A MESSAGE FROM JULIE

May 2019 will mark ten years since Dr. George Tiller, my boss and mentor, was assassinated in his church for providing abortion care.

It will also be ten years since I founded Trust Women. At first, with encouragement from family, friends and colleagues. Later on, with support from thousands of people all over the country. Over these past 9 years, Trust Women has become a silver lining in the fight for reproductive rights and abortion access, by opening clinics in two cities that, at the time of opening, were the largest cities in the U.S. without an abortion provider. In the face of overwhelming odds, you and all of Trust Women’s supporters, have been able to open clinics in places that no one thought possible.

Your support over the years has built a resilient and nimble organization that is prepared to deal with the very real challenges we are facing now. Now that we have an anti-choice majority on the Supreme Court, we must be prepared for the fact that reproductive rights, health and justice will look very different in the future.

You may already have known this, Dr. Tiller was tireless when it came to caring for his patients. In 1993, he survived the first attempt on his life. He was shot in both arms as he drove out of the parking lot on his way home from work.

Dr. Tiller went back to work the very next day because he had patients to see.

What is happening to our judicial branch is unsettling at best, but I want you to remember we have patients we need to see.

That’s the mission of Trust Women. To open clinics that provide abortion care so that women can access care. Reproductive rights are only a theory if there is no place for people to actually go.

The mission is very straightforward. Carrying out that mission, is less so. It requires communicating to the public about the challenges of abortion provision in a state with hostile laws. It involves advocating and lobbying at the state level—those are the policies that impact the lives of our patients the most. It also means litigating, to break down the barriers to access put in place by anti-choice politicians.

Trust Women has the experience and the know-how to weather whatever is in store in 2019. That means not just playing defense. In the years to come here is what I have on my to-do list.

- Expanding gestational limits in Washington State to offer abortion care up to 24 weeks.
- Litigating, as we can, to expand access to reproductive health care
- Communicating broadly on cases winding their way through the judicial system—this helps us win in the court of public opinion as well as in the court of law.
- Building out a business plan so we that we may reach more people in underserved areas.

Thank you for being in this fight for the long haul.

Founder and CEO
TRUST WOMEN OPENS CLINICS THAT PROVIDE ABORTION CARE IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES SO THAT ALL WOMEN CAN MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR HEALTH CARE.
FACILITATORS NOT GATEKEEPERS

Trust Women clinics trust people to make medical decisions for themselves.

Our clinics provide high quality specialty care. In addition to surgical and medication abortions, we offer birth control, transgender health services, general gynecological care, primary care, PrEP, HIV/AIDS care and diabetes care.

This year, we invested in a full website overhaul. Trust Women Wichita, Trust Women Oklahoma City and Trust Women Seattle all share a site now. Visitors to the site can learn and understand the need for communications work and advocacy that goes into expanding access to abortion.

Since opening, we’ve made trans health services a part of our clinic practices.

Investing in advertising, community visibility and excellent patient care paid off. We saw twice as many patients seeking trans health care services, a 114% increase in KS and OK alone.

True to its name, the abortion desert remains a huge swath of land where people travel hundreds of miles and/or across state lines to access abortion care.

Trust Women is committed to providing access up to the legal limit. Our clinics specialize in abortion care for maternal and fetal indications, when a pregnancy endangers the life of the woman and where a pregnancy is not viable, respectively.

Abortion access in the 2nd trimester is under severe threat from Dilation and Evacuation (D&E) bans, popping up in state legislatures. Anti-choice organizations frequently “shop” around model bills aimed at further restricting access.

As the landscape of access changes, this commitment is crucial. We find that in Oklahoma we are the sole clinic to provide care past 17 weeks and we continue to see patients who regularly opt to travel from Texas and Arkansas to be seen by us.
The staff was the best and most supportive! Which is the best that I could have hoped for. They are non-judgmental, real, kind and genuine. They do their best to make the best out of a scary situation for any woman. 5 stars all the way. I came to them based off of reviews and I did not regret it.

- Google Review left by Samantha Aug. 2018
WEAPONIZING RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The Trump Administration’s creation of new “Conscience and Religious Freedom Division” in the US Department of Health and Human Services in the “Office for Civil Rights” (OCR) is a direct strike at access to a wide variety of health care services across the country.

This new division was created in January 2018 to investigate and enforce federal laws that prohibit employees of agencies, hospitals, health centers, research institutions and other institutions that receive funding from the federal government from being required to provide services that they consider morally wrong or opposed to their religious beliefs. These laws have been in place in one form or another since the passage of the “Church amendments” in the 1970s.

Collectively these laws are known as “conscience clauses.” Procedures specifically mentioned include abortion, the provision of or prescribing of contraceptives, the placing of contraceptives, sterilization surgeries (i.e. tubal ligations) and physician assisted suicide.

Even though these laws previously existed (and were reinforced in the passage of the Affordable Care Act), this office represents a stronger emphasis on the enforcement of such laws. The administration and conservative religious groups herald the creation of the office as a way to protect religious freedom and liberty.

Under the guise of “protecting women,” these laws are, in fact, designed to make it more difficult for people to receive necessary health care. This opens the door for people to enforce their religious ideology, practices and beliefs on others.

The administration has not been forthright when questioned about if this office would support the right of health care workers to refuse to provide services to LGBTQIA people. This means that doctors, nurses, contract workers, vendors and even insurance plans would be able to refuse to provide services for transgender patients such as gender affirmation or hormone therapy.

Abortion and access to contraception is already perilously threatened in the health care system in many parts of the country. The new emphasis on enforcement of the conscience clause further ostracizes abortion providers and will make more health care providers balk at providing these necessary services.

This law would protect a doctor or a nurse who refuses to even provide information to a patient about any health care services that they found morally objectionable. With the increasing growth of religiously-affiliated hospitals and health systems, the refusal of other health care providers to participate in abortion and other necessary reproductive health care will effectively further restrict access to already threatened clinics.

This policy change by the Trump administration puts medical care at odds with patient needs and medical ethics. Per usual, the Trump Administration changed this policy so sloppily that it opens the door for any employee to object, even a third-party vendor—not just medical professionals.

Be on the lookout for future litigation on this policy, as it affects all health care institutions that accept Medicare, Medicaid or any other federal funding. Such a policy cannot be allowed to stand. When the will of the few is forced upon the many, we must stand firm.
Isolating abortion providers from the medical community has been a longstanding strategy to limit resources and access to these providers. The ownership of hospitals by religious organizations has further pushed providing abortion care — even at serious and fatal risks to the woman — out to independent clinics with no or few connections to a hospital.

But abortion care is not any different from any other private medical treatment. In fact, it’s just that. Abortion is health care.

- Julie A Burkhart, Founder and CEO in “The Hill” June 6, 2018
REGARDLESS OF ABILITY TO PAY

Women need abortions and we’re going to do them. It’s a blunt statement, but it’s how we feel. In fact, Dr. Tiller had a 4 by 6 ft. sign made that says just that. He parked it outside during the 1991 protests at his clinic, that flooded Wichita, Kansas, the Summer of Mercy.

We know that in states hostile to reproductive rights, women often times pay more and travel further to access abortion care. These same states are where women tend to earn less and where more people are uninsured or underinsured.

Most women who get abortions are already parents, 6 in 10 according to the Guttmacher Institute. The number one reason people cite for getting an abortion, they want to be good parents.

We’ve found that to be absolutely true. Younger women often say they want to be more prepared to raise a child, while older women refer to the childcare responsibilities they already have.

Exacerbating this problem is the sheer fact that providing abortions in a state with anti-choice laws and regulations costs more. In Kansas and Oklahoma, Trust Women clinics are forced to adhere to medically irrelevant policies. Trust Women clinics also face hostility from anti-choice activists, so we employ a full-time security guard who screens every single person.

This year, Trust Women’s funding coordinator helped hundreds of patients, on average, with almost $250 each; managing a dozen funds adding up to

$308,177.96 FOR THE YEAR.

Here are just a few of the barriers patients regularly face in states hostile to reproductive rights, in addition to the cost.

Abortion care is health care. No one should have to navigate this gauntlet of restrictions and stigma for a procedure as safe as abortion care.

unconstitutional limits with no base in science (e.g. 20 week bans)

fewer clinics to choose from

waiting periods up to 72 hours

mandated misinformation requiring medically inaccurate information for patients.

parental consent or judicial bypass

anti-choice people picketing outside

finding child care

taking time off work

borrowing money

getting a ride
IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Here are excerpts of notes and reviews patients have left us this year. The fight for reproductive justice has been long and it will continue. We want you to know just how grateful patients are for your investment.

Thank you all so much! I appreciate everything more than you’ll ever know!

Had there been 7 stars on google I would have marked all 7. Only had an option for 5! Was very comfortable and everyone was great!

Everyone treated me with respect and made the entire process so comfortable.

The staff were so very supportive and caring. Especially during the procedure.

I was very scared and all of the staff made me feel so comfortable and amazing. You all exceeded my expectations and more.

I had nurses, counselors, and other staff constantly helping and assuring my comfort and safety.

We were scared coming in due to bad encounters at other places. We felt safe and secure here, something we hadn’t yet felt during the whole process.

I really appreciated Kathy being there to hold my hand and make me feel reassured and comfortable during my procedure.

The doctor and the staff are all so loving.

This is a wonderful, supportive place. I have never received more compassionate quality care in my life. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Kathryn is amazing. She is compassionate and really cares. I was in a scary health situation and she got me through it.

The rooms were freezing. I’m always cold, might be a personal problem, lol. The staff is very nice and professional.

My experience was made much more positive because of the staff. I would recommend this location to anyone needing service.

The entire staff is wonderful, very informative and made me feel super comfortable.

Check-in was only difficult because of my insurance company’s policies. The staff bent over backwards to help resolve these issues. These ladies are fantastic.

Truly so thankful for all their help. The support made me feel comfortable and safe. Thank you all so much.

Definitely calmed my nerves and made me feel comfortable. Everything was great and everybody was friendly.

Trust Women is an amazing clinic. The staff were supportive and friendly.

They really went out of their way to make me feel comfortable.

These have been edited for clarity, concision and spelling.
STORIES OF RESILIENCE

Trust Women’s Communications team reached new heights and audiences through innovative and strategic social media, email and earned media campaigns.

News and media outlets are actively seeking out Trust Women’s expertise. We know if we are not advocating to the public on our own behalf and on behalf of our patients, no one is going to do that for us.

We have underscored several under-represented issues.

Our founder and CEO Julie Burkhart, travels across the United States to discuss abortion care and the unique challenges we face on a daily basis. As always, Trust Women continues to lean in to abortion in everything we say, print or tweet.

Ms. Burkhart, is also a monthly contributor to The Hill. She has written 11 op-eds this year, her articles have been shared a total of 12,365 times. Her most popular op-ed was entitled, “Abortion refusal laws are not about religion, but about control.”

“After he was assassinated it was either pack up and find a different line of work—or—dig in, and not let these extremists—these terrorists—tell us what to do.

I did not want to let them have the last word.”

~Julie A. Burkhart, Founder and CEO in Our Bodies Our Doctors documentary film

Highlights from our 2018 media coverage:

- Kansas’ Abortion Past Could Foretell Its Future; NPR All Things Considered
- Abortion rights are already under attack; what happens if the SCOTUS overturns Roe? KALW
- Episode 23: Abortion Provider Travels Across States to Administer Care: Mic Dispatch
- Women fear for their safety and loss of rights if US abortion laws change, Skye News UK
- Anti-abortion past haunts Kansas Democratic governor hopeful, The AP: John Hanna
- The view from Trust Women’s new Seattle branch is bright; Seattle Times: Nicole Brodeur

TWITTER
13,942 followers
Average impression reaches 1000 people
112,200 impressions in 2018

FACEBOOK
9,940 page followers
Average post shared 43 times
130 reactions on average per post
320,000 impressions in 2018
NEWS WORTH SHARING

This past year has been filled with unprecedented chaos and crisis in the news. It is increasingly difficult to keep up with the news.

For news domestic and international on abortion access and reproductive justice, we hope you find our Facebook and Twitter feed useful. In case you missed it, here were the top posts Trust Women had this year.

Once again, Trust Women teamed up with the National Partnership for Women and Families and ran a large scale social media campaign to reach new people and build our advocacy capacity.

FACEBOOK

"WOMEN NEED ABORTIONS, AND I'M GOING TO DO THEM"

DR. GEORGE TILLER

DR. TILLER WOULD HAVE BEEN 78 TODAY.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DR. TILLER

7,584 People reached 628 Engagements 529 Clicks

WEB STATS

5,100+ daily views
36,000+ monthly views
11,600+ unique views

INSTAGRAM

75 new followers
62,000 impressions in 2019

TWITTER

BREAKING: Vice President Pence's Indiana abortion law is found UNCONSTITUTIONAL! We will not go back! #repprorights #mybodymychoice

Appeals court: Indiana abortion law signed by Mike Pence ... Indiana's ban on "selective abortions," which was signed into law in 2015 by then-Gov. Mike Pence (R), is unconstitutional. A federal appeals court ruled on Thursday.

75 Retweets 190 Likes

75 Retweets 190 Likes

ADD YOUR NAME >>

All women deserve to live with equality and dignity — sign this petition if you agree! Anti-abortion extremists are supporting policies that target those who want to control their own lives and TRUSTWOMEN.ORG

For news domestic and international on abortion access and reproductive justice, we hope you find our Facebook and Twitter feed useful. In case you missed it, here were the top posts Trust Women had this year.

Once again, Trust Women teamed up with the National Partnership for Women and Families and ran a large scale social media campaign to reach new people and build our advocacy capacity.
Systemic change can take years or decades to come to fruition. You can see this in every social justice movement in our country’s history.

Justice doesn’t magically happen, it takes work and commitment from people like you to shape it. For example, it took 4 years to open Trust Women Wichita. It took 2.5 years to open Trust Women Oklahoma City. It took 9 years for Trust Women to create a true clinic system with three clinics that offer abortion care, along with full-spectrum reproductive health care.

We’re in this fight for the long haul. The successes we’ve celebrated have only been possible because of thousands of supporters who contributed to start-up costs and fought back countless challenges and delays.

There are still more people who need abortion access and with Trump in office, emboldening anti-choice extremists, there is even more work to do.

Anti-choice restrictions will not simply melt away on their own. We have to dismantle them. Litigating and repealing bad laws is a tall order, but it is absolutely necessary if we are going to fight injustice.

Across the country, anti-choice politicians are showing how they don’t trust women by passing unconstitutional and punitive abortion restrictions. Burdensome laws that tell women they need to wait hours or days before they can have an abortion. Patronizing laws that force women to go through false counseling sessions that lie to them about the dangers of abortion care.

Women deserve better than this.

That’s why when Trust Women talks with the media, the public and lawmakers, we make
it crystal clear: women will always need access to abortion care, abortion is health care. We broadcast stories of the unjustified burdens women face in the Midwest and South who are seeking abortion care.

Remember most Americans agree, abortion needs to remain legal. We are winning the struggle, that is why the battle is so intense right now. You know that protecting and expanding abortion access means fighting for justice in the court room, in state capitols and at the ballot box.

One of the multiyear-court cases we been tracking, might be coming to a close soon. In May of 2015, the Kansas state legislature passed a first-in-the-nation-abortion ban, a ban on Dilation and Evacuation, D&E procedure. Two weeks later, Oklahoma’s state legislature followed.

Trust Women was not the plaintiff in this suit, instead we concentrated our work on immediately messaging and communicating with constituents and lawmakers. Restrictions are not just defeated by lawyers, they are fought and won in the court of public opinion as well.

The lower court decided this ban was unconstitutional. In early 2016, the appeals court split the decision (seven to seven), thus upholding the lower court’s decision. The Kansas Supreme Court heard oral arguments in 2017. We have been waiting for them to issue a decision for over a year. The main question before Kansas’ highest court is whether the Kansas State Constitution protects a woman’s right to choose. A decision could come down at any time, and if it is decided in the positive, it will make Kansas the only state in the middle of the country with a constitutional protection to abortion access.
The advocacy department continues to raise the profile of Trust Women and educate the public about how access to reproductive health care changes people’s lives every day and how reproductive rights affect every person.

We talk to people at events, at their doors and online. In the past year, Trust Women has had a presence at parades and festivals, health fairs, on college campuses, in meetings, at conferences and in state legislatures. Our goal is always to talk to as broad an audience as possible in order to reach as many people as possible. We lean into abortion in every conversation to fight stigma and educate people about what is at stake locally, in the states and nationally. We are leading a national conversation about organizing and creating change to help all people have access to reproductive health care.

Here are a few of the events Trust Women participated in this year:

- Hosted a legislative reception in Topeka, KS in March.
- Hosted an open house to celebrate our newest clinic in Seattle.
- Marched in the Riverfest Parade in May for the first time. This is the largest annual community festival in Wichita.
- Tabled and marched at Oklahoma City Pride Festival in June - 8,000 yearly attendees.
- Marched in Wichita Pride Parade and tabled at smaller pride festivals in Hutchinson and Salina, KS.
- Kept anti-choice bills at bay with full-time lobbyists in Kansas and Oklahoma during legislative session.
- Lobbied with 50+ volunteers at the Kansas and Oklahoma State Capitol over the course of legislative season.
- Presented at the Take Root Conference at University of Oklahoma about our voter identification canvass program.
- Presented at the 2018 Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly in Kansas City, MO; the Power Conference at Wichita State University; at If/When/How at University of California Berkeley Law School.
- Participated in research studies with Sarah Lawrence College and Emory University.
- Organized and sponsored a panel with Physicians for Reproductive Health and New York City NOW featuring our CEO, an abortion provider from Maine and a representative from the National Women’s Law Center.

We are proud to have a robust volunteer program. Our amazing, dedicated volunteers helped in our clinics and also in our advocacy work. Our volunteers completed over 2,000 hours just this year.

Patient liaison volunteers care for patients throughout the day. Starting with greeting them and offering snacks and water. They offer blankets and pillows as patients settle in, and during procedure, they hand hold. They are a source of reassurance and company for patients who may be anxious or upset.

Liaisons allow the doctors and medical staff to meet the patient’s physical needs, while helping to support their emotional needs during their time in our clinics.

Volunteers also work with our canvass program to help identify and mobilize people who support reproductive rights.
CANVASSING

Elections are always important, but the 2018 midterm elections presented a challenge and an opportunity. An opportunity to change the direction of reproductive restrictions.

Embarking on our fourth cycle of canvassing in Kansas and our second in Oklahoma, we made the decision to shift from identifying new supporters, to mobilizing those we’d canvassed and identified in years past. Specifically working to get out the vote (GOTV).

In addition to good old fashioned door-to-door interactions, we also invested in phone banking and texting to engage voters along multiple channels and to reach those in rural communities where going to each door would be cost prohibitive.

We have also worked to provide voter education in Kansas, Oklahoma and Washington State through the publishing of voter guides. These guides help provide information on where each candidate stands on reproductive rights policy issues—for incumbents, we also include their voting record on key bills.

Unfortunately, public opinion does not always translate into policy. Trust Women’s voter identification canvass program is helping to build the capacity for policy change. We must hold elected officials accountable; appeal for laws that are based on medical science; and repeal punitive unconstitutional restrictions.

Photo by TW supporter, Dale Small, Sara Love, Sara Love
TRUST WOMEN’S 2017 GALA

The fight for equality and justice is bigger than any one person. We are honored to do this work with you and to celebrate once a year at our annual gala.

Trust Women’s 10th Anniversary Gala will be next year—November 2019. We hope you can join us to honor Dr. George Tiller and the history and mission of Trust Women.

We survived the first year of the Trump Presidency. Coming back together Trust Women supporters heard from Lynn Paltrow, founder and executive director of National Advocates for Pregnant Women (NAPW). She reminded us that the right to have an abortion is also wrapped up in the right to give birth the way you want, the right to carry a pregnancy without input from the government and how laws that restrict abortion are a danger to all of us.

Photos by Dale Small
EXPANDING ACCESS

Trust Women supporters, volunteers and staff have rallied around one central vision. Abortion is health care and people deserve access regardless of where they live or their ability to pay.

The most significant way we realize this vision is by expanding services to meet the growing needs of each community. Trust Women clinics have added clinic days this year, thanks to new advanced practice clinicians. We’ve also added two grant funded programs aimed at increasing access to long acting reversible contraceptives in Kansas and Oklahoma.

In addition to providing health care, we also recognize that if we do not advocate and communicate for ourselves, then no one else will have our backs. So Trust Women works to advocate at the state level for ourselves and our patients.

The number one source of funding we rely on continues to be contributions from individuals. Thank you for your generosity, support and commitment.

To request a copy of our 990 please contact us at 316.425.3215 or at info@itrustwomen.org.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Anthony Tenbrink, Board Chair
Keith Sellers, Secretary and Treasurer
Barbara Buff
Julie A. Burkhart, Founder and CEO
Beth Kanter
Erin Kenny, PhD
Omare Jimmerson
Bruce Price, MD

LEADERSHIP
Julie A. Burkhart, Founder and CEO
Colleen McNicholas, DO, Medical Director
Molly Oakley, Chief Operations Officer
Christie Burkhart, Chief Compliance Officer
Danelle Brewer, Wichita Clinic Director
Christy Krog, Oklahoma City Clinic Director
Beth Pendergrass, Seattle Clinic Director
Katie Knutter, Director of Advocacy
Erika Harris, Director of Communications
Rebecca Tong, Director of Development
WAYS TO EXPAND ACCESS

Trust Women Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization under the IRS code.

CASH OR CHECK
The most common way to contribute is by check. Contributions may also be made online at trustwomen.org.

STOCKS AND SECURITIES
Contributing stocks, mutual funds and bonds is a great way to fight for justice. Donors receive a tax deduction for the current value of the stock, while avoiding most or all capital gains tax.

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS
This is a convenient and flexible way to manage your charitable giving and a cost-effective alternative to establishing a private foundation. You can recommend that distribution be made from your donor-advised fund for Trust Women’s programs and services. The gift is then made in your fund’s name.

PLANNED GIVING
Remember Trust Women in your will, trust or annuity. This is one of the most meaningful gifts you can make to future generations and provides a sustainable future for Trust Women.

Film still from Our Bodies Our Doctors a film by Jan Haaken