

## Become a Backline Community Ally

Clinics and organizations from New York to California are proud to be part of Backline's Community Ally program, showing their firm commitment to connection, conversation, and support for women and their loved ones around pregnancy, parenting, abortion and adoption.

Our Community Ally program gives clinics and organizations unlimited access to Backline's materials as well as discounts on professional training services. Additionally, Community Allies are listed prominently on Backline's website and are acknowledged at our public engagements.

To become a Backline Community Ally, visit [www.yourbackline.org](http://www.yourbackline.org).

### Backline's current Community Allies include:

Access (Oakland, CA)  
Allentown Women's Center (Allentown, PA)  
Aurora Medical Services (Seattle, WA)  
Cherry Hill Women's Center (Cherry Hill, NJ)  
Concord Feminist Health Center (Concord, NH)  
Hartford GYN Center (Hartford, CT)  
Lovejoy Surgicenter (Portland, OR)  
Memphis Center for Reproductive Health (Memphis, TN)  
Philadelphia Women's Center (Philadelphia, PA)  
Planned Parenthood Action Council (Salt Lake City, UT)  
Planned Parenthood Health Services of Southwestern Oregon (Eugene, OR)  
Southern Tier Women's Services (Vestal, NY)  
Sylvania Women's Resource Center, Portland Community College (Portland, OR)

listen  
talk  
laugh  
counsel  
inform  
cry  
think  
process  
decide  
question  
learn  
change  
strengthen  
choose



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Become a Giving Partner Today!

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Become a Community Ally

Summer 2007 :: Volume 1, Issue 1

## Backline Finds a Home!

We are thrilled to announce that after three years of operating out of volunteers' homes, Backline has moved into a permanent office space in the Alberta Arts District of Portland, Oregon. This move allows us to hold meetings and trainings, provides work space for the board and volunteers, and offers a centralized location for our ever-expanding resources. The functional space also shows our community, our supporters, and the hundreds of people we serve that Backline is setting a firm foundation for growth and plans only to expand in order to meet the tremendous need of women and their loved ones across the country.

Please make note of  
our new address:

**4934 NE 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97211**

**Office phone:  
503.287.4344**

Many of these supporters and community members honored this exciting new development by attending our official office-warming on May 19, 2007. Among those present were Backline Advisory Board members **Terry Sallas Merritt**, **Kara Sparkman** and **Emilie Lamson**, as well as special guest **Krista Jacob**, who signed copies of her latest book *Abortion Under Attack: Women on the Challenges Facing Choice*.

This event was also the welcoming reception for the participants in the **Northwest Abortion Conversation**, sponsored by the Abortion Conversation Project, which took place on May 20th and was facilitated by Backline Advisory Board members **Terry Sallas Merritt** and **Peg Johnston**.

The office-warming party and the Northwest Abortion Conversation offered wonderful opportunities to bring together our regional and national allies for celebration, as well as deepen dialogue about the complexities of our work and *"Home" continued on page 2*

Stamp



Backline  
4934 NE 29th Avenue  
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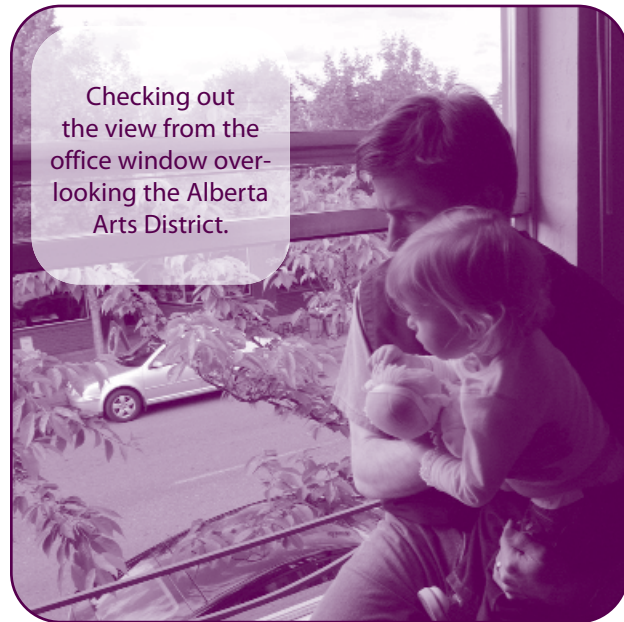
**Backline's Mission**  
Backline is dedicated to addressing the broad range of experiences and emotions surrounding pregnancy, parenting, abortion and adoption. We provide a forum in which women and their loved ones can engage in discussion that goes beyond political rhetoric. We are committed to addressing the individual and diverse realities within our communities. Our vision is of a society in which pregnancy options are discussed with openness, honesty, and the deepest respect for reproductive justice.

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new strategies for supporting women and their loved ones.

To read the official press release about Backline's new office please visit [www.yourbackline.org/news\\_events.html](http://www.yourbackline.org/news_events.html).

To read Backline President Grayson Dempsey's article on the Northwest Abortion Conversation, visit RH Reality Check at [www.rhrealitycheck.org/blog/2007/05/25/northwest-abortion-conversation-asks-the-hard-questions](http://www.rhrealitycheck.org/blog/2007/05/25/northwest-abortion-conversation-asks-the-hard-questions).



Checking out the view from the office window overlooking the Alberta Arts District.



Board member Megan Wentworth chats up supporters at the office warming party.

### Help Backline settle in to its new home by donating items from our WISH LIST

- White board
- TV/DVD/VCR
- Conference Table
- Comfy sitting chair
- Folding Chairs
- Flip Chart Easel
- Bulletin Board
- Small card table
- Coffee Maker
- Britta water filter
- Desk
- Phones
- Tablecloths
- Mugs

To donate, call 503.287.4344 or e-mail [donate@yourbackline.org](mailto:donate@yourbackline.org).

## Register Now for the **Adoption Dialogue:** **A Conversation with Pro-Choice Healthcare Providers and Activists**



On Thursday, November 15, Backline and Open Adoption & Family Services will bring together pro-choice activists, counselors and healthcare professionals to engage in a conversation about the role of adoption in reproductive health and rights. The Adoption Dialogue will provide an opportunity to explore personal and cultural assumptions about adoption; ask tough questions; increase comfort levels in discussing adoption; and create powerful community alliances. Whether new to the pro-choice movement or a longtime activist and professional, this event will provide information, provoke new ideas and strategies, and invite us all to examine the possibilities for collaboration between the abortion- and adoption-rights movements.

Grayson Dempsey, Backline President, will be our facilitator for this exciting event. Renowned author, columnist and Open Adoption & Family Services adoptive dad Dan Savage will be our keynote speaker at lunch.

For registration and event details, visit [www.yourbackline.org/news\\_events.html](http://www.yourbackline.org/news_events.html). Please direct any questions or comments to Marli Riede, Backline Program Director, at 503.287.4344 or [adoptiondialogue@yourbackline.org](mailto:adoptiondialogue@yourbackline.org)

We look forward to seeing you on November 15th!

## Join the Backline Community... Become a Giving Partner Today!

Every day Backline helps women and their loved ones find support, make connections, and have conversations about pregnancy, parenting, abortion and adoption. Backline is committed to helping people recognize and create the community they need to make decisions that are best for their lives.

At Backline, we value that our community strengthens and grows with every donation we receive. Each donation is an investment in the services and support Backline provides. Your commitment to Backline is important to us. Please join us in serving women and their loved ones nationwide.

We are excited to offer a new way to join the Backline community: **Backline Giving Partners.**

How does it work? Begin by choosing a pledge level:

**Inner Circle of Support . . . \$2,000**

**Champion Connector . . . \$1,000**

**Conversation Catalyst . . . \$500**

Once you have chosen a pledge level let your imagination and passion guide you to your goal. This looks different for everyone. Whether you choose to make a personal donation, raise awareness, funds and FUN

with a community event, or invite your friends and family to donate to Backline, the dedicated Backline Board and volunteers will be there to help in any way they can. Let's be partners in serving women and their loved ones nationwide. For more information please contact [development@yourbackline.org](mailto:development@yourbackline.org) or call Megan Wentworth at 503.287.4344.

For more information on donations visit [www.yourbackline.org/donate](http://www.yourbackline.org/donate).

Thank you to all of our current donors! Your commitment makes our work possible.

## Advocate Spotlight: Teresa Keirns

**I** have been a Backline Advocate since March 2007. I've taken many calls since then, each one different from the next, though I do hear themes emerging: regret, shame, alienation. I appreciate Backline because of the dedication to addressing these topics, otherwise considered irrelevant, taboo, or trivial, and I believe in this way we'll best create change. My personal life has been enriched by Backline trainings, meetings, and calls and I feel better prepared to speak candidly about such issues. For example, I've had several chats with my parents about their impressions of Backline's work, often leading to opportunities to both educate and challenge.

"This summer I am beginning the Nurse-Midwifery/Women's Health Nurse Practitioner Master's program at the University of California-San Francisco and Backline is coming with me! As I am certain my interactions with patients will be positively influenced by the client-centered training Backline uses, I plan to continue taking calls, and want to spread the word about Backline to the campus, the city, and all of California! And in the midst of it all, I want to remember the most important thing that I have learned from Backline - the power of simply listening to the stories of women and their loved ones."

