ABORTION RIGHTS FUND OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

FUND FACTS UPDATE

SERVICE-- As more women have learned about the Fund, requests for service have steadily increased. Fund loans enabled over 150 women to receive safe and legal abortions during the year July 1, 1993 through June 30, 1994. The total amount for loans extended from January through June of 1994 was 50% greater than for the period from July through December of 1993. In addition to providing financial help, the Fund serves innumerable women through offering essential information and referral services.

OUTREACH-- Outreach efforts continue to women in more remote and rural areas of Western Massachusetts, as well as to women served by linguistic minority agencies. A toll-free telephone number has been established so that a woman can call to request help from any phone at any time. The number will be printed on wallet cards and brochures and widely distributed.

FUND RAISING-- The generous response of Fund supporters made the Summer, 1994 campaign a huge success. With matching funds from an anonymous donor, contributions will total $24,000. Fund raising efforts continue, however, in order to meet a projected 45% increase in loan expenses to over $34,000. ***All*** contributions continue to be used for direct service to women, with grants from small foundations providing administrative costs.

MEMBERSHIP IN NATIONAL NETWORK-- The Fund was the convenor and is a founding member of the National Network of Abortion Funds, formed to provide a vehicle for sharing strategies in fund raising and community education, and to remind the nation that abortion is legal but still not accessible to women without resources or insurance.

SOPHIA SMITH ARCHIVES-- The Fund has been invited to submit its papers to the Sophia Smith Archives of Smith College, a validation of the significance of its contribution to the community and especially to the well-being of women.

GRASS ROOTS STATUS-- With all of its accomplishments, the Fund continues to function as a small grass roots organization. All members are volunteers with the exception of the Loan Counselor, who receives a modest stipend for her work. The Fund maintains no office. All of the work, from policy planning to envelope stuffing, takes place in a church lounge or in members' homes.

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