School Drive partners, including [Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services](#), [Ohio Families Unite for Political Action and Change](#), [The Royal Oak Initiative](#), and [Ohio Youth Development](#)!

CONGRATULATIONS & THANK YOU to our 2023 RJ Table Fellows!



Kendra Asiedu
she/her



Aniah Bell-Langster
she/her



Carter Davis
they/them



Arrieonna Derricoatte
she/her



Noura Fayyazi
she/her



Ekklesia Jenkins
she/her



Amanda Marchetta
she/her



Anel Perez-Rodriguez
she/her

2023 CHANGE MAKERS THE INUAGURAL COHORT



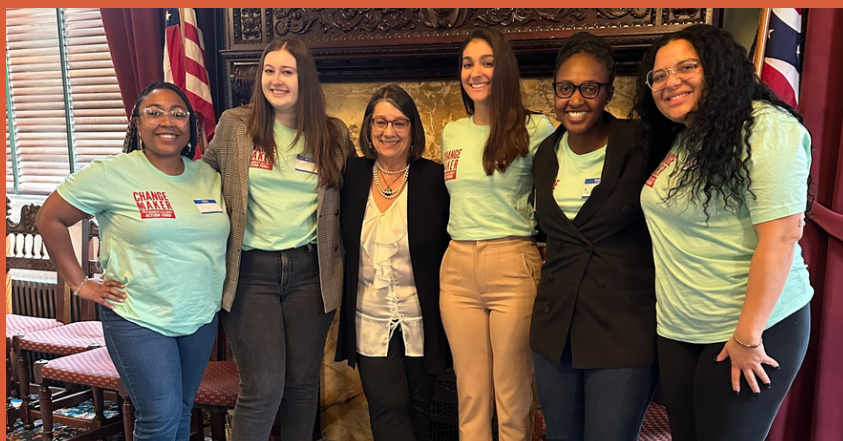
Change Makers is an OWA Action Fund youth leadership program creating a base of volunteers to call on for advocacy at the Ohio Statehouse and beyond. This inaugural cohort of young leaders is equipped to create pathways to change and build independent political power despite a hostile legislature.

The Change Makers program provides training and capacity to assist cohort members in their leadership journey by helping them discover what type of advocacy is for them. They establish skills such as **relational organizing**, **grassroots lobbying**, **virtual and crowd canvassing**, and the craft of **storytelling as a tactic to engage legislators and their fellow Ohioans**. Change Makers learn how to become more involved in the political process, harnessing their civic power toward expanding a more representative democracy.

The 2023 Change Makers program lasted nine months and graduated 11 young folks who are ready to take action in their communities, the Ohio Statehouse, and beyond. Like the members of the RJ Table, the 2023 Change Makers cohort served a pivotal role in engaging Ohioans in the work to pass the Reproductive Freedom Amendment in November!



STATEHOUSE DAY 2023



In April, the 2023 Change Makers & members of the OWA Staff met with nine legislators' and their aides to discuss the Reproductive Justice issues that are the biggest priorities for our communities, including abortion access, access to unbiased health and human services, equitable education (including comprehensive sex ed), and more.

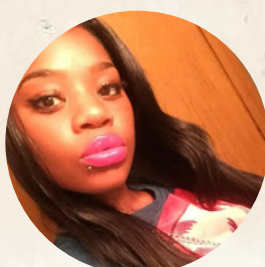
CONGRATULATIONS & THANK YOU to our 2023 Change Makers!



Carol Choup
she/her



Karina Dyner
she/her



Nyshia Gentry
she/her



Kelly Hall
she/her



Abby Harper
she/her



Taaj Jones
she/her



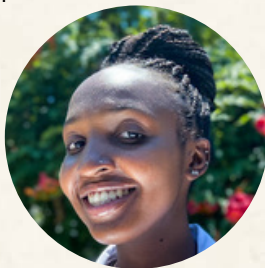
Donya Mills
she/her



Emma Murray
she/her



Ellena Privitera
she/her



Rebekah Russell
she/her



Laura Sullivan
she/her

Thank you to our partners at [LEAD Ohio](#); [Ohio Families Unite for Political Action and Change](#); [Policy Matters Ohio](#); Katy Shanahan; and candidates Lori Elmore, Damon Kane, and Matthew Ahn for sharing their expertise with our Change Makers throughout the year!



Prioritizing Wellness for OWA's Black & Brown Staff: **AWAKENING LOVE RETREAT**

As part of OWA's Be Well programming, in August our Black and Brown Staff traveled to Panama for an "Awakening Love" retreat to rest after the August Special Election and rejuvenate for the ongoing work to pass the Reproductive Freedom Ballot amendment.

The reality of this work is that women of color often work the hardest, yet receive the least recognition, compensation, and time to rest. That's why OWA has prioritized wellness and equitable compensation for our Black and Brown staff from the very beginning. And in the lead-up to the November election, pouring into our team became more important than ever.

During their time on the retreat, OWA Staff practiced yoga; took in the natural beauty of Panama; ate organic, nutritious, delicious food; and took time to rest and reconnect with one another.

Thank you to Jamilah Pitts of [She, Imprints](#) for making this such a special, rejuvenating time for OWA's Black and Brown Staff!



2023 REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE LISTENING TOUR

In 2019, OWA was started after our co-founders set out on a statewide Listening Tour to hear about the Reproductive Justice (RJ) priorities of Black and Brown Ohioans. OWA's strategic direction and Pillars of Prosperity were developed directly from what we heard on that Listening Tour, and—as we approach OWA's 5-year anniversary—it was time for us to hit the road again to ensure that our work continues to meet our communities' needs and vision for the future.

During the 2023 RJ Justice Listening Tour, our program staff gathered with Ohioans in Athens, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, and Findlay.

Prior to the tour, anti-choice legislators were pushing SJR2 and HJR1 through committees to establish the August Special Election which would take away the power of Ohio voters to pass the Reproductive Freedom Amendment. Thus, the tour also focused on harnessing and activating the power of our communities to defend democracy in August and legalize abortion and reproductive freedom in November!



Consistent themes that emerged from the 2023 Reproductive Justice Listening Tour included:

Creating a mutual aid space to allow us to share and pull resources together through networking, training, and volunteer programming (virtually or in-person).

Hosting speak-out events would open the conversation around RJ, dismantling abortion stigma, and uplifting lived experiences from Black, Brown, and rural Ohioans that are often left out of the conversation.

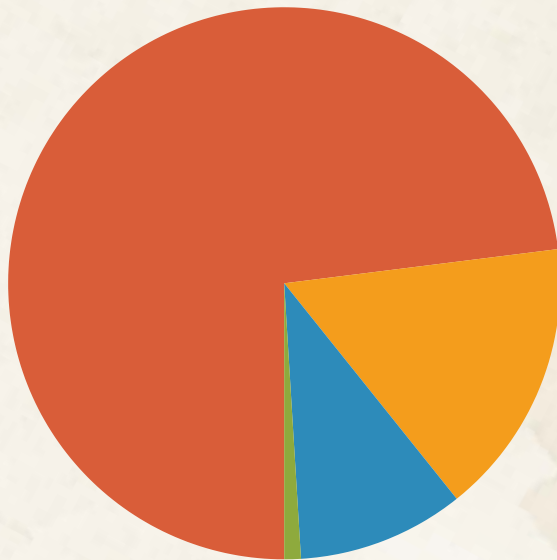
Having more conversations in faith-based communities about Reproductive Justice to:

1. provide opportunities for Black and Brown Ohioans to unpack how we look at access and Reproductive Justice issues in faith-based spaces and
2. help us combat the dangerous anti-abortion, anti-RJ rhetoric employed by religious extremists.



2023 FUNDRAISING SNAPSHOT

2023 Income: \$2,934,318.83



Foundation Grants

73%

Public Grants

16%

Partner Grants

9%

Individual Donations

1%

Thanks to the generous support and investment of our donors and foundations, including multi-year operational support, in 2023 OWA was able to:

- Hire two new full-time staff, **growing our team** to 8 in total
- Hire **50 part-time canvassers, 8 Reproductive Justice Table Fellows**, and numerous contracted personnel
- Invest nearly **\$500,000** in programming to support the **Reproductive Freedom Ballot Amendment** campaign
- **Regrant more than \$58,000 to partners**, including over \$35,000 to organizations and individuals who worked on the ballot campaign to prioritize wellness after the election cycle.
- **Resource more than \$240,000** towards the **Member Assistance Program** infrastructure, operations, and direct client support.

The history we made in 2023 could not have been possible without the generosity of so many. **Thank you for your support!**

2023 MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Newsweek

"I know the first-hand impact and harm when the government and politicians take away that sacred right [to abortion]," Rhiannon Carnes, founder and executive director of Ohio Women's Alliance, told Newsweek. "We are backing Issue 1 because we simply cannot afford to leave life-saving care in the hands of extremist politicians politicizing our reproductive freedom by running a campaign full of lies to maintain power over our bodies," she continued.

"We must stop Ohio's life-threatening abortion ban by voting yes and passing Issue 1. We deserve to live in healthy and prosperous communities, and that starts with taking back our right to reproductive justice, including abortion access."

Carnes has stressed the importance of abortion access for Black women, for which her organization was created.

"Black women in Ohio are already 2.6 times more likely to die from pregnancy complications than white women, and research shows that states with abortion bans have 62 percent higher maternal mortality rates than states with access," she told Newsweek. **Newsweek: Ohio Will Reset the Abortion Debate** [Read the article](#)

"A lot of our organizations really buy into relational organizing, so we have relationships with our member base, whether it's an off-year or not," said Jordyn Close of Ohioans for Reproductive Freedom, where she serves as co-chair of the organizing committee. "We as an entire state are riding the momentum of the other states we've seen across the nation have really successful reproductive freedom campaign initiatives. **Politico: The next battleground for abortion rights** [Read the article](#)

"Once they saw we were putting the signatures together" to get abortion rights on the ballot, "that's when they started to bring back the [August] special election," says Ana Martinez, senior campaign manager for the Ohio Women's Alliance. Not only would Tuesday's referendum hamstring efforts to secure reproductive rights, but "we're going to spend \$20 million of taxpayers' money for this," Martinez adds. **U.S. News & World Report: Ohio Votes on Raising the Bar for Abortion Rights** [Read the article](#)

"I think the anti-abortion politician strategy is backfiring," said Jordyn Close, a lifelong Ohioan and deputy director of the Ohio Women's Alliance. "Ohioans are seeing that the Republicans are willing to absolutely decimate democracy, they are willing to change the way any ballot initiative works, just to limit people's bodily autonomy."

The Guardian: Republicans pushed a special election in Ohio – what does it mean for abortion rights? [Read the article](#)

2023 MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

CONTINUED


“So many people were looking to us for the answer,” said Rhiannon Carnes, 45, of Pickerington, executive director and co-founder of Ohio Women’s Alliance. “We knew we only had one opportunity to get this right.”

“We’re certainly still not where we should be, but I think that a lot of red states especially are dealing with the same thing,” said Jordyn Close, 26, of Columbus, deputy director of Ohio Women’s Alliance. “We’re constantly battling these attacks from the legislature, from [anti-abortion groups] ... and also having to take on a lot of the labor to rebuild our internal structures. ... And so, that work moves slower than it should, because we’re fighting two fights at once.”

“All eyes are on Ohio,” said Anastasia Martinez, 28, of Columbus, senior campaign manager for Ohio Women’s Alliance. “There’s a lot riding on this campaign for Ohioans, but also the national fabric of abortion access.”

BAZAAR ^{Harper's}

In Ohio, a Grassroots Coalition Is Poised to Restore Reproductive Rights

This upcoming Election Day, a multiracial and cross-class group of organizers may see the fruit of years of organizing for reproductive rights [Read the article](#) 

TEENVOGUE

“Bans on reproductive health care have a greater detrimental personal and systemic impact on Black and brown people, queer and trans people, young people, and low-income people,” Jordyn Close, the deputy director of Ohio Women’s Alliance and Board President of Abortion Fund of Ohio, tells Teen Vogue. “Issue 1 will keep our families safer and increase access to health care.”

“Our clinics and abortion funds have been dealing with increasing patient needs, creating more barriers for Ohioans and people across the US coming to Ohio for their care,” Close says, adding that this is happening while the state’s six-week ban is temporarily blocked. “Ohio has already seen a large increase in abortion patients since the fall of Roe.”

“By leveraging the power of reproductive justice and cultural strategy at the intersection of voter education and community engagement,” Close says, “our 2023 campaign work intentionally centers the communities most impacted by abortion bans and will work to establish and deepen relationships with voters and community leaders of marginalized identities living in under-resourced Ohio communities.” **Teen Vogue: Ohio Issue 1: Voters Will Consider Protecting Abortion in the State Constitution** [Read the article](#)

2023 MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

CONTINUED

ELLE

The Black Women Who Fought for Ohio's Historic Abortion Win

BY LARADA LEE-WALLACE

"Rhiannon Carnes, co-founder and executive director of Ohio Women's Alliance, explained that local leaders used a reproductive justice lens when it came to the ballot measure. A feminist framework developed by Black women in the '90s, the three core values of reproductive justice are the right to have a child, the right to not have a child, and the right to parent children in safe and healthy environments.

*"We had a heavy hand in the messaging and narrative that was going to our community," Carnes said. **"It wasn't solely about abortion. It was about our communities having access to the things they need to thrive without fear of criminalization. That includes having access to the full spectrum of reproductive health care services, and that is why we worked closely with the ballot committee to ensure the language was as inclusive as possible. Voters were able to see that."***



[Read the full article](#)

Photos by Katie Forbes Photography.