



**CHOICES.**  
Marquette Center for Reproductive Health



**2021  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**





**Your health.  
Your rights.  
Your CHOICES.**

## VISION

CHOICES envisions a world where sexual and reproductive healthcare is recognized as an essential human right.

## MISSION

CHOICES provides patient-centered medical care and champions sexual and reproductive rights.

## VALUES

Diversity is imperative.  
Dare to innovate.  
Lead by example.  
Respect individual choices.  
Leverage collective genius.  
Think big, be kind, do good.



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# MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR AND PRESIDENT & CEO

Kathy Fish



Jennifer M. Pepper



Dear CHOICES' patients, supporters, friends, and community members,

Sometimes we just have to stop to take a moment to appreciate everything that you've helped us build. Walking through our beautiful new building and seeing the incredible team we've built thrive in our state of the art facilities and birth center, the gratitude we feel for your support can be overwhelming.

We've experienced tremendous growth over the past year: CHOICES provided nearly 4,000 abortions last year, a 62% increase from 2020, and more than \$550,000 in financial assistance, a staggering 66% increase. Our midwives supported almost 90 pregnant people and their families as they gave birth in either our birth center, their home, or a hospital. And we recently welcomed the first cohort of Black midwives to our fellowship program so that we can train the next

generation of exceptional birth workers.

As you see the data in this year's annual report, we hope the numbers fill you with the same sense of pride and purpose that we feel as we see what we've accomplished in 2021.

And we've only just begun to show the world what we're capable of. Thank you for believing in our vision and showing up for our patients. But most importantly, thank you for changing the world with us.

With gratitude,

KATHY FISH, BOARD CHAIR

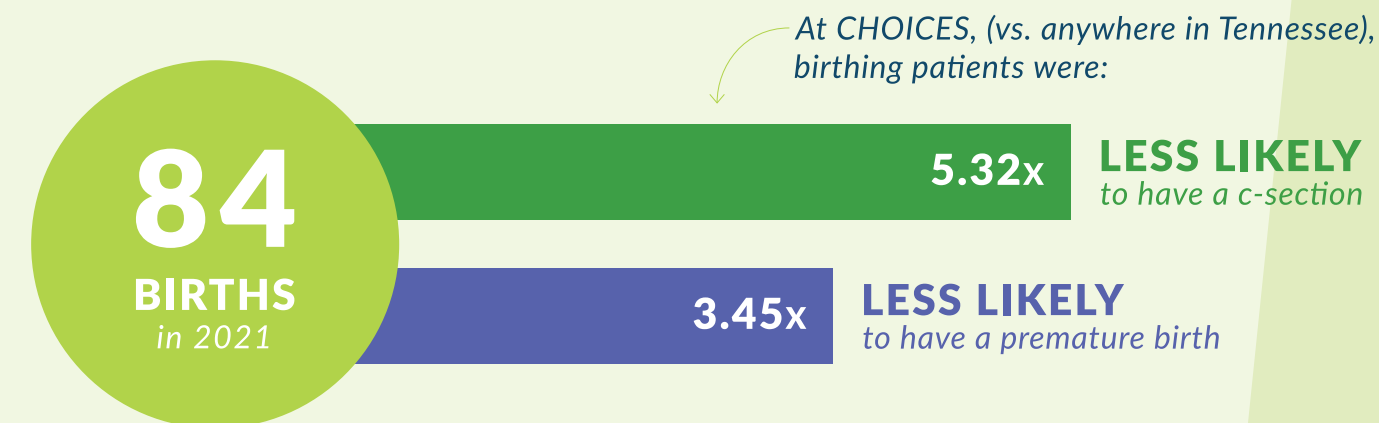
JENNIFER M. PEPPER, PRESIDENT AND CEO

## NEW IN 2021:

### 1ST FULL YEAR IN OUR NEW FACILITY

### ABORTION SERVICES

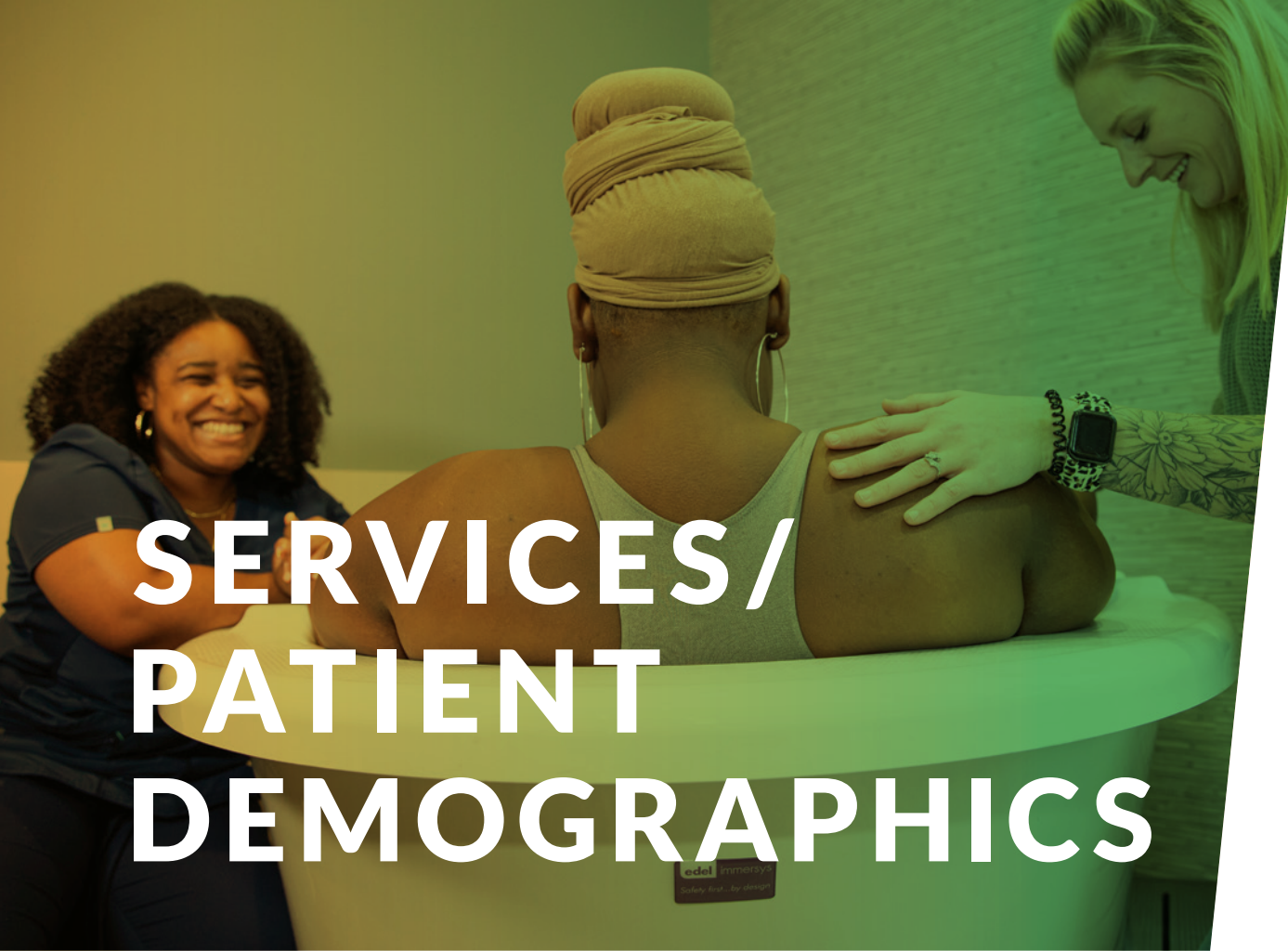
### WENT FROM 4 DAYS PER WEEK TO 6 DAYS PER WEEK



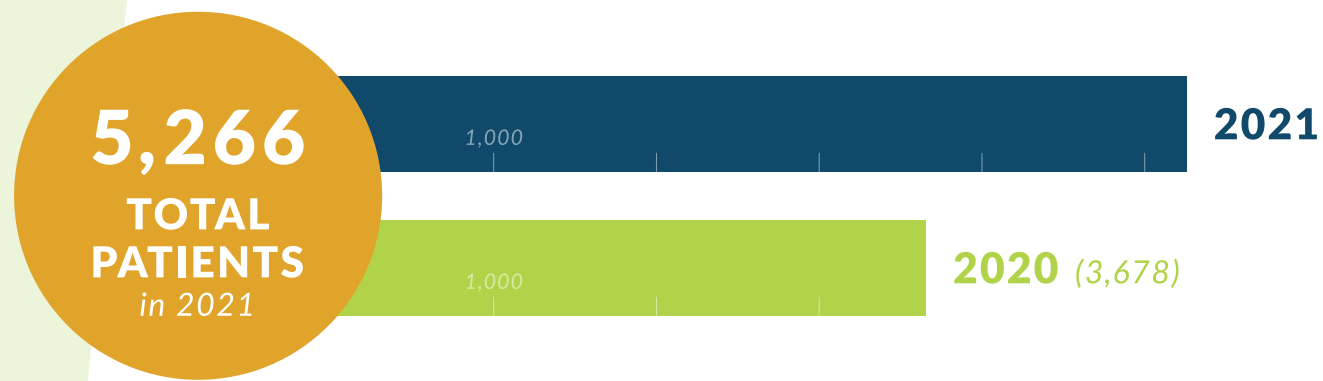
### STARTING PAY RAISED FROM \$15 PER HOUR TO \$20 PER HOUR

+ invested in professional development and pay equity for all staff

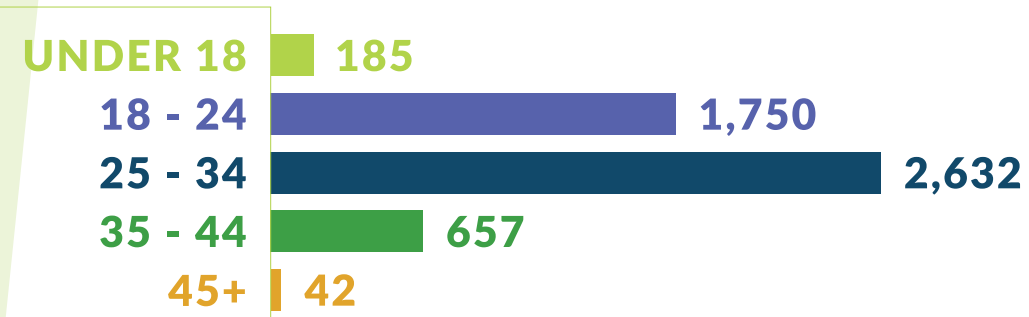




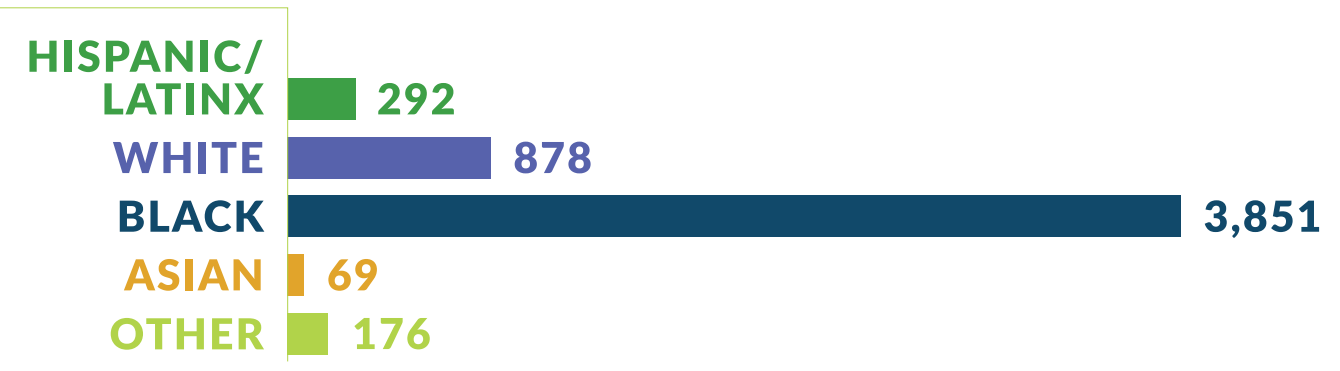
# SERVICES/ PATIENT DEMOGRAPHICS



## PATIENTS BY AGE:



## PATIENTS BY RACE/ETHNICITY:

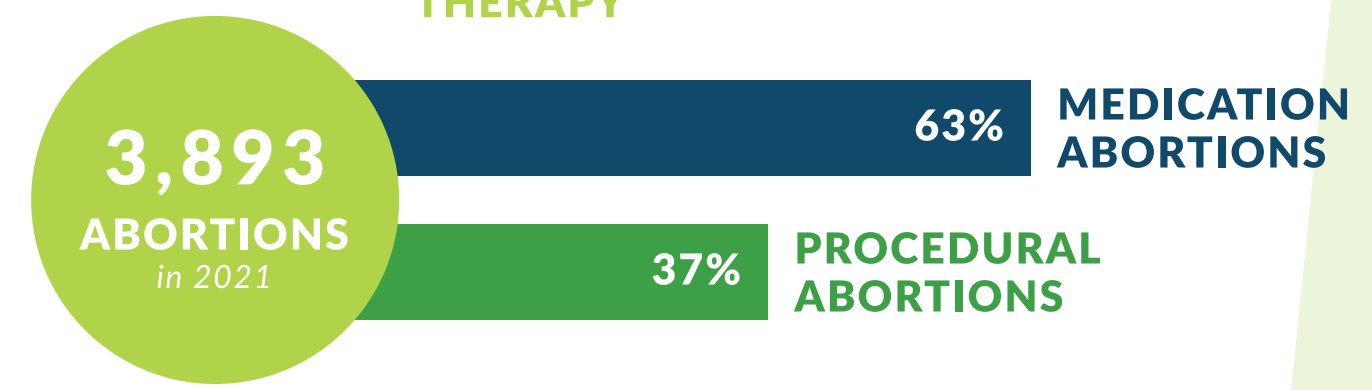


## PATIENTS BY LOCATION:



## TYPES OF SERVICES PROVIDED:

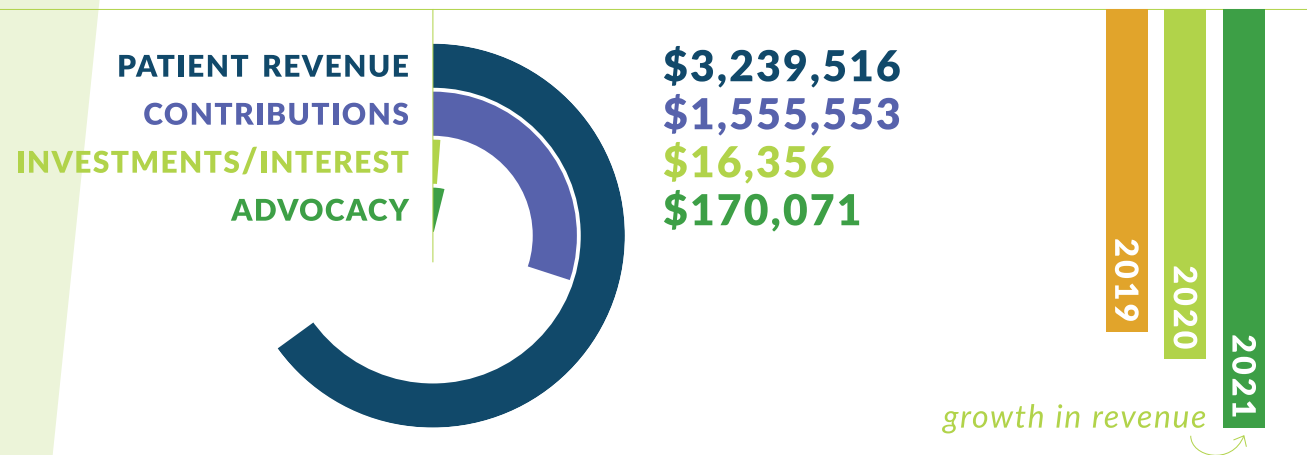
(by number of appointments)



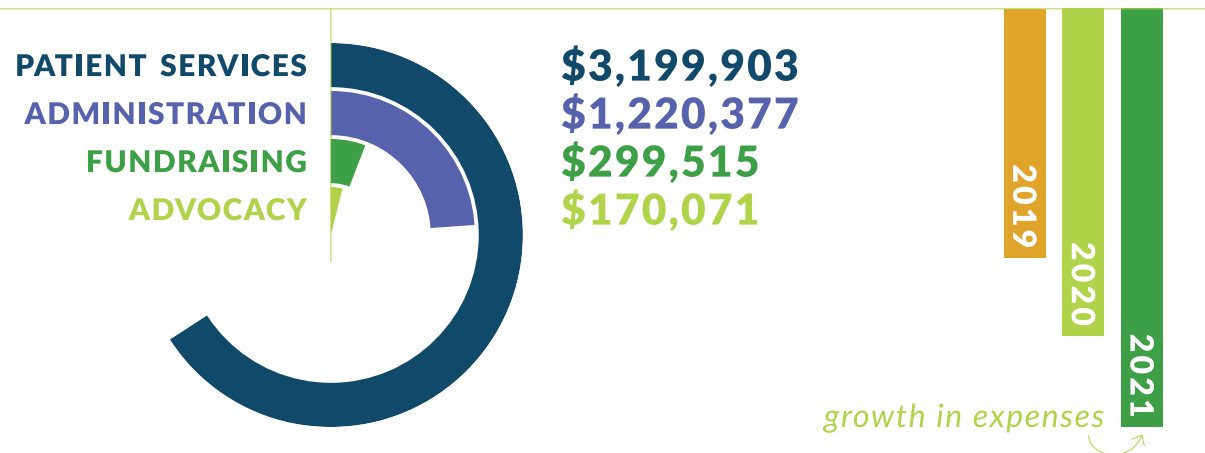


# FINANCIALS

TOTAL REVENUE: \$4,981,496



TOTAL EXPENSES: \$4,889,866



## THANK YOU TO OUR FOUNDATION PARTNERS:

- University of California at San Francisco Global Action in Nursing
- Southeast AIDS Education and Training Center
- MAC Viva Glam Fund
- Groundswell Fund
- National Women's Law Center
- W. K. Kellogg Foundation
- AIDS United Southern HIV Impact Fund
- Prentice Foundation
- Argosy Foundation
- Community Foundation of Greater Memphis
  - GiVE365
  - Mid-South COVID-19 Regional Response Fund

## PATIENT ASSISTANCE:

\$563,686

TOTAL CHOICES DISPENSED IN PATIENT ASSISTANCE FUNDS IN 2021 WITH HELP FROM THE FOLLOWING FUNDS:

- National Abortion Federation (NAF)
- Arkansas Abortion Support Network (AASN)
- Access Reproductive Care Southeast (ARC-Southeast)
- Women's Reproductive Rights Assistance Project (WRRAP)
- A-Fund of Kentucky
- SisterReach
- YellowHammer Fund
- CHOICES' Patient Assistance Funds

3,610

TOTAL PATIENTS ASSISTED



# FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHT (TO CHOOSE)

CHOICES is **always** fighting for your reproductive freedom along with our attorneys at the Center for Reproductive Rights. In fact, litigation against harmful anti-choice bills is the main way CHOICES advocates for our patients and our community. In 2021, our staff spent more than 200 hours dedicated to working on our legal cases fighting the many anti-choice roadblocks our patients face in Tennessee.

## TN'S CURRENT ANTI-CHOICE LAWS:

- **MANDATORY WAITING PERIOD:** patients must receive state-mandated information, and then wait at least 48 hours before the abortion is provided. The required information must be provided in person, necessitating at least two separate trips to the clinic, making abortion services more expensive and inconvenient for patients
- **TELEHEALTH MEDICATION ABORTION BAN:** In spite of the 2021 decision by the FDA to allow medication abortion to be prescribed via telehealth, it is prohibited the state of Tennessee.
- **RESTRICTIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE:** A minor seeking abortion must obtain the consent of a parent or legal guardian before an abortion is provided. Minors who do not have a parent or guardian available can apply to the courts for a judicial bypass. For young people with absent or unsupportive parents, this law amounts to a near complete restriction of their bodily autonomy.
- **RESTRICTIONS FOR TENNCARE RECIPIENTS:** No Medicaid funding is available for abortion except in cases of life endangerment, rape or incest.
- **UNNECESSARY ULTRASOUND REQUIREMENTS:** A patient must undergo an ultrasound before obtaining an abortion. The provider must show and describe the image to the patient and make the fetal heart tones audible.
- **REASON BAN TARGETING PROVIDERS:** While it is legal in TN to get an abortion before viability for any reason, under TN law, abortion providers cannot provide abortion care if we learn that you are seeking the abortion “because of” the race or sex of the fetus, or “because of” an indication or diagnosis of Down syndrome in the fetus. Pregnant people choose to have abortions for all sorts of reasons, and the state of TN has no right to tell them which reasons are okay and which are not. Respecting the bodily autonomy of pregnant people should not come with caveats.



# WE WILL NOT BACK DOWN: LOOKING AHEAD IN 2022

Thanks to your generous support, CHOICES is now in our 48th year of caring for patients from across the Mid-South. Almost five decades of providing essential reproductive and sexual health care is truly something to be proud of — and we wouldn't be here without you.

2022 is sure to be a challenging year. It's very likely the Supreme Court will overturn *Roe v. Wade* — or at least strip away the protections it offers against state bans — within the next several months, reversing decades of precedent and decimating access to safe abortion services for millions of Americans.

In Tennessee, you don't need to look far to imagine what abortion access will look like if the Supreme Court overturns *Roe v. Wade*. Abortion care is already out of reach for so many people. Even though abortion is legal, politicians have passed laws and

created obstacles that treat people differently. Young people, people living in poverty, and people of color must work twice as hard to make it past the barriers to receive care.

We are taking action so that people can get the abortion care they need, build their families in a safe and patient-centered space when they're ready, and live in thriving communities — and it's going to take all of us working together. We are building a future where people can make the best reproductive and sexual health choices for their own lives and where decisions are met with love and respect. **We are in this for the long haul and will not back down.**

Thank you for standing with us as we continue serving patients and fighting for reproductive freedom this year. Your support means more now than ever!



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Having worked in the field of maternal and child health over a decade as a researcher and registered nurse, I always thought how great it would be if families in Memphis had access to more evidence-based options when giving birth. CHOICES is uniquely doing just that! I've been able to experience these services first-hand over the past two years as a former patient, as a birth doula supporting other patients, and now as a member of CHOICES' board of directors.

Supporting CHOICES has helped me realize a personal dream come true and gives me the opportunity to play an integral role in the growth and promotion of this historical breakthrough in reproductive and family healthcare in Memphis. I am excited to see the new midwifery fellowship program develop and grow to allow CHOICES to serve an even greater number of families in this city.



# CONTACT US:

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**PHONE: 901.274.3550**

**WEBSITE: [memphischoices.org](http://memphischoices.org)**

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