This year my grandmother, Edna, would have turned 100. And although she passed away 11 years ago, she is by my side every day in this work. She was a strong Midwestern woman with a laugh that would fill the room. She escaped a violent childhood home and managed to raise five children after the sudden death of her husband in a car accident. She also had an unsafe, “back alley” abortion prior to 1973, when the US Supreme Court legalized abortion with the historic Roe v. Wade decision. Her abortion left her hospitalized in a place where the staff refused to care—except for one nurse who saved her life.

I work at Abortion Care Network because I want every single person who seeks an abortion to receive the care my grandmother deserved but did not get because of unjust laws, her income, and her zip code. I want everyone to have access to the type of compassionate and skilled care that people receive at our member clinics.

Yet, here we are, 45 years after Roe was decided, still fighting to ensure the human right to bodily autonomy. In fact, it’s possible within the next year or two, Roe v. Wade could be overturned, leaving the decision of whether to legalize abortion to the states.

If Roe is overturned, state bans could leave an estimated 25 million women of reproductive age in at least twenty-two states without access to legal abortion care. People living in the Midwest, West Mountain States and South will be the hardest hit by this extremism (see map).

This is a defining moment of our time, and ACN is preparing for a future where abortion may no longer be a constitutional right in the United States. We are committed to our clinic sustainability work and to ensuring the well-being of our member clinics, no matter where they are located.

However, we cannot do this work without your support and on-the-ground help.

Continued on next page
MEET ACN’S NEW STAFF!

Alex Perez-Puelles joined ACN on September 14th as a Membership Associate. Alex is based in Austin, TX and is a former Operations Coordinator for Funders Committee for Civic Participation - a membership based non-profit. Alex brings a tremendous amount of event planning, operations experience, and a contagious smile to her new role as Membership Associate. Alex is the extra support that ACN and its members need to stay focused on providing dignified and exceptional care. ACN is proud to be able to offer increased membership support, and prioritize the interpersonal quality of the network.

Mia Peake joined ACN staff September 24th as the Project Manager, Mia is a southerner at heart, joining ACN from member clinic CHOICES - Memphis Center for Reproductive Health, in Tennessee. Mia started discovering her passion for reproductive health, rights, and justice as an intern in at Feminist Women’s Health Center in Atlanta and has been instrumental in assisting the midwifery and PREP programs at CHOICES. Mia brings both program management and a laser focus on reproductive justice framework to her role at ACN.

Jennifer Price joined ACN staff on October 8th as the Membership Sustainability Officer. Jennifer is based in Iowa City, IA and is the former Co-Director of ACN member, Emma Goldman Clinic. Jennifer comes to ACN after being the administrator at an independent abortion clinic for over twenty years. Jennifer has a strong skill set in financial management and organizational development. ACN is proud to look no further than its members for the expertise and solutions that indie providers need for the future.

Jennifer and Mia will be working on a new program at ACN, the R.I.S.E program, which assists with contraceptive access at ACN member clinics.

The Uncertain Future of Roe, Continued

There are 36 governors and countless state representatives up for election; these are the officials who will likely decide whether or not abortion continues to be legal in your state if Roe v. Wade is overturned. While national policies remain crucial, ACN wants to remind you to focus on your community and your state first.

Do you know if or how your city council is involved in the work to support local clinics? Do fake women’s health centers that provide false and harmful information about abortion receive tax dollars in your state? Are all of your friends and family members registered to vote? Do you volunteer for your local abortion fund?

This is an ALL-IN moment. It’s vital that we vote anti-abortion representatives out of office and replace them with policy makers who will protect reproductive rights, veto anti-abortion legislation, and reverse bans on abortion and abortion coverage.

The work you do on the ground, in your state, to get out the vote for this November 6th has never been more vital.

We know that abortion shouldn’t be about politics, it’s about people. People like my grandmother Edna. And I’m sure when you think about why ensuring abortion rights is so important to you, you may also think of the people who you love who have received or may someday need access to this necessary and vital care.

Who will you honor with your vote this November 6th?

R.I.S.E. — RADICAL INDIE SUPPORT EXPANSION PROJECT

As you may know, more than 60% of all abortions in the United States are provided by independent abortion care providers (Indies). Indies are a gateway for access to not only abortion, but often contraceptive counseling, education, and comprehensive reproductive health care referrals and provision. Sustainable access to contraceptive methods is vital to insuring all people have control over their reproductive health. And Indies play an essential role to ensuring people have access to that care.

Unfortunately, many Indies are unable to provide a full spectrum of contraceptive methods to their patients because of financial, legal, operational, and regulatory challenges. Indies face restrictions and challenges everyday, and ACN is growing to meet these unique challenges with its members and ACN’s newest member program, R.I.S.E.

The Radical Indie Support Expansion project tackles the barriers Indies face through data collection, financial supports, and professional development programming. Over the next year ACN will be collecting data to inform recommendations about how these shared challenges can be resolved for the overall health of Indie clinics and their communities. ACN’s ultimate goal is to ensure that Indies are able to provide a wide-range of contraceptives, no matter the financial, legal, or regulatory landscape. ACN is committed to our members and ensuring that Indies are able to provide consistent, cost effective reproductive health services.

ACN welcomes Project Manager Mia Peake and Membership Sustainability Officer Jennifer Price with over 20 years of combined of knowledge in reproductive health programs, operations, and clinic experience. We are excited to expand our team to tackle the barriers that Indies face, leading with ACN members, mission, and values.
The past summer, the Supreme Court ruled against transparency in the *NIFLA v Becerra* decision and granted fake health centers permission to deceive patients. With only 800 abortion clinics remaining in the United States and more than 4,000 fake women’s health centers, it was already difficult for people to access legitimate reproductive health care services where they live and work. But with this ruling, it will become even harder for people to know the difference between a fake center and a community-based abortion care provider.

**Everyone deserves accurate information and health care they can trust, no matter what decision they make about pregnancy.**

Independent abortion care providers are motivated by a deep respect for their patients’ dignity and autonomy, and that means they are committed to providing patients with unbiased, medically accurate information.

Fake clinics, on the other hand, attempt to delay access to abortion care — either by misdirecting patients from legitimate clinics or by giving them incorrect information about their pregnancy to force them beyond the window of time when they can legally access abortion care. These delays and misinformation can also threaten the health and safety of patients with wanted pregnancies.

**We must demand better of any center that claims to serve pregnant people.**

Independent clinics and their patients are particularly vulnerable to fake clinics, because fake clinics rely on misleading information—including mimicking the names of independent clinics—to get clients through their doors. To a degree, they are able to do this because independent clinics often lack visibility and name recognition. While every reproductive health care provider is under attack right now, independent clinics—which typically funnel every cent into patient care and can rarely afford communications, outreach, or organizing staff—are left with few defenses.

It’s important that people get to know the independent clinics in their communities. Fake clinics can’t trick people into walking through their doors if everyone knows about their local independent clinic.

Misinformation about abortion is dangerous. It keeps people from getting the care they need, when they need it, regardless of what decision they make about pregnancy. It’s time to expose fake clinics for what they are.

For more information and to take action, visit [www.abortioncarenetwork.org/EndAbortionDeception](http://www.abortioncarenetwork.org/EndAbortionDeception)
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Give To The Max is a 24-hour giving extravaganza where donors come together to support nonprofits that inspire them. We hope ACN is one of the nonprofits you choose to support this year! You can donate on November 15, 2018, or schedule your donation as early as November 1, 2018.

Visit giveMN.org and search for Abortion Care Network to donate.

WE HAVE A $5,000 MATCHING GRANT!
That means your tax-deductible gift to ACN will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to $5,000 between now and November 15th, 2018.