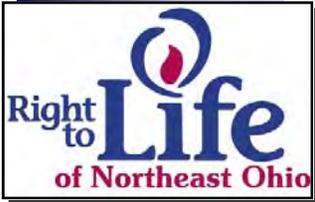


...protecting innocent human life from conception through natural death

LifeLINES



Winter 2021



2020: Birds & beavers, but not babies? by Denise Leipold, Executive Director

The coronavirus pandemic that overturned our world in 2020 caused us to do, say, act and behave in ways that just weren't normal for most of us. Many people were laid off or lost their jobs because of economic shutdowns that were instituted supposedly to slow or stop the spread of the virus. A lot of people became paranoid or scared of the potential of catching this disease *and maybe dying from it* because of the negativity of the reporting. Whether or not you caught the virus, we were all impacted by it, myself included. We closed our offices for a few months and I worked mainly from home, but even after we re-opened in June, things weren't the same. Most activities were cancelled or postponed, and the fear of the virus, whether real or not, continued.

In July, I had to have surgery on my shoulder to repair a torn rotator cuff and to move a tendon. During the recovery period, I had to once again stay home and I became "best friends" with the recliner chair in my living room where I slept for about 6 weeks to keep from rolling over. The recliner is directly opposite from the television, and I started watching it a LOT. At first, I watched a lot of news and commentary, but became quickly bored, disgusted and tired of all the rhetoric and fighting because of the upcoming elections. I soon discovered the wonderful educational programs on channels like *National Geographic*, *Discovery* and *Animal Planet*. No controversy there, right? It wasn't long before I created some of my own...

One of the shows that I really enjoyed watching is called *North Woods Law*. The program follows the conservation officers of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and their day-to-day exploits protecting the environment, animals and yes,

people too, as they all interact. I became quite addicted to watching the officers interact with some people I imagined were really stupid because they didn't make their kids wear life jackets on boats, or hunters and fishermen who neglected to obtain proper licenses. I watched the officers rescue lost or injured hikers on steep, snowy and dangerous mountain trails, and I loved to see them catch the people riding 4 wheelers who were illegally trespassing on and destroying public property. Watching this show made me forget about my pain and just about everything else until one fateful day that brought me right back to reality.

I tuned in to the show and was enjoying it as usual until an episode that involved a game warden finding a dead bird in a roped off nesting area in the dunes of the beach on the Atlantic coast. The bird was a tiny piping plover that is on the endangered species list. Apparently, there are only about 50 plovers or known nests in the state, and finding one of the birds dead started a HUGE investigation. Other departments were called in to find witnesses, do a necropsy (autopsy done on an animal) and collect evidence. In the end, it turns out the bird died of natural causes during bad weather, but the whole incident snapped me back to reality because of what I do for a living. I became very angry because of all the attention and money being spent on trying to figure out why a bird died, and human beings are being killed by the thousands every day in abortion clinics, we KNOW why, and that's supposedly okay?

The story isn't over. In the very next episode I watched, a game warden is called

(Continued on page 2)



in to view a dead beaver that looked like it had been hit by a car in a parking lot. Lots of time and resources were spent to determine what happened. The warden was able to obtain surveillance camera videos showing a driver purposefully running over the beaver TWICE. They were able to eventually track down the suspect and turned him over to the prosecutor for criminal charges. That is great, but at the same time it made me EXTREMELY angry because women purposefully kill their children at abortion clinics every day with no criminal repercussions. Killing an endangered bird or a beaver will land you in jail, but killing your child won't. Where is the sense in this?!

When the virus shutdowns occurred starting in March of 2020, almost all businesses in Ohio—*except for those considered essential services*—were required to close. This also affected hospitals, doctors and medical clinics. All “non-essential” surgeries and procedures were cancelled, *including my shoulder surgery*, which was re-scheduled to July. People were encouraged NOT to visit their doctors or hospitals unless it was life-threatening, mainly because of the extreme shortage of PPE (masks, gloves, etc.) early on in the pandemic. You couldn't go to the dentist, the eye doctor, or almost any other medical facility unless it was a life-or-death emergency. Abortion clinics were also ordered to close, but they defied the order. Our state's attorney general took this to court, and Cincinnati U.S.

District Court Judge Michael Barrett ruled that abortion was an essential procedure since delaying it could push a pregnant woman past the point of viability when abortions are no longer legal. I couldn't get my very painful shoulder fixed, but if I was pregnant, I could have killed my child. How ludicrous. Where are our priorities?!

During the 116th U.S. Congress 2019-2020 legislative session, the Born Alive Infant Protection Act (S311/HR962) was introduced which would require doctors to provide standard medical care to infants who survive attempted abortion procedures. A democratic majority in Congress prevented this legislation from being heard, with the argument that the bill would “curb women's rights to late-term abortions.” In essence, they were sanctioning infanticide. In a majority of arguments that abortion advocates use to justify abortion, they claim that a human being in the womb has no legal rights until

it is born. If that's the case, then they should back the rights of a human being to obtain proper medical care if they survive an abortion, *but they don't!*

Abortion was a huge topic during the 2020 presidential election campaign. There was a clear delineation between the two major parties with the Republicans being decidedly pro-life, and the Democrats boasting of being decidedly pro-abortion. The polls were all over the place in trying to determine the views of the voting public. Many said that the majority of Americans supported abortion, but others, when re-framing the way that the questions were asked, said that a majority of Americans believed that late term abortions should be stopped, recognizing that abortion is WRONG at some point. The whole thing is absurd. I just can't wrap my head around the fact that anyone finds it acceptable to kill a pre-born child because the U.S. Supreme Court created a fictitious right to privacy and allowed abortion to be “just another medical procedure” that was decided on between a woman and her doctor.



My intent here is not to get the animal rights activists all upset. I believe that protecting animals is an important duty. I just want to put it in perspective. When I watched the episodes about the dead endangered bird and the beaver that had been run over, something just snapped. I also get that way when I watch the late night commercials that show abused animals while playing haunting music and asking for your financial help to save them. That is a noble cause.

However, the TV stations would probably never air the commercial if we showed aborted humans or the mothers that killed them. They call those who rescue animals “honorable and self-sacrificing”, and they call those of us who try and protect preborn humans “anti-abortion extremists” and “woman haters.” It doesn't make sense.

I'm normally very optimistic, but 2020 did a number on me. I hope and pray that 2021 will bring more common sense to us as we try and defeat the coronavirus crisis, and that this will include putting the life of a pre-born human being as a higher priority than that of animals.

In the Bible, Genesis 1:26 states: “*Then God said, Let Us make mankind in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the livestock and over all the earth, and over every crawling thing that crawls on the earth.*” We should practice what we preach and put human life first. It's common sense. ■

National Results

The good news at the Congressional level is that, with record voter turnouts, 18 new pro-life women were elected to the U.S. House, bringing the total of pro-life women there to 28. Of the 18 women, 11 were re-elected incumbents, while 7 ousted pro-choice opponents. One close race was still in contention as of this writing, with pro-lifer Claudia Tenney of New York leading by 29 votes as of January 4. Four pro-life women won election to the U.S. Senate. Since Kelly Leoffler of Georgia lost her January 5 run-off contest, five pro-life women will serve in the Senate, including one incumbent whose six-year term had not expired.

As in previous years, pro-life voters tended to have more clout than pro-choice voters. A national poll found that 23% of those saying abortion was a salient issue for them voted for candidates who oppose abortion. This compared to 16% of voters who said abortion affected their vote and voted for pro-abortion candidates. National Right to Life's political committees were active in 123 races and had their favored candidate win in 68% of the races.

The bad news at the national level is that the Biden-Harris team is decidedly pro-abortion. President Joe Biden has virtually promised to undo most, if not all, of former President Trump's pro-life work. (See *the Summer 2020 Lifelines for Trump's pro-life accomplishments in 2019 alone*). Biden has a strong pro-abortion record that goes back many years. The National Right to Life Committee scored his years in the Senate from 2001-2008 on pro-life issues close to zero. He supports taxpayer funding of abortion, which he terms "health care," and has stated, "As president I'm going to do

everything in my power to expand access to quality affordable health care for women. We will protect women's constitutional right to choose." Biden has indicated he intends to work toward ending the



Hyde Amendment, which forbids the use of federal tax dollars for abortion, except if a pregnancy is due to rape or incest, or places the woman in danger of death. The Charlotte Lozier Institute, a pro-life research organization, estimates the Hyde Amendment has saved some 2.4 million babies since 2013.

Biden has also picked pro-choice advocates for key positions in his administration. The most notable is his Vice-Presidential pick, Kamala Harris. As Attorney General of California, Harris prosecuted David Daleiden and his colleagues when they released undercover videos of Planned Parenthood (PP) dealing in illegally selling aborted fetal body parts, and violating patients' privacy and right to know that abortion procedures were being altered beyond the normal in order to obtain undamaged parts. (See *Lifelines Winter 2019 through Winter 2020 for details*). Biden has also nominated Xavier Becerra to head the HHS Department. When Becerra succeeded Kamala Harris as California AG, he continued the prosecution of Daleiden, and sought to enforce California's anti-pregnancy center law, which required the centers to

promote abortion.

In a 12/4/2020 Newsweek article by Alexandra Hutzler, Alexis McGill Johnson, PP CEO stated: "We know that personnel is policy. So we're making sure that those positions are filled with sexual and reproductive health champions." The article notes, "PP and its allies have identified and recommended nearly 200 people for key positions." A coalition of "reproductive health and justice organizations" along with PP is seeking an increase in the federal Title X program from \$280 million to \$954 million.

Ohio Results

Mike Gonidakis, President of Ohio RTL, stated, "In all, 77% of Ohio Right to Life PAC endorsed and preferred candidates won their elections." Ohio was fortunate to add to the pro-life majority in both the House and the Senate.

Results in the Ohio Supreme Court race were not as good. Prior to the election, conservative-leaning judges controlled five of the seven seats on the Ohio Supreme Court. (Two years ago, conservatives held every seat on the court.) Two of the seven seats were up for re-election. Conservative Justice Sharon Kennedy was able to retain her seat, while Justice Judi French lost her seat to the liberal leaning Jennifer Brunner. There is now a 4-3 conservative, but not guaranteed majority on the Ohio Supreme Court since Republican Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor often sides with the liberals.

Americans United for Life (AUL), the oldest (1971) pro-life legal organization, drafts model legislation that states may choose to adopt. It is also active in the courts, defending the legislation. Each year, it ranks the 50 states on their legislation. Its rankings for 2020 put Arkansas at #1, with Vermont being last at #50. Ohio ranked #19, so there is still more to do. ■

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) recently released the 2019 Infant Mortality Annual Report. This report is a compilation of statistics regarding the 929 Ohio infants who died before their first birthday. The following are some important statistics revealed by the report:

- Infant deaths in 2019 were 929, down slightly from the 938 infant deaths reported for 2018.
- Ohio's infant mortality rate of 6.9 remained unchanged. The infant mortality rate is determined by the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births.
- The number of infant deaths among the white population was 518, down from 553 in 2018. This corresponds to a 2019 infant mortality rate of 5.1 in the white population, down from 5.4 in 2018.
- The number of infant deaths among the black population was 356, up from 339 in 2018. This corresponds to a 2019 infant mortality rate of 14.3 among the black population, up from 13.9 in 2018.

The disparity of the infant mortality rate of the black population in comparison to the white population is very concerning and has been at the forefront of efforts spearheaded by ODH to try and eliminate the disparity while at the same time trying to decrease infant mortality rates as a whole. Right to Life of Northeast Ohio (RTLNEO) has attempted to be a part of the coalition efforts, primarily because of the proven risk that surgical abortion can have on infant mortality in subsequent pregnancies, but it has been ignored.

Consider the following:

- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Ohio population as of July 1, 2019 was 11,689,100. Of

that population, 81.7% were white, and 13.1% were black, yet, according to the 2019 ODH annual abortion report, black women had 41.7% of the total abortions in Ohio.

- Black babies accounted for 39.5% of infant deaths in Ohio.
- 44320 and 44307

are two zip codes in the Akron area in primarily black neighborhoods that had some of the highest infant mortality rates in the state. These same two zip codes have high abortion rates as reported by the Ohio Department of Health.

The number one cause of infant mortality is premature birth, accounting for 29% of infant deaths in 2019, followed by birth defects, external injuries, obstetric conditions, and sudden infant death syndrome. One of the biggest risks of a surgical abortion is damage to the cervix from being forced open for a surgical abortion. Forced dilation of the cervix brings with it a potential for damage that can weaken it and increase the risks of infection, premature birth or the odds of experiencing a late term miscarriage in subsequent pregnancies.

While there can be many medical as well as socio-economic factors that may contribute to infant mortality, to ignore the risk of prior abortion on subsequent pregnancies is dangerous.

At the very least, women should be told of the risk prior to aborting an unwanted child. It is a tragedy that a mother would choose to end the life of her preborn child through abortion. It is also a tragedy that the risk prior abortion poses to subsequent pregnancies of wanted children is ignored.

RTLNEO will be publishing a comprehensive article about this topic in a national publication in the spring of 2021. Watch our website and e-mail notices for more information coming soon. ■

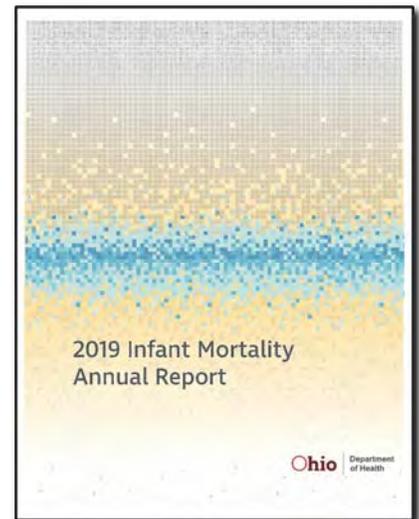


Table 1: Ohio Infant Mortality by Race and Ethnicity (2015-2019)

	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Infant Deaths	IMR*								
All Races**	1,005	7.2	1023	7.4	982	7.2	938	6.9	929	6.9
Race										
White	580	5.5	609	5.8	550	5.3	553	5.4	518	5.1
Black	367	15.1	369	15.2	384	15.6	339	13.9	356	14.3
American Indian	2	‡	2	‡	0	‡	2	‡	3	‡
Asian/Pacific Islander	16	3.7^	18	3.8^	20	4.2	18	3.8^	21	4.4
Ethnicity										
Hispanic	42	6.0	54	7.3	54	7.2	45	6.1	45	5.8
Non-Hispanic***	963	7.3	969	7.4	927	7.2	893	7.0	883	7.0

Data Source: Resident Birth and Mortality Files from the Ohio Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics.

*Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births.

**The total for all races includes deaths of unknown race.

***Non-Hispanic deaths include those of unknown or missing ethnicity.

‡ Rates based on fewer than 10 infant deaths do not meet standards of reliability or precision and are suppressed.

^ Rates based on fewer than 20 infant deaths should be interpreted with caution.

In the largest and most complete survey of its kind, the Charlotte Lozier Institute (CLI) surveyed some 2,700 pregnancy centers nationwide in 2019. Its 2020 report, *Pregnancy Centers Stand the Test of Time*, was based on national survey data provided by major pregnancy center networks (Care Net, Heartbeat International, and the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates), along with many smaller networks. These largely private centers served almost 2 million people in 2019, saving communities millions in tax dollars.

Personnel

More than 68,000 workers serve pregnancy centers, including nearly 3,800 who are licensed medical staff. Overall, some 80% of the staff are volunteers, the remainder being paid.

Services

In 2019, the centers provided free services for millions of women and thousands of men. Ninety-four percent offered free material items, including 1.3 million packs of diapers, and over 2 million baby outfits. Eighty-six percent offered parenting/prenatal education, 70%

offered ultrasound, and 72% offered after-abortion counseling. In addition, 36% of the centers offered sexual risk avoidance presentations to youth, 30% offered STI/STD testing while 20% also offered STI/STD treatment. Twenty-seven percent offered childbirth classes, and 19% offered breastfeeding consultations.

By 2017, 39% of all legal abortions were completed by the chemical (pill) method, according to the Guttmacher Institute. As a result, more and more pregnancy centers are advising of the availability of abortion pill reversal. The abortion pill procedure involves taking the drug mifepristone (RU-486), which blocks the hormone progesterone, making the womb inhospitable to the developing human. One or two days later, a second drug, misoprostol, is taken to induce contractions. However, if the mother is given injections of progesterone 24-48 hours prior to receiving the second drug, the preborn child's life may be saved. The CLI report indicates that as of the end of 2019, over 1,000 children have been saved by this procedure. Persons wishing to reverse the effects of RU-486 may call the **Abortion Pill Reversal Hotline at 1-877-558-0333**.

The pregnancy resource centers in the region served by Right to Life of Northeast Ohio include:

SUMMIT COUNTY



Akron Pregnancy Services*
105 E. Market St.
Akron, OH 44308
330-434-2221



Pregnancy Solutions
3136 Manchester Rd.
Akron, OH 44319
330-644-4490



Embrace Clinic & Care Center
180 First St. NW
Barberton, OH 44203
330-825-1900



eva women's clinic
Eva Women's Clinic
2780 S. Arlington, Ste. 203
Akron, OH 44312
330-455-7500

STARK COUNTY



Pregnancy Choices
4500 22nd St. NW
Canton, OH 44708
330-455-7500



Alliance Pregnancy Center
75 Glamorgan Suite 103
Alliance, OH 44601
330-821-7283



eva women's clinic
Eva Women's Clinic
2465 Cleveland Ave. NW
Canton, OH 44709
330-455-7500

PORTAGE COUNTY



Coleman Pregnancy Center
5982 Rhodes Rd.
Kent, OH 44240
330-376-6842

MEDINA COUNTY



Oasis of Hope Pregnancy Center
710 North Court St.
Medina, OH 44256
330-723-3600



Oaks Family Care Center
4196 Center Rd.
Brunswick, OH 44212
330-220-7777



Birthcare of Medina County
2465 Cleveland Ave. NW
Canton, OH 44709
330-455-7500

Abortion Pill Rescue saves lives!



Call 1-877-558-0333 or go to
AbortionPillReversal.com

* in 2021, Akron Pregnancy Services will be moving to their new location in the Robinson Mansion at the intersection of Buchtel Ave. and East Market St. in Akron. ■

KINDNESS? Empathy?
MERCY? Grace? sorrow?
Clemency? Support? benevolence? JUDGEMENT?
CHARITY? compassion?

How do you know what to say?!

Come join us soon to learn more about sidewalk counselling and witnessing!

When you witness or do sidewalk counseling at an abortion facility or Planned Parenthood, or even if you just want to know how to talk to family or friends about abortion, 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.

Classes are being regularly scheduled in 2021 with limited students to comply with coronavirus safety restrictions. Check our website and click on the "Events" tab for upcoming dates and to register online. Classes are free, but reservations are required!



www.RightToLifeofNortheastOhio.com



Reserve your seats now for the 2021
Right to Life of Northeast Ohio Annual Fundraising Banquet

Celebrate Life!

featuring

RYAN BOMBERGER

Saturday, April 10, 2021

SYB Party Center

4157 Hudson Dr., Stow OH

Social Hour 4PM Dinner 5PM

Tickets are free, but SEATING IS LIMITED!

Reserve your seat online at www.RightToLifeofNortheastOhio.com,
or call 330-762-2785



Ryan Bomberger is an Emmy® Award-winning creative professional, international public speaker, columnist, factivist, and author of the powerful book, *Not Equal: Civil Rights Gone Wrong*. He is also the co-founder of RadianceFoundation.org, a life-affirming organization based on the belief that every human life has purpose. Ryan has a rather unique perspective of the innate nature of purpose. He is one of ten children who were adopted and loved in a racially diverse family of fifteen. Today, as an adoptee and adoptive father, he enjoys boldly illuminating the intrinsic worth we all possess. He and his wife, Bethany, founded *The Radiance Foundation* to extensively research and creatively present challenging social issues through ad campaigns, multimedia talks, fearless journalism, and compassionate community outreaches. From keynotes at renown locations like Harvard, Princeton, Columbia Law School, University of Notre Dame, Ireland's Trinity College, March for Life DC, March for Life UK, Capitol Hill briefings, and hundreds more events here and abroad, Ryan is passionate about helping to build a culture that values Life in all of its stages.

Do you know someone who exemplifies the value of caring and whose unselfish contributions to the protection of life from conception through natural death deserves recognition?

Great leaders inspire greatness in others.

Right to Life of Northeast Ohio is accepting nominations for our annual volunteer recognition to be presented on April 10, 2021 at our annual "Celebrate Life" dinner. Awards to be presented are the *Marie McNeill Life Education Award*, *Defender of Life Award*, and *Champion of Life Award*. Submission deadline for nominations is March 23, 2021. For a full description of awards and nomination form, click on the "events" tab on our website at www.RightToLifeofNortheastOhio.com.



572 West Market St. Suite 2 • Akron, OH 44303
330-762-2785
www.RightToLifeofNortheastOhio.com

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

Right to Life
of
Northeast Ohio

Denise Leipold
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Ken Leipold
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Vice President

Patrick McNeill
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Robert Hedrick
Rev. Robert Schneider
Linda Warren

Dr. Ray Adamek
Board Member Emeritus

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.

PLEASE HELP US...

...to continue in our fight to protect innocent human life from conception through natural death...

NO EXCEPTIONS!

You can use the envelope enclosed with this newsletter to make a donation by mail

or

CALL

330-762-2785

or

make a secure online donation on our website by clicking on the "donate" tab.



Can you guess which one *isn't* protected?



www.RightToLifeofNortheastOhio.com