

LifeLINES



Spring 2013



Did she deserve the death penalty?

"Have you ever considered how really insulting it is to say to someone, 'I think your mother should have been able to abort you.'? It's like saying, 'If I had my way, you'd be dead right now.' And that is the reality with which I live every time someone says they are pro-choice or pro-life except in cases of rape because I absolutely would have been aborted."

These are the words of Rebecca Kiessling, keynote speaker at our annual Education and Appreciation dinner on April 13. Rebecca's mother was brutally raped one evening while she was walking to the grocery store, and subsequently became pregnant. Abortion was not yet legal in Michigan, but her mother did attempt to have an illegal back alley abortion but became afraid and didn't go through with it. She ended up giving birth and then giving Rebecca up for adoption.

When she was in college, Rebecca decided that she wanted to find out just exactly who she was, and began a search for her birth mother. Her journey of self discovery was successful in finding her mother, but it also opened herself to a lot of questions and possibilities about her self worth because of the circumstances of her conception.

"My value and identity are not established as a 'product of rape', but as a child of God."

Many people's position (both pro-abortion and pro-life) on abortion in cases of rape is based upon faulty premises: 1) the rape victim would want an abortion, 2) she'd be better off with an abortion, and 3) that child's life just isn't worth having to put her through the pregnancy.

Rebecca said that one of the greatest things she's learned is that the rapist is NOT her creator, as some people would have her believe. Her value and identity are not established as a "product of rape," but as a



child of God. Psalm 68:5,6 declares: "A father to the fatherless . . . is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families." And Psalm 27:10 tells us "Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me." There is no stigma in being adopted. The New Testament tells us that it is in the spirit of adoption that we are called to be God's children through Christ our Lord, so He must have thought pretty highly of adoption to use that as a picture of His love for us!

Rebecca's speech was very powerful, and she shared that she has used her life story to talk to people all around the world to teach that that a human being is a miracle and precious in God's eyes no matter how they are conceived. She was very active during the 2012 presidential elections, and was able to convince Governor Rick Perry to be 100% pro-life and to give up his rape exception.

Rebecca says that she is so thankful her life was spared, but a lot of well-meaning Christians still say things like, "Well you see, God really meant for you to be here!" But she knows that God intends for every unborn child to be given the same opportunity to be born. ■



CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE

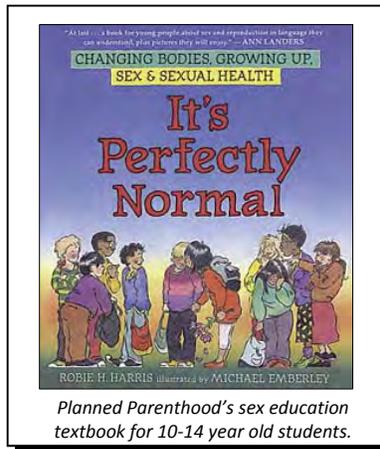
Dorothy Law Nolte

- If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.
- If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.
- If a child lives with fear, he learns to be apprehensive.
- If a child lives with pity, he learns to feel sorry for himself.
- If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.
- If a child lives with jealousy, he learns what envy is.
- If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.
- If a child lives with encouragement, he learns to be confident.
- If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.
- If a child lives with praise, he learns to be appreciative.
- If a child lives with acceptance, he learns to love.
- If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.
- If a child lives with recognition, he learns that it is good to have a goal.
- If a child lives with sharing, he learns about generosity.
- If a child lives with honesty and fairness, he learns what truth and justice are.
- If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith in himself and in those about him.
- If a child lives with friendliness, he learns that the world is a nice place in which to live.
- If you live with serenity, your child will live with peace of mind.
- With what is your child living?

In our fight to protect innocent human lives from conception through natural death, we spend a lot of time in the battle against abortion, and rightfully so. But did you ever wonder just how this culture got so messed up that people could actually believe that the taking of a human life in the mother's womb could possibly be legal? We may ALL be partially to blame.

There's been an unprecedented growth in technology over the last 40 years since abortion was legalized. We have everything we need to make our lives more comfortable, get things done faster, have less responsibilities, and more pleasures. The stay-at-home

mom rarely exists anymore, and TV and video games have replaced playing outside all day like I did when I was a kid. I'm not saying all of this is wrong, but if we are going to enjoy the conveniences of modern technology, then there has to be some responsibility for it, too. How many people actually monitor what their children watch on TV or the internet, or actually look at the ratings on video games? How many parents actually spend QUALITY time with their children? How many parents let Sunday School (if they actually go)



teach kids their values, or are good examples for their children? How many parents leave their children's sex education up to the schools?

If you're squirming in your chair right now, and have wondered why your kids don't listen to you, I don't have all the answers because I don't know how you live your life. But I DO know some of what your kids are learning in public schools about sex, starting at a very young age. You should be very concerned.

Planned Parenthood is one of the biggest providers of comprehensive sex education in our public schools. They say that they are teaching our children these classes so that they will be safe and healthy when it comes to sex. Did you know that *It's Perfectly Normal*, the approved book used for class starting at 10 years old is full of cartoon characters in obscene and explicit

illustrations including people having oral sex, missionary sex, masturbating and wearing condoms? Also in this book, Planned Parenthood teaches that abortion can be "a positive experience." They say that children must be taught not only that abortion is safe but that pregnancy is dangerous. In this book, Planned Parenthood's author Robie Harris gives children nine reasons to have an abortion. She gives them no reason not to have an abortion.

I know that it can be awkward for parents to discuss sex with their kids, and I also know that kids talk to other kids when they have questions they don't want to ask their parents. However, it is a parent's responsibility to teach their children about morals and responsibility along with the physical aspects of sex!

If you're comfortable with your kids learning what Planned Parenthood teaches, won't mind if your kids start having casual sex at a young age, get pregnant with your grandchild and have an abortion without your knowledge, you can ignore this article. If your kids attend private school or are home schooled and you know they won't be exposed to this, AND if you're okay that their friends are learning it, you can ignore this article, too.

If you want to return morals and responsibility and a respect for life to our culture, then we need to take control of what our children are being taught. Maybe it's time you attended a school board meeting, or got involved in the promotion of the next school levy....

Denise Leipold
Executive Director

Early in 2012, the *Right to Life of Northeast Ohio* boards held a joint meeting to plan our activities for the near future. Employing our strategies to educate, advocate, legislate, unify and multiply, we discussed how best we could accomplish our mission of protecting innocent human life from conception through natural death.

Several concrete goals were set for 2012. These included: 1) educating voters regarding the life issues and candidates at the local, state, and federal levels; 2) recruiting additional effective leaders for our own organization; 3) increasing collaboration with other pro-life groups; 4) increasing both our witness participants; and 5) increase our support base. Following is a list of some of our 2012 accomplishments corresponding to our strategic goals.

Education. *Right to Life of Northeast Ohio* teamed up with many other organizations which share our views on the life issues. This included helping with non-partisan voter registration and distributing thousands of candidate-comparison pieces.

In response to the HHS “contraception” mandate of February 15, 2012, Dr. Ray Adamek wrote an extensive critique and made several presentations to groups in northeast Ohio. (To read the critique, see our website, click on *Issues, Abortion*). He pointed out that the mandate is an attack on religious liberty, freedom of conscience, and the sanctity of human life since it requires employers (exempting only churches) and all citizens to pay for contraceptives, abortifacients and sterilization through their insurance companies, whether or not they have moral or religious objections to doing so.

Executive Director Denise Leipold spoke at several events about life issues at the forefront of the election campaigns. She spoke at the *Susan B. Anthony List* bus tour stop in Akron, along with Jill Stanek, U.S. Representative Marilyn Musgrave, and Ohio Rep. Tina Roegner, pointing out that abortion is not health care. Denise also spoke at the University of Akron as part of the “I Vote Pro-Life First” tour with *Students for Life of America* and has appeared on several radio programs.

Our fall 2012 newsletter was devoted to the elections with articles on our right and duty to vote, party platforms, legislators’ records on the life issues, and election controversies. Although President Obama won a second term (go to LifeNews.com and search “President Obama’s Abortion Record) Ohio’s Governor



John Kasich and other major state executives are pro-life. In addition, Ohio Right to Life PAC-endorsed candidates won 12 of 14 races for the U.S. House, 13 of 15 for the Ohio Senate, and 61 of 74 for the Ohio House.

We also collaborated with area black pastors to bring a pro-life conference to Akron focusing on how abortion affects the African American community. Speakers Star Parker and Pastor Stephen Broden of Dallas, Texas urged more than 50 participants to inform their congregations that nationally, statewide and locally, black women have an abortion rate 2 to 5 times higher than that of white or Hispanic women, and to work to remedy the situation. Our educational display booth appeared at the Cleveland Men’s Fellowship Conference, the Cleveland RTL Symposium, the 40 Days for Life opening rally, the Kent Heritage Festival, and the Summit County and Portage County fairs.

Recruitment. After a search and interview process involving some 27 applicants, the Board hired Denise Leipold to serve as executive director. She officially started on July 1, 2012. We are fortunate to welcome Rich Loney, Bill Obendorf and Amy Zimmerman as new board members, and are very grateful for the commitment and service of departing board members Becky Crandall, Garry Meeks, Frank Rizzo, Tony Rosa and Tom Wood.

Restructuring. Executive Director Denise Leipold spearheaded a restructuring of both our physical plant and our operations. The office now looks brighter, more spacious and is more efficient. Operations, finances and files have been reviewed and revised where necessary. The board is now meeting bi-monthly rather than monthly, with a greater emphasis on committees doing the work and reporting back.

Multiplying/Unifying. The most significant organizational change is that in our youth program. After a thorough review of the Pro-Life Youth Congress (PLYC), we reconfigured it so that it functions primarily as a resource organization similar to the national Students for Life of America organization (which serves college-age youth). Now known as *Youth for Life of Northeast Ohio* (YFLNEO), its mission is to be a resource for area pro-life youth groups (middle through high school) to encourage, educate, motivate and equip them to join in the effort to build a culture of life. Rather than functioning as a membership organization, YFLNEO serves to help local school, church, or other youth groups develop pro-life programs, and to coordinate their efforts with similar groups throughout the

(Continued on page 4)

New Briefs

Spring 40 Days for Life concluded on Easter Saturday with 554 babies saved from abortion, reported Shawn Carney, 40 Days Prayer Campaign director. He also reported that six abortuaries closed during and since the campaign.

Assisted suicide was defeated in Connecticut in early April, 2013 after a coalition of pro-life advocates, disability rights groups and others educated legislators on the dangers of such a policy.

However, pro-lifers need to be vigilant as the *Washington Examiner* reported that billionaire George Soros is contributing millions of dollars to pro-assisted suicide groups like Compassion and Choices.

Bryan Kemper, the main speaker at our *Becoming a Pro-Life Role Model* interactive workshop and seminar held by *Youth for Life of Northeast Ohio* on April 13, disclosed what one person can do. He gave a short speech at the RTLNEO Education and Appreciation dinner and he noted that since the trial of abortionist Kermit Gosnell (see Infanticide story) had been virtually ignored by mainstream media and major newspapers, in spite of its racism, grisly details, and gross neglect of government oversight, he decided to hold a "tweetfest." On the way to our event, he contacted Troy Newman of Operation Rescue, and Andy Moore of AbortionWiki and suggested they start a #Gosnell tweetfest. This generated some 166,800 tweets on twitter between 6



A.M. and 6 P.M. on Friday, April 12. The tweetfest inspired critical reflections by liberal newspapers, journalists, and mainstream media. Prior to this, cable's Fox News Channel was the only major source covering the trial. Readers are reminded that

propaganda consists not only of what is reported (and how it is slanted), but also of what is not reported. LifeNews.com is a good source of information on all the life issues.

Botched Abortions. The pro-choice lobby tends to equate legal abortion with safe abortion. However, many women find this to be untrue. Pro-life sidewalk counselors are documenting apparently botched abortions which result in women being taken from the clinics to hospitals by ambulance. In many cases, copies of 911 calls by abortion staff give a sketch of the patients' conditions. During 2011-2012, 44 such cases were documented (3 involving self-admissions) across the country. Of the 44, 21 occurred at Planned Parenthood clinics, and three occurred in Cleveland. Certainly, other such cases have gone unobserved. For details, click on *Issues* and *Botched Abortion Reports* on our website, or call the office for a hard copy. (No abortion is truly safe. Abortion is fatal for the unborn and results in increased risk of psychological and physical problems for the mother. (Click on *Issues*, and *Abortion Harms Women* on our website). ■

(Looking Back....continued from page 3)

area. Interested groups or persons may visit the *Youth for Life of Northeast Ohio* website.

A major component of our multiplying strategy is collaborating with other pro-life organizations. We have been in the forefront in sharing program ideas with surrounding county RTL chapters through our program manual. Our *Signature and Media Campaign* has also grown, involving more churches and groups. It also involves collaboration with national groups such as *Heroic Media* and *Option Line* as well as area crisis pregnancy centers. Pro-life groups in other parts of the state and country have expressed an interest in this program, which is partially responsible for the decrease in area abortions.

Legislating. Although Ohio RTL in Columbus is the hub of legislative efforts, we keep Ohio citizens informed on federal, state and local legislative initiatives through our e-blasts and quarterly newsletter. In addition, our executive director has given expert testimony before the Ohio House and Senate on the life issues.

Advocating/Witnessing. RTLNEO contracted with the *40 Days for Life* organization to organize prayerful witnesses at the two local abortuaries during the spring and fall. Witnesses report that we had at least 4 saves and 3 probable saves this past year. Those who pray, hand out literature and display signs at abortuaries and Planned Parenthood are to be commended. In one case, just displaying a pro-life sign on a front lawn resulted in a save!

RTLNEO also organized the public witness that took place in Akron and Ravenna on *Life Chain* Sunday, a national program held on the first weekend in October. This silent, prayerful witness involved pro-life citizens standing on the curb holding pro-life signs.

Support Base. Board President Ken Leipold, Executive Director Denise Leipold and other board members have been busy this past year contacting major donors and informing them of our work. We are also pursuing foundation grants. If you would share this newsletter with family and friends, our support base could well double so that we can expand our efforts to protect innocent human life from conception through natural death. ■

Abortion and Tax Dollars. Planned Parenthood (PP) is the nation's largest abortion provider, accounting for over 27% of the nation's abortions. Although federal law should prevent Planned Parenthood from using our tax dollars to perform abortions, its annual reports from 2004 through 2011 show a high correspondence between the number of tax dollars received and the number of abortions performed. During this period, both tax dollars and abortions increased each year, except in 2010, when abortions decreased by less than 1% compared to 2009. Moreover, an April 10, 2013 report by the Alliance Defense Fund (*available on the internet*) indicated that 10 state audits of PP affiliates in four states reveal that PP affiliates nationwide are committing 12 types of waste, abuse, and potential fraud, including illegally billing for drugs and/or services related to abortion by claiming they were family-planning related, and billing for medically unnecessary services.

Between state and federal audits and two whistle-blower lawsuits against PP, some one in five affiliates have been implicated. The ADF report follows a July 7, 2011 report

by Americans United for Life (*also online*) detailing similar financial abuses, as well as the flaunting of laws meant to protect minors and women. The ADF report concludes, "... Planned Parenthood is far less concerned with providing competent healthcare to women than it is with padding its bottom line with taxpayer dollars, which in fiscal year 2012 totaled \$542 million."

The Ohio House passed legislation which reallocates family planning funds away from PP, and distributes them first to the 135+ community health centers and agencies which serve the vast majority of poor pregnant women in Ohio. Executive Director Denise Leipold testified on behalf of this legislation in Columbus on April 12.

Sex Selection Abortion. Even if PP did not use our tax dollars to fund abortion, whatever tax dollars we provide frees up other funds to promote its extreme positions. For example, PP has a permissive stance, and in some cases, even promotes, sex selection abortion. Emphasizing "women's rights to choose," the pro-choice lobby believes that women ought to have the right to an abortion just to select the baby's sex. Most often, it is female children who are aborted. A study of the 2000 U.S. Census found that U.S.-born children of Chinese,

Korean, and Asian Indian parents apparently abort females to obtain male heirs. In third births where there was no previous son, males outnumber females by 50%. This practice also involves other races.

Planned Parenthood has opposed sex-selection abortion bans at the state level and went all out against the federal Prenatal Non-Discrimination Act, warning House members that it would consider a vote for the bill a vote against women's health! Thus, while claiming its opponents are waging "a war on women," PP defends the ultimate sexism—*aborting females just because they are females*. Requiring a two-thirds majority for passage, the House vote failed by 246-168 on May 31, 2012, with 97% of Republicans (including Jim Renacci and Steven LaTourette) voting for the ban and 89% of Democrats (including Betty Sutton and Tim Ryan) voting against it. ABC, CBS and NBC failed to report the vote in their primetime broadcasts. (To be informed on the life issues, go to LifeNews.com).

While two polls show that between 77% and 86% of the general population support a ban on sex selection abortions, as did 74% of 18-24 year-olds in a third

poll, Planned Parenthood's stated position is duplicitous. Its spokespersons have said both that "gender bias is contrary to everything our organization works for ..." and "no Planned Parenthood clinic will deny a woman an abortion based on her reasons for wanting one, except in those states that explicitly prohibit sex-selective abortions." Its practice appears to favor the latter policy. In April and May of 2012,

Lila Rose's Live Action organization videotaped PP staff members at five clinics in four states (*Hawaii, New York, N. Carolina, Texas*) assisting women posing as clients to arrange sex selection abortions. (See *Live Action; click on The Gendercide Investigation*). Ohio Right to Life is working to have a state sex selection ban passed this year.

Infanticide. The Centers for Disease Control report that in 2003, 40 infants died after being born alive in failed abortion attempts, while in 2005 there were 45 similar deaths reported. (Note that these data are based on voluntary reports from abortuaries or hospitals where the deaths occur. It is doubtful that all such deaths are reported).

Being born alive, these infants should have been given the medical care necessary to sustain their lives.



(Continued on page 6)

A Successful Youth Seminar!



Pro-life students from across northeast Ohio attended “*Becoming a Pro-Life Role Model*”, a dynamic seminar hosted by *Youth for Life of Northeast Ohio* on April 13, 2013.

Keynote speaker Bryan Kemper, founder of Rock for Life, Stand True, and the student outreach coordinator from Priests for Life captivated the youth with his life story and more.



Tim Radwany from Alliance for a Healthy Youth talks about the benefits of abstinence from alcohol, drugs, tobacco and sex.



Joe Costello “bribed” attendees with candy to share about the importance of prayer to aide in making healthy choices!



Brad and Mindy Fraelich invited attendees to share their life goals, and then to put them in perspective with a respect for life.



After the seminar, a group stayed around to pose for a photo with the speakers.

(Planned Parenthood.....continued from page 5)

Unfortunately, the practice in some abortuaries is simply to set the child aside without treatment, and let it die. Even worse, as the trial of abortionist Kermit Gosnell shows, the abortionist may kill the infant after birth. (*Gosnell is charged with causing the deaths of eight born-alive infants after late-term abortions failed by severing their spinal columns at the neck. He is also charged with killing an abortion patient by administering too much anesthesia*).

To protect infants in these situations, the Congress passed the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act of 2002, which was signed into law by President George W. Bush. Since then some 29 states have also passed such laws. During 2001-2003, Planned Parenthood worked with then State Senator Obama to oppose such a bill when it came before the Illinois legislature. On four separate votes, Obama failed to support the bill.

A similar bill just passed in the Florida legislature. The chairman of a subcommittee holding hearings asked PP’s lobbyist Alisa LaPolt Snow, “If a baby is born on a table as a result of a botched abortion, what would Planned Parenthood want to have happen to that child that is struggling for life?” Ms. Snow responded, “... we believe that any decision made should be left to the woman, her family, and the physician.” When asked what PP physicians would do in this situation, Ms. Snow said she didn’t know, and again said, “... [the] decision should be between the patient and the health care provider.” When a committee member suggested, “I think at that point the patient would be the child struggling on the table, wouldn’t you agree?” Ms. Snow responded, “...I really don’t know how to answer that.”!!

For fiscal year 2011-2012, Planned Parenthood reported receiving \$542.4 million in taxpayer funding, constituting 45% of its annual revenue. It also reported \$87.4 million in excess revenue and more than \$1.2 billion in net assets. Ask your federal and state legislators why you and other pro-life citizens should be forced to support this abortion giant with tax dollars.



Planned Parenthood’s representative Alisa LaPolt Snow advocates before the Florida legislature for post birth abortions.

Legislation Update



The following are some legislative initiatives or prospective legislation affecting pro-life advocacy being considered by the state of Ohio:

Defund Planned Parenthood—Late last year, HB298 (to change the formula for the distribution of federal funds for family planning and women’s health care, placing Planned Parenthood on the bottom of the tier) expired at the end of the last legislative session. This language is now in HB59 (the state budget bill), as the *Prioritizing of Family Planning Funding* amendment and as of April 19, it passed the house floor and has been sent to the senate. *RTLNEO supports this legislation.*

Pre-Natal Non Discrimination Act (PRENDA)—This act (*more commonly referred to as the banning of sex selection abortion*) as HB570 expired during the last legislative session, and as of April 19, has not yet been re-introduced into the 130th general assembly.

Funding for Crisis Pregnancy Centers—The *Ohio Pregnancy and Parenting Support Program* was introduced into HB59 (the state budget bill) and as of April 19, it passed the house and has been sent to the senate. *RTLNEO supports this legislation.*

Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide Ban—Ohio law currently states that assisted-suicide is “against the public policy of the state of Ohio.” An injunction can be filed against anyone suspected of assisting suicide or attempting to assist in suicide, but there are no criminal penalties, nor is assisted suicide explicitly banned. A bill to change this is currently being drafted.



The following are some legislative initiatives or prospective legislation affecting pro-life advocacy being considered by the federal government:

Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act (CIANA)—requires any abortionist to notify a parent before performing an abortion on a minor who is a resident of another state, unless the minor has already received authorization from a court in her home state, or unless the abortionist is already required to provide such parental notification by a current law in the state in which he practices. If the minor asserts that she is the victim of abuse, the abortionist must notify the appropriate state child abuse agency instead. The bill also would make it a federal offense to transport

a minor across state lines for an abortion without fulfilling the requirements of a parental notification law in effect in the home state. A version of this bill is under consideration in both the house and senate. *RTLNEO supports this legislation.*

Pre-Natal Non Discrimination Act (PRENDA)—This act would apply federal criminal penalties to any person who does any of the following four things: (1) performs an abortion knowing that such abortion is sought based on the sex of the child; (2) uses force or the threat of force to intentionally injure or intimidate any person for the purpose of coercing a sex-selection abortion; (3) solicits or accepts funds for the performance of a sex-selection abortion; or (4) transports a woman into the United States or across a State line for the purpose of obtaining a sex-selection abortion. The bill provides that a woman cannot be prosecuted or sued in connection with her own abortion. A version of this bill is in both the house and the senate. *RTLNEO supports this legislation.*

Health Care Conscience Rights Act—provides conscience protections for Americans to prevent coercive means to compel participation in providing abortion and other procedures regardless of religious and moral objections. The bill would amend ObamaCare to prevent the imposition of regulatory mandates that violate the religious or moral convictions of those who purchase or provide health insurance. The bill would also prevent government from discriminating against health care providers, including doctors, nurses, hospitals, and insurers, who decline to participate in abortions. In addition, it would empower victims to seek relief in court for violations of the federal conscience laws. This bill is currently under consideration in several house committees. *RTLNEO supports this legislation.* ■



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*Protecting the sanctity of human life from
 conception through natural death*

The Issues

*Abortion
 Embryonic Stem Cell Research & Cloning
 Euthanasia & End of Life Decisions*

Our Goal

Building the Culture of Life

Our Strategies

***Educate** with the facts concerning life issues
Legislate by promoting laws protecting innocent
 human lives
Advocate as a voice for the voiceless
Unify those seeking to defend life
Multiply our voices to increase in strength*



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Executive Director

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✂

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THANK YOU for helping to protect all innocent human life from conception to natural death.

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