

Local Concerns Mirror Global Trends in Women's Health

A [recent study](#) compared women's health across a dozen countries. Researchers found that women in the US have the highest rates of skipped or delayed care because of cost. That's no surprise to us at the Feminist Health Fund. Every woman who reaches out to us is on the brink of forgoing needed care because it is unaffordable for them. We recognize the scope of the problem, and though our global impact is tiny, for the individual women we support, our help can be enormous.

A stormy national economy lands fast and hard on those with shallow rainy day reservoirs. In 2025, we have seen a significant increase in applications for help with healthcare expenses. Some of our applicants had to reduce work hours due to illness, leading to loss of insurance coverage. It's not at all unusual that retired women, parents, students, and even healthcare workers cannot afford needed care. All face rising cost of living stresses.

Fortunately, we have also expanded collaboration with partner organizations, and received generous support from individuals, groups, and other nonprofits. We are grateful this year for support from the Yellow Springs Community Foundation, the Young Woman's Mission of Springfield, the Yellow Springs Unitarian Fellowship, Abiding Christ Lutheran Church, Yellow Springs Brewery, and the International Order of Odd Fellows Lodge #279. The Dayton Foundation facilitates donations from donor investments, and Fidelity channels donations from individuals on their teams.

Most importantly, individual donors in our community are motivated by empathy, generosity, and economic justice. There are many who see and support our work, including some who benefited from it in the past, and are now able to make a gift that can help another woman. When we staff a booth at a community health information fair, we are always moved by those who tell us their own stories, then drop a few dollars in our collection jar. We accept these gifts with gratitude, and use them accordingly.

The Feminist Health Fund is run entirely by our volunteer board, and one grant we received for operating expenses means that all other contributions go directly towards women's healthcare. Some examples this year include support for various cancer treatment, eyeglasses, birth control, a range of dental procedures, emergency transport, several types of mental health counseling, prescriptions, a collapsed foot, recovery from domestic violence, macular degeneration, vagal nerve disorder, life coaching, and complex pelvic pain.

Looking ahead to 2026, we expect to increase visibility through our newsletter and special projects, like providing feminine hygiene products for the YSPD Pack the Cruiser Food Drive. We will continue staffing community health information events in Greene and Clark Counties.

We will continue providing equal access to health until health is no longer a commodity.

--Ann Cooper, Board President
Feminist Health Fund