
As a Family Tree Clinic supporter, you already know that access to sexual and reproductive health education is critical to good health. Here in Minnesota, we have one of the very few culturally and linguistically accessible Sexual and Reproductive Health Education programs for Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing communities—thanks to you.

Ninety percent of Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing (DDBHH) children are born to families that do not know sign language or how to properly communicate with DDBHH people. This presents huge barriers for families when it comes to talking about sexual health with their children.

Nationally, there are almost no accessible classes or services. As a result, people across the nation are turning to our health educators for resources, tips, and information.

Our DDBHH Health Educators provide a wide range of services to folks of all ages and across many different communities, including providing sex education in sign language to community groups and in the schools.

Due to the support of donors like you, we are also able to provide one-on-one counseling, help prepare folks for pregnancy, labor, and delivery, and offer parenting classes for the DDBHH communities.

But that’s not all we do.

While preparing for a workshop on Aging and Sexuality (in partnership with the Minnesota DeafBlind Association), we struggled to find 3D models for tactile demonstrations.

So we made them. That’s right,
Excellent care, a safe space, a healthier life because of you.

How about Trailblazing
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we handcrafted a variety of penis, labia, and anal models out of clay for folks to use for tactile demonstrations. These models made all the difference in our education presentations with DeafBlind folks.

When we couldn’t find tactile models of penises, labia, and anuses for a workshop with the Minnesota DeafBlind Association, we made them.

And thanks to you, we had the resources to do so!

We believe in tailoring presentations to meet the needs of the people serve because education works best when it’s accessible for all.

If you are interested in working with Family Tree Clinic’s DDBHH Health Educators, you can reach Alison Aubrecht at aaubrecht@familytreeclinic.org or Judy Klopp jklopp@familytreeclinic.org.

You can also stay in touch with our DDBHH Program on Facebook at Facebook.com/familytreedbdhhprogram.

You Can Help Us Meet Our Match!

It’s back. And we’re ready. Give to the Max Day is happening November 17, and we have a $10,000 match!

That means donations will be matched dollar-for-dollar (up to $10,000) for 24 hours.

You can even schedule your donation today to be charged on the 17th. Visit http://bit.ly/give2themax to donate!
Sally Nixon: Why I Support Family Tree Clinic

Having worked in Social Work and Public Health fields for over 17 years, Sally Nixon understands the complexities of our health care systems and the needs of our communities. She’s a musician, dancer, and avid photographer who enjoys giving back to her community.

How did you learn about Family Tree Clinic?
I learned about Family Tree while working as a Health Educator at North Point Health & Wellness Center. Our sexual health program staff would meet and explore ways to collaborate.

Why is it important to you to support Family Tree?
The people who work there, from the health educators to the front desk staff to the medical providers, really care about every person who walks through the clinic doors. It’s important to me that they emphasize inclusivity and best-care practices for LGBTQI people. I have referred friends there a number of times and continue to hear positive feedback.

What are the different ways you’ve been involved?
Taking my involvement with the clinic from collaborating with the Health Educators and donating, to now sitting on the board, has given me an even broader view of all the great work everyone is doing. So much work goes into keeping the Trans Health Care Program, the STD + Family Planning Hotline, and Sex Education and Family Planning services running as smoothly as they have done so for so long. And it’s crucial that these programs continue to serve our community.

How would you encourage others to get involved?
I participated in The Spelling Bee for Cheaters fundraiser for the first time this year; my team didn’t win, but we had the best time and we plan to return next year to take a place on the winners’ stand! I highly encourage you to join me October 5, 2017!

Walk-In, Free Pregnancy Testing and Counseling

We’re thrilled to announce that Family Tree is partnering with the SPIRAL Collective for our free, walk-in pregnancy testing and all-options counseling.

The SPIRAL Collective is a radical collective which provides free, compassionate, non-judgmental support to the full-spectrum of people across all pregnancy outcomes and reproductive experiences with the intention of empowering bodily autonomy.

They will be bringing their unique philosophy to Family Tree Clinic volunteer trainings and help provide a compassionate, non-judgmental counseling setting for our patients.

Valuing accessibility and inclusivity, while centering the experiences of marginalized communities in order to promote reproductive justice are core values of the SPIRAL Collective (a few members pictured above).
Sex Education That Works in a FLASH: Update

Hired two new health educators. Check. Ordered 100 penis models. Check. Purchased 1,250 condoms. Check. You’re changing sex education across the country, while giving our youth the skills to change their lives and positively impact our communities.

The beginning of the school year marked the start of a year and a half long national research project to test the Family Life and Sexual Health (FLASH) curriculum.

The FLASH curriculum is different from most federally approved sex education curricula available because it’s designed to support young people in making healthy choices like abstinence, protection, seeking health care, effective communication, and respecting decisions not to have sex.

Over the course of the year, our FLASH Health Educators will teach 413 lessons to 825 students in the St. Paul Public Schools. This is in addition to the regular sex education we provide to the district.

At the end of the year, the program will receive a multi-factored evaluation to measure how it reduces rates of unplanned pregnancy and sexual violence.