

December 2009

## ***Greetings,***

We commit this year to ***Emma Providing Options While Ensuring Resources - EmPOWER***. Our goal is to provide a pleasing, comfortable, and safe environment for the families we serve.



The economic downturn results in more women needing financial support to access services at the Emma Goldman Clinic. In an effort to pass health care reform Congress included the Stupak Amendment that singled out and banned abortions from all public and most private health care plans. We believe there should be full coverage for comprehensive health care including abortion services. The resources of the clinic continue to be diverted toward providing direct assistance for women thereby increasing the need to fundraise for building improvements. To ensure the long term stability of the organization it is critical we complete building upgrades and enhancements. We are committed to accomplishing this in the most environmentally sustainable way possible.

## ***Why are we choosing to focus on creating an environmentally sustainable clinic?***

The goal of becoming an environmentally sustainable clinic has risen out of an increasing awareness of the interconnectedness of environmental justice and reproductive health. General health and well being are directly impacted by environmental conditions, and although not conclusive; evidence points to environmental toxins having negative effects on reproductive health and fetal development. The desire for women to have healthy pregnancies, healthy children and families is a shared core value for environmental justice and reproductive health care organizations and provides fertile ground for collaborations.

## ***Why now?***

We are looking to the future. Sustainability by definition is using a resource so that the resource is not depleted or permanently damaged. Our property is one of our greatest resources. Making much needed improvements will help us meet our goal of providing a pleasing, comfortable, and safe environment. Incorporating eco-friendly practices into the Emma Goldman Clinic is not only the right thing to do; it ensures we will be around for many more years to come.

## ***Why Emma?***

Becoming an environmentally sustainable medical facility is good for our clients and staff because it helps prevent environment-related illnesses. It's good for the organization because a sustainable, energy-efficient building costs less to operate, which helps us continue to provide high quality services at competitive rates. It's good for our community and the entire planet because a greener building conserves resources and produces less waste and pollution.

Becoming a greener *abortion* clinic has special significance. Across the world and in this community, women and children, especially poor women and children, are affected disproportionately by environmental degradation. These women are our clients, and for most of them it is out of concern for their children and families that they use our services.

When Emma incorporates environmental justice issues into our work, we demonstrate our commitment to a comprehensive vision of reproductive rights that goes beyond family planning and abortion rights to include the rights of all women to bear and raise healthy children, and to have a healthy environment for their families.

**What can you do to help EmPOWER?**

We need your financial support in order to make our lobby and client areas more comfortable, private, and secure. Your gift will help us with much needed renovations.

We are excited to kick our year off with SisterSong's Loretta Ross, who will be the keynote speaker at our annual Choice Dinner on Saturday, January 30, 2010. Ms. Ross is the National Coordinator of the SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Health Collective, a network founded in 1997, by 80 women of color and allied organizations that work on reproductive justice issues.

We appreciate the work that Ms. Ross has done to demonstrate the intersections between environmental justice and reproductive health. We are delighted to have Loretta's support of the Emma Goldman Clinic, our mission and work.

This is your opportunity to help ensure the long term stability of the Emma Goldman Clinic. Anything you can afford to pitch in will help us reach our goal.

***We need your help now even more than ever.***

Thank you,

*Francine Thompson*

Francine Thompson

*Jennifer Price*

Jennifer Price

