

## Promo Campaign Beams Pro-Life Message Across County

If you've seen pro-life banners popping up across the county, then you've noticed the effects of RTL's 2016 pro-life promotional campaign. More than a year ago, our board approved and initiated an ambitious program to send the pro-life message across the county. Motivated in part by the 2016 election year, we at RTL wanted to remind our fellow citizens that "without life, nothing else matters." Other issues are important, too, but the defense of innocent human life must be our priority.



That message was at the heart of the various pieces of our promotional campaign, which included: 1) design and printing of rack cards that could be used as handouts at parades, fairs, and other events; 2) design, printing, and sending of a mailer card to every household in Shelby County—more than 18,000!—which was mailed in early October; and 3) design, production, and installation of sixteen 4x8 foot banners in various locations across the county.

It is your generosity that enabled us to undertake this project, which was likely the most comprehensive publicity campaign in the history of Right to Life. The cards and banners designed and posted this year will continue to send their timeless message long after the current political season is over. Thank you for helping RTL make a difference in our community.

## Right to Life Hits Record Membership

We are thrilled to report that RTL of Shelby County has more members than ever before in our 32-year history! As of late 2016, we have 458 members who have paid annual dues for this year, plus 45 lifetime members, for a total of 503 current members. Adding together the residents of these households, these memberships represent a total of more than 1200 individuals around Shelby County and beyond.

This tremendous success is due in largest part to our members themselves, who renew faithfully every year and who help recruit new members. We are also very grateful to Mary Schmiesing and our entire membership committee, whose hard work has clearly paid off in higher renewal rates. Let's keep the momentum rolling as we move into 2017!

## Thrift Shop Report

### August

176 Customers  
32 Work-to-Earn certificates  
2 Free units (diapers, wipes)

### September

260 Customers  
41 Work-to-Earn certificates  
13 Free units (formula)

Thanks to the generous contributions of our members and the community, we were able to deliver 28 boxes of excess clothing to Dayton Right to Life! They are always grateful to receive our donations.



## Life Chain on the Square

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Shelby County joined 1500 other communities across North America in the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Life Chain, October 2 on the court square in Sidney. The weather and the turnout were great, with about 100 pro-lifers on hand to display signs and pray for respect for life.

Fr. James Riehle of Holy Angels Catholic Church offered an opening prayer and Erin Gaerke, a first-year Ohio State University student then presented the speech that won her first place in Shelby County's oratory contest earlier this year, and second place in the Ohio state-level contest.

Attendees held pro-life signs along the streets surrounding the court square. Brisk Sunday afternoon traffic in the downtown area ensured that the message went out to a large number of area drivers and other passersby. Many thanks to all who participated and helped to make the event a success.

## Remember the Huge Embryonic Stem Cell Research Debate?

The biggest ethical and scientific debate of the early 2000s has all but disappeared. And we need to tell people why.

Here's a quick refresher: The stem cells everyone is interested in—called “pluripotent” stem cells—have the ability to become any type of tissue, anywhere in the body. Scientists have long seen these cells as a potential cure or therapy for degenerative diseases like Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, as well as paralysis, heart disease, and a host of others. A decade ago, the only way to derive “pluripotent” stem cells was to conceive a human embryo in a test tube, and then kill it. Then-president George W. Bush issued a moratorium on new federal funding for this type of stem cell, sparking outrage from across the aisle. The move was roundly condemned as “anti-scientific,” and Bush was lampooned as a peddler of dark-age superstitions. In 2009, a newly-elected President Obama immediately lifted the moratorium and poured new funding into embryonic stem cell research. Since then, countless embryos have been destroyed with taxpayer dollars, but to this day, the technology has failed to yield the miracle cures Americans were promised.

That's only one reason the debate has gotten so quiet. During the years since the moratorium, a different kind of stem cell—tissue-specific “somatic” or adult stem cells—have been used to successfully treat over a million-and-a-half people with conditions ranging from blindness and cancer, to diabetes and arthritis. And in 2006, a technique pioneered by Nobel Prize-winning Japanese scientist Shinya Yamanaka all but rendered embryonic stem cells obsolete. He discovered a way to induce pluripotency, causing adult cells to mimic embryonic ones. His method has since been developed to the point where researchers used it to grow a genetically-compatible, beating human heart from a patient's skin cells!

I want to be really clear: Embryo-destructive research exploits and destroys unique human lives, and it should be opposed even if such research could make the paralyzed walk. Doing or condoning evil that good may result is still evil, and we must defend the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. But very often, as in this case, the right thing turns out to be the more promising and successful option. In the late, great stem cell debate, it's clearer now than it ever has been: Saving life doesn't require destroying it.

*By John Stonestreet, LifeNews.com (from BreakPoint.org), September 26, 2016. Edited for space.*



For our nation as our political leadership is elected; may the protection of human life at every stage be our foremost concern.

### **Appeals Court Upholds Law Forcing Pregnancy Centers to Promote Abortions**

The federal appeals court that is considered the most liberal in the country has upheld an onerous California law that forces pregnancy centers to promote abortions. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals is one of the most overturned appeals courts in the country because of the left-wing positions that it often takes on issues such as abortion.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit upheld AB 775, a California law that forces pro-life resource centers to promote abortion. Alliance Defending Freedom Senior Counsel Matt Bowman told LifeNews.com he is very concerned about the decision in *National Institute of Family and Life Advocates v. Harris* by the federal court. “It’s bad enough if the government tells you what you can’t say, but a law that tells you what you must say—under threat of severe punishment—is even more unjust and dangerous. In this case, political allies of abortionists are seeking to punish pro-life pregnancy centers, which offer real hope and help to women,” Bowman said.

National Institute for Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA) president Thomas Glessner told LifeNews: “It is unfortunate, but not surprising, that the liberal Ninth Circuit Court three-judge panel upheld California’s violation of federal law, the U.S. Constitution, and human rights,” said Glessner. “The ‘Reproductive FACT Act’ forces pregnancy resource centers and medical clinics to violate consciences, free speech, and religious beliefs. This violation of the foundational roots of the American Republic will not stand.” Glessner concluded: “There are pending legal options to pursue, and we are discussing with our attorneys our most effective options. This battle is far from over.”

Opponents say the California law infringes upon the freedom of speech guaranteed by the First Amendment by forcing pro-life pregnancy help organizations to disseminate a state-sponsored message effectively referring for abortions. Named “The Reproductive FACT Act” by its authors and passed through both houses of the State Legislature on a party-line vote, the bill is the subject of multiple lawsuits.

“This bill is nothing short of a state-sponsored attack on women by the highly profitable abortion industry,” Peggy Hartshorn, Ph.D., president of Heartbeat International, which has 45 of its nearly 2,000 affiliates in California, said.

The law will force 150 local pregnancy help non-profits, including the 74 state-licensed free ultrasound facilities, to give each of its clients the following disclaimer, which includes the phone number of a county social services office where a client could obtain an abortion covered by Medi-Cal. The notice, which the law specifies must either be posted as a public notice in “22-point type,” “distributed to all clients in no less than 14-point font” or distributed digitally “at the time of check-in or arrival,” applies to all of the entities—even those licensed by the state.

“California has public programs that provide immediate free or low-cost access to comprehensive family planning services (including all FDA-approved methods of contraception), prenatal care, and abortion for eligible women. To determine whether you qualify, contact the county social services office at [insert the telephone number].”

Similar government-sponsored speech for pregnancy centers has been struck down as unconstitutional in Austin (TX), Baltimore and Montgomery County (MD) and New York City.

*By Steve Ertelt and Jay Hobbs, LifeNews.com, October 14, 2006. Edited for space.*



P.O. Box 72, Sidney, OH 45365-0072

NON-PROFIT  
ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SIDNEY, OH  
PERMIT NO.  
508

Return Service Requested

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## **Washington DC Passes Dangerous Bill to Legalize Assisted Suicide**

The D.C. Council has voted to advance legislation to legalize doctor-prescribed suicide in the nation's capital. This dangerous proposal, modeled after Oregon's law, threatens the most vulnerable in the District, including the elderly, those with disabilities and the chronically ill.

The effects of the legalization of doctor-prescribed suicide in other states on the medical profession have been devastating. In California, for instance, the law recently prompted an insurance company to deny needed cancer treatment to a patient and to instead offer to cover the cost of the patient's suicide. Similar abuses have been reported in Oregon and other states that have given doctor-prescribed suicide the green light.

Earlier this year, the D.C. Council passed legislation to tackle teen suicide and bullying. Yet now, the Council has sent a message that suicide is permissible if the person is deemed to have a lesser quality of life because of a terminal diagnosis. (Even though terminal diagnoses are proven inaccurate time and time again.) This lethal form of discrimination is unconscionable.

*By Andrew Bair, LifeNews.com, November 1, 2016. Excerpted.*

**The greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion... Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want.**

***Saint Teresa of Calcutta***