

## A Thrift Shop Story

Our staff and volunteers experience many positive and remarkable interactions during their hours at the RTL thrift shop. Occasionally we like to share these stories with our members, so that you can be encouraged in your support of RTL and appreciate the good that is being done through our outreach. The following account comes from one of our volunteers.

On Saturday, a 48-year old woman visited the shop with her four-month old baby girl. At the time of the child's conception, this mother was on some very powerful drugs due to a medical condition. Her doctor advised her to get an abortion, telling her that the child would be badly deformed. During an ultrasound, her husband, who had been urging her to have the abortion, was stunned when he saw the baby's little heart fluttering on the screen. He told her, "No, that baby is alive. We are not going to kill it."

While their baby was premature, she is perfectly healthy in every way. This mother generously donated all her baby's "preemie" clothing, among other things. Although we receive many clothing donations, items for preemies are rare and we don't usually have them available.

The next day the thrift shop was open, a desperate grandmother came in looking for preemie clothes for her daughter's newborn twin girls. (The father of the twins had deserted her.) I was able to tell her that I had just taken in some very nice things on Saturday—preemie clothes for girls!

When I gathered them up for her, she was overcome with joy and almost in tears. She gave me a big hug. Once again, I was witness to a "God thing." That's why I love working at Right to Life. I see His hand every day.

## RTL Joins New Ohio Coalition

In September, the Board of Directors of Right to Life made the decision to join a new, statewide organization, the Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio. The three core principles of the RTLACO are: 1) dedication to building an authentic grassroots organization; 2) empowerment of local pro-life organizations; and 3) reflecting the consensus views of member organizations. The coalition pledges to support only candidates who are pro-life without exception on the abortion issue, and to be clear and forthright in its positions on life-related legislation.

The RTLACO is structured in such a way that it will be accountable to member organizations and they will have real input in the election of officers and determination of policies. We believe that the RTLACO will contribute significantly to the advance of good legislation and good candidates in the state of Ohio and look forward to cooperating with its work.

## Thrift Shop Report

### August

239 Customers  
21 Work-to-earn certificates  
11 Free units

### September

223 Customers  
23 Work-to-Earn certificates  
2 Free units

The undocumented teenager at the center of a court battle has killed her 15-week-old unborn baby after a federal appeals court forced Trump administration officials to transport her to a local abortion center. Another judge previously refused to step into the controversial abortion case involving a shelter that is encouraging a 17-year old immigrant girl here illegally to choose life for her unborn baby instead of having an abortion. The ACLU, which filed a restraining order on the girl's behalf, claims the federal government policy is blocking the girl from getting the abortion that she wants.

But the action does not settle the larger legal question of whether officials at the Office of Refugee Resettlement can stand in the way of detained young women who wish to terminate their pregnancies. Administration lawyers said the only option for pregnant minors in detention was to accept deportation to their home countries. Brigitte Amiri, an ACLU attorney, predicted further legal fights. "Justice prevailed today for Jane Doe. But make no mistake about it, the administration's efforts to interfere in women's decisions won't stop with Jane," she said.

Leading pro-life advocates were upset by the decision of the appeals court to force Trump officials to facilitate the abortion. Penny Nance, President of Concerned Women for America, said, "Allowing our taxpayers to be entangled in financing and facilitating an abortion for an undocumented teen sets a horrible precedent. We do not want our nation to be known as a place where illegal immigrants can come in order to procure free abortions," she told LifeNews.com.

Students for Life of America President Kristan Hawkins said: "Expanding a so-called 'right' of a taxpayer-facilitated abortion to apply to any woman who happens to be on U.S. soil goes against the pro-life views of a majority of Americans, and certainly against the views of most Americans who don't want their tax dollars paying to end life. The United States should not become an abortion destination spot for the world."

And Glenn Foster, CEO and President of Americans United for Life, told LifeNews: "Americans United for Life deeply regrets that a federal appeals court has ruled that a judge can order the United States Government to expend its resources to help end a human life, in violation of the principles of the Hyde Amendment."

Earlier this year under President Donald Trump's administration, the Office of Refugee Resettlement issued a new policy requiring that taxpayer-funded shelters for immigrants and refugees offer life-affirming support to women and girls who are pregnant, according to Slate, a pro-abortion news site. Office Director Scott Lloyd, a Trump nominee, said the shelters may not take "any action that facilitates" an abortion for unaccompanied minors without his direct approval. Lloyd said that "grantees should not be supporting abortion services ... only pregnancy services and life-affirming options counseling."

The ACLU claims the federal office violated the girl's constitutional rights by refusing to help her get an abortion through the taxpayer-funded shelter in Texas. According to the report, the shelter took the girl to a pro-life pregnancy resource center instead. The ACLU said the girl did not change her mind after receiving counseling, and scheduled an abortion; however, the shelter where she is staying refused to transport her to the appointment.

The new Trump administration policy is a stark contrast to pro-abortion President Barack Obama's administration, which mandated that unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children be given access to abortion at taxpayer-funded shelters. The Obama Administration also put abortion ahead of human trafficking victims by denying grants to Catholic charities because they wouldn't help victims get abortions.

*By Steven Ertelt. LifeNews.com, October 25, 2017. Edited for space.*

## November/December Prayer Intentions

In thanksgiving for pro-life advances in the state of Ohio. For continued progress in limiting abortion and assisted suicide in both law and culture.



3

## Signs of Life in Downtown Sidney

Shelby County pro-lifers joined more than a hundred thousand fellow citizens across the country on Sunday, October 1, forming a “Life Chain” in defense of preborn children and all vulnerable human persons.

About 50-60 attendees gathered at 2:30 at the courthouse and began with prayer led by Pastor David Weyrauch of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Sidney. Stephanie Esser, a senior at Anna High School presented her outstanding speech on euthanasia, which earned 2<sup>nd</sup> place in this year’s RTL Oratory Contest. Then participants dispersed around the court square with pro-life signs and prayed and witnessed to passersby until the event closed at 3:30.

Thank you to all who attended and assisted in any way with our 2017 Life Chain.



*Some participants wore messages as well, such as the one on the back of the black hoodie pictured above : “We will not be silent. We will not forget. We will not compromise.”*

## Meeting Needs: From Shelby County to Texas

You never know how wide the impact of your support will spread.

Following Hurricane Harvey, RTL contacted the executive director of Houston Pregnancy Help Centers and asked if they had need of baby items. She said yes, they needed infant and toddler clothes. But they lacked the volunteers and resources to wash and sort, so they needed them clean and ready to distribute. RTL sent four large boxes tightly packed. Sylvia’s response: “Praise God! Thank you so very much.”

Thanks to our thrift shop staff and volunteers, we were able to prepare our donated clothing to send. Thanks to our clothing donors, we had more than we needed and could donate our excess. Thanks to our generous members, we could fund the shipping of the items.

We were able to undertake this hurricane relief effort, in addition to fully stocking our own thrift shop and regularly supplying Dayton RTL as well, because of the extraordinary support we enjoy from our members and community. Thank you!

*In memory of Elsie Maurer,*

*In whose name her Botkins crocheting group donated many handmade baby items to RTL.*

*+ May she rest in peace. +*



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

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

Return Service Requested

---

## Ohio Abortion Number Hits 40-Year Low

In September, the Ohio Department of Health released the 2016 Ohio Abortion Report, revealing a decrease in the number of abortions last year. This marks the lowest level since 1976, when record-keeping first began. A total of 20,672 abortions were reported.

"This report is further proof of how successful the pro-life movement has been in Ohio," said Mike Gonidakis, president of Ohio Right to Life. "This past year alone, we saw 304 lives saved from the pain and suffering of abortion." Since 2010, half of the state's abortion facilities have been shuttered or closed voluntarily. "That being said, Ohio Right to Life is whole-heartedly committed to fighting for the sanctity of human life, until the Abortion Report is unnecessary because there are no more abortions committed in Ohio."

Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio President Ed Sitter commented, "While we are grateful that Ohio reduced the total number of abortions last year by 304, we think that Ohio can and must do better for the unborn." It is undeniable that abortions are shifting in Ohio away from surgical and toward medical abortions. In the past few years, medical abortions have accounted for about 5% of all Ohio abortions. In 2016, medical abortions accounted for just over 18% of all abortions. This is undoubtedly a result of the FDA's dangerous decision to allow medical abortions to be used later in pregnancy and at a lower dose. Ohio's rate of complications increased by about 500% after the FDA label change in March of 2016.

*From Ohio Right to Life press release, September 29, 2017; and Right to Life Action Coalition e-mail update, October 5, 2017.*