

Right to Life Newsletter

of Shelby County

January 2011

P.O. Box 72 102 E. Poplar St. Sidney, OH 45365

Phone:(937)498-1812

www.shelbycountyrtrl.org

Volume 38 Issue 1

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

Volunteer Corner

We need a couple more volunteers to help with the clothing center on Thursday afternoons, noon to 4pm. If you are able to take at least one shift per month, please contact Cassy at the office, 498-1812.

Mark your calendar

- Deadline for submissions to the February newsletter: January 27.
- Board meetings: January 4, February 1, 7 pm.

Clothing center report

We served 111 people during the month of November, of whom 76 received free items, 5 took literature, and 5 were referred to the Women's Center.

Remember RTL

Please remember the pro-life cause when planning your estate or making funeral arrangements for a loved one. Remittance envelopes for memorial donations to Right to Life are available at the office.

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

Happy New Year!

Vigil, March for Life Approach

The March for Life in Washington, D.C. will take place on Monday, January 24, 2011. (Traditionally it is on the 22nd, the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, but organizers avoid weekends.) Therefore our annual Candlelight Vigil at the courthouse in Sidney will be held Sunday, January 23, beginning at 7pm.

The vigil consists of prayer, song, and reflection, in celebration of life and in repentance for the destruction of life through the more than 50 million abortions that have occurred in the United States since 1973. It concludes with a procession around the court square.

Please join us for this meaningful service. We request that attendees park across the street from the court house and bring wind-protected candles or other illumination for the procession.



Buses going to the March for Life will depart immediately following the vigil and will return in the early morning on Tuesday, January 25. Upon arriving in Washington, travelers will attend a Youth Mass and Rally at the Armory. This is the same event that is usually held at the Verizon Center; this year it is being held at two different locations to accommodate more attendees. Following Mass, the group will take the Metro to the Mall/Ellipse area for the National March for Life.

The cost of the trip is \$70 per person, which covers busing expenses and Metro fare. Riders are responsible for their own meals. (The price was initially listed as \$75, it has decreased because of a lower bus cost.)

Please contact Bonnie York as soon as possible to reserve your spot on the bus: 937-526-4388.

Women's Center on the Move

For many years the Women's Center of Sidney (Elizabeth's New Life Center) has assisted mothers in crisis pregnancies. RTL has been pleased to cooperate with their work by referring women to the Center for pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, and other services.

The Center recently moved to a new location, in the plaza behind Culver's--across the street from Lowe's--on State Route 47. Don't hesitate to recommend the Center and their caring and knowledgeable staff to women in need of guidance or assistance.

Pro-Life Oratory Contest: \$300 Grand Prize!

All Shelby County high school juniors and seniors are invited to participate in the 2011 Shelby County Pro-Life Oratory Contest, which will be held Thursday, February 10, at 6:30 pm at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sidney.

Prizes for 1st through 3rd places are \$300, \$150 and \$100 respectively. The winner will continue to the state contest in April. Contestants are to research, write, and present an original pro-life speech—5 to 7 minutes in length—on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia or stem cell research. See www.nrlc.org/oratory/index.html for rules.

This contest has become increasingly competitive and exciting since it began four years ago. It is a phenomenal opportunity for young people to learn more about life issues and how to articulate a pro-life position. Please contact Anne Schmiesing at 937-492-5584 with questions or to register. The registration deadline is Tuesday, February 8.

Junior High/High School Essay Contest Deadline Nears

There are two contests sponsored by the National Right to Life Committee: a Senior Essay Contest for Grades 10-12 and a Junior Essay Contest for Grades 7-9. Essays should be submitted between December 20th, 2010 and January 22, 2011. They must be postmarked by January 22, 2011.

Prizes are awarded in each contest: First Place - \$200, Second Place - \$150, Third Place - \$100. Essays should address the question: What does abortion mean to you and your peers?

For more information please e-mail Michelle Fischbach at michellefischbach@yahoo.com, or visit the NRLC website at www.nrlc.org, under the "Special Events" tab. (See second page for essay guidelines.)

New Abortion Center Opens in Lima



For many years the only abortion facility within a 50-mile radius of Shelby County was located in Dayton. Sadly, a new abortion mill--Capital Care Women's Health Center recently opened in Lima.

Allen County pro-lifers have requested that the first stage of opposition to this development be a letter-writing campaign. The initial campaign took place December 20, but it is never too late to participate in the effort to alert abortion providers to the damage they are doing.

Those who wish to write a letter may direct it to: Capital Care Women's Health Care Center 222 S. Elizabeth St., Lima, OH 45801.

Writers are encouraged to write concisely and in charity, pointing out that abortion leads to longterm emotional and physical damage to women and urging the facility to stop performing abortions.

In Memoriam

Charlyne Yearsley, a dedicated newsletter volunteer, who died December 14.

Freda Daugherty, in whose name memorial donations were made.

Mark Lally, legislative counsel of Ohio Right to Life, who died in late November. Mark graciously assisted Shelby County RTL on many occasions.

+May they rest in peace.+

Companies Cease Planned Parenthood Giving

A pro-life organization that monitors corporate donations to the Planned Parenthood abortion business says several top companies have stopped providing it with financial support. Officials with Life Decisions International say that, over the last few months, more corporations have been dropped from its boycott list in a six-month time period than ever before.

“We cannot say for sure exactly why this is happening, but more corporations have been removed from the boycott list between the July 2010 and December 2010 lists than have ever been dropped in the past,” LDI president Douglas Scott said.

The companies no longer financially supporting the abortion business, which does more than 25 percent of the abortions in the United States annually, include Enterprise car rentals, Forbes magazine, ING financial services and one of the more ironic entries, Toys “R” Us. Other companies dropped from the pro-life boycott list include Cisco Systems, Red Lion Hotels, Franchise Services, Rolex watch company, Kenneth Cole and Dr. Dennis Gross Skincare.

“This means that ten corporations have been dropped from the current list,” Scott continued. “It also means that, so far, a total of at least 270 corporations have agreed to stop giving money to the abortion-committing giant! Simply remarkable.”

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Teen Birth Rate at Historic Low: Abstinence Education May Play Role

The teen birth rate hit record low levels in 2009 according to a new report issued by the National Center for Health Statistics. Among girls between the ages of 15 and 19, the birth rate fell to 39.1 births per 1,000 teens in 2009, which is the most recent year for which statistics are available. That's the lowest level in 70 years, the Center indicates, a 6 percent decline from the 2008 level, and the second year in a row that teen birth rates fell.

The numbers are also down 16 out of the last 18 years — though the question becomes one of why the rates are falling, whether the economic downturn has something to do with it or whether abstinence education or promotion of birth control and contraception is the main factor.

Valerie Huber of the National Abstinence Education Association says abstinence is the leading cause for the decline. “These trends show that the risk avoidance message of abstinence has ‘sticking power’ for young people,” she told the Washington Post. “This latest evidence shows that teen behaviors increasingly mirror the skills they are taught in a successful abstinence education program.”

Jeanne Monahan of the Family Research Council told the Post the de-funding of abstinence education may cause the numbers to go up: “With a change in policy away from abstinence education, we may expect to see a reversal of the teen pregnancy birth rate in the years to come.”

The other key question when analyzing birth rate data is whether abortion played a role. A drop in teen births is important on many socioeconomic levels but not if it was caused by an increase in teens having abortions.

The National Center for Health Statistics did not compile nor release any abortion information, but the last national report issued by the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute (January 2008) showed abortion levels at historic lows.

If those numbers remain the case today, then teens and women in their 20s and 30s are opting for abortion less frequently when pregnant than they were in prior years — something pro-life groups will quickly celebrate.

By Steven Ertelt, LifeNews.com, December 21, 2010. Edited for space and used with permission.



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Scott credited pro-life advocates with consistently contacting corporate headquarters and officers letting them know of their refusal to patronize their businesses until they end their financial relationships with Planned Parenthood.

He said the next boycott list will be made available in the next week. The last one included corporations that are household names for most Americans and, also, internationally.

Some of the new companies on the boycott list the pro-life group released over the summer included AOL and Darden Restaurants, a conglomerate that oversees popular restaurants like Bahama Breeze, The Capital Grille, LongHorn Steakhouse, Olive Garden, Red Lobster, and Season 52.

Hilton Worldwide made the boycott list and it manages hotels ranging from Doubletree, Embassy Suites, Hampton Inns/Suites, Hilton Garden Inn, Hilton Hotels, and Homewood Suites. Kohl's department stores, Mrs. Fields cookies, and Staples office supply stores were also added.

LDI estimates that the boycott has cost Planned Parenthood more than \$40 million since the Corporate Funding Project (CFP) began nearly 18 years ago.

Some of the companies that made a return appearance on the boycott list included The Gap clothing stores and Freddie Mac, the troubled government-sponsored mortgage firm. AlphaGraphics, Wells Fargo (including Wachovia), Nike, Time Warner, Bank of America, Walt Disney, Johnson & Johnson, Lost Arrow (Patagonia, etc.), Chevron, and Nationwide Insurance are among the other companies included in the boycott list again.

By Steven Ertelt, LifeNews.com, December 10, 2010. Edited for space and used with permission.