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Ruth's Army

Things aren't always black and white

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Contact Info

i. ruthsarmytn

f. https://www.facebook.com/ruthsarmyTN

e. ruthsarmytn@gmail.com

w. https://ruthsarmytn.org



Volunteer Opportunity: REACH Clinic

From geographic limitations in rural areas, to lack education on reproductive health, there are numerous factors that restrict access to contraceptives in the United States. The American College of Obstericians and Gynecologists state that one half of the 37 million women in the U.S. who needed contraceptive services in 2010 were in need of publicly funded services because they either had an income below 250% of the federal poverty level or because they were younger than 20 years. With high out-of-pocket costs, even those with private health insurance can have limited access to contraception. To combat these barriers, and aid in supporting reproductive access in Middle Tennessee, Ruth's Army will be kicking off our first IUD clinic once a month due to the generosity and hard work from Queen City Women's Health and Dr. Kristen Brewer (WKU MPH and students). *Read more on page 2.*

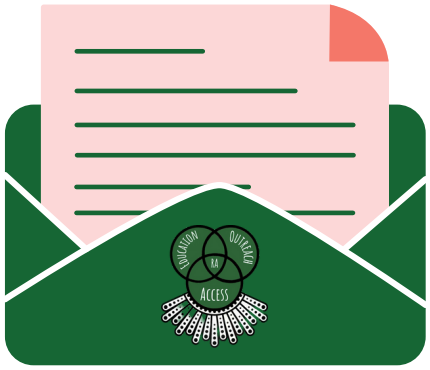
Volunteer Opportunity(cont.)

If not used, IUDs become unable to be implanted after a certain period of time. Often, patients initially request an IUD, but change their mind. Since contraception is usually ordered and paid by insurance, these oftentimes go to waste in situations like the aforementioned. Queen City Women's Health has contacted those with IUDs not implanted for permission to donate these contraceptions, as well as reaching out to other clinics to do the same. As a result, we will begin offering a once-a-month free IUD clinic. In addition to IUD implantation, medical providers will also be offering to remove IUDs, as well as reproductive education for those waiting on services. Music City PrEP will also provide HIV screening and access to PrEP on these clinic days.

How can you help? We will be hosting our first mock clinic to determine logistics and needs for our first official clinic. If you are interested in aiding in this trial run on **January 13th** from 8:00-1:00, please complete this form. A member from the leadership team will be in contact with more information by Thursday, January 11th.

RA Newsletter Moving Forward: What to Expect

Newsletters will be sent out at the beginning of each month. Rather than serving as an update, moving forward, the RA Newsletters will touch on topics related to reproductive health, as well as promoting upcoming opportunities to volunteer. If you have a topic you would like to see featured in a future issue, please email ruthsarmytn@gmail.com.



NEWSLETTER

EMTALA Post-Roe v. Wade

A federal appeals court ruled on 2 January 2024 that the Biden administration cannot enforce guidance meant to protect abortion access in life-threatening or health-saving situations in states where abortion is banned. The guidance from the US Department of Health and Human Services says that medical providers who are required to provide emergency care to pregnant patients regardless of their ability to pay for it under a 1986 law must also provide abortion services in life-threatening or health-saving situations and will be protected if those actions violate state law. Texas challenged this guidance, which cites the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA), in federal court. “The question before the court is whether EMTALA, according to HHS’s Guidance, mandates physicians to provide abortions when that is the necessary stabilizing treatment for an emergency medical condition. It does not. We therefore decline to expand the scope of EMTALA,” Judge Kurt Engelhardt of the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals wrote in the unanimous ruling. “EMTALA does not mandate any specific type of medical treatment, let alone abortion,” the decision said. In its lawsuit challenging the guidance, Texas argued that EMTALA does not give the federal government the authority to force health care providers to perform abortions. The law sets standards for the treatment emergency patients must receive at certain health care facilities and threatens civil penalties, as well as loss of the Medicare or Medicaid funding, for violations.



How to Refer

Do you know someone in need of reproductive access? Refer individuals to our email, instagram, or Facebook pages. Individuals can email stating they would like to “meet with Ruth.“ Someone from our access team will be in contact within 24 hours to follow-up.

