

FIGHTING
INFERTILITY



GIVING *HOPE!*

Matteson, Illinois

• 773.273.9870

• www.fertilityforcoloredgirls.com

Nonprofit Group Raising Money, Awareness to Fight Infertility

CHICAGO – The nonprofit Fertility for Colored Girls (FFCG) is raising money and awareness to target minorities on Chicago's South side. The group provides a unique combination of events, educational panels and fundraisers on Chicago's South side.

FFCG has a goal of raising at least \$10,000 in financial assistance for these women and couples. The organization was started by the Rev. Stacey Edwards-Dunn, whose own seven-year struggle with infertility resulting in seven unsuccessful invitro fertility (IVF) treatments compelled her to reach out to other women and couples trying to conceive. Rev. Stacey and her husband successfully conceived in 2014 and are expecting a child in the fall.

While researching solutions her own options, Rev. Stacey came across startling statistics of infertility; 7.3 million people in the United States are affected by issues of infertility but black women are twice as likely as white women to experience these issues. Still, black women are less likely to seek treatment, according to experts.

“Popular culture may portray black men and women as hyper-fertile, baby-making machines,” Rev. Stacey says. “But the reality is that many of us are suffering in silence trying to conceive and we don't have anyone to turn to.”

FFCG is unique because it offers a holistic approach to fertility infertility: expert advice of nutritionists, obstetricians and gynecologists address the biological solutions; adoption agencies and family planning experts address alternative options and a prayer/support circle available for women and couples address the issue from a faith perspective.

Rev. Edwards-Dunn and FFCG have been featured in *The New York Times*, *Chicago Defender*, WCIU's “You & Me in the Morning,” Doug Banks Radio Show, and WVON 1690 AM's Perri Small and Cliff Kelley radio show. FFCG also had a table and panel discussion at the Black Women's Expo in Chicago in 2014, the first time infertility had been discussed at the event in its 20-year history.

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About Fertility for Colored Girls

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.

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

Rev. Dr. Stacey Edwards-Dunn
Earl Dunn
Deborah Jones Buggs
Greg Hinton
Mia Gassi

Our Advisory Board

Rev. Dr. Tasha Brown
Chandrea Brown
Daleta Mitchell
Bridgette Outten
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Fertility for Colored Girls Fast Facts

What is Fertility for Colored Girls (FFCG)?

Fertility for Colored Girls is a national organization that provides education, awareness, support and encouragement to African American women/couples experiencing infertility. Based in Chicago after its launch in March 2013, FFCG currently has a chapter in Richmond, VA and has launched a chapter in the DMV area (Washington D.C., Maryland, Virginia). Please note that FFCG is NOT a medical organization and we DO NOT give health advice.

How does FFCG accomplish its mission?

FFCG accomplishes its mission of offering hope and access to options to women and couples trying to conceive through the following:

1. Education: Live Programming/Webinars
2. Support: Private Support Group Meetings & Prayer Circles
3. Resources: Family Building Grant, Ask the Doctor & access to health experts through programming

How did FFCG get started?

Our founder, the Rev. Stacey Edwards-Dunn, was experiencing her own fertility challenges with her husband. They spent six years before the launch of FFCG trying to conceive. During that painful time, Rev. Stacey realized there were very few women of color she could turn to for help and became concerned that conversation surrounding black women and infertility were not taking place.

After seven years and eight IVF treatments, Rev. Stacey and her husband Earl are expecting a child in fall of 2014.

What are key statistics surrounding black women and infertility in the U.S.?

- Black women have twice the odds of infertility compared to white women
- 11.5% of black women report infertility compared to 7% of white women but yet studies indicate that black women use infertility services less often
- A leading cause of infertility in black women is uterine fibroids

Where can I direct people to for more information?

FFCG has a website www.fertilityforcoloredgirls.org and an active Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/FertilityForColoredGirlsNfp>

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FFCG in the News

To read, listen to and/or watch our coverage in its entirety, please log on to www.fertilityforcoloredgirls.org. FFCG has been featured:

“You & Me This Morning” Inspiring U segment, WCIU

“Infertility Through the Prism of Race,” New York Times

WVON Cliff Kelley Show

WVON Perri Small Show

Doug Banks Radio Show

“Black women, infertility organization strives to create more awareness,” Chicago Defender

Tom Joyner Morning Show Community Watch

“Working Women Waiting Longer to Have Children Face Infertility Issues,” TBT News Service

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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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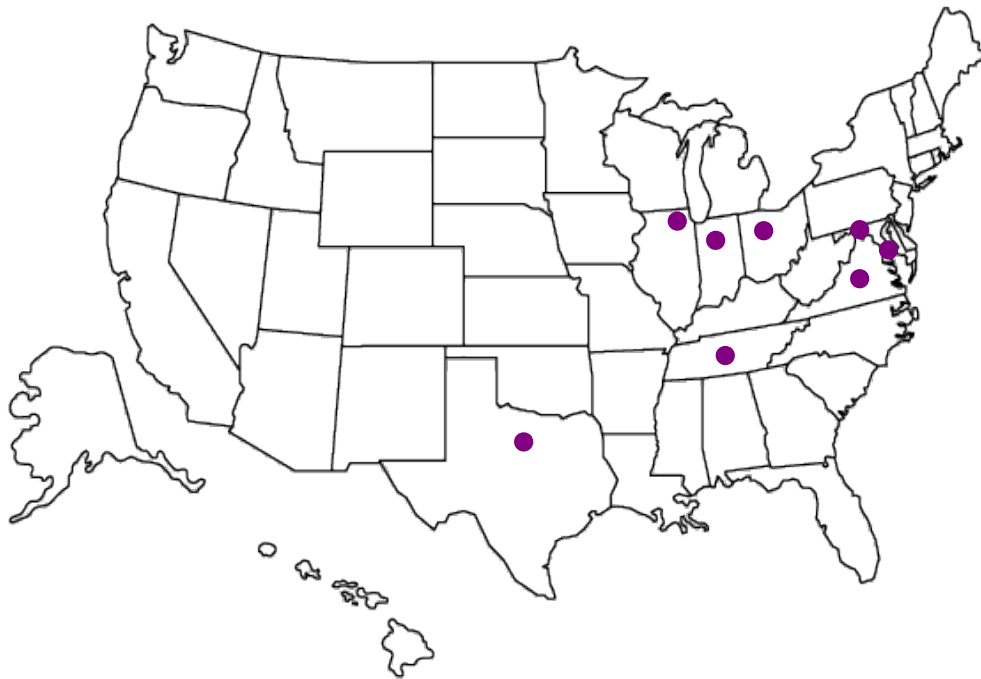
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Where We Are



FFCG has expanded to the following states:

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