



Preterm 2018

Impact Report

care, growth, and community-building

Dear Friends,

As the world around us has changed and our communities have struggled, I'm proud to have been in this work with you—maintaining the high standard of abortion care and deeply compassionate community-building that Preterm is known for. In this report, you'll find out about the thousands of patients we served, our new initiatives, and how we're engaging our community in changing the politically-charged conversation around abortion—all while keeping patient-centered abortion and sexual healthcare at the center of our work.

Last fiscal year we served 5,956 patients, providing compassionate, high-quality abortion and sexual healthcare like birth control, STD testing and treatment, and wellness care like Pap tests and pelvic exams. We were thrilled to begin providing culturally responsive healthcare tailored to the LGBTQ community, with the support of our LGBTQ healthcare steering committee. I'm looking forward to sharing more about these services as we continue to grow this area of our practice.

We continued to amplify the voices of women and people who have had abortions. In collaboration with our friends at the Ohio Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, we invited interfaith clergy members and faith leaders to gather outside Preterm, where they blessed the clinic. We also launched the brand new My Abortion, My Life podcast. We created the podcast to give wider audiences the chance to hear from the people at the center of the abortion debate—the people who've had abortions and the people who love and support them. By far, our biggest project of 2018 was planning for the future. The one thing we can count on is to expect the unexpected. As we look ahead, Preterm plans to embark on what we're calling an "organizational transformation."

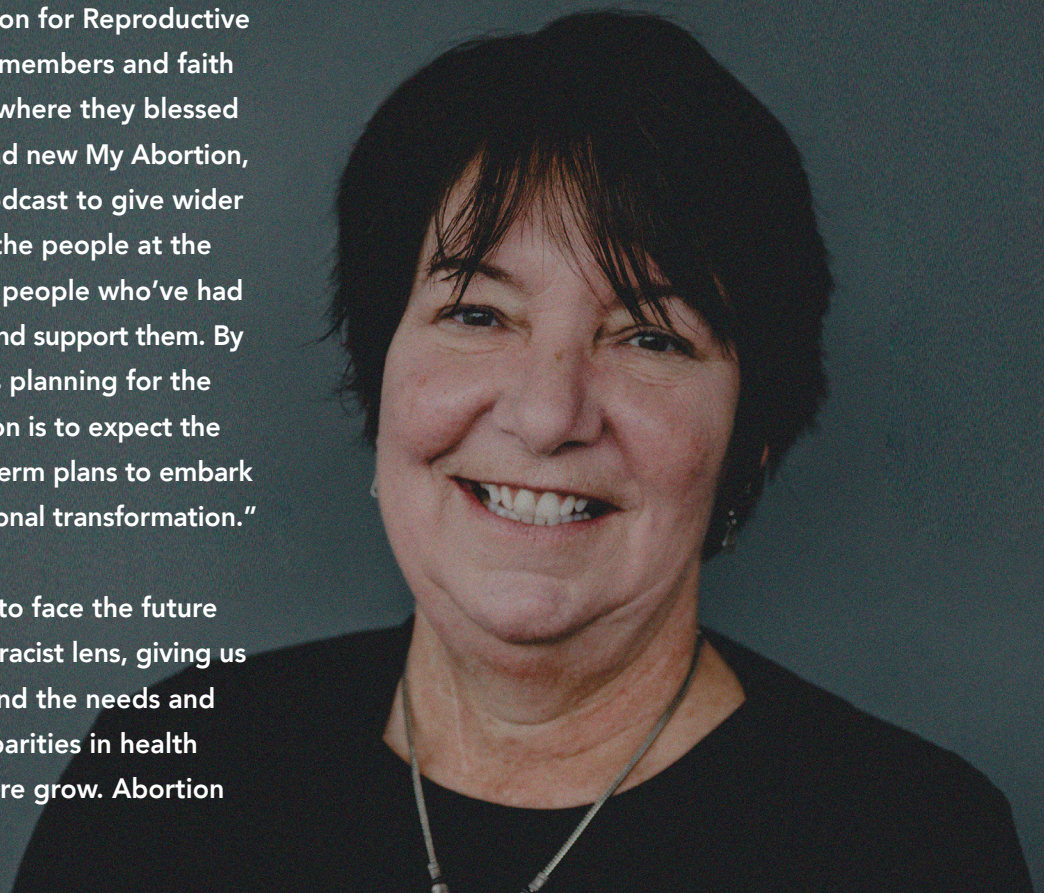
This transformation will position us to face the future through an anti-oppression and anti-racist lens, giving us the ability to more deeply understand the needs and struggles of our patients as the disparities in health outcomes and access to abortion care grow. Abortion

care is the center of our work. But we know that we can't truly work toward justice for the diverse population we serve without acknowledging the historical and systemic oppressions that have affected generations of Black people and all people of color, women, LGBTQ folks, disabled people, people of varying immigration status, and people in poverty.

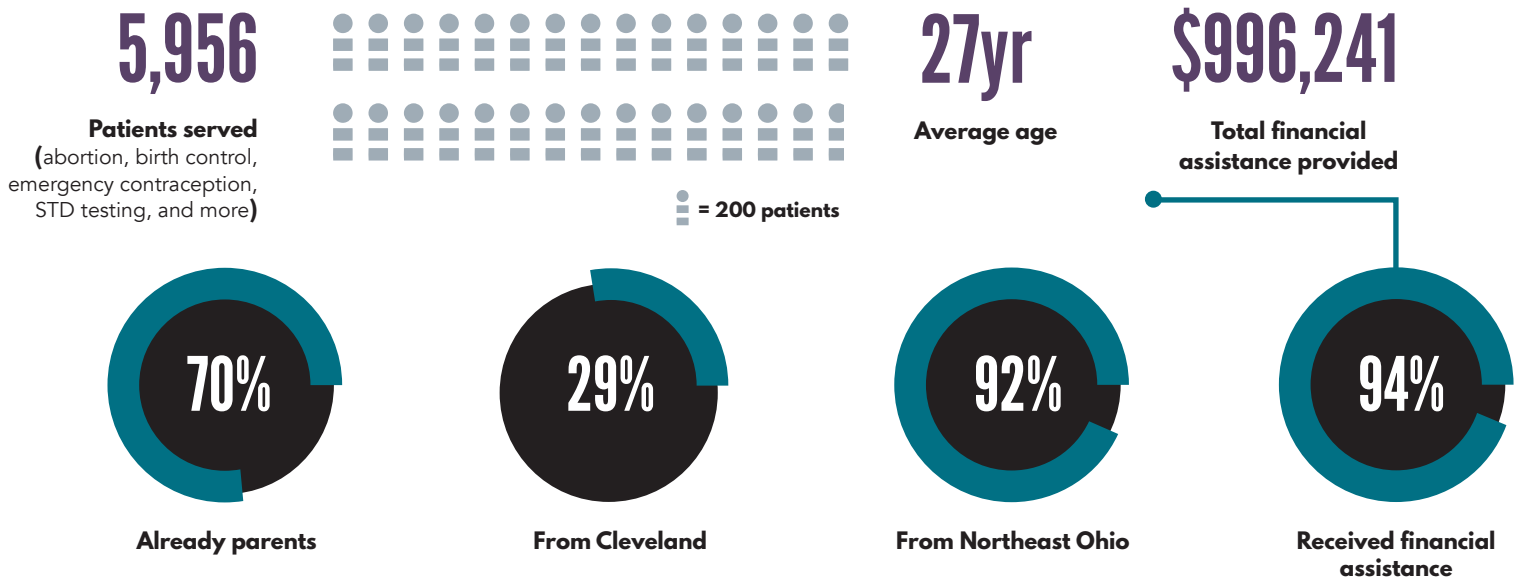
I hope that our year of care, growth, and community-building has inspired you to continue this journey with us. Without you, Preterm would not be here to support the women and people who trust us when making the most personal decisions about their health, families, and lives.

In solidarity,

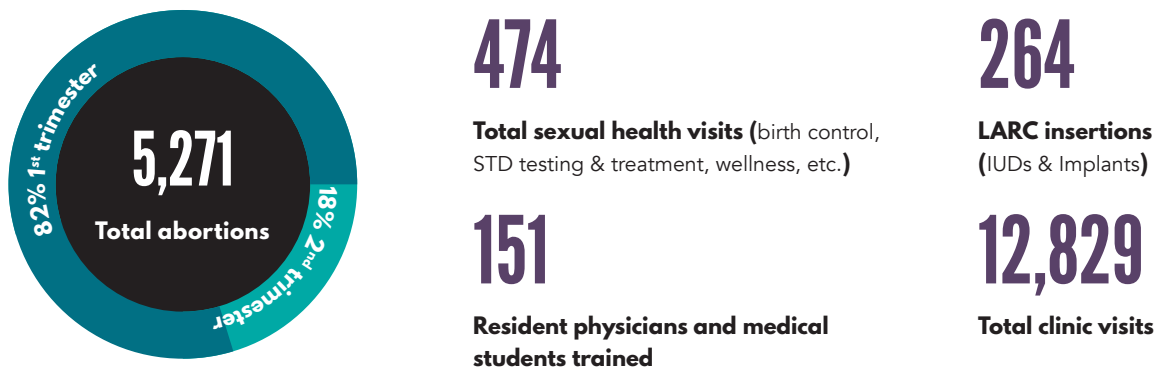
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who we serve.

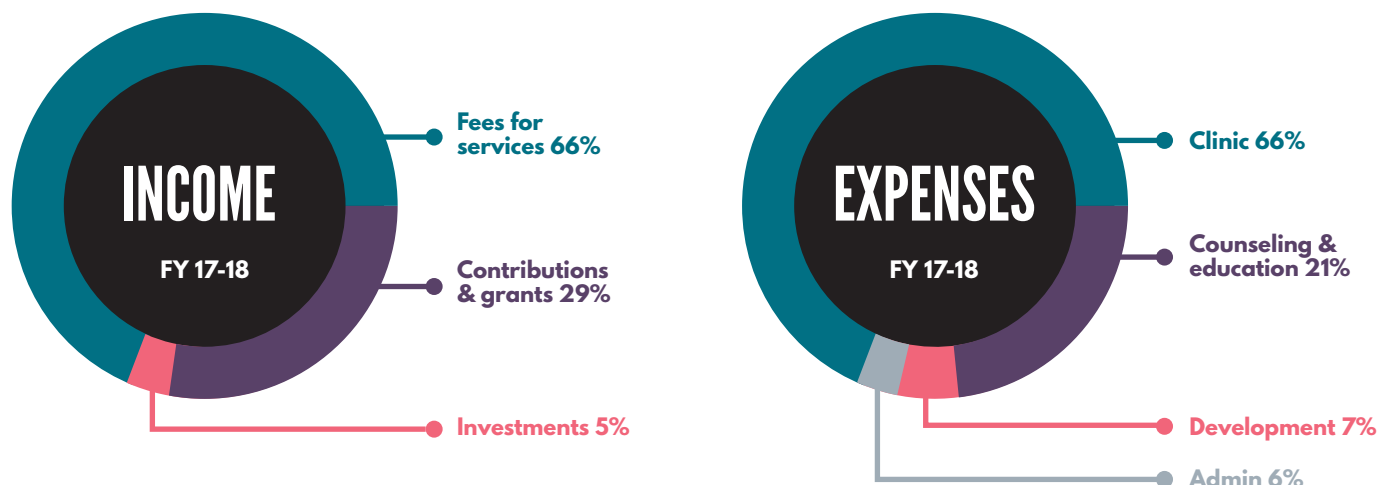


what we do.



how we do it.

In fiscal year 2018, nearly 1,500 individuals, foundations, abortion funds, and businesses supported Preterm's work through financial contributions. Combined with patient fees and investments, our income was \$4.3 million.



Communities need clinics

In November 2018, Abortion Care Network released their Communities Need Clinics report on the importance of independent abortion care providers like Preterm and the future of abortion access. It shows that independent providers are the backbone of abortion access in the country, with a few key takeaways:

- 3 in 5 people receive their abortion care from an independent clinic.
- Abortion care throughout pregnancy depends on independent abortion clinics remaining open. Preterm is one of only two providers in Ohio who provide abortion care to the legal limit.
- Since 2013, 148 independent abortion clinics have closed across the US. Nine clinics have closed in Ohio.
- Within the next two years, the work to protect access to legal abortion care is likely to become a state-by-state battle.

Independent providers like Preterm rely on our communities and individuals like you to keep our doors open through donating, volunteering, and advocating. Thank you for making sure Preterm is here to provide meaningful access to abortion care for Northeast Ohio and the whole state!

Source: Abortion Care Network (2018). Communities Need Clinics: Independent Abortion Care Providers and the Future of Abortion Access in the United States.

“Having a choice over your body is an amazing feeling.”

“The financial help honestly gave me peace of mind. I couldn’t be more grateful. I’ll be calling to see if I can donate myself once I’m able.”



My Abortion, My Life: The Podcast

For nearly a decade, supporters like you have helped us fight abortion stigma through Preterm's My Abortion, My Life campaign. We have lifted up real-life abortion stories at events and in intimate conversations at house parties.

Together, we've aimed to break the stigma and shame around abortion.

In the current political climate, we believe it's more important than ever to uplift people's real and

lived experiences with abortion. We are thrilled to introduce our latest project: My Abortion, My Life: The Podcast! The podcast features abortion stories written by real people and submitted to the My Abortion, My Life website. In each monthly episode, co-hosts and producers Catrina Otonoga and Anna Malefatto invite Cleveland locals, friends of Preterm, and allies, to read abortion stories and reflect on them in a short interview.

To listen, visit MyAbortionMyLife.org, or search for "My Abortion, My Life" in Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Play, Stitcher, or wherever you listen to podcasts.



Blessing the sacred space of decision

In October, interfaith clergy gathered to bless our clinic, providers, staff, and women and people who seek abortion care. We came together to affirm that our patients are the authorities on their lives, to affirm that our staff's compassionate work is grounded in love, and to show our community abortion care can be built in faith.

Over 40 faith leaders, Preterm staff, and community members stood in the very space that protesters occupy when spreading their messages of hate.

This was an act to reclaim our space, to focus on the people we serve and the care we provide—and to do so with acceptance and peace.

Why does an abortion clinic provide LGBTQ healthcare?

Since we opened in 1974, Preterm has championed patient-centered care—long before the concept was accepted by mainstream medicine. We've also maintained a mission of providing the highest quality of healthcare to underserved and marginalized communities. Serving LGBTQ communities feels like a natural extension of our work.

The barriers faced by people seeking abortion—stigma, discrimination, political interference—are the same barriers faced by

LGBTQ folks seeking the basic healthcare they need to survive.

Over the last year, we have worked with our LGBTQ healthcare steering committee to evaluate which services people need, barriers folks face in accessing healthcare in Cleveland, and what we can do to prepare our space and our staff to provide services respectfully.

As we start the new year, we're building financial and staffing resources to fully implement the LGBTQ healthcare program our community needs.

