

FIGHTING
INFERTILITY



GIVING *HOPE!*

Matteson, Illinois

• 773.273.9870

• www.fertilityforcoloredgirls.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Infertility Awareness Organization Targets Minority Women, Launches Events for National Infertility Awareness Week

CHICAGO – Entertainment, media and pop culture may paint the picture of minority women as hypersexualized and hyperfertile, but the Rev. Dr. Stacey Edwards-Dunn has always known these images are off the mark.

The cold reality is worlds 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 the 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,” Edwards-Dunn says.

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 Fertility for Colored Girls, which officially launched in late March of 2013.

Fertility for Colored girls is already going strong, preparing to host its first series of awareness events, including a “Stiletto Strut” workout event and a panel discussion, “Real Talk on the Truth of Trying to Conceive,” all taking place during National Infertility Awareness week.

– 30 –

Events:

Sunday, 4.21: Churches will include infertility info Liturgy and Bulletins

Monday, 4.22: 6 a.m. (CST), HOPE-Prayer Circle

Tuesday, 4.23: 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Real Talk on the Truth about Trying to Conceive Panel, Trinity Oaks Community Room, 6225 S. Drexel Ave, Chicago

Wednesday, 4.24: ADVOCACY DAY

Thursday, 4.25: A Day of Remembrance, Hope, and Healing: FFCG lights candles for women struggling with infertility

Friday, 4.26: 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. “Stiletto Strut” for Fertility for Colored Girls Health and Fitness Night, Good Gyrrl Studio, 1200 W. 35th Street, Chicago Lower Level (inside Bridgeport Art Center)

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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.



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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.