Symposium Provides Tools to Oppose Asst. Suicide

In late March, fifteen physicians, activists, and pro-life leaders gathered in Troy for an intensive training program designed to equip local leaders to defend life in its final stages. Shelby County RTL took the lead in organizing this regional gathering, which was also sponsored by pro-life groups in Miami County, Darke County, Dayton, and Cincinnati.

The invitation-only seminar was led by representatives from the nation’s foremost anti-euthanasia organization, the Patients’ Right Council (PRC), which is based in Steubenville, Ohio. The program provided an overview of efforts to legalize assisted suicide and euthanasia, and focused on research that the PRC has done concerning the most effective methods and language to use to undermine efforts to legalize these anti-life practices.

Ohio is one of the states that has been targeted by assisted suicide activists. The PRC was looking for an Ohio partner to sponsor one of their symposiums, which have been conducted throughout the country, and Shelby County RTL agreed to lead the effort.

Participants were enthusiastic about the day’s program. A board member of one area RTL organization sent Shelby County RTL an email thank you, saying, “You had the best of speakers from the Patients Rights Council,” and noted that the seminar was a needed call to pay more attention to “this imminent threat.”

Another participant, a local physician, agreed that the program was “a valuable aid to articulating a strong pro-life message regarding the end of life,” and was grateful for the tools provided by the presentations and in printed matter distributed to the attendees.

We are grateful to our members for providing the resources necessary to bring about this kind of world-class program, which will have a major impact in promoting a culture of life in our state.

Life: More Precious Than Gold

Right to Life was an active participant in local festivals again this summer. Our float featured a rainbow leading to treasure (a child) and displayed the slogan, “Each human life – more valuable than a pot o’ gold.”

Thank you to our generous members who volunteered to pull the float in the parades in Jackson Center, Versailles, Botkins, and Anna.

Thrift Shop Report

April
113 Customers
(closed for two weeks due to fire)

May
196 Customers
15 Work-to-Earn certificates
10 Free units
2 Referrals to other resources
State Legislative Update: Pro-Life Bills Progress in Ohio

Ohio Right to Life's Dismemberment Abortion Ban clears Ohio Senate

Ohio Right to Life's Dismemberment Abortion Ban (S.B. 145) was overwhelmingly approved by the Ohio Senate, 24-9. The legislation, which is sponsored by Senators Matt Huffman (R-Lima) and Steve Wilson (R-Maineville), is being heralded by Ohio Right to Life as the next step in the national strategy to end abortion. The passage of the bill coincides with the 50th anniversary of Ohio Right to Life's founding. In more recent history, Ohio Right to Life has successfully advocated for the enactment of 18 pro-life laws. Since 2010, abortions have dropped 25 percent in Ohio, falling to a 39-year record-low in 2015.

Dismemberment abortion, otherwise known as dilation and evacuation (D&E), is a procedure in which the abortionist first dilates the woman’s cervix and then uses steel instruments to dismember and extract the baby from the uterus. The D&E abortion procedure is usually performed between thirteen and twenty-four weeks LMP, when the baby is somewhere between the size of a lemon and a cantaloupe. In 2015, the Ohio Department of Health reported nearly 3,000 D&E abortions in the state of Ohio.

The Ohio House is expected to take up the Dismemberment Abortion Ban in the fall when the legislature returns from summer recess.

Hearings begin on Down Syndrome Non-Discrimination Act

The Ohio Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee began hearings on Ohio Right to Life's Down Syndrome Non-Discrimination Act (S.B. 164), legislation which would prohibit abortions from being formed for the sole reason of a Down syndrome diagnosis. Pro-life Senator Frank LaRose (R-Hudson), sponsor of the bill, testified on behalf of the legislation, explaining how abortions are disproportionately performed on babies with Down syndrome. The legislation comes in response to studies which show that 90 percent of unborn babies diagnosed with Down syndrome are aborted.

Excerpted from ORTL press releases, June 27 and June 28, 2017.

New Study: Birth Control and Contraception Don’t Cut Abortions

Claiming that birth control cuts abortion numbers is a favorite talking point of abortion groups like Planned Parenthood, but more and more studies are finding that this is not the case.

One of the latest reports comes from the abortion chain British Pregnancy Advisory Services (BPAS). According to the abortion group, half of the women who had abortions in 2016 in the UK were using contraception when they became pregnant, the Metro reports.

BPAS reports one in four of the women on birth control got pregnant while using methods considered to be the most effective, such as the birth control pill or the IUD.

The BPAS study involved its more than 60,000 abortion clients in 2016. In total, 51.2 percent of women said they were using at least one form of contraception when they became pregnant, according to the study. Of those women, a quarter said they were using a form of contraception considered to be at least 90-percent effective.

Previous studies have found similar results. A number of reports by the Guttmacher Institute, the former research arm of Planned Parenthood, also show that 55 percent to 60 percent of women having abortions were using contraception at the time.

July/August Prayer Intentions

That our display at the fair will be a vehicle for conveying respect for life to all those who encounter it, and in thanksgiving for all of our fair booth volunteers.

For the disabled, the elderly, and the dying; may they be protected in law and respected by all.

Outing Thrives in Gorgeous Weather

On Saturday, May 13, Right to Life of Shelby County hosted its 7th Annual Scramble-4-Life golf outing at Shelby Oaks Golf Club. Twenty-three teams participated in the event that was sponsored by 28 area businesses and families. All participants received a commemorative tumbler, and door prizes and $700 in prize money were awarded as well. The Scramble-4-Life raised over $6,000 for RTL this year, bringing the cumulative total raised from this event (since 2011) to $36,200!

Many thanks to Julia Monnin and the whole Tim and Darla Dietz family for their work in organizing the outing, and to all of our generous sponsors and prize donors.

Eagle Sponsors: Flinn Veterinary Clinic, Sidney • The Hoge Family: In Memory of Megan • Upper Cervical Health Centers, Botkins

Birdie Sponsors: McCrate, DeLaet & Co. • Meyer’s Tavern • Sidney Electric • Roger & Susan Doseck • Brian & Kathy Monnin

Par Sponsors: Area Energy & Electric • Lactal Equipment • Osgood State Bank • Drs. Michael & Teresa Trygstad • Wells Brothers • Gary & Anita Bornhorst • The Fullenkamps: In Memory of Dale

Hole Sponsors: Bayliff & Eley Funeral Home • Bergman Drywall • Dietz Painting • Custom Foam Products • Immaculate Conception Church Ladies Sodality • Palazzo • Prueter’s Body Shop • Silver Cross • Tin Cup Quality Water • Tony & Jill Arnold • Steve & Rita Monnin • The Ray Limbert Family: In Memory of Elizabeth & Jacob • In Memory of Cara Meyer

Scramble 4 Life date for 2018: Saturday, May 12

The Fair is Coming; Helpers Needed!

Right to Life is a perennial presence at the Shelby County Fair, which has provided us the opportunity to meet and make contact with thousands of area residents outside of our membership. Staffing the fair booth is a rewarding experience; please consider helping in this way.

If you have worked at the fair booth in the past, you should be contacted this year. But if you are new to RTL, have not volunteered in the past, or do not hear from us soon, please contact fair booth chairperson Karen Berning: 937-492 7875 or lesberning@embarqmail.com.

The fair takes place Sunday, July 23, through Saturday, July 29, and two people are needed for each two-hour shift throughout each of those days. Find a friend, sign up for a shift, and come join us at the fair!

In memory of Stanley Grieshop,
In whose name memorial donations were made to Right to Life.
+ May he rest in peace +
For several years, a group of local ladies led by RTL volunteer Nan Martino has been quilting beautiful baby blankets, which they donate to the RTL thrift shop. The proceeds from the sale of the quilts assist the thrift shop and other activities. The quilts will be available for sale at our booth at the Shelby County Fair, July 23-29. If you haven’t seen the quilts, please stop by and take a look; you’ll want to take one home with you! The blankets come in a variety of patterns and styles, so there is one for every taste. They sell for $15-20 each – a bargain for such works of art and craftsmanship – and would make an excellent gift for new parents, for baptisms, or for birthdays.

We are grateful to Nan and her friends for sharing the fruits of their skill with Right to Life.