

Winter 2015



One Step at a Time

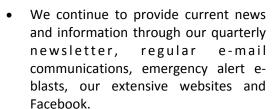
Denise Leipold Executive Director

Every January, the President gives a "State of the Union" address to sum up the past year. We want to do the same so that you know what we've been doing as well, and how your support will help carry us into the future as we continue to uphold the sanctity of all human life from conception through natural death. Instead of my normal article inside the newsletter, I'm sharing some of how we followed our strategic goals of educate, advocate, legislate, unify and multiply:

EDUCATE

- Our annual Education and Appreciation
 Dinner featured Sam Rutigliano and
 Greg Pruitt from the Cleveland Browns
 "Kardiac Kids". They brought a whole
 new perspective to the pro-life
 movement by talking about their
 experiences both on and off the field
 and how to LIVE your life so that
 everyone knows how precious life is.
 Their presence at this annual event
 made it possible for us to raise much
 needed revenue to continue our
 mission.
 - I presented educational programs at many area grade schools and high schools telling students how they can be role models and make a difference with their peers to promote the culture of life. I also spoke at the University of Akron, conducted programs at area churches, and was a guest speaker at several organizations and on several radio programs both local and national. Right to Life of Northeast Ohio was a local sponsor of the National Right to Life Youth Oratory Contest, and the National Pro Life Sidewalk Chalk Day. In addition, • we provided program manuals and resources to many schools to assist in the formation or maintenance of pro-life youth clubs or committees.
- Our Right to Life of Northeast Ohio booth and displays were present at many public events, including the Summit and Portage County Fairs, the

Kent Heritage Festival, Cleveland Men's Fellowship Conference, and the Bringing America Back to Life Symposium.



ADVOCATE

 We continue to train and support sidewalk counselors to pray and provide support at abortion centers and Planned Parenthood locations. We had three known saves this year.



Denise Leipold spoke to Students for Life at the University of Akron before a screening of the movie "October Baby."

- We instituted the "Adopt an Hour, Save a Life.....Adopt a Day, Save the Future" program in an attempt to have churches and organizations "adopt" a time slot on a regular basis to pray and witness at the abortion and Planned Parenthood locations year round.
- We sponsored the national Life Chain held locally in Akron and Ravenna. In Akron, it was awesome to see people praying all along East Market, Main Street and West Exchange. What a powerful message it sent to our community to see people lined up for several miles peacefully praying and holding signs in support of life!

(Continued on page 2)

- 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. The success of this program is spreading, and we are presenting the logistics of it to pro-life leadership in locations across the state in order to save *more* lives. The 2013 Ohio Department of Health Abortion report shows that abortions in Ohio dropped another 8.9% in the last year. We're doing something right!
- We participated in several peaceful rallies, including the Planned Parenthood (PP) protests outside of Cleveland's Tower City and outside the Akron Public Library. (To learn why we oppose PP, visit our website and click on "Issues", then "Abortion", OR click on "News", then "Defunding Planned Parenthood".)

LEGISLATE

- 2014 was a very busy year with the midterm elections taking prominence. While we don't have our own political action committee (PAC), we were able to contribute information to other PACs to inform endorsements, and to provide candidate comparison information regarding pro-life issues through information provided through other PACs, including *Ohio Right to Life*, *Ohio Christian Association*, *National Right to Life* and others. We were blessed that a majority of pro-life candidates were elected both in Ohio and across the country.
- We supported many successful pro-life legislative measures, including 1)SB207 which protects rape victims and any children conceived in rape by restricting the parental rights of the convicted rapist; 2)HB552 that provides information and comfort to parents expecting a child with Down's Syndrome; 3)HB307, the adoption reform bill that makes the adoption less daunting for adoptive parents, as well as compassionate and supportive to birth parents; and 4)HB320 which increases access to Ohio free clinics to provide alternatives to 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 meet regularly 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.



Our media campaign continues to provide life saving alternatives to abortion minded women.

• We have been an integral part of a national strategy for our youth and participated once again in Washington DC at the yearly planning meeting for national youth leaders which included Students For Life, Stand True, Created Equal, Survivors of the Abortion Holocaust, Live Action, Alliance Defending Freedom, Feminists for Life, Texas Right to Life, Indiana Right to Life, Pro-Life Louisiana, Life Training Institute, Pro Life Across America, Rock For Life, Human Life Alliance and the Center for Bioethical Reform. We continue to share strategies throughout the year

MULTIPLY

• The best and easiest way to create new involvement and gather more supporters is through pro-life events and activities. We conducted many successful educational and fund raising activities throughout the year, including the Signature Media Campaign, sponsorship of the Cleveland March for Life, our Raffle For Life Fiesta, "Meet the Kardiac Kids" Education and Appreciation Dinner, Mother's Day Flowers for Life and Golf for Life featuring honorary chairperson Robin Swoboda. In addition, we were able to obtain a new location and sponsorship for the 5K RUN for their LIVES which is back on the schedule for 2015!

It's still unbelievable that we have to do so much to protect life. Abortion, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research and all threats to human life shouldn't even be an option, yet they are. As long as we have breath left in us, energy to perform, volunteers to help us and generous contributions from our donors, we won't stop until we are a nation with liberty and justice for all, born and unborn. May God give us the courage and fortitude to continue.

In head to head races (pro-life vs. pro-choice), pro-lifers won many important offices in the 2014 elections. The following chart indicates the outcomes of several U.S. Senate races:

| <u>State</u> | Pro-Life Candidate | Defeated Pro-Choice Candidate | Vote Margin |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| AK | Dan Sullivan (R) | Mark Bagich (D) | 49-45 |
| AR | Tom Cotton (R) | Mark Pryor (D) | 56-39 |
| CO | Cory Gardner (R) | Mark Udall (D) | 48-46 |
| GA | David Perdue (R) | Michelle Nunn (D) | 53-45 |
| IA | Joni Ernst (R) | Bruce Braley (D) | 52-44 |
| KS | Pat Roberts (R) | Greg Orman (I) | 53-42 |
| KY | Mitch McConnell (R) | Allison Grimes (D) | 56-41 |
| LA | Bill Cassidy (R) | Mary Landrieu (D) | 56-44 |
| NC | Thom Tillis (R) | Kay Hagan (D) | 49-47 |
| In head-to-head Governor's races, similar results were: | | | |
| ОН | John Kasich (R) | Edward Fitzgerald (D) | 64-33 |
| MD | Larry Hogan (R) | Anthony Brown (D) | 52-46 |
| TX | Greg Abbot (R) | Wendy Davis (D) | 59-39 |



"...pro-lifers won many important offices in the 2014 elections."

However, in NY, prochoice Andrew Cuomo (D) defeated prolife Rob Astorino (R) 54-41%, and in Pennsylvania (in spite of the Kermit Gosnell scandal), pro-choice Tom Wolf (D) defeated pro-life Tom Corbett (R) 55-45%. Some of Governor Cuomo's pro-choice advocacy will be blunted by the fact that pro-lifers won control of the NY state senate.

Other notable pro-life victories included those of pro-lifers Steve Daines (R, Mt) and Shelly M. Capito (R, WV) who won seats in the U.S. Senate, Saira Blair (R), age 18, who won a seat in the WV House, and Elise Stefanik (R,NY), age 31, who became the youngest woman ever elected to the U.S. House. Pro-life African Americans elected included Tim Scott (R, SC) to the U.S. Senate, Mia Love (R, UT) and William Hurd (R,TX), both to the U.S. House.

The pro-life organization Susan B. Anthony List reported winning 19 of 26 races (73%) where they went head-to-head against Emily's List, a pro-choice organization. Those candidates who stressed the phony "War on Women" charge did not fare well. They included Sandra Fluke who is best known for supporting the HHS Mandate that forces religious groups to pay for contraceptive and abortifacient drugs and devices, Wendy Davis who filibustered against pro-life legislation in Texas, and Mark Udall in Utah who was dubbed "Mark Uterus" because of his emphasis on this issue. Perhaps sensing the "War on Women" was recognized as a phony issue, Kay Hagan, Michele Nunn, and Alison Grimes, all devoted to unlimited abortion as a Constitutional right, chose to focus on other issues in their campaigns. The National Right to Life Committee reported that The Polling Company/Woman Trend found that while 23% of voters said the abortion issue affected their vote and voted pro-choice.

In Ohio, the vast majority of candidates endorsed by Ohio Right to Life PAC were elected. They were led by Governor John Kasich (R), who had signed 12 legislative initiatives supported by ORTL, including a late-term abortion ban. Kasich's opponent was Edward FitzGerald (D) who entered the race as the "100% pro-choice" candidate, and later teamed up with Planned Parenthood to espouse the "war on women" narrative. However, as was true nationally, Ohio's women were not buying it, as 56% of them voted for Kasich, according to a Fox News exit poll.



On December 4, Executive Director Denise Leipold visited with the pro-life student group at Holy Name High School in Parma Heights, Ohio, to present them with the "Jeremiah" banner for winning the Right to Life of Northeast Ohio group award for their participation in National Pro-Life Chalk Day. The pro-life group will be attending the national March for Life in Washington DC in January and plan on carrying the banner at the event.

Which of these persons should have been aborted? by Dr. Ray Adamek

....because they were "handicapped"?:

- Jennifer Bricker, born in Romania without legs, was adopted by American parents. Her childhood heroine was gymnast Dominique Moceanu whom she watched on TV. Jennifer became a gymnast, won Illinois state titles and competed in the

Junior Olympics. At age 16, her parents revealed that she was actually Dominique's younger sister, whom she finally met in person. Jennifer is now a professional acrobat and has toured with Brittney Spears.

- Kyle Maynard is a motivational speaker, author and athlete. Born with arms that end at the elbows and legs ending near the knees, Kyle won 36 high school varsity wrestling matches in his senior year, and attained the title "GNC's World's Strongest Teen" by bench pressing 23 repetitions of 240 pounds. He recently climbed Africa's highest mountain, Mt. Kilimanjaro, under his own power.
- Jamir Wallace, a New Jersey fifth grader, was born without arms. He plays trumpet in his school band, aided by a stand that brings the trumpet to lip height, pressing the keys with his feet. Wallace may remind veteran pro-lifers of Tony Melendez, who plays the guitar with his feet and has serenaded them at many prolife conventions.
- Because of cerebral palsy, Paul Smith is unable to hold a pen or a brush, but has produced many beautiful works of art by painstakingly pushing ten of the symbol keys on a typewriter. His hundreds of art pieces include replicas of the Mona Lisa and The Last Supper.
- Tim Harris has Down Syndrome. His dream of owning a restaurant came true after he found jobs in the industry to learn as much as he could, as well as earning college certificates in Food Services, Office Skills, and Restaurant Hosting.
- Melissa Reilly also has Down Syndrome. She is an inspirational speaker, a gold medal winning skier, cyclist, and swimmer. She interned for a state senator and teaches reading and math to preschoolers with Down Syndrome.

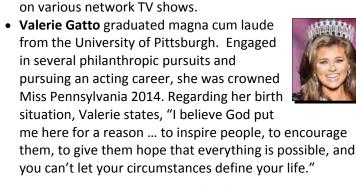


Rebecca Kiessling is a family law attorney, a mother who home schools five children (two adopted), and is a well-known pro-life speaker who has spoken in North and South America and Europe. She has appeared on numerous TV shows, and has spoken at pregnancy center fundraisers, rallies, churches, high schools, universities, women's and lawyer's conferences and our own E & A Dinner on behalf of the unborn and

especially children conceived in rape, as she was.

Thaddeus Bullard is known to WWE wrestling fans as Titus O'Neil. Recognizing that some of his early problems in life were due to the lack of a father figure, he is active promoting fatherhood in the African-American community.





Biology tells us that the life of an individual human being (person) begins when sperm joins egg. The Bible tells us God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." (Genesis 1:26). Our Declaration of Independence affirms that we have a God-given right to life, and the 14th Amendment states that no State shall "deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person ... the equal protection of the laws." Hence, we must continue to work to protect the lives of all human beings, regardless of the circumstances of their birth.







Brittany Maynard was a beautiful, 29-year-old woman who, after experiencing severe headaches, was diagnosed with brain cancer, and given up to 10 years to live. However, after surgery she was told she had the most deadly form of the disease, which usually kills its victims within months. She decided to move from California to Oregon, a state with a "Death with Dignity"

law, which permits doctors to prescribe lethal drugs to those who desire to commit suicide. From 1998 through 2013, 752 persons have done so under its provisions.

Brittany chose to make her situation known on social media and became the "poster child" of the assisted suicide movement. The proassisted suicide organization Compassion & Choices released a video she made

favorable to its cause. Ironically, she chose the first day of November, designated "National Hospice and Palliative Care Month," to kill herself. The mainstream media, including ABC, CBS, NBC, Time, Newsweek, and NPR generally applauded what some termed her "brave," "ethical" and "moral" choice. Some pundits said she was an "outspoken advocate for patients' rights" and "the face of the death with dignity movement. " Employing the logic of doublethink described in the novel 1984, (Love is Hate, War is Peace), The New York Post's Amanda Peyser said, "She beat the Grim Reaper at his own game." Generally avoiding using the word "suicide" in their reports, the media preferred "death with dignity" or "choice," but apparently forgot the Commandment, "Thou shalt not kill." As we have noted speaking of the abortion issue, "if you use the right words, you can get away with murder." Hence, suicide advocates now prefer to use the term "aid in dying." (The moral of the media story is that one must seek out prolife information sources, or settle for a one-sided presentation that eventually leads to false conclusions. Besides RTLNEO, see LifeNews.com, LifeSiteNews.com, and patientsrightscouncil.org).

Compassion & Choices currently has campaigns to enact assisted suicide laws in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts and New Jersey. But such laws have a negative impact on ill individuals, their families, and society in general.

Law's Impact on the Individual

- 1. Most people recognize themselves as creatures of God with an obligation to care for themselves and give good example to others. But suicide means those obligations are rejected. (No one, of course, is obliged to continue futile or injurious treatment).
- 2. Choosing suicide cancels the possibilities of living after

an incorrect diagnosis of the disease itself, or the time one can live with it, or of taking advantage of cures or better pain control being found. (David Williams of Newport AR had the same diagnosis as Brittany. Given six months to live, he is still alive after 13 years. On November 26, Science Daily reported researchers have found a new way to "turn off" chronic neuropathic pain



in animal trials).

- 3. Joni Eareckson Tada notes that "For every individual with a happy family who's not at risk for abuse, there are many other individuals who may be subtly steered toward assisted suicide..."
- 4. In many cases, assisted suicide protocols do not protect you. For example, only 6% of the 752 assisted suicides in Oregon were referred for psychiatric evaluation, although depression is often associated with suicidal ideation.
- 5. Assisted suicide laws cannot promise a peaceful or painless death. A study in the New England Journal of Medicine of 114 persons who chose assisted suicide in the Netherlands found 7% experienced complications like spasms, cyanosis, gasping and nausea. Sixteen percent took longer to die than expected, and some of these awoke from their initial coma.

Law's Impact on Others

 Robert Salamanca, who had Lou Gehrig's disease, wrote an article in the San Francisco Chronicle which outlined some of the effects that assisted suicide advocacy has on him and others with chronic maladies. He stated such advocacy made it harder to maintain an upbeat outlook and "get every moment that life still has to offer," while hearing that life with progressive disability wasn't worth living. "What we, the terminally ill, need is exactly the opposite – to realize how important our

(Continued on page 6)

Page 5

News Briefs

CDC Reports Abortions Declining

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released *Abortion Surveillance—United States, 2011* in November. The report is based on data from 49 of 52 designated areas (California, Maryland and New Hampshire did

not report).
Total reported abortions were 730,322 in 2011. (The more thorough Guttmacher Institute survey reported there



were 1,058,470 abortions in 2011). From 2002-2011, the total number, rate and ratio of CDC reported abortions decreased 13%, 14% and 12% respectively, all three reaching their lowest level in 2011. (No data are available for self-induced abortions resulting from over the counter abortifacients). The CDC indicates 85.5% of women obtaining abortions were unmarried, with women in their 20s having a majority of the abortions and the highest abortion rates. From 1973 through 2010, 490 women died as a result of abortion, 85.9% of these being legal abortions. As we have noted before, independent studies have indicated that the CDC's coding system makes it difficult to accurately attribute maternal deaths to legal abortion, and substantial underreporting is probable. (See David C. Reardon et al., "Deaths Associated with Abortion Compared to Childbirth," J. of Contemporary Health Law & Policy 20:2 (2004):279-327).

Local Abortionist Indicted for Child Pornography

Dr. Thomas W. Michaelis lost his medical license in 1991 for trying to molest four teen-age girls. He was able to regain his license after meeting specific conditions and then worked for eight years as an obstetrician-gynecologist in an Indian Health Service hospital in Arizona, paid \$101,000 a year by the government despite a law barring the hiring of sex offenders in agencies serving American Indians.

Michaelis returned Ohio where he performed abortions at Capital Care the Network location known as the Toledo Women's Planned Center, Parenthood in Bedford.



and *Capital Care Network* in Cuyahoga Falls. The Cuyahoga Falls location was ordered closed in 2013 by the Ohio Department of Health and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency for extensive health, safety and drug violations. It has reopened under the new name of *Northeast Ohio Women's Center*.

In May of 2014, Michaelis' license was permanently revoked, and then in November, Michaelis was indicted on one count of *Receipt and Distribution of Material Involving Sexual Exploitation of a Child*, and another count of *Possession and Access with Intent to View Material Involving Sexual Exploitation of a Child*.

In light of Michaelis' history of improper sexual conduct with minors dating back to 1991 when he was convicted of attempted gross sexual Imposition, voyeurism, and public indecency, and his recent indictment on child pornography charges, *Right to Life of Northeast Ohio* has formally requested that the *Ohio Department of Health* and the *City of Cuyahoga Falls* investigate for possible abuses that may have occurred while Michaelis practiced at the former Capital Care Network location in Cuyahoga Falls.

The Push for Assisted Suicide Part I ($Continued\ from\ page\ 5$)

lives are. ... Our loved ones, friends and ... society need to help us feel that we are loved... Instead, reporting in the media too often makes us feel like token presences, burdens who are better off dead. ... Many pro-euthanasia groups showcase people with ALS. They portray us as feeble, unintelligible and dying by slow suffocation. This is absolutely false. ... By receiving proper medical care, a terminally ill person can pass away peacefully, pain-free and with dignity." (Mr. Salamanca did die peacefully in his sleep).

2. A study reported in *European Psychiatry* found that 20% of 85 close friends and family who were present at an assisted suicide met the clinical criteria for "full post traumatic stress disorder" or complicated grief. Depression was observed in 16% and anxiety in 6%. Between 11% and 20% of Americans serving in Iraq or Afghanistan have PTSD, so witnessing assisted suicide can be as upsetting as serving in a war zone.

In our next issue, we shall consider the impact of legalizing assisted suicide on the larger society.

Get Involved! Upcoming Right to Life of Northeast Ohio Events



Help Save Lives Now!

Our annual Signature and Media campaign starts in churches throughout northeast Ohio in January.

Find out more info at

www.rtlofneo.com/signature media campaign

Right to Life of Northeast Ohio

Annual Education and Appreciation Dinner—March 15, 2015



Bobby Schindler

Bobby Schindler is the Executive Director of the Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network which works to protect the lives of the medically vulnerable and disabled from the threat of euthanasia. He is the brother of Terri Schiavo who was tragically euthanized in 2005. The Schindler family continues to advocate for persons with disabilities and works tirelessly to put an end to the growing pro-death mentality that is plaguing our nation.

Featuring Keynote Speaker

Limited seating....make your reservations soon!

For reservations and more information, visit www.rtlofneo.com/2015_education_dinner



rri Schiavo Life&Hope Network

MAY 23, 2015



This 5K Run or Walk event takes place through the streets of Cuyahoga Falls, and is part of the Ohio Challenge Series race.... now in its 16th 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 of Believers Church on State Road in Cuyahoga Falls.

For registration & more information, visit our website at

www.RTLofNEO.com/run for their lives

Some easy ways you can help our mission:

Do you shop on Amazon? If so, switch to Amazon Smile!



amazon

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.rtlofneo.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. Education Fund is our 501c3 affiliate and is a registered non-profit with ebay Giving PayPal Giving Fund Works and Pay Pal Giving Fund!



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www. Right To Life of Northeast Ohio.com

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Our Mission

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

Right to Life

of
Northeast Ohio

Denise Leipold Executive Director

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Dr. Ray Adamek
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Joseph Pollack
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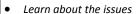
Shari Cavallaro Mary Huggins Zach Myers Bill Obendorf David Umbaugh Al Van Kirk Linda Warren

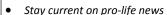
Youth For Life of Northeast Ohio is a program of Right to Life of Northeast Ohio.

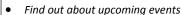
Life Education Fund is a 501c3 affiliate with Right to Life of Northeast Ohio.

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!







- Discover opportunities to volunteer
- And much, much more!

visit our website at www.RightToLifeofNortheastOhio.com

HELP US UPGRADE!

Running a non-profit organization on a shoe string budget is very difficult, especially when you need to spend money on yourself. Our technology drive is still \$5000 away from our needed goal! We did receive enough to put a down payment on a tabbing machine (cost \$4,700, but need the rest to make the payments) and we still need to purchase software and:

- A new desktop computer system for our office administrator....the current one is slowly dying!
- A new laptop computer for our director...the current one is not quite as bad as our office administrator's but we're ready with the CPR!

PLEASE....CALL TODAY! 330-762-2785 or visit https://rtlofneo.nationbuilder.com/equipment_drive



\$8000

\$7000

\$6000

\$5000

\$4000

\$3000

52000

\$1000





MAKE A DONATION...

...to help us continue in our fight to protect innocent human life from conception through natural death. You can <u>use the envelope enclosed with this newsletter</u> 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