

FIGHTING  
INFERTILITY



GIVING *HOPE!*

Matteson, Illinois

• 773.273.9870

• [www.fertilityforcoloredgirls.com](http://www.fertilityforcoloredgirls.com)

### **Local Infertility Awareness Organization Expands to Virginia, Offering Hope, Options to Women of Color Trying to Conceive**

CHICAGO, Sept. 9 – Fertility for Colored Girls (FFCG), the Chicago-based nonprofit group dedicated to offering information and hope to minority women struggling to conceive, has expanded to include a chapter in Richmond, Va.

The Richmond chapter will join the movement that now has spread to seven states. The chapter launch is set for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14 at Virginia Union University L. Douglas Wilder Library, 1500 N. Lombardy St. in Richmond.

Launched in March, FFCG exists to address a cold reality in a world away from the perceived drama that includes multiple children by different fathers and teens abandoning children – because experts say black women have twice the odds of infertility as their white counterparts. Infertility affects 7.3 million people in this country and 11.5 percent of black women have reported issues with infertility as compared to 7 percent of white women.

“Many may think we're baby-making machines, but the truth is, there are a lot of black women fighting infertility,” says FFCG Founder the Rev. Dr. Stacey Edwards-Dunn.

Edwards-Dunn is among those women of color fighting infertility. At 42, she and her husband have been trying for six years to conceive. Through the rounds of prodding, testing, IVF, doctors and questions, one thought kept rolling through her mind: “I don't see anyone here who looks like me.”

She was also troubled by two key truths: 1) The lack of events and resources in the black community targeting infertility awareness, leaving the women suffering in shame and silence, and 2) the lack of support found in black churches, where many black women spend a lot of their time. In doing her research, Edwards-Dunn, executive minister at Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, was ultimately led to establish FFCG.

Edwards-Dunn is excited and delighted to expand this mission to Virginia.

“FFCG is on the move to raise awareness and encourage African American women/couples to take charge of our Fertility and Reproductive Health,” she says.

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**About FFCG:** FFCG seeks to provide education, awareness, support and encouragement to African-American women/couples and other women of color experiencing infertility and seeking to build the families of their dreams. Additionally, FFCG seeks to empower African American women to take charge of their fertility and reproductive health. For more information, log on to [www.fertilityforcoloredgirls.org](http://www.fertilityforcoloredgirls.org).

#### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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## About

### Rev. Dr. Stacey Edwards-Dunn

Rev. Dr. Stacey Edwards-Dunn, founder of Fertility for Colored Girls, is familiar with the pain that comes with the challenge of overcoming infertility.

An ordained minister of the Gospel, certified life coach and experienced teacher, Edwards-Dunn spent the earlier part of her life teaching Reproductive Health Education in the inner city of Chicago where she served as a Health Educator at Winfield Moody Health Center, and Planned Parenthood, as the Health Center Manager and as the Director of Community Education.

In addition to serving as the Executive Minister at Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, preaching, teaching and spending time with her life partner Mr. Earl Dunn, Sr. and family, Edwards-Dunn is passionate about seeking ways to enhance her own fertility. Her mission is to also serve as an instrument of hope, information, and empowerment for those struggling with infertility.

She holds a BA in Chemistry and a Master of Public Health from Indiana University. In addition, she holds a Master of Divinity from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, and a Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Care and Spiritual Formation from McCormick Theological Seminary.



## OUR BOARD

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## Fertility for Colored Girls

### About us

**Founded:** 2013

**Founder:** Rev. Dr. Stacey Edwards-Dunn

**Goals:** To empower African American women to achieve their dreams of becoming parents and deal with the challenges of infertility by providing holistic education, emotional support, prayer, ritual and financial assistance for infertility treatments.

**What's different about us:** Our holistic approach, live events, resources, and eventually, financial assistance to treatments

**Why now?** It is time to slay the silent giant of infertility in the African American community.

**The numbers:** Of 7.3 million women in this country battling infertility, black women make up 11.5 percent, while white women make up 7 percent.

### Infertility Myths

*Black women don't experience infertility.*  
They do, but it is a subject often hidden or rarely discussed in the black community.

*Black women can't afford infertility treatments.*  
All infertility treatments are not expensive; There are various price ranges.. Also, 15 states have laws requiring insurance companies to cover treatment.

*Men, particularly black men, do not experience infertility.*  
Almost half of all couples seeking to conceive have some type of male factor contributing to their diagnosis. It is important that men also have a full evaluation.

*There are many black women who get pregnant over the age of 40, thus age is not a significant factor.*

A woman is born with all the eggs she will ever have; However, as women age, not only does the number of available eggs decrease, but the quality of the eggs diminishes, leading to a decrease in fertility in women older than age 35.

### Our Purpose

Fertility for Colored Girls (FFCG) was born after numerous conversations with women who have walked the IVF journey, experienced challenges with infertility and miscarriages; sharing with women who decided to postpone pregnancy for whatever reason; recognizing women were suffering in silence and who could not find a space to have safe conversations with family, friends, or at church, regarding infertility and recognizing that the black community did not have real talk about infertility and reproductive health.

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## Why We Do It

### 7.3 MILLION WOMEN AND COUPLES EXPERIENCE INFERTILITY IN THE U.S.

While infertility has no prevalence to race, gender, or class, the issue is concerning among African-American women (men) for a number of reasons:

- Black women have nearly twice the odds of experiencing infertility in comparison to white women

7%



VS.



11.5%

### SOME REASONS WHY AFRICAN-AMERICANS SUFFER MORE FROM INFERTILITY:

- Lack of access/limited awareness of treatment options
- Cost of infertility services treatment/alternative family-building options
- The belief that African-American women/couples are hyperfertile
- Stigma/Shame/Culture
- Many African-American women look to their faith... "If God wanted me to have children, I would have them"...causing them to shy away from health centers for support
- For men, seeking help can seem emasculating

### LEADING CAUSES OF INFERTILITY IN THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

- Fibroids

By the end of reproductive years, the incidence of uterine fibroids in African-American women is 80%. Black women have more hysterectomies for treatments than any other ethnic group.

Source: Georgia Reproductive Specialists

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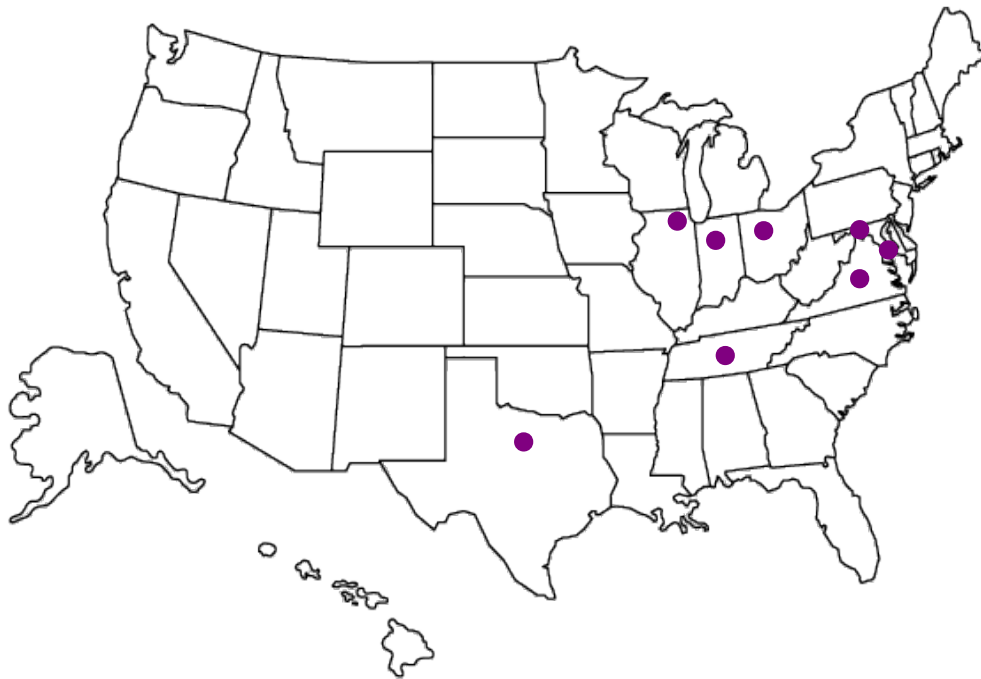
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## Where We Are



FFCG has expanded to the following states:

- Illinois
- Indiana
- Maryland
- Tennessee
- Ohio
- Texas
- Virginia
- Washington, D.C.