



---

**A MESSAGE FROM  
HEALTHFIRST CEO,  
JESSICA SCHARFENBERG:**

---

A mission statement is a brief statement of why an organization exists and what its overall goals are, while the core values are the fundamental beliefs of the organization. Healthfirst Network's mission includes being dedicated to providing quality, confidential reproductive health care, education and nutrition counseling that is affordable and accessible through direct care and strategic partnerships. Additionally, our core values include, providing confidential services, treating all with respect and dignity; empowering through education; maintaining honesty and integrity; being kind, caring & empathetic; and committing to innovative, high quality, evidence-based services.

The mission and core values of Healthfirst is what I live, breathe, and eat. Not only to ensure that clients receive services through this mission and core values, but also the employees of Healthfirst. Internal displays of mission and core value adherence set the tone and culture of an organization.

As I reflect on the mission and core values of Healthfirst, I would be amiss to not acknowledge how the recent United States Supreme Court decision has impacted the work that we do, and my employees that do it. The board of directors and leadership team deeply support the mission and work of Healthfirst, but more importantly we support the employees of Healthfirst. In doing so, Healthfirst will ensure access to abortion services for employees by contributing up to \$4,000 to cover expenses incurred to seek and receive the services which they must now travel out of state for.

As a small non-profit in central Wisconsin, funding is tight, however we are committed to ensuring the safe and equitable access to healthcare for our employees. Abortion care is healthcare and we support the health, safety, and well-being of our staff.

As with any organization, without a healthy staff, we do not function and cannot carry out our mission. This is why I challenge other organizations and businesses in Central Wisconsin to create similar plans to make abortion accessible for your employees.

Jessie Scharfenberg, MPH, BSN-RN  
Healthfirst CEO