

2024







# IMPACT REPORT

Recurrent Pregnancy Loss Association



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Dear RPLA Friends,

As we reflect on this past year, I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together. For the first time, we saw results presented from research we *helped fund* (see page 6)! This is an incredible milestone and an experience we will continue to enjoy as our grant program continues. We also launched a YouTube channel to share information from healthcare experts and started a blog to share stories from the RPL community. All this, while continuing to support and advocate for improved care for loss families.

On the organizational front, we welcomed a new Board member, Hannah Palac, who has been instrumental in helping find a new home for our RPL Community Registry (see pages 8-9). We also had our first in-person Board retreat, courtesy of Chris and Carolyn Eigel, who generously opened their lake house to us for a weekend of strategic planning. Lastly, you'll notice that my signature block has changed. Joey Konefal has taken over responsibilities as President of the Board while I am operating as Executive Director. This delineation of responsibilities is an important step as we continue to grow the organization and position ourselves to hire staff.

Looking to 2025, there are some exciting things on the horizon. Dr. Micaela Stevenson Wyszewianski has joined our Board. She is a resident physician in Obstetrics and Gynecology intending to pursue a fellowship in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility. In addition to medical expertise, she has experience in political and community organizing for increased access to reproductive healthcare for patients. Dr. Ron Libbrizi and I will have several opportunities to address physicians to discuss the importance of miscarriage tissue testing (see page 8). We intend to host an inaugural awareness and fundraising run this summer. And we will work to reestablish our Community Registry on the IAMRARE platform hosted by NORD.

In this report, you'll notice many images of puzzle pieces. Our annual campaign theme this year was "A Promise in Every Piece: Assembling a Future Where RPL is Eliminated." Recurrent pregnancy loss remains a puzzle for so many families. We know that solving it will require participation from many people and multiple disciplines. We each have a role to play. Whether it's contributing data, caring for patients, conducting research, raising awareness, or raising funds, **everyone can be a piece of the puzzle.** We thank you for being part of our RPLA Family and playing your part.

Warm regards,  
Megan Hanson  
Co-Founder and Executive Director





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# OUR CHARGE

## Mission

RPLA is dedicated to:

- Eliminating recurrent pregnancy loss through the advancement of research into causes and treatments;
- Providing support and resources to those affected; and
- Increasing awareness of the impact of miscarriage and fertility challenges on individuals and families.

## Vision

We envision a future where recurrent pregnancy loss (RPL) is eliminated and individuals are empowered to make informed healthcare and family building decisions.

# OUR TEAM

## 2024 Board of Directors

- Joey Konefal (President), XOS
- Benjamin Burnham (Vice President), Amazon
- Mari Trevino Glass (Treasurer), Trevino Consulting Group
- Ashlee Van Schyndel, MPH, (Secretary), University of Illinois Chicago
- Megan Hanson (Executive Director), Volunteer
- Ronald Librizzi, DO, Retired, Virtua Health
- Melissa Loonan, Esq, US Bank
- Hannah Palac, AbbVie

## 2025 Incoming Directors

- Micaela Stevenson Wyszewianski, MD, Medical College of Wisconsin

## Medical Advisory Board

- Ruth Lathi, MD, Professor in the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Director of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI) Research, and Director of the multi-specialty recurrent pregnancy loss program at Stanford University.
- Winifred Mak, MD, PhD, Associate Professor at UT Health Science San Antonio, Associate Professor at Dell Medical School UT Austin, and Director of the early pregnancy loss program at UT Health.
- Gregory Piazza, MD, MS, Director of Vascular Medicine in the division of Cardiovascular Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) and Associate Professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School (HMS).





# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## Research Findings Presented

One of the most exciting moments of the year was hearing Dr. Workalemahu present his findings at the ASRM Congress. Dr. Workalemahu was RPLA's first grant recipient in 2022. His project was aimed at finding inherited genes related to unexplained pregnancy loss.

His team identified several genomic regions in the placenta that may contribute to stillbirth. They also identified genomic regions implicated in *in utero* development, pregnancy loss, and infertility.

Further investigation is needed to understand the functional roles of the identified genes and how they contribute to stillbirth, pregnancy loss, and infertility. This deeper understanding could guide the development of diagnostic tools and personalized risk assessments for couples with a family history of pregnancy complications or loss.





### 2024 Grant Recipient

The 2024 research award was given to Abey Eapen, MBBS, DRCOG, PhD, FCRI for his project exploring autoimmune, inflammatory, and epigenetic disruptors associated with unexplained recurrent pregnancy loss.

Dr. Eapen is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility division of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Iowa.

Reproductive immunology is a hotly debated area. A major hurdle is the lack of laboratory tests that can diagnose potential contributing conditions with good confidence. However, Dr. Eapen believes that there are some simple tests that, when combined with the standard RPL workup and patient history, can help provide more information about the causes of unexplained pregnancy loss.

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### Stories of Loss and Hope

In April we launched a blog on our website titled "Stories of Loss and Hope" to share stories from the community. Each story we've had the honor to share is a unique gift, and we hope by continuing to build out this resource we will weave a shared narrative that honors our pain, celebrates our strength, and reminds us that we are not alone.

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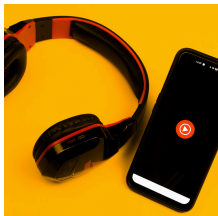


### Front Page News

RPLA got some media attention this year when former Board member, Amy Henderson Riley, made the front page of USA Today's weekend edition in an article about the mixed emotions of Mother's Day for members of the infertility community. These types of stories are crucial to help destigmatize infertility and pregnancy loss.

RPLA was also featured in a special report from STAT News in August which highlighted the knowledge gap about miscarriage in the US.

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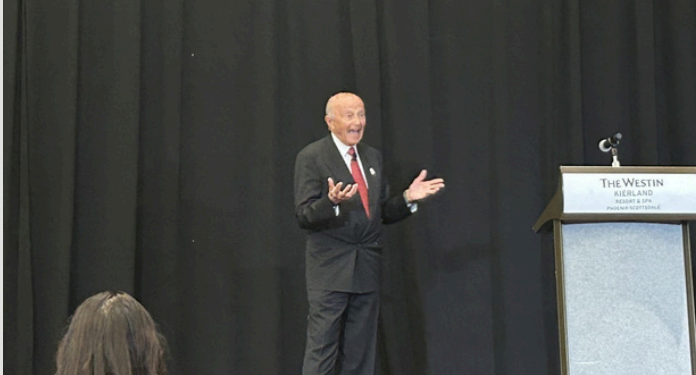


### Ask the Expert Video Series

RPLA continues to build out its library of resources. This year we launched a YouTube channel to more easily share our "Ask the Expert" series which features interviews with doctors and other healthcare providers on topics related to recurrent pregnancy loss and infertility. You can find the videos embedded on our website or on YouTube @rplassociation1

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## Advocating for Improved Care

Board members, Dr. Ron Librizzi and Megan Hanson, presented at the American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) mid-year meeting. They spoke about the importance of fetal autopsy and miscarriage tissue testing, and how information from both should influence the diagnostic and care pathway for families who have experienced pregnancy loss. Megan shared her personal journey and Dr. Librizzi discussed compassionate care for RPL families and how to push for answers.

## Peer-to-Peer Support

RPLA continues to host a free, monthly peer-to-peer support group for the RPL community. The group takes place virtually, so that folks can join from any city or time zone. We consider it a responsibility and a privilege to hold this space. Sometimes the support group is the first place people have talked about their losses publicly. Often it is first time people meet others who've experienced multiple losses. These connections help validate and normalize an experience which otherwise can feel quite isolating.

## RPL Community Registry

We were shocked, saddened, and disappointed last January to learn that the LunaDNA platform, which we used to host the RPL Community Registry, was closing.

A registry is a critical tool to enable research. A lot of effort went into selecting Luna and creating our Community on the platform. We know our members also spent a great deal of time and emotional effort answering the surveys and sharing their data with us. Board member, Hannah Palac, spent the better part of 2024 evaluating new platforms. We are excited to share that we will re-launch our registry on IAMRARE, a platform powered by NORD, the National Organization of Rare Diseases. Work to relaunch will take place throughout 2025.

**"We need more supports like that of the RPLA available to those of us struggling with pregnancy losses. There is something truly invaluable about connecting with others who are living your same experience."**

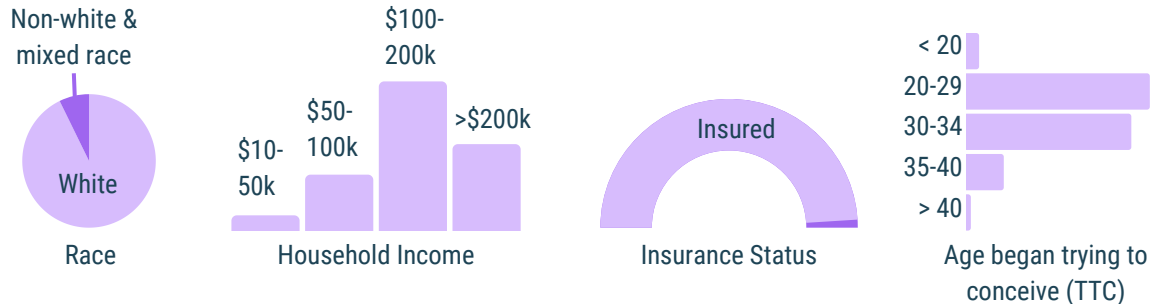
- Support Group Participant -



# COMMUNITY REGISTRY OVERVIEW

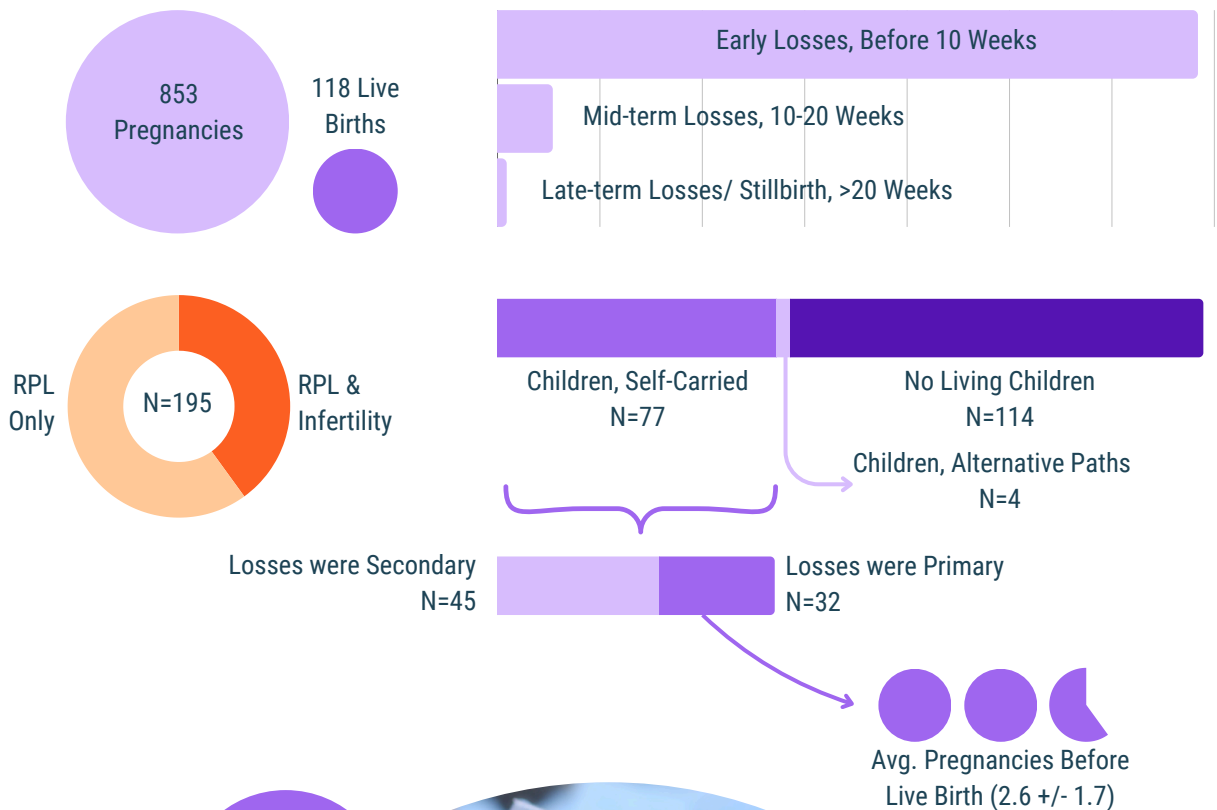
Between January 2022 and January 2023, 195 individuals joined the RPL Community Registry on LunaDNA and answered all the available surveys. Here are key characteristics of that Community.

## Demographics



## Pregnancies and Parental Status

The following data represents a snapshot in time. Individuals may have continued TTC. Additional pregnancy and birth information was not captured.

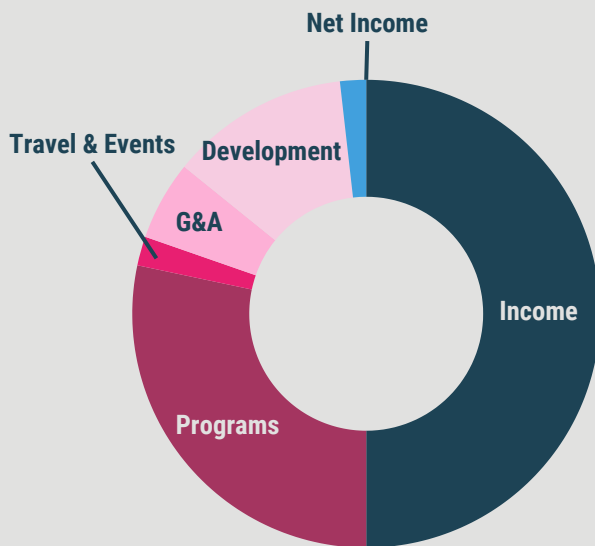


## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

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**Revenue**

Total Revenue: \$81,848

**Expenses**

Total Expenses: \$78,905

**Net Profit**

Profit: \$2,943

**Comments**

In 2024 RPLA received \$81,756 in unrestricted gifts from 188 donors. This represents an 8.9% increase in contributions from FY23. Total income was \$81,848.

Expenses were \$78,905 which represents a 30% increase from FY23.

- Program expenses were \$46,365. This was 15% lower than FY23 due to the LunaDNA closure (decreased registry expenses). We also funded a one-time scientific symposium at the ASRM conference in FY23.
- General & administrative expenses increased three-fold. This increase resulted from outsourced bookkeeping service which began this year, and increased government filing fees.
- Fundraising & development expenses also increased in FY24. This was driven by \$19,300 in services paid to a professional grant writer which will be discontinued in FY25.

Net gain for the year was \$2,943. Total assets as of December 31, 2024 were \$124,615. There were no liabilities.

**Forward Looking Statement**

We anticipate FY25 individual contributions to be comparable to FY24. We intend to host a virtual awareness building and fundraising run in 2025 which will help increase our revenue. With the intended relaunch of the RPL Community Registry on the IAMRARE platform, we expect program expenses to increase. This will be offset by a decrease in fundraising expenses (see above). We expect to end the year net positive with a strong cash position.

We continue to build our cash reserve to (1) ensure that we are always able to pay out the grant award in Q2, and (2) put us in a position to eventually hire full-time staff.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Statement of Financial Position

### Assets

Checking	\$98,331
Cash in Transit	\$26,284
Total Assets	<b>\$124,615</b>

### Liabilities

Total Liabilities	<b>\$0</b>
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### Net Assets

General Fund - Unrestricted	\$124,615
Total Net Assets	<b>\$124,615</b>
Total Liabilities + Net Assets	<b>\$124,615</b>

## Statement of Comprehensive Income

### Income

Contributions	\$81,756
Interest Earned	\$92
Total Income	<b>\$81,848</b>

### Expenses

Programs	\$46,365
Fundraising & Development	\$20,2075
General & Administrative	\$8,975
Travel & Events	\$3,290
Total Expenses	<b>\$78,905</b>
Net Income (Loss)	<b>\$2,943</b>





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### \$5,000 and Up

- Dr. Joseph & Mrs. Karen Konefal
- Ben Burnham & Megan Hanson
- Jenny & Greg Rudin
- The Baupost Group

### \$1,000 to \$4,999

- Robin & Ron Librizzi
- Bob & Jane Simpson
- Joey & Kate Konefal
- Gail Palac
- Judy Jones
- Sonja Koenig
- Mike & Laurie Burnham
- Randy & Nancy Green
- Osmonson Family Charitable Fund
- Brandon & Amy Henderson Riley
- Arthur J Gallagher Foundation
- Richard & Michelle Anderson
- Kim Duchossois
- US Bank Foundation
- Donna Zarcone

### \$1,000 to \$4,999 cont.

- Carol Lavin Bernick Family Foundation
- Matthew Howard
- Susan Maxwell
- Kendrin Van Steenwyk and William Duggan Charitable Fund
- Tom & Melissa Loonan
- Hannah Palac

### \$500 to \$999

- Kelsey Stanton
- Adam & Christy Wolf
- Jessica Rueff
- Michael Murchison
- Mari Trevino Glass
- AbbVie Employee Giving Fund
- Charly & Nancy Lockwood
- Christine Messina
- Lisa Hurlly
- Pete Greenberg & Carrie Harwood
- Linda Starkey
- Jake Gillen & Natalie Karp

### \$500 to \$999 cont.

- Anne Mitsak & Douglas Mullen
- Jay & Betsy Dahlke
- Jeff Flisrand
- David & Diane Boes
- Microsoft
- Beth Rahn

### \$100 to \$499

- Emma Michels
- Rev. Jeanne Hanson
- Sue Slater
- Chan Zuckerberg Foundation
- Matthew Malc
- Pascal & Allie Arcese
- Jennifer Campbell
- Tom & Suzanne Bolling
- Grant Martin
- Deborah Rasmussen
- Gary & Michele Polvere
- Cheryl Packard
- Jighna Shah



### \$100 to \$499 cont.

- Chitvan Keith
- Bethany Lockwood
- Douglas McCadden & Laryssa Storozuk
- Ayn Dietrich Williams
- Danny & Gretchen Fitzgibbons
- Alissa Staples
- Jamie Goehner
- Jordan Rasmussen
- Claudia Affannato
- John Loonan
- Tasha Ohara
- Marcus Hinnenthal
- Debbie Talbot
- James Palac
- Kara Bern
- Lindsey Duncan
- Janet Tune
- Thomas Joyce
- Rene Henriksen
- Janet Slater
- Leonard Goldsmith
- Sandy Brunner
- Michael Stanton
- Sheri Louks
- Shelley Slater
- Benjamin Loonan
- Jacob Reiter
- Jennifer Woodruff
- Denise Loonan
- John Borofka
- Jessica Ryniec
- Cam Cowen
- Laura Epstein
- Nathan Hodson
- Joseph A DePaulo
- Peter Adamson
- Dicie Hansen
- Hannah Bradley
- Lauren Creegan
- Mikkell Christie
- Charles Albano
- Suzanne Olivieri
- Adam Chopko
- Alicia Irizarry
- Laura McNamara

### \$50 to \$99

- Katherine Riley
- John Murray
- Max Cotterill
- Tori Ferraina
- Sophie Novick
- Meredith Koenig
- Fay Young
- Amanda Crawford
- Meghan Riehle
- Amber Stevenson
- Ted & Andrea Eigel
- Elizabete Silva
- Amy Oliver
- Kate Penz
- Erika English
- Whitney Laurence
- Lori Brisbin-Shepler
- Keith Olson
- Emily Wahl
- Deb Arnall See
- Laura Rasmussen
- Erica Zucker
- Avery Brong
- Michelle Schwartz
- Allison Stine
- Amy Ferguson
- James Soper
- David Humphrey
- Robert Lee
- Janet Lyons
- Robert Henderson
- Kathleen King
- Ali Hyman
- Elana Greenberg
- Allison Roberts
- Sloane Blumenfeld

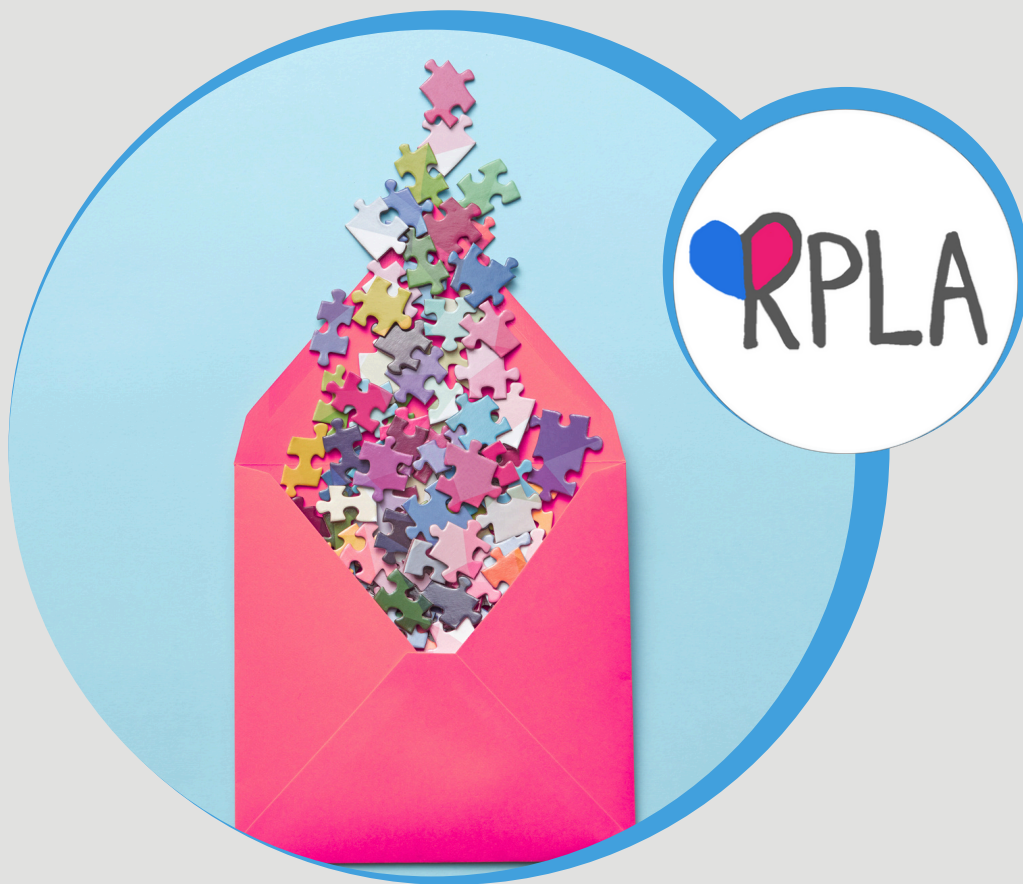
### Up to \$49

- Elizabeth Lindholm
- Melissa Scatena
- Stephanie Kaplan
- Heidi Genereux

### Up to \$49 cont.

- Jamie Orlando
- Katie Fuentes
- Courtney Cines
- Julia Mercorella
- Beth Coleman
- Jillian Jiggs
- Victoria Selesnick
- Taryn McCarter
- Julia Anker
- Jennifer Tilliss
- Ali Callegari
- Bari Joseph
- Marlee Olson
- Stephanie Pilgrim
- Nancy Burnham
- Amber Blomberg
- Madeline Manalang
- Rachel Gottlieb
- Carly Brand
- Viki Lindholm
- Melissa Graham
- Karon Boyd
- Jenna Hart
- Melanie Fine
- Katie Katz
- Kara Young
- Elizabeth Healy
- Katie Boyd
- Stephi Spiller
- Ingrid Kaplan
- Evie Epstein
- Jillian Lacadoro
- Leah Czechowski
- Sarah Ballan
- Marlene Miller
- Liana Abadi
- Lauren Trager
- Sarah Miller
- Emily Ronk
- Synthia Washington
- Stormie Bullock
- Shelby Dossick
- Infertile in YYJ





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