

New Year, Same Mission

By: Shae Gaier, Communications Manager

As we close 2024 and look into 2025, “grateful” is the word that comes to my mind before anything else. I am grateful for our Board and Director, who ensure Shelby County Right to Life is running smoothly and efficiently behind the scenes. I am grateful for our Thrift Store manager and volunteers, who keep the store tidy, organized, and stocked with items for shoppers of all ages. I am grateful for our members, whose donations of time, money, and expertise allow Shelby County Right to Life to continue its mission of building a culture of life. Finally, I am grateful for another year of opportunities to spread our message of life in the local communities and beyond. Welcome 2025!

Coloring Contest Winners

At our Line up for Life event in November, a coloring contest was held for kids in grades K-6. Connor Blenman was our K-3 winner, and his older sister Lydia was our 4-6 winner! Congrats!



Pictured: Connor (above) and Lydia's (below) winning submissions



Dates to Remember

January 24: National March for Life in Washington D.C.

February 24: Annual Oratory Contest
(further details can be found below)

April 3-5: Annual Garage Sale

May 10: Annual Scramble for Life golf outing

Annual Oratory Contest

Our annual Oratory Contest will be held this year on Monday, February 24 at 6:30pm at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sidney. Prizes will be awarded: \$400+, \$250, and \$100 for 1st-3rd. One winner receives an additional \$100 travel stipend for participating in the state contest (usually in May in Columbus). The state-level winner continues to the national competition (location and date TBD, usually June). All high school juniors and seniors who are residents of Shelby County or attend a Shelby County high school are eligible. Contestants are to give a pro-life speech, 5-7 minutes in length, on one of four topics: abortion, doctor-prescribed suicide, infanticide, or embryonic research. **Register by Friday, February 21 (by 11:59pm)** using contact info listed below. For rules and contest resources, go to the oratory contest page on our website. Contact Shae at comms@shelbycountyRTL.org for more information and to register.



January-February Prayer Intentions

For all children in the foster care systems; for all those working through the adoption process; for renewed pro-life efforts within the new presidential administration



Sam's Club Begins Selling Dangerous Abortion Pill That Kills Babies

An article published December 11, 2024, by Steve Ertlet for LifeNews, revealed that Sam's Club, a popular "buy in bulk" grocery store chain, is now selling the abortion pill mifepristone in its pharmacy. The unfortunate details can be found below, and the entire article can be found on [LifeNews.com](https://www.lifeneews.com).

Sam's Club, a membership warehouse club which is a division of Walmart, Inc. is now dispensing 200-mg mifepristone (the abortion pill, brand name Mifeprex) in its pharmacy. A recent search using a New York zip code on the Sam's Club Pharmacy website revealed this tragic fact.

As Sam's Club is a division of Walmart, Inc., there is concern that Walmart itself will also dispense the deadly drugs. To date, however, there has been no officially published update on what Walmart intends to do regarding the abortion pill.

The LiveAction report indicates the Sam's Club web site is misleading women about the risks and dangers associated with the mifepristone abortion pill. But the abortion drug is responsible for killing multiple women and injuring countless thousands.

Along with millions of unborn babies' deaths, the FDA has linked mifepristone to at least 28 women's deaths and 4,000 serious complications. However, under President Barack Obama, the FDA stopped requiring that non-fatal complications from mifepristone be reported. So the numbers almost certainly are much higher.

...During the Biden administration, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved new regulations allowing retailers to sell dangerous chemical abortions. Leading pro-life groups condemned the decision, saying that the pills end the lives of babies before birth and that chemical abortion poses greater risks for women than surgical procedures – even as high as four times the risk. Up to one in five women will experience complications from the abortion pill.

...Ingrid Skop, M.D., F.A.C.O.G., a board-certified OB-GYN who serves as vice president and director of medical affairs at Charlotte Lozier Institute, shared her reaction:

"Pharmacists, who do not receive clinical training, should not be distributing these dangerous drugs. By pushing these medically unsupervised abortions, the FDA and abortion advocates continue down the slippery slope of chipping away at medical standards for women seeking abortion. This is not health care. This is an ideology that prioritizes destruction of unborn human life and does not care that the women injured by these abortions, whom I see in the ER on a regular basis, are collateral damage."

IN MEMORIAM

Right to Life continues its work for the protection of all human life, in honor of those who have offered time, prayer and other resources to this cause during their lifetimes.

In memory of: Mark Cisco

In whose name memorial donations were made in November.

May he rest in eternal peace.

Donors beware: St. Jude Children's Hospital, Wounded Warrior Project exposed for anti-life practices

It's a common practice, especially in our small communities, to generously give to charities as the calendar year comes to a close. However, the list of charities with ties to abortion, IVF, or euthanasia is sadly expanding. Below are details from a December 11, 2024 article on [LifeSiteNews](#) (originally from American Life League) that highlight just three of the well-known charities that now are unsafe for pro-life supporters to donate to.

...American Life League's Charity Watchlist is an online tool that evaluates charities with a simple spotlight green-yellow-red color coding to allow donors to know if they "go ahead" and donate to a nonprofit without reservations, "proceed with caution" after being fully informed of the potential risks, or "stop" any support of an organization that endorses abortion.

"We provide the Charity Watchlist to enable pro-life givers to fully understand what they are supporting with their dollars," explained Katie Brown, American Life League national director. "We can be deeply moved by pictures of sick children or stories about disabled veterans and never know that the charity we support is financing programs that promote abortion or encourage anti-life agendas."


Brown is disappointed to report that several well-known organizations previously receiving a positive green rating on the Charity Watchlist are reclassified as a negative red, due to newly uncovered information. The red ranking is assigned to charities that engage in or support practices that violate the sanctity of life.

The American Heart Association, one of the country's best-known charities, is a nonprofit that no longer holds a green designation. While heart disease is listed as the "number one killer in the United States," American Heart Association's willingness to partner with Planned Parenthood supports the "number one killer of preborn children," earning it a negative red rating from Charity Watchlist.

...[t]he Wounded Warrior Project was previously classified as green with no noted concerns about life issues. However, this charity geared toward helping veterans is now designated red for its referrals of women to the Department of Veterans Affairs for abortions. Additionally, the Wounded Warrior Project's advocacy of in vitro fertilization to the United States Congress raised red flags, as well over a million embryonic children are killed annually via this artificial reproduction technology process.

The Charity Watchlist has also bestowed a negative red rating on St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

"It's distressing," said Brown. "St. Jude Children's Research Hospital seeks support with heartbreaking pictures and stories of sick children, yet multiple members of the organization's medical staff and teaching faculty are ending the lives of preborn children through embryonic stem cell research."

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“The Charity Watchlist is a significant project in the fight to defend life and the truth,” shared American Life League’s lead researcher on the project, Katherine Van Dyke. “The Charity Watchlist seeks to educate and encourage the public to know, discern, and challenge these organizations by making informed decisions for charitable giving, while providing donors with information about alternative charities that promote and support all human life and true charity.”

The Charity Watchlist currently profiles more than 150 tax-exempt nonprofits based on their implementation of life-affirming values or their endorsement of anti-life practices. American Life League promises that the list will continue to grow and invites charitable givers to submit nonprofit groups for Charity Watchlist review. View the current Charity Watchlist at all.org/charity-watchlist.

2025 Membership Renewal

Please keep an eye out for our 2025 Membership Renewal Form that will be arriving in mailboxes shortly! Your renewal enables you to collaborate in our mission of serving others.

