



41

*Years of
Resilience*

Feminist Women's Health Center

In 1976, as part of a Federation of Feminist Women's Health Centers, Atlanta Feminist Women's Health Center (FWHC) was founded to empower women through support, education, self-help and healthcare services. 41 years later FWHC has evolved to be the only locally based organization in the region that provides reproductive health care while simultaneously organizing, educating and advocating to protect and expand access to such care.

Over the years, influenced by the work of reproductive justice leaders like Loretta Ross and SisterSong Reproductive Justice Collective, we continue to recognize the need to adopt an intersectional approach and move away from a pro-choice centered framework. Integrating a Reproductive Justice framework is ongoing work that has informed and shaped us organization wide and led to development of programs & services that specifically seek to address systemic inequities in healthcare and society that affect women, people of color, immigrant families, low-income and rural communities, and those from the trans and LGBTQI communities.



1976

Abortion and Gynecological Care

FWHC began with the mission of providing safe, supportive and non-judgmental abortion and gynecological care services in addition to offering self help clinics.

Today, FWHC's Cliff Valley Clinic provides a range of healthcare services including annual exams, pap smears, STI testing and treatment, HIV testing and counseling, abortion care, trauma survivor abortion care, emergency contraception and family planning.

1988

Donor Insemination

We began our Donor Insemination program in 1988 to provide services to women that infertility specialists in the southern United States were unwilling to serve - single heterosexual and queer women. As the first clinic in the Southeast with a comprehensive fertility program for these women, FWHC led the movement to build a progressive and inclusive space in the region that would support alternative family building options.

Over the years as fertility services have become more mainstream and more private clinics entered the market, there was less of a need for our donor insemination program. At the end of 2014, FWHC refocused its efforts on other services.

To this day our staff meets parents in the community who proudly introduce us to their children and attribute this accessible reproductive health-care program as the only way they could have started their families.

1997

Legislative Advocacy Program



In January 1997, FWHC hired our first contract lobbyist to begin work at the State Capitol and to expand the scope of our efforts around reproductive rights and justice.

As of 2017, with a full time lobbyist on staff, FWHC advocates for state laws and policies that advance issues of reproductive justice, including but not limited to access to abortion care and contraception, maternal health, healthy relationships free of abuse, as well as supporting families of all shapes, sizes and identities. We continue to do this work along side other multi-issue and reproductive healthcare focused groups and on behalf of all the independent abortion providers in the state.



1998

Refugee Women's Health Project

After a chance encounter with a refugee client in 1988, FWHC recognized the need to creatively reach out to refugee and immigrant women who were being left out of the healthcare system. The Refugee Women's Health Project was established in partnership with organizations and community leaders that also recognized the need to provide accurate reproductive health information that would empower and enable participants to make informed decisions about their health.

We also work together to provide culturally informed healthcare services, and to connect refugee and immigrant families to other safe healthcare providers. FWHC continues to partner with metro Atlanta refugee settlement and services agencies to provide accessible healthcare services and education.

Chrysalis Project

A participatory health empowerment workshop, the Chrysalis Project was created to help address healthcare needs of young queer women. The workshop covered gynecological and breast health, coming out and self-identity issues, internalized homophobia/biphobia, and safer sex methods for women who partnered with women.

Through the years this project helped to strengthen members within queer communities by educating participants and providing them with resources to also become health educators and community leaders. The project offered leadership development opportunities for participants to become trainers themselves. Though the program ended in 2003, leaders from this program are still active at FWHC and in the community at large.



1999

Community Engagement

In 1999, Feminist launched the Young Women's Leadership Program (YWLP) to enable young women to develop skills in reproductive justice advocacy, activism and organizational leadership. The YWLP program aimed to encourage women to take on leadership roles in their community and at the center. Today the YWLP is part of our Community Engagement efforts including our internship and volunteer program. Currently FWHC's internship program offers unique leadership building opportunities to college and university students. Over a 2-4 month period interns gain experience working across a range of departments including clinical services, community outreach, fundraising, and political advocacy. Over the last year we had 29 students in our internship program.



Similarly, FWHC volunteers play an integral role in the organization - contributing their time and skills across various departments. In addition to gaining work experience at a grassroots organization, our active volunteer force undergoes a combination of mandatory and optional trainings across areas like reproductive justice advocacy, dismantling oppression, legislative advocacy, community outreach, clinic liaison work, etc. Many volunteers and interns go on to join our team as staff or join our Board of Directors.



2000

Trans Health Initiative

Upon request from the Southern Comfort Conference, in 2000 FWHC started a Men's Health Clinic in memory of Robert Eads, a trans man who died of ovarian cancer after being denied urgent medical care. The Men's Health Clinic offered compassionate low-cost gynecological services to trans men at the Southern Comfort Conference.

As one of the few providers in the country that provided respectful and compassionate medical care to trans people at a time when few others were willing, we saw more trans clients with every passing year at the conference. One of the key successes of the program was putting trans folks in a position to shape and adapt the program to meet the community's needs.

In June 2008, this once-a year clinic was transformed into a year round program known as the Trans Health Initiative (THI) and expanded beyond seeing trans men and includes services for trans women as well. As of 2017, THI aims to provide informed, safe and affordable healthcare to over 200 transgender, gender non-conforming and intersex clients from across the Southern states each year.

2003

Men for Equality and Justice

Born out of a collaboration with the National Organization for Men against Sexism (NOMAS), FWHC's Men for Equality and Reproductive Justice (MERJ) program sought to encourage men to engage with issues around race and gender and to join the reproductive rights and justice movement.

Through this program, FWHC saw a significant increase in the number of men who joined our volunteer and intern work force and participated in workshops, trainings and organizing efforts as well as our Board of Directors.

We no longer run this program but still benefit from the volunteer services of men that were introduced to FWHC through MERJ.



Recognizing that oppression and structural inequities lead to health disparities and poor health outcomes across race, class and gender FWHC's programs and services have sought to adapt to meet the unique needs of historically underserved populations. In 2007, we began to implement cultural specific programming that would help reduce health disparities for women and people of color. One hallmark of this programming is placing the people most affected by racism and anti-immigrant infrastructures at the center of leading our organization and programs to be inclusive, accessible and valuable to all the clients we serve.

2007

Lifting Latina Voices Initiative

In 2005, FWHC began to expand its Young Women's Leadership Program to reach out to young Latinas. Over time FWHC recognized that in order to challenge the stigma around sexual and reproductive health issues in this community, women across all age groups needed to get involved. This led to development of the Lifting Latina Voices Initiative (LLVI).

Implemented in 2007, LLVI is the only program in Georgia that specifically focuses on addressing comprehensive reproductive and sexual health issues faced by Latinx families, particularly those that are low-income and uninsured. LLVI empowers metro- Atlanta Latinas to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health through education, outreach and leadership development.



2010

Black Women's Wellness Project

The Black Women's Wellness Project (BWW) also grew out of the Young Women's Leadership Program. Prior to the launch of BWW, we established the Black Women's Health Forum to build collaborations with organizations and leaders who were driving efforts around black women's health. Through this forum FWHC invited speakers, organizations and women to share their work and challenges.

The Black Women's Wellness Project

was launched in 2010. The ongoing success of the program is largely due to continuing to partner with community leaders and organizations that share FWHC's commitment to holistically fostering the health and leadership of black women. The purpose of BWW is to educate, inform and advocate for the health and wellness of all Black women. BWW equips Black women with resources and tools, enabling them to take ownership of their mental, physical and emotional wellness. In 2016, BWW partnered with the Dekalb County Jail to provide health and life skills workshops to incarcerated women.



2017

Errin J. Vuley Fellows Program

In March 2017, FWHC launched the Errin J. Vuley Fellows program (EVFP) - an intensive 10-month social justice leadership development program. Errin J. Vuley, FWHC's first Community Engagement Coordinator inspired everyone with her passion for social justice work, particularly in the areas of abortion access, trans justice, and racial justice. EVFP seeks to honor Errin's memory by strengthening the leadership in reproductive, gender, and racial justice movements in Atlanta, the state of Georgia, and across the global landscape of the justice forward community.



2017

Clinic Services

Feminist Women's Health Center provides affordable and compassionate Abortion and Gynecological care services including annual exams, pap smears, STI testing and treatment, HIV testing and counseling, etc. Through the Trans Health Initiative, FWHC offers safe, informed and accessible healthcare to transgender, gender non-conforming and intersex clients from across the Southern States.

Community Education & Advocacy Network

Going beyond direct health services, FWHC's Community Education & Advocacy Network (CEAN) promotes reproductive rights, health and justice through grassroots organizing, community education, public affairs and advocacy programs. Our current programs under CEAN include Lifting Latina Voices Initiative, Black Women's Wellness Project, Errin J Vuley Fellows Program, Legislative Advocacy Program, and Volunteering & Internship Programs.



Leading. Educating. Advocating.

**We'd love to hear
from you!**

1925 Cliff Valley Way NE
Atlanta GA 30329

404-728-7900

404-248-5445

www.feministcenter.org