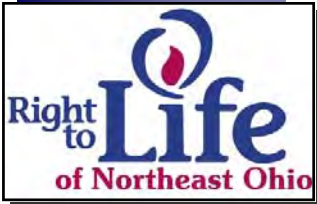


LifeLINES



Summer 2014



Hobby Lobby and the HHS Mandate

On February 15, 2012, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published regulations requiring organizations employing 50 or more persons to pay for their employees' health insurance, to include coverage for sterilization, contraception and abortifacient pills (such as Plan B and Ella) and devices (IUDs).

Recognizing that some religious groups would have religious and moral objections to these regulations, HHS exempted churches and associations of churches, but not church-related organizations such as hospitals, schools, media, and social service agencies. Nor did they exempt for-profit organizations. The government thus gave the groups having religious and moral objections to any or all of the above procedures, drugs and devices two choices: violate your consciences, or pay bankrupting fines for failure to comply with the Mandate.

As of July 1, 2014, 103 cases have been filed in federal courts challenging the Mandate. Forty-nine cases have been filed by for-profit organizations, 51 by non-profit organizations, and 3 are class-action suits. Persons and groups from various religious backgrounds challenged the Mandate. Each of those challenging the Mandate asked that the court grant them a temporary injunction against the implementation of the mandate until their cases could be tried on their merits. Injunctive relief has been granted in some 87% of the 82 cases where judgments have been handed down to date.

Because of the threat to religious freedom, guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), passed in 1993 by voice vote in the U.S. House, and a 97-3 vote in the Senate, the

U.S. Supreme Court agreed to consider the cases of two non-Catholic for-profit firms and their owners, Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood Specialties.

Focusing on applying the wording of RFRA, Justice Samuel Alito wrote the majority (5-4) opinion in favor of Hobby Lobby. It concluded that the law allows



corporations like Hobby Lobby to maintain their religious outlook and still do business. In effect, the Court ruled that religious persons do not forfeit their right to religious liberty when they decide to open a business. The Court found that, "HHS's mandate substantially burdens the exercise of religion... If the owners comply with the HHS Mandate, they believe they will be facilitating abortions" [Hobby Lobby objected only to paying for abortifacient pills and devices, not 16 other types of contraceptives] "and if they do not comply, they will pay a very heavy price – as much as \$1.3 million per day, or about \$475 million per year ... If these consequences do not amount to a substantial burden, it is hard to see what would."

The Court also opined that "There are other ways [than coercing religious employers] in which Congress or HHS could equally ensure that every woman has cost-free access to the particular contraceptives [i.e. abortifacients] at issue here." (Unfortunately, this would probably involve tax money, which would

(Continued on page 3)

Abortion: NOT a constitutional right! Denise Leipold Executive Director



There have been some great gains in the pro-life movement this year, especially in Ohio. When I say gains, I mean that things have happened that will improve the chances for women to obtain quality health care, and to improve the chances that unborn innocent human lives will be saved from abortion.

It is very sad that there are many that view this progress as being a threat to women. To me, this is mind boggling. This past June, the Akron Beacon Journal published an editorial commentary which basically stated that Ohio is interfering with a woman's right to an abortion. The Beacon Journal tends to ignore my responses, so I thought I'd share my response (and a little more!) to their June 25 editorial here.

The constitution has never made abortion a "right". The U.S. Supreme Court avoided this "right" by referring to it as a medical procedure (instead of the termination of a human life) which is covered by a woman's right to privacy.

Thank God for organizations like Ohio Right to Life, Right to Life of Northeast Ohio and pro-life advocates who recognize that innocent life needs to be protected. Pro abortion advocates fail to recognize that health and safety standards in abortion clinics across the country are often ignored, and many fail dismally. *Look no further than the abortion clinic in Cuyahoga Falls which was forced to close last year due to myriads of health and safety violations that endangered the lives of its vulnerable clients.* Somehow, however, they've re-opened under a new name, but with the same phone number, the same web presence on the old name's website, one of the same doctors, with NO license for an ambulatory surgical center and with no resolution of the myriads of violations. Ohio's strong laws to prevent such an occurrence are still in place, but obviously someone is looking the other way. *In addition, the other abortion clinic (Akron Women's Medical Group) on East Market in Akron failed*

their BASIC health inspection last year and was allowed to operate for more than six months without a license while they resolved the situation. You didn't hear anything in the media about this....you only heard about how pro-life advocates were anti-women. You would think that pro-choice advocates who claim to "protect" women, would be warning woman about the dangers and risks at those two facilities. Instead, they blame pro-lifers as if we created the problems. At the same time, cases of animal abuse made front page news.

The darling of the media is Planned



Parenthood. This self-proclaimed guardian of women and their "reproductive" health should actually be nicknamed the "killer of children." They are the #1 provider of abortions in this country with an ever increasing share of abortions as the total number of abortions in this country decreases. They've issued a directive to their affiliates that they want them all to be primarily in the abortion business, because that is where the money is. There is not one Planned Parenthood location in Ohio that provides prenatal care. What choice does THAT indicate? Their adoption referrals are extremely low, and they constantly berate and publicly demean crisis pregnancy centers, who can provide real and positive help to a woman AND her child rather than encourage the death of the child. The Planned Parenthood cycle is to encourage contraception, which encourages sexual activity, which leads to more failed contraception, which leads to more

abortions, which leads to more money for them.

Abortion was never intended to be birth control, yet that is exactly what has happened. The Supreme Court has turned away from protecting innocent life by saying pregnancy is a "private" issue....yet if a mother would kill her child 5 minutes after it was born, it would be murder. It makes no sense.

Instead of pouring money into Planned Parenthood and other organizations which encourage sexual promiscuity and activities which lead to increased sexual activity and pregnancy, we should return to the morality and values of the past which put an emphasis on responsibility, respect and chastity. Instead, we are allowing the killing of unborn children and ignoring the fact that science has proven that life begins at conception.

Our constitution stated that the blessings of life and liberty were secured for those alive at the time it was written and for ALL POSTERITY... which means for those yet to come. That alone should make abortion murder. The answer to a crisis pregnancy is to remove the crisis, not to kill the child. Rationalization and contraception are not the answer either. Changing behaviors through teaching moral responsibility is. In the meantime, strengthening state laws to increase health and safety regulations in abortion facilities are all that we have. Maybe women and men will think twice about the behavior that leads to the pregnancy in the first place. I'm not that naive. However, we have to start someplace.

It is unbelievable to me that killing a child can be acceptable to anyone. God help us all, especially those that say nothing and let this continue.

For Life,

Denise Leipold
Executive Director

not solve the moral/religious dilemma of individual citizens who do not wish to pay for others' sterilization, contraception, or abortions).

Kristina Arriaga, Executive Director of the Becket Fund, the major organization defending Hobby Lobby, noted that the government has already exempted many organizations and millions of Americans from complying with the Affordable Care Act, under which the Mandate was written, so its insistence on forcing religious objectors to do its will is inconsistent to say the least.

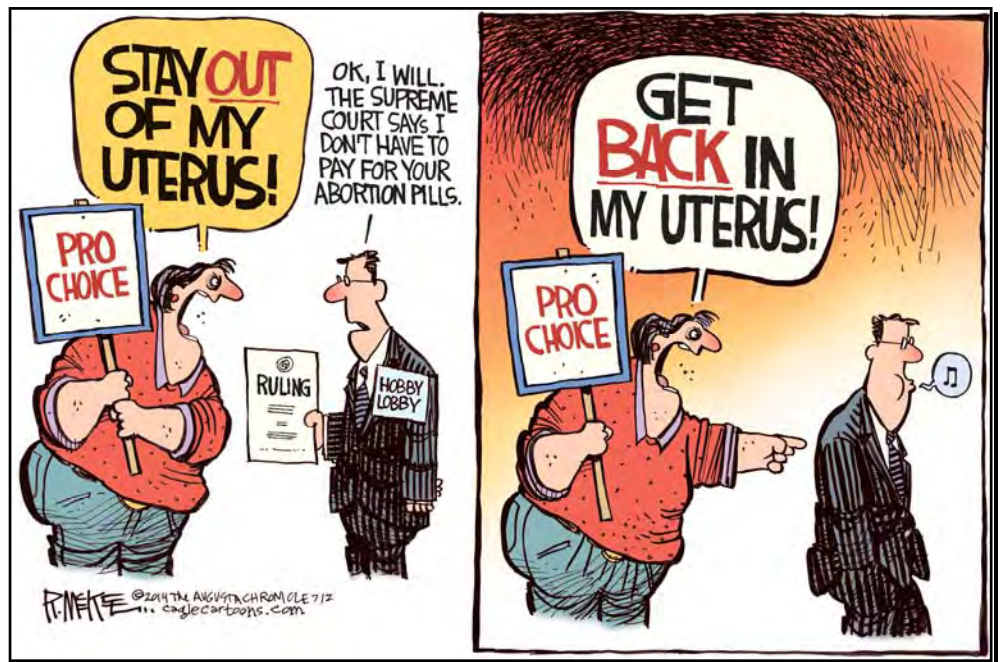
Reaction to the Court's decision among family planning/pro-choice groups and persons has been almost hysterical in some instances. Neither the government nor organizations like Hobby Lobby are "denying women access to contraceptives." Hobby Lobby has in fact provided health insurance to its employees which covers 16 types of contraceptives, and objected only to the four abortifacients on HHS's list.

It is not the objecting employers who are "forcing their religion/morality on others." Rather, it is the government which is forcing its religious/moral views on employers by requiring them to pay for medical procedures, drugs and devices which they consider to be immoral and contrary to their consciences.

Is it more coercive to ask individual employees to pay for the sterilization, contraceptives and abortifacients they freely choose, or to force objecting employers to pay for however many choose them? No one is forced to work for an employer who does not wish to pay. Why has, "If you don't like an abortion, don't have one" now become, "Even if you don't like abortion, you must pay for mine?"

There are many government programs which already provide free contraceptives for those experiencing financial problems. Moreover, birth control is ubiquitous (there is no access problem) and relatively inexpensive. Kimberly Palmer of *U.S. News and World Report* recently did an analysis of the annual cost of 12 methods of birth control. While 5 methods could cost from \$160 to \$600 per year, 5 cost from \$30 to \$150 per year, and two, fertility awareness (NFP) and abstinence, are both free.

Moreover, fertility awareness and abstinence pose



Reprinted with permission from Cagle Cartoons

fewer health risks to women than many of the other methods. The International Agency for Research of Cancer of the World Health Organization has stated, "artificial [hormonal] contraceptives are carcinogenic on a par with cigarettes and asbestos." They are associated with increases in the risk of breast and cervical cancer, high blood pressure, blood clots, strokes and heart attacks. The drug company Bayer's 2013 Annual Report indicates it has agreed to pay more than \$1.69 billion to resolve an estimated 8,250 lawsuits alleging women suffered heart attacks, strokes, pulmonary embolisms or deep vein thrombosis as a result of their use of the hormonal contraceptives Yaz or Yasmin. Bayer also agreed to additional payments to women who suffered gall bladder damage. Similarly, in 2014, Merck Pharmaceuticals agreed to pay \$100 million to almost 4,000 women who suffered blood clotting and other incidents from the use of NuvaRing, an intra-vaginal device. Another Bayer product, the IUD Mirena, has been the subject of over 45,000 Adverse Event Reports filed with the Food and Drug Administration regarding its alleged side effects, including contributing to pelvic inflammatory disease, ectopic pregnancy, sepsis, perforation and ovarian cysts.

Although the HHS contraception Mandate was supposed to enhance women's general and reproductive health, it appears that there is a good deal of wisdom in that Chiffon Margarine commercial which stated, "It's not nice to fool Mother Nature."

(To read Dr. Ray Adamek's article in full with references, visit our website, click on ISSUES, then HHS MANDATE/HEALTHCARE, then scroll down to "THE SUPREME COURT, HOBBY LOBBY & THE HHS MANDATE.") ■

On June 26, 2014, the Supreme Court handed down a 9-0 decision in *McCullen v. Coakley* that struck down a 2007 Massachusetts law which established a 35-foot buffer zone around abortion clinics. The law prohibited any type of pro-life counseling or expression within this zone, including speech, prayer, leafleting, messages on t-shirts, buttons, hats, signs, or consented approaches to anyone entering an abortion clinic. The prohibition did not apply to pro-abortion expression. The justices left intact a 2000 ruling which required sidewalk counselors or abortion protesters to stay eight feet away from persons entering the clinics.



Sidewalk counselor Eleanor McCullen, a 77-year-old grandmother who brought the suit with the aid of Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) attorneys, joyfully stated afterwards, "It's America and I should be able to walk and talk gently, lovingly, anywhere, with anybody." The justices' decision noted, "Petitioners ... seek not merely to express their opposition to abortion, but to inform women of various alternatives and to provide help in pursuing them. ... McCullen and the other petitioners consider it essential to maintain a caring demeanor, a calm tone of voice, and direct eye contact. ... Such interactions, petitioners

believe, are a much more effective means of dissuading women from having abortions than confrontational methods..."

In spite of the fact that Capt. William B. Evans of the Boston Police Department had "testified that his officers had made 'no more than five or so arrests' at the Planned

Parenthood clinic in Boston under the 2000 law establishing the original 8-foot buffer zone, "and that what few prosecutions had been brought were unsuccessful," the National Organization for Women (NOW) condemned the court's decision. It bemoaned the court's "cavalier disregard for the physical safety – the lives, even – of women seeking abortion care and the health care providers who serve them."

NBC News stated this case "casts a legal cloud over similar provisions in 15 other states." Within the month officials in Burlington VT, Portland ME and Madison WI suspended their buffer zone laws. ADF attorneys have challenged a similar New Hampshire law scheduled to take effect on July 10.

Since 2012, our Cloud of Witnesses program has recorded six saves and 4 probable saves at Akron clinics. Others may have occurred without our knowledge. If you would like to train to be a sidewalk counselor, contact our office. ■

News Briefs

ASSISTED SUICIDE

The state of **Washington**, one of three (besides Oregon and Vermont) which have passed assisted suicide laws, reported that in 2013, 173 of its citizens requested their physicians to prescribe drugs which would kill them. 159 of these persons are known to have died. Of those whose cause of death was known, 119 (82%) died from ingesting drugs, while 26 (18%) died from other causes.

The good news is that assisted suicide bills recently died in committee in both **Connecticut** and **New Jersey**. In both cases the pro-euthanasia organization Compassion and Choices was actively involved in promoting the bills. It is also active in promoting assisted suicide in **California**. The bad news is that the **Wisconsin** 2014 Democratic Party Platform supports "the individual's right to choose death with dignity including physician-assisted end-of-life."

EUTHANASIA

CANADA – This past June, the **Quebec** National Assembly re-introduced Euthanasia Bill 52 which legalizes euthanasia by re-defining it as a form of healthcare under the term "end-of-life care."

Alex Schadenberg, executive director of the *Euthanasia Prevention Coalition* stated: "Let's be clear, Bill 52 gives Québec physicians the right to intentionally and directly cause the death of persons by lethal injection. This represents an act of homicide and not an act of "end of life care."

Bill 52 claims to limit euthanasia to voluntary requests from people who are at the end of life but it does not define end of life. The provisions in the bill are imprecise, open to abuse and based on the Belgian euthanasia law. In **Belgium**, euthanasia is being done to people who are not terminally ill but living with depression. Euthanasia has been extended to children and studies have proven that euthanasia is often done to people without request.

Schadenberg also reports that Professor Theo Boer, a former euthanasia supporter, has told the House of Lords in the **UK** not to make the same mistake as the Netherlands. Dr. Boer, an academic in the field of ethics, had argued 7 years ago that a 'good euthanasia law' would produce relatively low numbers of deaths. But, speaking in a personal capacity, he said that he now believed that the very existence of a euthanasia law turns assisted suicide from a last resort into a normal procedure. ■

Autopsy Report Reveals Abortion Patient's Hemorrhage Not Detected in Time

NOTE: Right To Life of Northeast Ohio has been working closely with a coalition of local and national pro-life advocacy groups since the death of 22 year old Lakisha Wilson after an abortion at Preterm in Cleveland. On June 27, the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner released the FULL autopsy report which we have had analyzed by experts. The following is the press release issued by our coalition through Operation Rescue.

Operation Rescue has obtained the autopsy report of a woman who died from abortion complications that shows evidence of standard of care problems at the Preterm Abortion Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio

Lakisha Wilson, 22, received a late-term abortion at Preterm on March 21, 2014. Sometime after the abortion, Wilson stopped breathing, according to 911 records, and was transported to Chase University Medical Center, where she was placed on life support and pronounced dead on March 28.

The autopsy report show evidence that Wilson was not properly monitored after her abortion, a lapse that may have prevented her from receiving emergency care in time to save her life.

According to the report, Wilson suffered from "uterine atony," which is a condition where the uterus does not properly contract after the abortion and thus leads to hemorrhage. Wilson suffered blood loss and went into shock, which was not immediately detected, or she would have been treated and stabilized. Wilson did receive medications at Preterm that cause uterine contractions in an apparent effort to control the hemorrhage, but it appeared to be too little, too late.

Depressed respiration caused by sedation administered by abortion clinic personnel may have contributed to the lack of oxygen Wilson's body received, compounding the medical crisis she experienced due to blood loss. As a result, Wilson suffered cardiopulmonary arrest and subsequent fatal brain damage while at the Preterm Abortion Clinic before paramedics were called.

"If Lakisha had been monitored properly, early signs of distress would have been rapidly detected and treated before she had deteriorated to the point of cardiopulmonary arrest," said Troy Newman, President of Operation Rescue. "Because there is now reason to believe that negligence was involved, we call upon Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Timothy McGinty to launch a criminal investigation into the death of Lakisha Wilson and act quickly to bring those responsible to justice."

The autopsy report indicated that Wilson's pre-born baby was 19.4 weeks gestation at the time of Wilson's abortion - just three days before the legal abortion limit in Ohio - although no fetal remains were present during the autopsy. The Medical Examiner appears to have relied on abortion records for that information.

Wilson's heart, lungs, liver, and kidneys were donated prior to the autopsy.

A coalition of pro-life groups have worked together to call attention to the Wilson tragedy and the fact that urban women of color are all too often targeted for abortion. The groups also demand the closure of the Preterm abortion facility as well as additional abortion reforms to protect women. Groups involved include **Cleveland Right to Life, Right to Life of Northeast Ohio, Lake County Right to Life, National Black Pro-Life Union, Life Issues Institute, Created Equal, African-American Outreach for Priests for Life, Issues4Life Foundation, Operation Rescue**, and several local pastors and activists.

We are urging the public to contact Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Timothy McGinty and urge his office to investigate Lakisha Wilson's death him by one of the following methods:

by Mail:

Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office
The Justice Center, Courts Tower
1200 Ontario Street, 9th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

by Phone:

216-443-7800

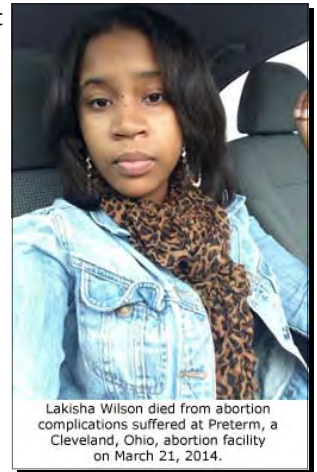
by Fax:

216-698-2270

or by e-mail on the prosecutor's website:

<http://prosecutor.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/Contact.aspx>

For more information on botched abortions, visit our website, click on "Issues," then "Abortion," then scroll down to Botched Abortions Report. ■



Lakisha Wilson died from abortion complications suffered at Preterm, a Cleveland, Ohio, abortion facility on March 21, 2014.

Abortion Rights Advocates Use Doubleplusgoodduckspeak and Catch-22 Reasoning!

Doubleplusgoodduckspeak: "Abortion is reproductive health care." Actually, it's anti-reproductive health endangerment. The individual reproduced is aborted, and his/her mother is subjected to increased health risks.

Catch-22 Reasoning: "One should be allowed to abort a child before it is viable." The child is perfectly viable (capable of sustaining life) if you leave it where Mother Nature/God intended it to be – in the womb. It is only when you forcibly remove it that it becomes non-viable.

(Search the Internet for the origins of doubleplusgoodduckspeak and Catch-22.)

ELECTIONS UPDATE: Vote PRO-LIFE on November 4!

Our next newsletter is not scheduled until the beginning of November, so be sure to check our website in October for links to information about candidates positions on pro-life issues and more! If you are not yet registered to vote, the registration deadline in Ohio for the November elections is October 6.

The Right to Peaceful Assembly

The United States Constitution gives us a right to assemble together to promote and protect human rights through peaceful protest or the expression of our views. States have a responsibility to ensure that people are able to demonstrate peacefully and express their views without facing threats, intimidation or violence.

This right to peaceful assembly is an important tool for pro-life advocates in order to share with the community and beyond that the right to life needs to be protected, and that organizations like Planned Parenthood are a threat not only to children but to vulnerable women. The abortion industry and pro-choice advocates invest millions of dollars in marketing and advertising to promote their dangerous messaging, so peaceful assembly is often the best tool to get the truth out to the public and into the media.

Recently, Right to Life of Northeast Ohio and many volunteers participated on two separate occasions to protest against Planned Parenthood and their dangerous agenda against women.

- On May 7, *Right to Life of Northeast Ohio* joined with *Cleveland Right to Life*, *Ohio Right To Life*, *Lake County Right to Life* and several churches on the public sidewalks outside of Tower City in downtown Cleveland when national Planned Parenthood president Cecile Richards came to speak at a PP fundraiser at Tower City.
- On June 10, other pro-life organizations joined with *Right to Life of Northeast Ohio* on the sidewalks outside of the Akron Public Library in downtown Akron where the Summit County Progressive Democrats PAC meeting hosted Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio president Stephanie Kight as main speaker.

Planned Parenthood very vocally states that pro-life advocates are in a war on women because we don't want women to kill their unborn children, and that we are just interfering with women's personal decisions. They also state that increasing health and safety standards at abortion clinics *threatens* women's rights to safe abortion. They say that they are safeguarding women's "reproductive" rights....even though they don't provide prenatal care. Our goal at these events is to highlight Planned Parenthood's extremism and their hypocrisy while shining light on the pro-life laws and cultural advancements Ohio has made in recent years. ■



DAVIS EYE CENTER



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Golf For Life!

Come spend the day with
Cleveland TV & Radio Personality



Robin Swoboda
Honorary Chairman

September 15, 2014

NEW LOCATION!

Silver Lake Country Club

1325 Graham Rd., Silver Lake OH 44224



PLEASE PRINT

I am registering for _____ foursome(s) at a cost of \$600.00 each.

(Please attach additional sheet with names of golfers in additional foursomes.)

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: (____)-____-____ Work Cell Home

E-Mail Address: _____

Golfer #1: _____ Golfer #2: _____

Golfer #3: _____ Golfer #4: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____ *

Please make checks payable to *Right to Life of Northeast Ohio*, and mail completed form and payment to:

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

*For payment by credit card, please contact our office at 330-762-2785. Some portion of your payment may be tax deductible as a donation. To make a tax deductible donation, please make your check payable to *Life Education Fund*, our 501c3 affiliate. A dinner-only option for \$40 is available if you would like someone to join you for the dinner after the event. Please contact our office to make those arrangements.



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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

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 Executive Director

Board of Directors

Ken Leipold
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Amy Zimmerman
 Vice President

Dr. Ray Adamek
 Secretary

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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.

5 Ways that YOU can help in the fight for LIFE:

1 GET EDUCATED about what it really means to be pro-life, and share it with others!
 visit our website at www.rtlofneo.com/issues_a



2 GIVE an hour or more and join with our "Clouds of Witnesses" to stand vigil outside of an abortion facility or Planned Parenthood location on a regular basis....you never know how many lives you might save just by holding a peaceful, pro-life sign.
PLEASE....CALL TODAY! 330-762-2785
 or visit our website at www.rtlofneo.com/witness



3 VOLUNTEER either in our office or at our events. We have lots of opportunities!
PLEASE....CALL TODAY! 330-762-2785
 or visit our website at www.rtlofneo.com/volunteer



4 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>



5 Give a gift of LIFE

- In honor of a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion
- In memory of a loved one
- In lieu of flowers for a funeral
- As an enduring legacy through your will

PLEASE....CALL TODAY! 330-762-2785
 or visit our website at www.rtlofneo.com/a_gift_of_life

