The Brigid Alliance

Getting there, together.

ANNUAL REPORT

October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022

We get people to abortion care, whatever it takes.

The Brigid Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides individualized, all-inclusive support that enables people to travel long distances to get to an abortion provider. On a referral basis, we arrange and fund confidential travel, lodging, childcare, and other logistical assistance, closing the gap between the need for an abortion and the ability to access one.

The Brigid Alliance

What our clients have to say

“It was an incredibly difficult week and I really appreciated both the financial support and the feeling of solidarity with people, strangers to me, caring about women in my situation enough to help out.”

CLIENT AGE 33, NY

“You guys are amazing and have really helped me especially with my grieving.”

CLIENT AGE 25, PA

“I pray the coffers from which these funds came from never go dry.”

CLIENT AGE 32, MD

“I really don't know how I would've made it without any of y'all. I wouldn't have.”

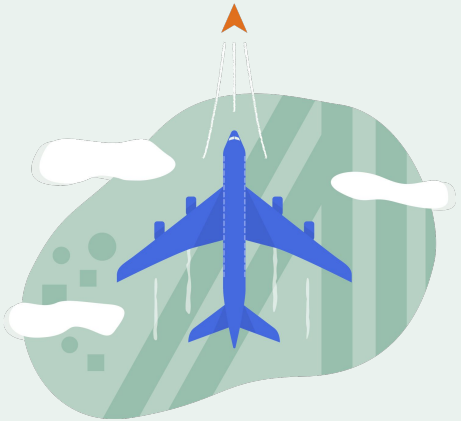
CLIENT AGE 38, TX

The Brigid Alliance

Our Story

Taking off

The Brigid Alliance launched in August 2018, but the journey to where we are today starts in the aftermath of the 2016 presidential election—a time infused with fear and uncertainty for many. The Brigid Alliance cofounders, Carol Davis, Lenore Davis, and Leah Gould, saw a bad situation about to get worse.



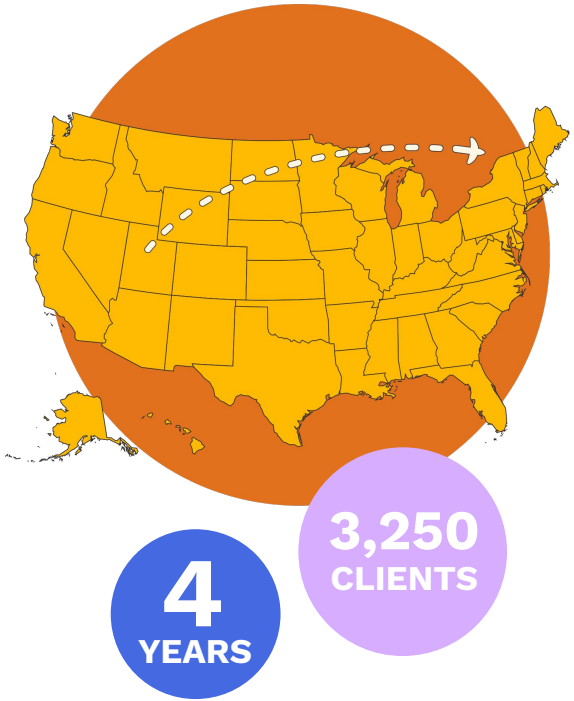
All longtime reproductive health advocates and supporters, these three women set out to better understand the experience of abortion seekers living in abortion deserts, and to identify where and how they could do the most to help. As their first step, they hired a researcher to do an assessment of the need for travel and wraparound care nationally, so they could understand the problem facing them.

What they found was that something as simple as getting to and from an abortion provider was complicated and even impossible for many abortion-seekers. There were great organizations providing this help to people in pockets of the country—including Fund Texas Choice, which served as an inspiration—*but so much more was needed.*

Our Story

Carol, Lenore, and Leah connected with Odile Schalit, a social worker specializing in sexual and reproductive health access, who would serve as The Brigid Alliance's first executive director. Together, they began developing their vision for a nonprofit that would provide practical support for abortion access in a holistic and compassionate way. They wouldn't just pay for plane tickets and hotel rooms, but would work with abortion-seekers to develop individualized itineraries that addressed all of their unique needs—from childcare to meal assistance and emotional support—allowing them to get to an abortion provider and back home safely.

They named the nonprofit The Brigid Alliance, after Saint Brigid of Ireland who, legend has it, helped a friend end an unwanted pregnancy. Four years later, we have worked with more than 3,250 clients, many of whom would not have been able to get to safe, legal abortion care without our support.



The Brigid Alliance

Letter from the Executive Director

Navigating through headwinds

For many people who live in America, the right to an abortion has long been an aspiration and not a reality. Even before the U.S. Supreme Court's devastating decision earlier this year to overturn Roe v. Wade, 90 percent of U.S. counties had no abortion provider. With the dismantling of federal protections over the last year, that percentage is growing rapidly, leaving an ever-widening gap between people and life-affirming and life-saving abortion care.

As a practical support organization serving people forced to travel long distances to get to an abortion provider, The Brigid Alliance's work has, tragically, never been more relevant. And as the number of people who need our support grows, so must we.

Odile Schalit
Executive Director, LMSW MSc
The Brigid Alliance

The Brigid Alliance

We are expanding our client services team, enabling client coordinators to specialize and deepen the expertise and relationships that allow them to provide optimal service to people traveling to specific states for care. We are strengthening our organizational infrastructure with additional administrative and operational personnel, and investing in technology to enhance the security of our operations and streamline processes for our growing number of clients and staff. Perhaps most importantly, we are continuing to invest in deep, sustained partnerships with local and regional groups across the country to continue growing the whole network's capacity for providing practical support.

During an otherwise dark time for abortion seekers and advocates, getting to be a part of The Brigid Alliance team—having the opportunity to support real people in real ways—has been a gift. We will never stop working toward our vision of a country in which abortion is borderless, burden-free, and accessible to all. **For those of you who have been on this journey with us from the start, thank you. And for those of you joining us now, welcome.**

Odile Schalit
Executive Director, The Brigid Alliance

The Brigid Alliance

Letter from the Board President

Keeping our bearings

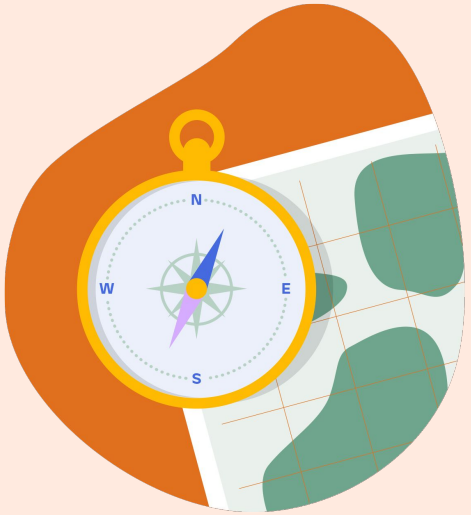
America today: 13 states now have total and near-total bans on abortion, and 13 more states and three U.S. territories are at risk of following suit. This will likely quadruple the number of people who need to travel for care. Put another way, thousands of people are being forced into pregnancies unless they can figure out a way to get to an abortion provider. In many cases, this means traveling halfway across the country to an unfamiliar city. For people with lower incomes, including about 75 percent of all abortion seekers, that can be all but impossible.

Lenore Davis
Board President,
The Brigid Alliance

The Brigid Alliance

This is not an America I will accept. **We founded The Brigid Alliance for times like these, to reject and overcome forces driving a wedge between abortion seekers and their providers. This work has never been more important.** The organization and the team have risen to the occasion this year, as they have every year, meeting each new obstacle—whether it's a Supreme Court ruling or a hurricane shutting down all travel options—with perseverance and compassion.

I am so proud of the Brigid team and all they have done and are doing to improve lives. I am excited to see how the organization grows in the years ahead and furthers its quest to ensure abortion care is accessible to all, regardless of income or zip code. There is a better future ahead, and The Brigid Alliance will help pave our way there.



Lenore Davis
Board President, The Brigid Alliance

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Our Services & Case Management

Getting an abortion in the United States means clearing a dizzying array of obstacles. Scheduling and paying for the procedure, feats in themselves, are followed by the logistical and financial challenge of actually getting to an appointment, or appointments—sometimes thousands of miles away—and back home again.

This is where the Brigid Alliance comes in.

The Brigid Alliance

Our Services & Case Management

Transportation

We arrange and pay for transportation.

Lodging

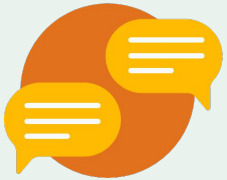
We book and pay for hotel stays.

Meal assistance

We provide a daily stipend for meals.

Childcare

We reimburse for child care.



Coordination

Our coordinators work with the client, their abortion provider, and their support person or caregiver to build journeys and problem solve in accordance with the clients' determined needs and the nature of their geographical location.

Emotional support

Our client-facing coordinators are full-time staff, trained to deliver non-judgmental, trauma-informed and compassionate support.

Collaboration

We work with folks on the ground and across the country—volunteer networks, local and regional practical support networks, and state and national abortion funds.

The Brigid Alliance

Our Impact

AS OF SEPTEMBER 2022, WE ARE SUPPORTING AN AVERAGE OF

125 CLIENTS PER MONTH

2/3 ARE BIPOC

1/3 ALREADY PARENTS

AGE RANGE

10 — 49

TOTALING MORE THAN

3,250 SINCE 2018

The Brigid Alliance

Our Impact

CLIENTS TRAVEL AS FAR AS

1,000 MILES

AND WE SPEND AN AVERAGE OF

$1,400 PER CASE

WE HAVE HELPED CLIENTS FROM ALL

50 STATES AND BEYOND, WITH MORE THAN HALF COMING FROM THE SOUTH

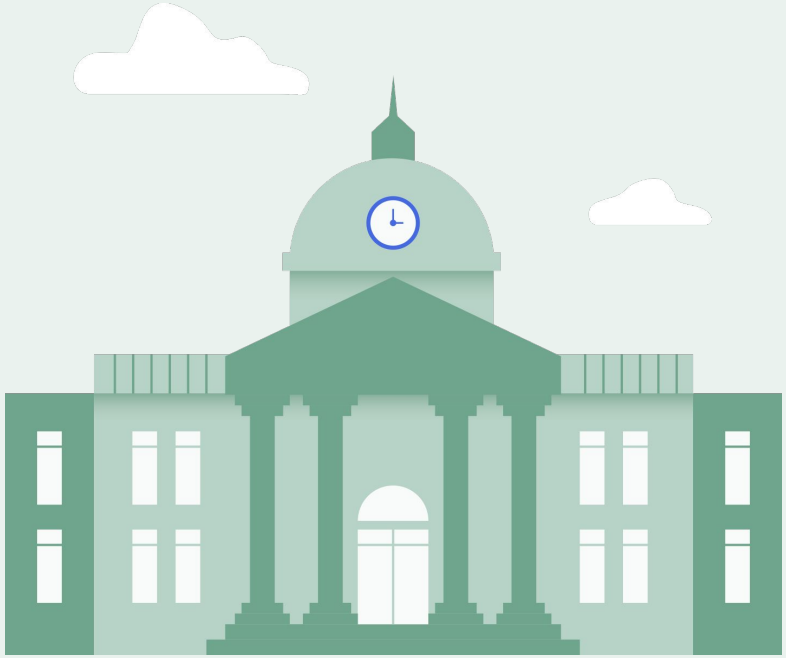
We work with individuals and communities disproportionately affected by abortion restrictions:

- Women living at or below the federal poverty line
- People of color
- Undocumented immigrants and refugees
- People living in communities with limited transportation infrastructure
- Individuals living in states hostile to reproductive healthcare
- People who rely on Medicaid or are uninsured
- Young people
- Survivors of abuse
- People with disabilities
- LGBTQ+ people

Our year in review

The last year has been quite a journey. There have been lows—**the passage of S.B. 8 in Texas, the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization***—but there have also been highs, thanks to our team and our supporters, who grow in number by the day.

Here are some of the milestones and achievements we are most proud of from the last 12 months.



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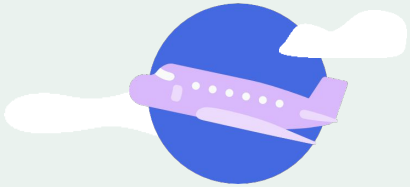
Our year in review



We supported

1,109 clients

to travel a total of

622,807 miles.

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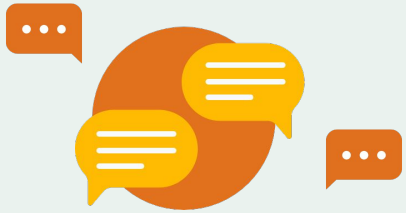
Our year in review



We worked in partnership with

63 abortion providers,

53 abortion funds and

22 other practical support organizations

to ensure our clients could access abortion care.

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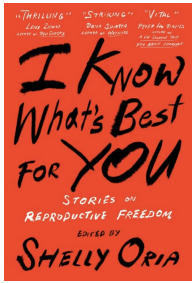
Our year in review

Individuals hosted **fundraising events in their homes** from Hampton Bays to San Francisco.

High-profile **musical artists including Lorde, Bon Iver and Death Cab for Cutie used their platforms** to raise funds for The Brigid Alliance.

McSweeney's donated a portion of sales of the new anthology, *I Know What's Best For You: Stories on Reproductive Freedom,* edited by Shelly Oria.



Small business owners selling everything from surf boards, glassware, art prints, coffee, makeup, and more **designated a portion of their proceeds** for The Brigid Alliance.

The Brigid Alliance was featured in and benefited from **fundraising efforts spearheaded by theater industry advocates**, from Broadway to Brooklyn.

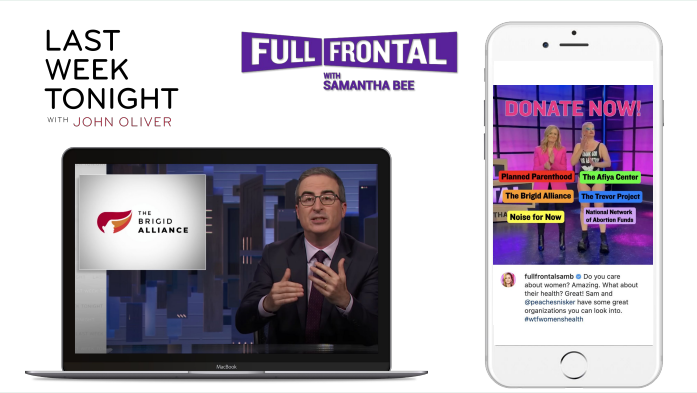
The Brigid Alliance

Our year in review

The Brigid Alliance and our work has been featured in **high-profile news coverage** and **popular media** reaching wide audiences.

The Brigid Alliance executive director, **Odile Schalit, appeared on NPR's *All Things Considered*** and in many other outlets discussing the work of the organization and the importance of practical support for abortion access.

LISTEN HERE



High-profile and progressive commentators frequently referenced The Brigid Alliance among organizations providing key services that would be increasingly needed in the aftermath of the Supreme Court ruling.

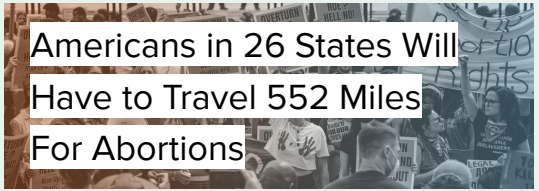
The Brigid Alliance

Our year in review

The Brigid Alliance and its efforts to meet surging demand were **frequently highlighted in news coverage** following the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

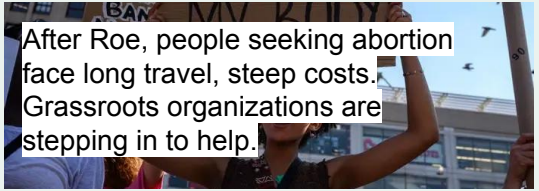
TIME

READ HERE



Bloomberg

READ HERE



INSIDER

READ HERE

The Brigid Alliance

Where we're headed

In the coming year, we will expand our team and adapt our client services model to create regionally-focused teams, allowing our client coordinators and other staff to specialize in serving clients traveling largely from restricted states and regions like the South, Southeast and Midwest, to one of three regions for care.

Since there are other great organizations supporting people traveling to states in the Midwest and Northwest where abortion is accessible, we will focus our efforts to get abortion-seekers to these three regions.

REGION 1 New Mexico, California, Colorado, Nevada

REGION 2 New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont

REGION 3 DC, Maryland, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Virginia

The Brigid Alliance

Where we're headed

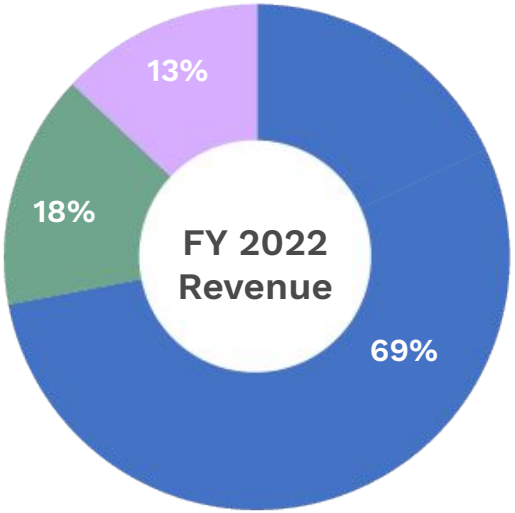
Staff coordinators dedicated to each region will develop expertise in supporting clients traveling to these areas—by investing in stronger and deeper relationships with local partners and clinics, and by developing specific knowledge of the hotels, transportation options, and other services available.

With these changes, we will be able to serve almost 100 more clients per month nearly doubling our impact.

We're excited about this new approach and believe it will allow our entire network of support organizations to reach even more people seeking an abortion.

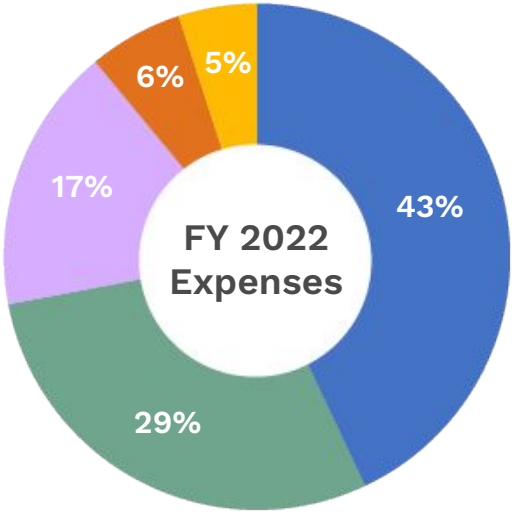
The Brigid Alliance

Fueling the journey



The Brigid Alliance is powered by individual donors, who contributed 69% of our revenue in the last year.

- Individual Donors 69%
  - Major Gifts 54%
  - Other Gifts 15%
- Foundations 18%
- Miscellaneous 13%



In FY 2022, 72% of expenses went directly to program work getting clients to their abortions and back home safely.

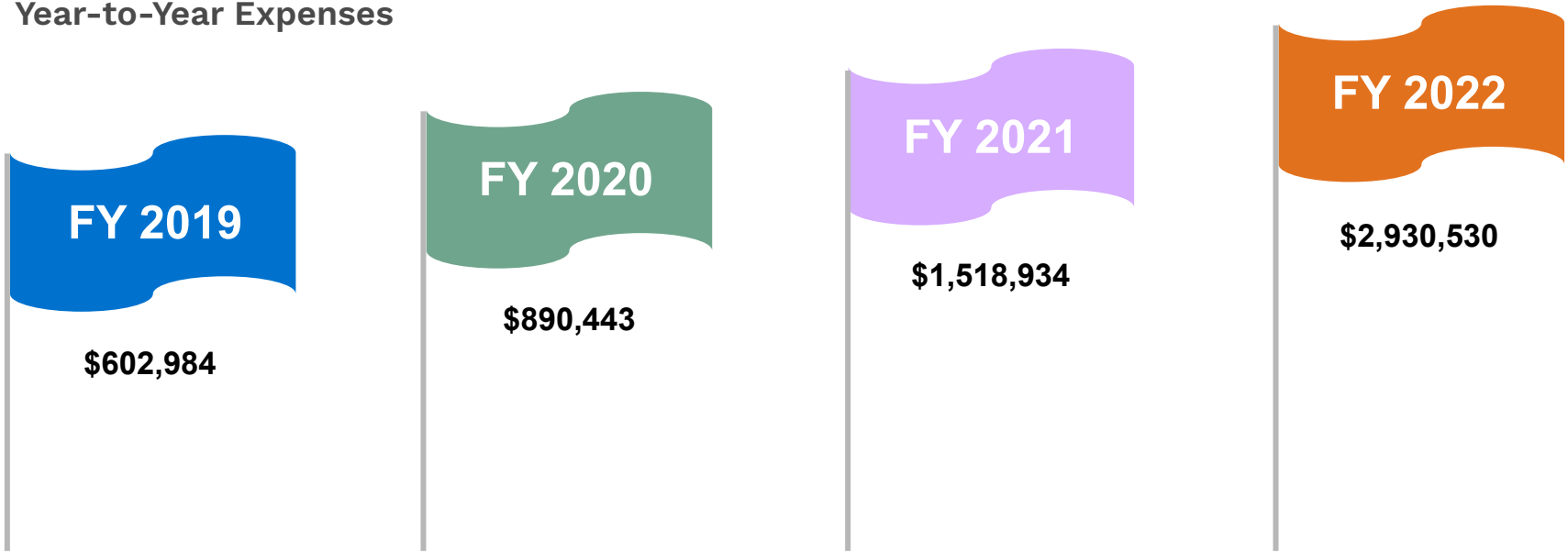
- Program Direct 43%
- Program Support 29%
- Operations & Administration 17%
- Fundraising 6%
- Communications 5%

The Brigid Alliance

This information is based on unaudited financial statements.

Fueling the journey

Year-to-Year Expenses



The Brigid Alliance

This information is based on unaudited financial statements.

Institutional Supporters

Anonymous (3), April Base Fund, Argosy Foundation, The Audrey & Sydney Irmas Charitable Foundation, The Bergstrom Foundation, Bessemer Trust, The Boston Foundation, The Charles H. Stout Foundation, Collaborative for Gender and Reproductive Equity, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Erol Foundation, Eugene M. Lang Foundation, The Grove Foundation, Isabel Allende Foundation, The Lalor Foundation, Leonard & Robert Weintraub Family Foundation, Linda P. Dotson Charitable Fund, The October Mountain Foundation, The National Network of Abortion Funds, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, The Pixley Fill Foundation, The Prentice Family Foundation, Quicksilver Fund, Rosalie J. Coe Weir Foundation, Schusterman Family Philanthropies, Tara Health Fund, William C. Bullitt Foundation, Women Donors Network

Individual Donors

In addition to these generous institutions, The Brigid Alliance received contributions from 27,500 individuals, with gifts ranging from $5 - $500,000.

Get on board!

MAKE A DONATION TODAY

Our work supporting people in getting to their abortion care and back home safely is only possible with the partnership of donors like you. Every dollar makes a difference.

To make a donation and support equitable access to abortion, head to: www.brigidalliance.org/donate

$40 covers **one day of meals** for a client

$100 covers **local transportation** for a client to get **to and from an airport or clinic**

$225 covers **one night of hotel accommodations**

$300 covers **childcare**

$800 covers **airfare**

$1,400 is the average cost to provide one client with **everything they need to get to their abortion and back home safely**

The Brigid Alliance

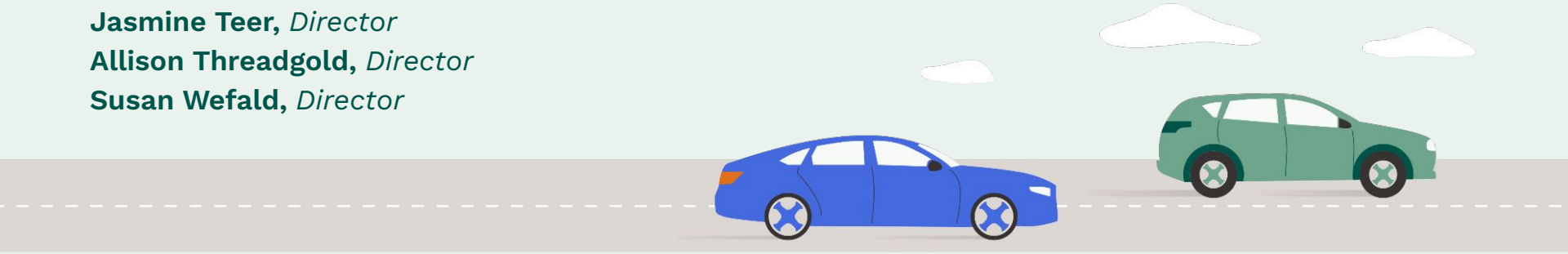
Leading the way

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Lenore Davis, *President & Director*
Carol Davis, *Treasurer & Director*
Leah Gould, *Secretary & Director*
Sandy Baron, *Director*
Marlowe Greenberg, *Director*
Katie Koltys, *Director*
Jasmine Teer, *Director*
Allison Threadgold, *Director*
Susan Wefald, *Director*

LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Odile Schalit, *Executive Director*
Stefanie Goldberg, *Director of Operations*
Sarah Moeller, *Director of Resource Development*
Mariely Neris Rodriguez, *Director of Client Services*



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