

Right to Life of Shelby County

Newsletter

December 2009

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Volume 36 Issue 12

Building a Culture of Life in Shelby County, Ohio, since 1974

Volunteer corner

- Welcome to new clothing center volunteers, Jane Luthman and Jeanette Carter.
- We continue to seek a volunteer willing to manage the March for Life bus trip in January. Please contact Kevin or Anne at 492-5584.
- RTL will hold a membership meeting March 12, 2010. If you would like to help organize this event, please contact Jenni Bohman at 526-3451.

Mark your calendar...

- Deadline for submissions to the January newsletter: December 23.
- Board meetings: December 1 and January 5, 7 pm.

Clothing center report

We served 192 people during the month of October, of whom 64 received free items, 4 took literature, and 4 were referred to the Women's Center.

We have several nice, large planters purchased for use on our 2009 parade float. They're now available for sale below cost, \$15 each. See them at the clothing center.

Right to Life of Shelby County is a 501(c)(3) educational and service organization. All donations are fully tax-deductible.

On the Web...

RTL of Shelby County:
www.shelbycountyrctl.org

Ohio RTL:
www.ohiolife.org

National RTL Committee:
www.nrlc.org

Bus Trip, Vigil Set for January

January 22, 2010 marks the 37th anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision. Right to Life will hold its annual Candlelight Vigil at 7pm on Thursday, January 21, on the court square in Sidney.

ACTION ITEM



Immediately following the vigil, travelers will depart for the bus trip to Washington for the March for Life. The cost is \$70 per person, which includes bus fare and a subway ticket. Marchers travel through the night Thursday, attend the Youth Mass and rally at the Verizon Center Friday morning, participate in the March for Life on the Mall in the afternoon, and then return to Sidney early in the morning of Saturday, January 23.

If you are interested in attending the bus trip, please contact Bonnie York at 526-4388 or dbyork@embarqmail.com as soon as possible.

We need to remind our culture of the injustice of abortion and of the necessity of protecting all human life. Please join us for one or both of these important January events.

Attention Students, Grades 7-12: Pro-Life Essay Contests

National Right to Life (deadline Jan. 16); see www.nrlc.org/essaycontest for rules.

National March for Life Essay Contest (deadline Dec. 15); see www.marchforlife.org for rules.

More Fruit from 40 Days of Prayer and Action

The director of a Texas-based Planned Parenthood has resigned her position saying that she has had a change of heart on abortion. The development highlights the powerful results ultrasounds have in convincing people of the humanity of the unborn child and the need to oppose abortions.

Abby Johnson had been the director of the Planned Parenthood center in Bryan, home to Texas A&M University, until she turned in her resignation on October 6.

She tells KBTX that seeing an ultrasound instantaneously prompted her to quit. "I just thought I can't do this anymore, and it was just like a flash that hit me and I thought that's it," she said.

In the interview, Johnson admitted that Planned Parenthood doesn't make its money on promoting family planning, but through abortion. "The money wasn't in family planning, the money wasn't in prevention, the money was in abortion and so I had a problem with that," she admitted. (cont. on page 2)

Stupak-Pitts Amendment Passes with Ohio Support

The following report is taken from an Ohio Right to Life e-mail, November 8, 2009. Although the debate over health care reform continues and, as of this writing, threats to life remain in the bills under consideration (see related story, page 4), passage of an amendment prohibiting federal funding of abortion as part of health care plans was a significant victory for the pro-life cause. Fourteen of eighteen Ohio representatives voted for the amendment (pro-life), including six of ten Democrats. It is proof that, with organized leadership and grassroots support, bipartisan progress on the legal protection of unborn life is possible. Thank you to all members who have been active on this issue.

On November 7, the U.S. House passed the Stupak-Pitts Amendment which prevents federal funding for elective abortions in the House Health Care Reform Bill, H.R. 3962. The pro-life amendment passed on a vote of 240 to 194, with one member voting "present". 64 Democrats joined with 176 Republicans in voting for the amendment. Before adoption of the amendment, the bill explicitly authorized a new federal agency health program, the "public option", to pay for elective abortions with federal funds, and also authorized federal subsidies to help purchase other insurance that covered elective abortions.

Ohio Representatives who voted the PRO-LIFE position for the Stupak-Pitts Amendment were: Steve Driehaus; Jean Schmidt; Michael Turner; Jim Jordan; Robert Latta; Charlie Wilson; Steve Austria; John Boehner; Marcy Kaptur; Pat Tiberi; Steve LaTourette; John Boccieri; Tim Ryan; and Zach Space (14).

Ohio Representatives who voted the PRO-ABORTION position against the Stupak-Pitts Amendment were: Dennis Kucinich; Marcia Fudge; Betty Sutton; and Mary Jo Kilroy.

40 Days Fruit (continued from page 1)

She also told KBTX she was told to bring in more women for abortions -- something that contradicted her Episcopalian upbringing. "I feel so pure in heart (since leaving). I don't have this guilt, I don't have this burden on me anymore that's how I know this conversion was a spiritual conversion," she said.

Johnson said she will now work with the Coalition For Life, the pro-life group that operates locally and has a building down the street from the abortion business. She has been meeting with the coalition's executive director, Shawn Carney, and been seen outside the Planned Parenthood helping women find alternatives.

KBTX indicates Planned Parenthood officials have hit both Johnson and the pro-life group with restraining orders requiring them not to disclose information about the abortions done at its facility.

The Planned Parenthood Federation of America released its annual report for fiscal year 2007-2008 and it showed the nation's largest abortion business is getting bigger. Abortions increased to 305,310 abortions up from 289,750 in 2006. That 5.3 percent increase came at a time when the Guttmacher Institute, its former research arm, showed abortions were at near-historic lows.

In 1997, Planned Parenthood did about 160,000 abortions and received approximately \$160 million in total taxpayer funding from various levels of government. Both the number of abortions and the amount of money received from government, supposedly for family planning to reduce abortions, has doubled since then.

Planned Parenthood also says it helped just under 11,000 women in 2007 with prenatal care and pregnancy help services. Yet, prenatal care and adoption referrals accounted for only 5 percent of the total services provided to women in 2007 while abortions accounted for 95 percent of the services that year, according to Planned Parenthood's own figures.

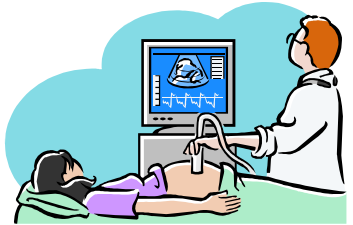
By Steven Ertelt. Reprinted with permission from LifeNews.com, November 2, 2009. Edited for space.

Pregnancy Centers: The Heart of the Pro-Life Movement

Editor's Note: Many RTL members attended the Elizabeth's New Life Center banquet in October and were able to observe how much good our local women's center does. In this column, Fr. Frank Pavone highlights the work of pregnancy resource centers, which deserve our full support.

One of the most encouraging facts about the pro-life effort in our country is that there are far more pregnancy resource centers (over 2300) than there are abortion mills (about 740).

The centers used to be called "crisis pregnancy centers" and were often advertised with the promise of "free pregnancy tests." Now, the more common term is "pregnancy resource centers" (PRCs), and the range of services provided goes far beyond pregnancy testing, and includes the services of fully licensed medical clinics.



Moreover, these centers do not just operate on their own with the support of their local communities. Rather, there are large well-organized networks of pregnancy centers, united by a commitment to professional standards of care, expert training programs, and joint efforts to make sure everyone knows exactly where to turn for alternatives to abortion.

All this is good news for the pro-life movement, and to help spread that good news, a report was recently compiled by several of the leading pregnancy resource networks and organizations that foster them. Called "A Passion to Serve, A Vision for Life," this pregnancy center report for 2009 was prepared by Heartbeat International, Care Net, the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates, LIFE International, and the Family Research Council. (See www.apassiontoserve.com.)

As the report states, "PRCs serve some 1.9 million people each year with pregnancy assistance, abstinence counseling and education, community outreach programs and referrals, and public health linkages.... Every day in the United States pregnancy resource centers assist an average of 5,500 Americans, female and male, young and old, with sexuality-and-pregnancy-related concerns." Twenty-nine of every 30 people engaged in pregnancy center work are volunteers, involved with lay and peer counseling, medical services (including ultrasound and STD testing), center upkeep, fundraising, parenting classes, and programs for healing after abortion.

The pregnancy center networks Heartbeat and Care Net operate the "Option Line," a telephone hotline by which the caller is connected with the center closest to where he/she lives: 1-800-395-HELP; www.pregnancycenters.org.

Even the secular world is recognizing the impact of this movement. In January 2008, on the eve of the 35th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*, Nancy Gibbs of *Time* magazine cited the "evidence that the quiet campaign for women's hearts and minds, conducted in thousands of crisis pregnancy centers around the country, on billboards, phone banks and websites, is having an effect" in reducing abortion rates, which are down by one third from their U.S. high.

And on September 19, 2008, the White House honored the selfless volunteers who work in the pregnancy centers. Dr. Joxel Garcia, who was the Assistant Secretary of Health, bestowed awards in the name of the President on over 150 volunteers and 56 pregnancy center organizations. [Ed. note: Elizabeth's New Life Center received one.]

We should honor them too, and the best way we can do that is to make sure that everyone knows about their services. Let's spread the word vigorously!

From Priestforlife.org, October 26, 2009. Edited.

We are grateful to all who contributed by buying Ohio Right to Life sweepstakes tickets. Shelby County RTL received more than \$800 as its share of the proceeds. Thank you!



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Bishops: Senate Bill “Worst We’ve Seen So Far”

A pro-life spokesman for the nation’s Catholic bishops doesn’t mince words today in an interview about the new Harry Reid health care bill in the Senate that contains massive abortion funding. The bishops have taken a consistent pro-life stance against using government money for abortions and they say this bill is no exception when it comes to that problem.

Richard Doerflinger, associate director of the bishops’ conference Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, told the Associated Press today that the Senate bill “is actually the worst bill we’ve seen so far on the life issues.” Doerflinger called it “completely unacceptable,” adding that “to say this reflects current law is ridiculous.”

The money to pay for abortions comes from the premiums taxpayers pay to the federal government. The phony Capps amendment added to the bill makes it so the funds are segregated but the government eventually uses those taxpayer dollars, through the public option and affordability credits, to pay for abortions.

By Steven Ertelt. Reprinted with permission from LifeNews.com, November 20, 2009. Edited for space.

RTL Board Appreciation, Welcome

A big thank you to Wayne Krebs and Joe Martino, who are stepping down after many years of service on the board of directors of RTL. Their dedication and insight have benefited our organization in countless ways. We welcome Tim Dietz and Ann Barhorst to the board and thank them for agreeing to serve RTL in this way.