

Weather Cooperates with Life Chain

More than a hundred pro-lifers turned out in pleasant weather for the Shelby County Life Chain, Sunday, October 2, on the court square in Sidney.

The Life Chain is a prayer and witness event that offers a public display of respect for life and keeps the injustice of abortion at the center of our community's attention. The local event is but one link in a chain that stretches across more than 1500 cities throughout North America.

Father Daniel Hess, parochial vicar at Holy Angels Catholic Church in Sidney, offered an invocation, followed by remarks by the event's emcee and RTL's vice president, Tim Dietz.

Attendees then held pro-life signs along the streets adjacent to the court house. After nearly an hour of witness, participants gathered back at the court house for a closing prayer and refreshments.

Many thanks to all who joined us for the Life Chain this year, and to all who assisted with the event.



Mark your calendar

- Deadline for submissions to the December newsletter: Nov. 23.
- Board meeting: Nov. 8, 7pm.
- Tuesday, Nov. 15, Elizabeth's New Life Center Banquet, Ft. Loramie

Clothing center report

We served 223 people during the month of September, 97 of whom received free items, 12 took literature, and 2 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.

2010 Ohio Abortion Report: Decline Continues

Ohio abortions have reached an all-time low, declining for the tenth consecutive year, according to the latest report released by the Ohio Department of Health. The 2010 Abortion Report revealed a decrease of approximately 600 abortions from 2009 for a state total of 28,123 abortions performed in 2010. The new statistics show that abortions in Ohio have declined a total of 26% since the year 2000. Since 1982, when reported abortions peaked, the number of abortions in Ohio has decreased by nearly 40%.

"During the past decade, more and more women and families chose life in Ohio," Ohio Right to Life Executive Director Mike Gonidakis said. "While we will not rest until the number of reported abortions is zero, each year these statistics reaffirm our statewide pro-life strategies which focus on supporting young women through our pregnancy centers, promoting adoption and identifying common sense legislative solutions to end abortion. Moms are being protected, more babies are alive today and we can all agree that this is good public policy," said Gonidakis.

The 2010 Ohio Abortion Report shows that of all abortions:

- The majority occur in the metropolitan areas of Cuyahoga County at 36.8%, Franklin at 19.2%, and Hamilton at 17.8%;
- The majority are performed on women younger than 24 years old;

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For High School and College Students: Essay Contest, Academy

National Right to Life 2012 Pro-Life Essay Contest

There are two separate contests, one for grades 10-12 and one for grades 7-9. Prizes are awarded in each category, with first place winning \$200. Essays should be 300-500 words in length and address the following question: What effect has abortion had on my generation?

Essays must be submitted between December 19, 2011 and January 23, 2012. Questions can be directed to Michelle Fishbach at michellefishbach@yahoo.com or find more information under the Special Events tab at www.nrlc.org.

National Right to Life Academy, June 24-July 27, 2012

A unique, 5-week academic summer course for college students who are eager to put their pro-life passion to work. \$3810 tuition includes lodging at a university in Washington, D.C., admission to the National Right to Life Convention, and five weeks of the most comprehensive pro-life education around!

For more information, see www.nrlc.org/Academy or e-mail academy@nrlc.org.

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- 37.1% are performed upon black women (while only 12.2% of the population is black);
- 56.6% occur during the first 9 weeks of gestation; and,
- 83% are performed upon women who are unmarried.

The 2010 abortion report can be reviewed in its entirety by visiting www.ohiolife.org.

In Shelby County, 45 women had abortions in 2010, the same number as in 2009. (This figure is based on mother's place of residence; there is no abortion clinic in Shelby County.) Broken down by zip code, the following number of women had abortions in local communities: Sidney, 32; Anna, 2; Houston, 2; Jackson Center, 1; Maplewood, 1; Russia, 1.

This article contains information from a press release from Ohio Right to Life, September 30, 2011.

Dayton Abortionist Skirts Health Care Regulations

The Ohio Health Department has updated an arrangement that allows late-term abortion practitioner Martin Haskell to continue doing abortions without following state law requiring him to have a transfer agreement at a local hospital.

In 1996, Ohio passed a law requiring that all ambulatory surgical centers must be licensed by the state and, in 1999, it came to the attention of the Ohio Health Department that abortion clinics were not in compliance with the law, having never applied for licensing. The OHD began the process of insuring that all abortion clinics came into compliance.

Haskell refused to comply and, after years of court and administrative battles, the administration of former Ohio governor Ted Strickland granted a variance allowing the late-term abortion practitioner to open a new abortion facility in Sharonville, Ohio, the Women's Med Center at 11250 Lebanon Road. The state gave him this variance on the condition that he maintains privileges at an area hospital, a lesser standard than a transfer agreement.

Now, Haskell's variance has been modified and Ted Wymyslo, the Health Department director, says Haskell is no longer required to have privileges at an area hospital or a transfer agreement. He is allowed to operate by having his partner and two other Cincinnati doctors handle his emergency complications. Continued on page 4.

Pro-Life Nurse Fights Abortion Requirement, Wins

As long as she can remember, Anne Marie Dust has cared deeply about human life ... every human life. She remembers as a young woman participating in the Life Chain, and says that her parents' open-to-life attitude was a fundamental inspiration to her. Anne Marie eventually came to believe that nursing was where she belonged, especially in the field of women's health. "To be a nurse is to care incredibly for other people, to care deeply for them, to care for what is best for them," says Anne Marie in a video of her story, prepared by the Alliance Defense Fund.

To follow her dream, Anne Marie applied at the end of her 2010 senior year of college to the Nurse Residency Program at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. Her goal was to pursue a career providing care to pregnant women and their pre-born children. Not only was Anne Marie pre-qualified to apply to Vanderbilt's nurse residency program, she was a stellar applicant with excellent grades. But as she pored over the application, she was shocked to discover that Vanderbilt required her to certify in writing that she would agree to participate in abortions. The application stated that if "you feel you cannot provide care to women during this type of event, we encourage you to apply to a different track of the Nurse Residency Program."

"If abortions were a requirement, then there was no point in completing the application," Anne Marie told LifeSiteNews.com. For the aspiring nurse it was clear that the whole point of being a nurse is that you "care for people." While turning the University's nursing application over in her mind, Anne Marie decided that it was time to make a stand for her convictions. With the help of the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF), she filed a federal complaint to the Department of Health and Human Services in early January 2011.

The complaint objected to the university's "illegal discrimination" in forcing students who are serious about their pro-life beliefs to violate their "federal rights of conscience" by agreeing to assist in abortions. ADF had solid legal ground to stand upon. Federal law prohibits schools that receive Federal grants from denying admission to applicants for training or study because of that applicant's reluctance to assist — or in any way participate — in the performance of abortions, contrary to the applicant's religious beliefs or moral convictions. Vanderbilt receives over \$300 million in federal health tax dollars each year.

Anne Marie told LSN that when she filed the complaint she initially experienced "fear" because it might lead to backlash at her school, or limit her ability to take the boards, or narrow her job prospects. "Once I decided though, there was great peace because I knew that I had done what I needed to do, and that the rest was going to depend on God's providence."

Within 26 hours of ADF's letters being sent to federal authorities, the university rescinded its policy that required students to agree to participate in abortion, said David Cortman, Senior Counsel. In the letter addressed to all who applied to the Vanderbilt Nurse Residency Program, the program's director verified that "no health care provider is required to participate in a procedure terminating a pregnancy if such participation would be contrary to an individual's religious beliefs or moral convictions."

"Not only was this a victory for Anne Marie, but it is a victory for every student that will come after her," said Cortman. According to a recent article in the National Catholic Register, more and more nurses and medical students in the future may be forced to stand up for their rights in the same way as Anne Marie. In the article Daniel Kuebler, a professor of biology at Franciscan University of Steubenville, points to evidence that pro-life students in the medical field are being systematically discriminated against. "This situation makes it imperative that the pro-life community speaks out to Congress and encourages the passing of strongly worded conscience-protection laws for health-care workers," said Kuebler.

As for Anne Marie, she recently passed the nursing boards and is now a practicing nurse who helps moms on bed-rest before delivery at an antepartum unit in Illinois.

By Peter Baklinski. LifeSiteNews.com, September 9, 2011. Edited for space.



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That decision is meeting with strong condemnation from Virgil Lovitt, the mayor of Sharonville and president of the Sharonville Board of Health.

“Now Martin Haskell can continue to perform abortions without meeting these requirements, and he can replace his skills with other doctors that, also, do not need to meet the written state regulations,” he said. “This has expanded the variance to beyond the career of this 71-year old abortionist. Martin Haskell can finally retire and his late term abortion center will legally be able to operate indefinitely.”

Lovitt says the concerns are not merely hypothetical as the abortion clinic has already experienced botched abortions just one year after opening. “Haskell’s two-day process for late term abortions has already produced one stillborn baby in a hotel toilet and another in a car on the way to an ER,” he said. “These complications are difficult to track, and there are probably more than we know.”

In August, Lovitt joined Mike Gonidakis of Ohio Right to Life, Paula Westwood of Cincinnati Right to Life, and Colleen Gerke of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati in a meeting with Wymyslo about Haskell where Lovitt says he “begged the new director not to liberalize the variance if Martin Haskell’s privileges at an area hospital changed.”

Westwood also complained about the health department’s decision, saying, “This expanded variance for the Women’s Med Center needlessly caters to the abortion industry at the cost of many unborn babies’ lives.”

She is calling on pro-life advocates to contact the following officials “to ask why the state of Ohio is helping the abortion industry at Women’s Med Center stay in business with a special variance, when it should at the very least be required to have a transfer agreement like most other Ambulatory Surgical Facilities.

By Steven Ertelt, LifeNews.com, October 4, 2011. Edited for space and used with permission