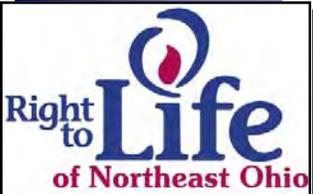


LifeLINES



Winter 2016



Building for the Future

Denise Leipold *Executive Director*



At the beginning of 2016, our board conducted a strategic planning session where we analyzed our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in order to review our goals and the strategies we are using to uphold the right to life from conception through natural death. To reach our ultimate goals, we need to build on what we have done in the past. The slogan on the back of our newsletter tells that we will accomplish our mission through the strategic goals of *educating, advocating, legislating, unifying* and *multiplying*. The following are some of the activities we were involved in during 2015:

EDUCATE

- We were blessed to present **Bobby Schindler** at our annual *Celebrate Life* banquet in March. His moving account of how his sister Terry Schiavo had been killed through legal euthanasia emphasized that we should be fighting just as hard for the right to life for those near the end of life as we do for those yet to be born.
- We presented an entirely new pro-life program at area grade schools and high schools to discuss life issues with students. Students were free to ask about a range of subjects including abortion, contraception, in-vitro fertilization, euthanasia, assisted suicide and more. It was eye-opening to realize from these presentations that many of our youth knew very little about the subjects but were eager to learn more and to DO more once they were informed. In addition, we continue to provide program manuals and resources to many schools to assist in the formation or maintenance of pro-life youth clubs or committees.
- I was a guest speaker at several organizations and was interviewed on several radio programs both local and national throughout the year about

relevant life issues and the actions we take to address them.

- *Right to Life of Northeast Ohio* participated in the 2015 March for Life in Washington, DC, and was a local sponsor of the *Cleveland March for Life* and the National *Pro Life Sidewalk Chalk Day*. Our *Right to Life of Northeast Ohio* booth and educational displays were present at many public events, including the *Summit and Portage County Fairs*, the *Kent Heritage Festival*, and the *Bringing America Back to Life Convention*.
- We provided current news and information through our quarterly newsletter, e-mail communications, emergency alert e-blasts, our extensive websites and Facebook.
- Our staff published nine letters to the editor in local newspapers, and loyal friends published another five. We met with the publisher and editorial staff of the Akron Beacon Journal to air our concerns about their biased support of Planned Parenthood and to request more opportunities to present factual responses.



More than 550 people attended the press conference and protest against Planned Parenthood on August 22!

ADVOCATE

- Right to Life of Northeast Ohio was the local sponsor for a national protest against Planned Parenthood (PP) in August. More than 550 people turned out at PP in Akron to peacefully protest

(Continued on page 2)

after it was uncovered that PP's across the country were allegedly involved in the sale of aborted baby body parts. We continue to pray and provide support year round at PP and the two other abortion facilities in the Akron area.

- We sponsored the national *Life Chain* held locally in Akron and Ravenna and were encouraged by those attending in spite of horrible weather!
- Our extremely important media campaign continues to provide life saving alternatives to abortion minded individuals. Through private donors and the Signature Media Campaign held in churches, we have positively affected thousands of lives across Ohio. Statewide, abortion rates dropped 8.74% in the last year!
- For the first time, Right to Life of Northeast Ohio sponsored a service at Holy Cross Cemetery in Akron in honor of the *National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children*. With help from **Rev. Mark Ford** from *Love Akron*, Pastor Dennis Butts from *House of the Lord*, **Msgr. Bill Boncziewski** from *Our Lady of the Cedars*, **State Senator Frank LaRose**, **Andrew Kustec** from *UofA Students for Life*, media personality **Robin Swoboda**, the music of **Kira Leyden** and **Jeff Andrea**, the color guard from the Knights of Columbus, and a crowd of about 200 people on a rainy afternoon, a very powerful and moving ceremony honored the lives of our aborted brothers and sisters



LEGISLATE

- We supported and testified at the Ohio Statehouse for legislation which supports our mission, including the *Ohio Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act* (which prohibits abortions after 20 weeks), The biennial state budget bill (which included the *Pregnancy & Parenting Support Act* that provides material goods and resources to pregnancy resource centers), and two bills which would stop a funding stream to abortion facilities such as Planned Parenthood. In addition, we spearheaded a nationwide effort to remove rape and incest exceptions from the federal Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, and joined in a nationwide effort to support the federal Pro-Life Reconciliation Act which would stop federal funding of Planned Parenthood.



UNIFY

- We have been an integral part of meetings with pro-life groups across the state to ensure that any pro-life leaders and legislation which we intend to support are free of any exceptions, including rape, incest and fetal anomalies. With these groups, we are working toward improved and tightened requirements in order for a candidate to receive an endorsement.
- We continue to work closely with area pregnancy support centers on many programs, and meet as a group on occasion so that we are closely aligned in our practices and procedures. These pregnancy support centers are also an integral part of our life saving media campaign.
- We continue to meet with church pastors of all denominations to encourage participation in pro-life activities, and to provide opportunities for involvement based on Christian and Biblical principles.

MULTIPLY

- We grew involvement and gathered more supporters through pro-life events and activities. We conducted many successful educational and fundraising activities throughout the year, including the *Signature Media Campaign*, sponsorship of the *Cleveland March for Life*, our *Aloha Reverse Raffle*, the annual *Celebrate Life dinner*, *Mother's Day Flowers for Life*, the *Golf for Life* tournament, and the return of the *5K RUN for their LIVES*.

The activities above represent only a fraction of what we've done, and it's hard to believe that we have to do so much to protect life. St. Augustine said that "the truth is like a lion. You don't have to defend it. Let it loose. It will defend itself." We pledge to keep letting the truth about life loose...and to do all that we can to let everyone hear that truth so that life will prevail. The Constitution guarantees the right to life for "us and our posterity", meaning those yet to come. THIS is the truth.

"Then you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." John 8:32

As we noted in our Fall 2015 Lifelines, between July 14 and October 26, 2015, a series of 11 undercover videos were released by the Center for Medical Progress, a pro-life organization. Over 17 hours of the videos may be seen in both long and short versions at CMP's website. Readers may decide for themselves whether the videos indicate that Planned Parenthood is guilty of bargaining for the sale of fetal tissue/body parts and of modifying the abortion procedure in order to obtain intact specimens for researchers. Both of the latter would violate federal and some state laws. (See Fall Lifelines for details).



PP's Reaction to the Videos

On July 14, 2015, the day the first video was released, Eric Ferraro, Vice President for Communications for PP stated, "we help patients who want to donate tissue for scientific research," and do so "with full, appropriate consent from patients and under the highest ethical and legal standards." "There is no financial benefit for tissue donation for either the patient or Planned Parenthood." On July 16, PP CEO Cecile Richards said, "I want to be really clear, the allegation that Planned Parenthood profits in any way from tissue donation is not true."

Planned Parenthood hired Fusion GPS, which hired additional experts to analyze the tapes. Their detailed report of August 25 states in part: "Fusion GPS reviewed all four of the 'full footage' videos released by the [CMP], totaling more than 12 hours of tape. This analysis did **not** reveal widespread evidence of substantive **video** manipulation [our emphasis], but we did identify cuts, skips, missing tape, and changes in camera angle." (CMP points out that these resulted from bathroom breaks for the two CMP reps, each of whom could activate their hidden cameras, and from downtime when they were not engaged in conversations with PP staff). The Fusion GPS analysis also states, "... neither Mr. Fredericks [a forensic video expert] nor Fusion GPS staff identified any evidence of **audio** manipulation [our emphasis] within the video segments provided." The report's main criticism appears to be that CMP "heavily edited the short videos so as to misrepresent statements made by Planned Parenthood representatives." But as their own analysis noted, there was no audio manipulation, so PP staff said what they said in the shorter versions of the videos, and the longer

versions are available online for all to see.

At least 12 states and two U.S. congressional committees have launched investigations of PP because of the videos. Responding to the furor caused by the videos, PP CEO Richards sent a letter to the Director of the National Institutes of Health on October 13, stating that PP would forego even the permissible reimbursement which federal law allows, associated with the transportation, implantation, processing, preservation, quality control, or storage of human fetal tissue. If one were not doing anything illegal, why would one refuse legal payment? Some interpreted this as a move by PP to squelch the many investigations which had begun or were planned.

See No Evil, Hear No Evil

Planned Parenthood and its pro-choice supporters' basic response to the videos can be characterized in large part as "See no evil, hear no evil." In roughly chronological order, here are a few examples of persons who supported PP, yet admitted they had not seen the videos: White House spokesman Josh Earnest, HHS Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell, White House Press Secretary Eric Schultz, U.S. Democrat Senators Jeanne Shaheen, Bob Casey, Kirsten Gillibrand, Jan Schakowsky, and Barbara Lee. Senators Brian Schatz and Charles Schumer refused to tell reporters whether they had seen the videos.

When Governor Bobby Jindal of Louisiana indicated he would cut PP's funding in response to the videos, some 25 PP supporters showed up at the statehouse, but refused to watch a screening of the videos he had set up. The pro-life organization Susan B. Anthony List invited some 2,000 Democrat members of Congress and their staff to watch a private screening of the videos in a convenient location. Less than a dozen showed up, and some attempted to disrupt the screening.

When James Bopp, National Right to Life General Counsel testified before the House Judiciary Committee that PP likely broke multiple federal laws, Rep. Hank Johnson (D-GA) objected that Bopp wanted "this committee to accept your opinions about some edited videos." When asked if he had seen all the unedited videos, Johnson said, "No I have not. I've not even seen the edited videos." At a second meeting of the

(Continued on page 4)

2016 March for Life

The March for Life in Washington, DC, kicked off right at the beginning of an epic snowstorm on January 22. Here are just a few photos. You can view more photos on our website.

TOP LEFT: The March started off after a rally on the grounds of the Washington Monument.

TOP RIGHT: RTLNEO Executive Director Denise Leipold with Jewels Green from *Silent No More*, David Beireit from *40 Days for Life*, Catherine Adair and Janet Morana from *Silent No More*.

BOTTOM LEFT: Matt Birk and Denise Leipold are interviewed by EWTN's Teresa Tomeo.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Digging the car out from over three feet of snow at the end of the storm! ■



See No Evil, Hear No Evil.... (Continued from page 3)

committee Democrats complained that the videos were heavily edited, but objected and refused to watch when Republicans attempted to show the videos.

In Missouri, Mary Kogut, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri failed to respond to a subpoena to appear before a MO Senate committee investigating whether her organization was illegally selling fetal tissue/body parts.

Speak Evil of Your Opponents

This characterizes the second major response of PP and its supporters to the videos. Foregoing the most vile attacks by some on the internet, we note that PP CEO Cecile Richards said the CMP video project was a “three year, well-funded effort by the most militant wing of the anti-abortion movement” whose purpose is “to try to entrap doctors” and produce “highly doctored videos.” In a July 29 op-ed in the Washington Post, she said these attacks by “extremists” are “not about us. They are about the ability of women across the country to access health care. Period.” She continues, “These extremists created ... [a video] then heavily edited the footage to make false and absurd assertions about our standards and services.” Richards has admitted that some six PP affiliates/centers in four states (CA, CO, TX, WA) either currently do or have participated in “fetal tissue research.”

In commenting on a July 2015 National Abortion Federation request for an injunction to block the release of further CMP videos, President Vicki Saporta said, “The safety and security of our members... has been compromised by the illegal activities of a group with ties to those who believe it is justifiable to murder abortion providers.”

Or Silence Your Opponents

There have been four legal attempts to prevent the release of the CMP videos or to punish their authors. A July 15, 2015 suit by StemExpress, a tissue procurement company, to block portions of the videos showing their employees was quickly defeated. A similar case was filed by the National Abortion Federation but was also quickly neutralized. On January 14, 2016, PP sued CMP, accusing it of violating numerous laws, including the Federal Racketeering and Corrupt Organization Act, a law intended to prosecute the Mafia.

On January 25, a Houston, TX grand jury indicted CMP's founder David Daleidan and his associate, Sharon Merritt. They were charged with a second-degree felony, “tampering with a government record” (they falsified their drivers' licenses for ID purposes, since PP maintains a list of pro-life activists), and a misdemeanor charge of violating the state's “prohibition of the purchase and sale of human organs.” The latter charge is curious, since CMP never purchased or sold any tissue, while the fifth video reveals PP's Director of Research for PP Gulf Coast (TX) saying, “If we alter our process, and we are able to obtain intact fetal cadavers ... we bake that into our contract, ... we deviate from our standard [of care] to do that.” Both statements appear to indicate that PPGC violated two prohibitions of federal law, but they were not charged by the grand jury.

Readers may follow this developing story on LifeSiteNews.com. For additional reasons to defund PP, visit our website and click on the *Issues* tab, then *Abortion*, and scroll down to the article *Eleven Reasons Why Tax Money Should Not Go To Planned Parenthood*. ■

2016 Celebrate Life! Dinner

Saturday
April 2, 2016

New location!

Prime 93
(formerly Anthe's)
4315 Manchester Rd.
Akron OH 44319

5pm Social Hour
6pm Dinner

LIMITED SEATING!
Tickets only \$30

includes dinner, beverages,
(cash bar) and dessert

Keynote Speaker

Alveda King

"Abortion and racism are both symptoms of a fundamental human error. The error is thinking that when someone stands in the way of our wants, we can justify getting that person out of our lives. Abortion and racism stem from the same poisonous root: selfishness."

Dr. Alveda King



emcee'd by media personality

Robin Swoboda

Purchase your tickets online at

www.RTLofNEO.com

or call 330-762-2785

About Alveda King

Dr. Alveda C. King works toward her purpose in life, to glorify God. She currently serves as a Pastoral Associate and Director of African-American Outreach for Priests for Life and Gospel of Life Ministries. She is also a voice for the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, sharing her testimony of two abortions, God's forgiveness, and healing.

The daughter of the late civil rights activist Rev. A.D. King and his wife Naomi Barber King, Alveda grew up in the civil rights movement led by her uncle, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Her family home in Birmingham, Alabama, was bombed, as was her father's church office in Louisville, Kentucky. Alveda was jailed during the open housing movement. She sees the prolife movement as a continuation of the civil rights struggle.

Dr. King is a former college professor and served in the Georgia State House of Representatives. She is a recipient of the Life Prize Award (2011), the Cardinal John O'Connor Pro-Life Hall of Fame Award (2011) from the Legatus organization and the Civil Rights Award from Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) (2011). She is a bestselling author; among her books are *King Rules: Ten Truths for You, Your Family, and Our Nation to Prosper*, *How Can the Dream Survive if we Murder the Children?* and *I Don't Want Your Man, I Want My Own*. She is an accomplished actress and songwriter. The Founder of Alveda King Ministries, Alveda is also the recipient of an honorary Doctorate of Laws degree from Saint Anselm College. She has served on several boards, including Heartbeat International, Georgia Right to Life, MLK Center, Bible Curriculum in Public Schools and Abortion Recovery International (ARIN). She is also a member of the National Black ProLife Coalition (NBPC) and is a Senior Fellow with the Howard Center for Family, Religion & Society. Alveda is a regular columnist for Newsmax.com "Insiders" section and a Fox News contributor.

Dr. King lives in Atlanta, where she is the grateful mother of six and a doting grandmother.

Election 2016: Who should you vote for?

Smaller non-profit organizations like *Right to Life of Northeast Ohio* that do not have a PAC (Political Action Committee) are limited in what they can do to influence elections. The biggest limitation is that we cannot endorse candidates, contribute funds to candidates, or use our organization resources or staff time for candidate election activities. What we CAN do is support or endorse ballot measures or legislation, and we can educate the public about candidates' positions on issues which concern us as long as we have available the same information on all candidates concerning the same issues, and as long as we don't cast candidates in a favorable or unfavorable light. We are also free to criticize public officials who we feel are detrimental to our issues—even if the official is a candidate—if this is something we do in the same manner in non-election



years.

In addition to the above, we will not be promoting endorsement information from any pro-life group's PAC (eg: *Ohio Right To Life*, *National Right to Life*, *SBA List*, etc.) because some of these organizations have endorsed individuals who proclaim to be pro-life, but who have exceptions for rape, incest or fetal anomalies.

We will have available to us most of the state and national candidates positions regarding life issues and can share that information with you if you are questioning a candidate's pro-life views. In addition, several credible organizations (eg: *Ohio Christian Alliance*) will be issuing candidate comparison pieces rather than endorsements. Once these are available, we will have links to them on our website and in regular e-mail communications.

Most importantly, make sure you vote, and get informed to **VOTE PRO-LIFE!!!!** ■

America's Views Closer to Pro-Life than Pro-Choice

In 29 polls between September, 1995 and May, 2015, the Gallup organization asked Americans this question: "With respect to the abortion issue, would you consider yourself to be pro-choice or pro-life?" In only six of these polls did more Americans say "pro-life" than said "pro-choice," although the difference between the two groups was generally 5 percentage points or less.

Labeling the pro-abortion position "pro-choice" was a clever strategy, since as we are all aware from numerous commercials, "choice" is used to sell Americans many products and services. However, if we look at more detailed poll questions, we find that Americans are really closer to true pro-life beliefs than to true pro-choice beliefs.

For example, a Marist Poll of 1,686 adults conducted from November 15-22, 2015 found that 81% want significant restrictions on abortion, limiting it to at least the first trimester. This included

- 66% of those who said they were pro-choice;

- 60% say abortion is morally wrong, vs. 37% who say it is not;
- 61% favor banning abortion after 20 weeks, while 35% do not;
- 68% oppose using tax dollars for abortion, while 29% support it;
- 55% believe abortion does a woman more harm than good, while 30% think it improves a woman's life.



Moreover, in another recent poll, the Charlotte Lozier Institute found that 80% of Americans have a favorable view of pregnancy help centers, pro-lifers' major response to women experiencing untimely pregnancies. These largely volunteer organizations were reported to have saved some 300,000 babies from abortion in 2015.

The American public is realizing that abortion is not "reproductive health care." It is anti-reproductive health endangerment. The one reproduced is killed, and his/her mother is exposed to increased incidence of physical, psychological, and spiritual harm. ■

How do you know what to say?



When you witness or do sidewalk counseling at an abortion facility or Planned Parenthood, it's not always enough to rely on your faith that what you are saying and doing is the best answer to saving lives. Come and learn how to be better prepared to deal with those who are abortion-minded and to become more effective in your mission.

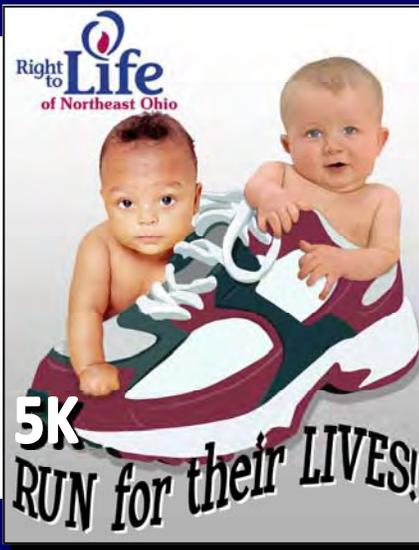
Sidewalk Counseling/Witnessing Training Class

9:30-11:30am Saturday March 19, 2016

Right to Life of Northeast Ohio
572 W. Market St., Ste 2 Akron, OH 44303

Seating is limited. Call 330-762-2785 to reserve your seat today!

MAY 21, 2016



This 5K Run or Walk event takes place through the streets of Cuyahoga Falls, and is part of the Ohio Challenge Seriesnow in its 17th year!



Bring a package of disposable diapers (any size or brand) or a can of formula (any size or brand) to donate to an Akron area crisis pregnancy center!



Start and finish lines are at the Community Vineyard Church on State Road in Cuyahoga Falls.

For registration & more information, visit our website at

www.RightToLifeofNortheastOhio.com

Some easy ways you can help our mission:

Do you shop on Amazon? If so, switch to Amazon Smile! It's the same great Amazon, but with a giving twist! Amazon will donate .5% of your purchase to *Life Education Fund*, our 501c3 affiliate!



Visit:

www.rtlfneo.com/shop_amazonsmile

Do you buy or sell on ebay? As a seller, when you set up your item you can choose to donate a portion of your proceeds to *Life Education Fund*. As a buyer, you can choose to give a donation to *Life Education Fund* at checkout. *Life Education Fund* is our 501c3 affiliate and is a registered non-profit with *ebay Giving Works* and *Pay Pal Giving Fund*!





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Our Mission

Protecting the sanctity of human life from conception through natural death...NO EXCEPTIONS

The Main 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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Youth For Life of Northeast Ohio is a program of Right to Life of Northeast Ohio.

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Contributions to Life Education Fund are tax deductible under IRS rules.



MAKE A DONATION...

...to help us continue in our fight to protect innocent human life from conception through natural death. You can use the envelope enclosed with this newsletter to make your donation by mail, or:

PLEASE....CALL TODAY! 330-762-2785

or make a secure online donation at
<https://rtlofneo.nationbuilder.com/donate>

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

- Learn about the issues
- Stay current on pro-life news
- Find out about upcoming events
- Discover opportunities to volunteer
- And much, much more!



visit our website at
www.RightToLifeofNortheastOhio.com



Ohio Primary Election

March 15, 2016