



Women's Health Specialists of California
The Feminist Women's Health Centers of California

A Message To Our Communities

2006 was a year filled with inspiration, collaboration, activism and growth. Thanks to all of our supporters, WHS staff and board members, we have been able to make a difference in the lives of the women and men all over Northern California and beyond. Our expanded website and myspace page are reaching women all over the world becoming a powerful way for us to share women's health information and activism.

We provided health care to 48,927 teenagers, women and men in eight clinic sites. We greatly expanded the number of clients in Redding and increased the clinic and outreach space to meet the demands of the community. We grew in every health center and opened clinics in Grass Valley and Rancho Cordova. We expanded our clinic hours in Santa Rosa and renovated all the sites to increase client comfort and clinic efficiency. We prevailed in court, preserving the rights of our clients and staff in the face of anti-abortion attacks.

2006 has been a year of making new alliances with grassroots community health activists locally, nationally and internationally. The sharing of experiences strengthens our belief in the commonality of all women in our struggle for liberation.

Together we can make a difference. With your financial help we can increase our base of active support in each of our



SHAUNA HECKERT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

communities. We welcome everyone to join our network: all who share our vision of a world with dignity, freedom of choice, and full human rights.

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WHS staff and supporters rally against Proposition 85, aimed at restricting abortion consent by teenagers, which went down to defeat in California.

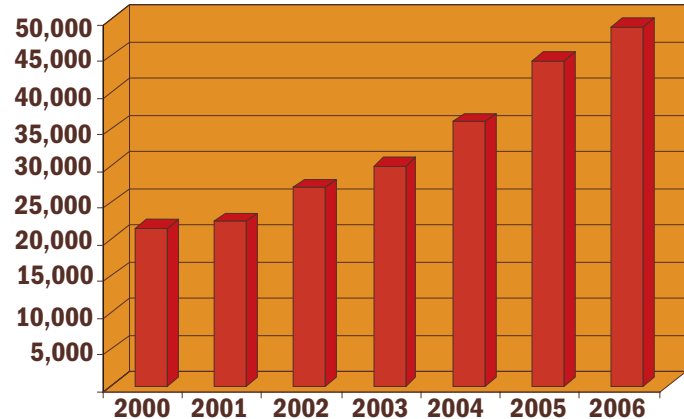
Our Philosophy

Our philosophy is that sharing information is the key to giving women control over their gynecological health and reproductive choices. We believe that all women have the right to choose when, if, and under what circumstances they will have children. Long-term social change is our priority and our challenge. We have expanded the meaning of women's health to its natural outcome: human rights.

Our Mission

We have a vision: A world where women control their own bodies, reproduction and sexuality. Women's Health Specialists is dedicated to providing women-controlled health care and advocating all options for all women. Only with dignity and freedom of choice can women achieve their full potential.

Client Visits



Chico, Redding, Sacramento, Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Grass Valley, Rancho Cordova

www.womenshealthspecialists.org www.myspace.com/whsofcalifornia



The Santa Rosa WHS staff gets ready for a day of well woman services and advocacy

Well Women Reproductive Health Care

Women's Health Specialists gives women control over their gynecological health by sharing information and providing women with all their reproductive choices. Annual exams, breast exams, cancer screening, treatment for common health concerns and birth control are provided with a woman-centered approach.

Women and men come for sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment. We offer information to menopausal women and alternatives to hormone therapy. All information and services are at no cost or low cost and are provided in English, Spanish, Hmong and Mien languages.

“I have been wanting to write...to thank the amazing staff, doctors and nurses at your clinic for the positive impact that you have had on my life and my physical, mental and spiritual health. I have been a patient at your clinic since 1999 when you were righteously called the Feminist Women's Health Center. You have journeyed with me for many years empowering me rather than robbing me of decisions concerning my health. The philosophy and practices of Women's Health Specialists has been a huge influence on my understanding of my body, my options, and my choices as well as women's health issues worldwide.” Client



Chico WHS staff provide support and services six days a week and have added evening hours two nights a week.



The Sacramento WHS works as a team to provide complete abortion care

Comprehensive Abortion Care

Women are offered abortion services, including “The Abortion Pill” (RU486) with privacy, respect and dignity.

“Women feel safe and non-threatened in a clinic setting that is pro-women, non-judgmental, and that meets clients’ needs.”

Linda Krueger, WHS staff

Self Help Groups

Self Help is demystifying our bodies by gathering together, sharing our stories and looking at our vaginas and cervixes. Economic and population policies that force women into sterilization, drug companies that experiment on women, the spread of medical disinformation about our bodies, have targeted all women, especially poor women and women of color. Women telling the truth and sharing experiences is liberating. Speculums can be ordered at www.womenshealthspecialists.org



WHS facilitated a self-help group in Los Angeles, CA for women at the SisterSong conference.

Reaching out into our **Communities**



WHS staff support the Juneteenth celebration at the Martin Luther King Center in Redding.

Outreach, Education and Advocacy

We believe a part of social change is networking, traveling and participating in events. Our goal is to continue to build a network of support for women and share health information with people where they live, work and socialize.

Speakers Bureau

Our presentations are based on the knowledge we gained over the years from women we see in the clinic, met in the community and in our national and international travels.



WHS supporting the rights of immigrants at El Gran Paro demonstration May 1, Chico.

Phoenix Teen Clinic, Petaluma



WHS's Phoenix Teen clinic in Petaluma has seen 560 clients since it's opening, and has trained local teenagers as advocates.

Teen Care-A-Van, Sacramento



WHS partners with Diogenes Youth Services to provide free health care on the Care-A-Van to homeless and at-risk youth in Sacramento.

Youth Education Services, Redding



The YES (Youth Education Services) program provides information and support for youth leaders in Shasta County and is made possible by Title X federal funding.

Making

Reproductive Services a **REALITY** in *New Communities*



WHS collaborates with Nevada County Citizens for Choice for the Grass Valley WHS clinic, which offers health care to women and men, and has seen 496 clients since opening in May 2006.



WHS began birth control, STD and well woman services at the Rancho Cordova Neighborhood center in September and has seen 78 clients.

Health Information Line and Website

We provide information, support, referrals and advocacy to women and men at no charge 7 days a week. We take questions on line through our website. www.womenshealthspecialists.org
www.myspace.com/whsofcalifornia



Our phone counselors help thousands of callers in English, Spanish and Hmong.

Our Publications

By the Federation of FWHC's:
A New View of a Woman's Body
How to Stay OUT of the Gynecologists Office
Woman-Centered Pregnancy & Birth
Order books at: www.womenshealthspecialists.org

Adoption Choices



Marikathryn Hendrix and Senta Burton facilitate a live discussion on Adoption Choices for WHS's talk show "It's Your Body" on KZFR.

“ I want you to know how much I appreciate Marikathryn and Senta. They do a wonderful job with patients and staff. They are knowledgeable and kind and true advocates for patient needs. ”

Tracy Guerra, LCSW, Enloe Medical Center

EXPANDING SERVICES

The California Family Health Council awarded Women's Health Specialists Title X grants for Shasta County beginning January 1, 2007:

- Title X **Family Planning Services** a grant to increase the number of clients receiving birth control in Shasta County.
- Learning Labs Special Program grant to fund the **Youth Education Services** program.



Redding staff have increased outreach all over Shasta county, but there are still more women and men who don't yet know they can access free, confidential services.

- **Male Services Program** grant to increase the number of men over age 25 who get free health education and services in Shasta County



The Redding WHS is providing more services to men and has expanded hours to Saturdays

“This is a very inspirational and positive thing you have going. Keep up the good work.” Client

in the **NORTHSTATE** “

While women’s rights are being daily besieged and diminished by our own American government, the health workers and team members at Women’s Health Specialists don’t skip a beat. They just keep on giving excellent care to women; educating them about their bodies, and through this education giving women a wide range of choices about their own healthcare, and thus their own lives and destinies. ”

Suzy Coffee, The People’s Press, Issue 21



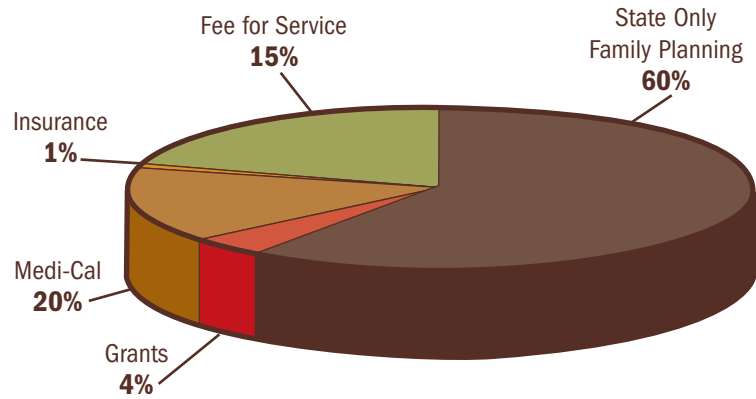
Redding staff are excited about reaching more people in need of health education and services.



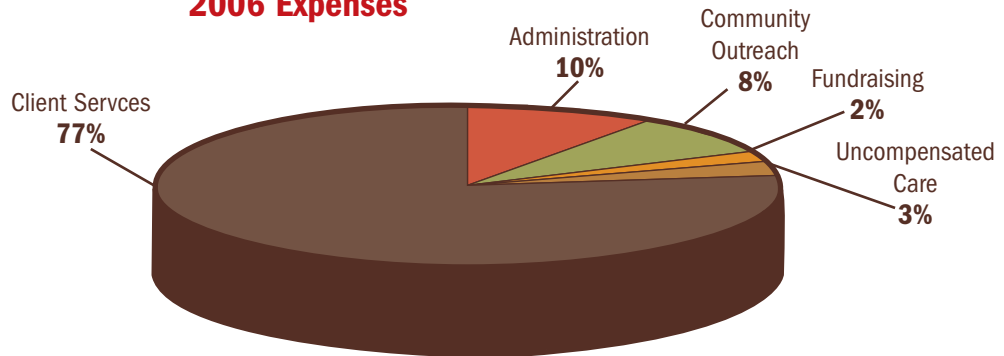
The Redding WHS has increased the number of clients by 24% over the past year.

2006 Financials

2006 Income by Source



2006 Expenses



Your Support

“Women in Need” Fund

We fund raise to provide practical support for women who lack the resources to receive clinic services. The fund can provide cab, hotel or bus fare, childcare or overnight provisions for women in need. **Women's Health Specialists Tax ID # 94-2259357**



Nevada County Citizens For Choice and WHS staff work together to make WHS clinic services possible in Grass Valley.

Abortion Access Legal Fund

There are no reproductive rights without access to abortion. Together with volunteer escorts and our legal team, we have stood up to the attacks by the anti-abortion movement.



WHS staff works together with community members to raise practical support and donations.



WHS staff and Chico community members prevailed in court when seeking protection for staff and clients from anti-abortion harassment and terrorism. The California Supreme Court refused to hear the protestors appeal in FWHC v. Canfield.

DEDICATING the

DIDO HASPER ACTIVIST ROOMS



“She saw people involved in their community, having an impact, and knew she wanted to be a part of that.” (Heckert) said. “In 1974 Dido turned her efforts to women’s reproductive freedom and self-determination. Working with eight other women, she started the first and only women-controlled clinic in Northern California...”

Sacramento Bee article, February 1, 2007 by Edgar Sanchez

The **Dido Hasper Activist Room** is a place where community members can meet, organize, strategize and spread activism for reproductive rights in our increasingly hostile environment. We are using Dido’s legacy as a stepping off point to keep the turf we have already won and to work together for women’s liberation.



THREE **DECADES** of **WOMEN'S RIGHTS**



We celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Chico FWHC with 350 friends and supporters. FWHC honored thirteen Community Health Activists; Carol Burr, CSU Chico Professor, Helen Cartwright, Frieda De Bernardi, Supervisor Jane Dolan, Carol Downer, Esq., Hans Freistadt, M.D., Dave Guzzetti, Coleen Jarvis, Esq. (posthumously), Jessie Little, Mark Merin, Esq., Bob Mulholland, Paul Persons, Esq., Diane Prince, Cathie Roach, Cathleen Williams, Esq.



On the 34th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, Chelsea Del Rio of Sacramento NOW, Assemblymember Dave Jones, Shauna Heckert, and civil rights attorney Mark Merin laid out the importance of the US Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion

THE **UNITY** of **WOMEN**



In Venezuela we met with community health activists and shared stories, experiences and self-help.



The Minister of Health of Caracas hosted a meeting in which we shared our medical protocols to aid their struggle to prevent post-abortion complications.



Carmen Rojas hosts a community talk show at Radio Sendero Antimano, Caracas.



Paul Persons
1951 - 2007

“We dedicate this annual report in Memory of Paul Persons; friend, dedicated activist and defender of women’s rights.”
WHS

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS WHO CARRY OUR MISSION FARTHER AND WIDER:

Ricky Amador
Kristine Arquillano
AS Women’s Center CSU, Chico
Ondrea Austin
Edward Barger
Penny Bertsch
Elaine Bontuyan
Emily Bowen
David Breese
CAMINAR
Julieta Carillo
Suzy and Del Coffee
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Frank Treadway
Carly Van Alfen
Amanda Vollen
Barbara Walker
Christine Wright
Joy Yoshioka-Osborne
Yoyo Yui
Danielle Zak
Shane Zany

“Other volunteer jobs I’ve had have made me feel like I was just a volunteer, like I didn’t matter as much...whereas WHS really has made me feel welcome and like I’m part of their family.” *Kelly Jordan, volunteer*

Thanks To Our Contributors

Foundation Support

The California Wellness Foundation
The Women's Foundation of California
Blue Shield of California
The Jones Family Fund

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A.S. Women's Center, CSU Chico
Nel Adams
Lynda Agustus
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American Chi Center for Health, Lisa Hill
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Diabetes Educational Services, Beverly
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Ecodoesit!
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Calvin Freeman, Freeman & Associates
Friends of Illa Collin, Councilmember, City of Sacramento
Linda Furr
Pamela and Dr. Barry Furst
Sandy Garcia
Sandra Gibbings

Thanks To Our Contributors

Susan Gibson
Natalie Gieck
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Teresa Gisske
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