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VOICE

Happy New Year

STORIES OF 2016

Five stories of 2016 that should hold a special significance to Christians

SEE PAGE 22



CELEBRATING FAITH, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY IN KANSAS CITY

VOLUME 28 • NUMBER 1

January 2017

FREE-TAKE ONE!

Israel quietly helps Syrians



A Syrian child in recovery whose life was saved in Israel and then provided with a prosthetic limb.

Muslim or Christian, Israel doesn't ask as it saves lives

By **Dwight Widaman**

As the U.N. Security Council passed a resolution condemning Israel for its control over Judea and Samaria (West Bank) Israel continues to quietly help wounded Syrian women and children from war-torn Aleppo, Syria.

"We see the tragedy, the terrible suffering of civilians," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, after the low-key effort was publicized.

Syria and Israel have no diplomatic ties. For years, Syria bombarded Israeli civilians living around the Sea of

■ See **SYRIANS** page 2

Hillsong pastor shares with Oprah

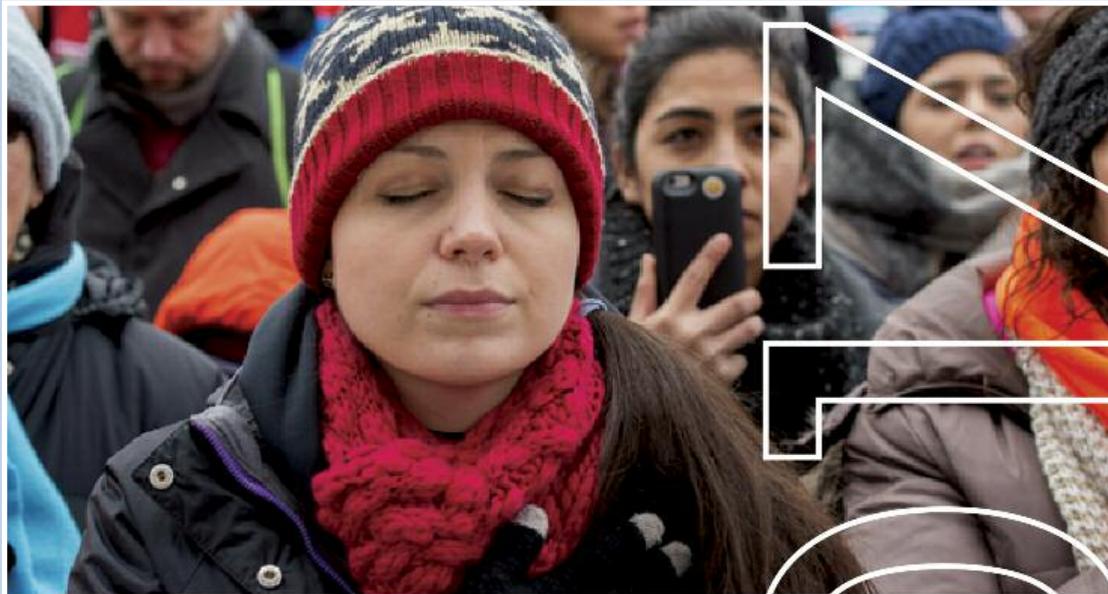
Mark Ellis | Assist News

[Editor's Note: In 2008, Metro Voice, along with several other Christian newspapers across North America, commissioned an investigative article exploring the faith of Oprah Winfrey titled: "Oprah's God. Entertainment Mogul Raises Questions About 'many paths' to God". Because of Oprah's public spiritual search and proclivity for New Age gurus as guests on her TV show, we thought it was important to learn what she believed and what she wanted her viewers to believe. The story won awards and received national coverage on cable television and

major publications. Now, 10 years later, in an interview with Hillsong pastor Carl Lentz, we have an opportunity to check in on the spiritual journey of America's most influential personality.]

Her cultural and spiritual influence on America is immense. As the richest self-made woman in the U.S., her spiritual path veering into New Age influences has received sharp criticism from some Christians. But in a rather deep discussion with Hillsong's pastor in NYC, nothing was held back as he boldly declared the need to put Jesus first.

■ See **OPRAH'S GOD** page 23



RESPECT FOR LIFE



Annual March for Life draws thousands from Missouri and Kansas

Stephanie Boothe | Metro Voice

Marching with hundreds of thousands of people down the streets of Washington, D.C. is an experience Jean Fahlstrom of Raytown will never forget.

"I thought we could really go and say we are against this and someone would really hear us," Fahlstrom said.

Fahlstrom was part of a delegation from the Kansas City

■ See **MARCH FOR LIFE** page 5

K-12 and College Expo expands with open houses

18th Annual Event on March 4. K-12 Open Houses Following Week

By **Dwight Widaman**



Metro Voice will host its 18th Christian K-12 Education and College Expo Saturday, March 4 at Colonial Presbyterian Church from 10-2 p.m. The annual free event is a Kansas City tradition for families looking at all levels of education including high school juniors and seniors considering Christian college, plus families looking for K-12 and homeschooling options.

The event draws families and students from across the region seeking answers to their many questions. Popular mini-seminars include such topics as college financial aid, a K-12 parent panel discussion and homeschooling.

Over 40 Christian colleges from 15 states will be in attendance plus the area's best private K-12 schools.

This year, in addition to the March 4 expo, K-12 Open Houses will be held the following week: Jackson County, Northland and Johnson County.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information visit metrovoiceneews.com or call 816-524-4522.

RESPECT FOR LIFE



Kansas Woman nears end of cross-country run for life

Anna Hoduski is a young woman with a passion, a purpose and a plan. Through an initiative she started, Project If Life, the 23-year-old is running 3,000 miles across the United States to bring awareness to the pro-life movement and spark conversations about abortion. Her journey took the Kansas native across the Sunflower State and now she finds herself in the west nearing her goal.

"I want to bring attention to the movement, but there is often no open door to talk with people about it," Anna explained. "But if you are doing a run of some kind, people will ask you 'why are you doing it?' and that gives you an open door."

Her interest in the pro-life movement began as a child and continued into college.

"I became passionate about the pro-life movement in fifth grade when my

teacher taught me that life begins at conception," she explained. "I've always been passionate about it, but I had no idea how to get plugged in to help. As a sophomore in college, I felt led by God

to do a run across the U.S. I like running and I did a half marathon as a junior. I ended up deciding to wait until I graduated college before doing it and we spent the next two years planning it out."

Anna started her run on July 23, 2016, with no money, no vehicle and a small team to go with her, including her brother Nicholas (who works as a co-runner and trainer), her sister Sarah-Marie Hoduski as their web manager and her friend Megan Maier as project manager.

They have covered 800 miles so far, starting at the Kansas/Missouri border (where Anna and her family are from) and heading to Los Angeles.

Anna runs 15 miles a day at least,

"...if you just save one life in your lifetime, that is a miracle."

then takes note of where she stops once they are done for the day.

The next morning, she starts at the exact same spot and continues her trek. Thursdays and Sundays are used to rest and speak at churches. She also does speaking engagements at schools and other organizations throughout the week. Once they arrive in Los Angeles, they'll take a break for a couple weeks and start back in Kansas City, heading to Washington, D.C.

Anna's favorite part in doing her run so far has been seeing people helping out in their community. "When I'm done speaking, I see people realize how big a deal it [abortion] is and how it needs to change," she said. "But I don't leave them helpless, I work to put the hope back in their heart. People will get excited and want to get involved, but

they don't know how to turn their passion into action. That's where they can help at pregnancy centers, whether through donations or even as being client advocates."

One goal is to encourage people to connect with their local pregnancy centers. "They are the boots on the ground, day in and day out fighting for kids and their families," she said.

"They see the decisions that parents make about their babies every day. To help them is the most effective, practical way to get involved [with the pro-life movement]."

But what Anna really wants to leave people with as she runs on from city to city is that it is so easy to get involved, not only in the pro-life movement but in helping new families.

"...if you just save one life in your lifetime, that is a miracle," she said. "Laws need to change ... but you can do your part in your community, whether it be donating diapers or volunteering."

"People think that they have to do a big run like this to make a difference and I say, 'no, God called me to do the run.



Anna Hoduski is a 23 year old with a passion, a purpose and a plan.



Anna and her brother, Nick, begin each morning with prayer and the road before them.

God can use you in a different way, no matter how big or small."

For more information and to learn how you can support Anna and her team, visit Projectiflife.com or search @Projectiflife on social media.

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MARCH FOR LIFE

continued from page 1

St. Joseph Diocese to participate in the annual March for Life demonstration in Washington, D.C. Fahlstrom attended the rally in 2007 and again in 2012.

The march – which draws hundreds of thousands of pro-life supporters from around the country – begins at the National Mall and meanders through the streets of Washington, D.C., and is aimed to raise awareness of the pro-life message.

"When we got to the Supreme Court building, there were hundreds of women holding signs that said 'I regret my abortion,'" Fahlstrom recalled. "That just broke my heart."

Fahlstrom and other delegates from the local diocese rode on a charter bus to Washington. She enjoyed spending 24 hours on a bus with her sisters in Christ.

"It was more like a pilgrimage," Fahlstrom said. "We prayed, we said a rosary. There were educational films."

For Fahlstrom, the most rewarding part of the whole experience was listening to the speakers at the National Mall at the pre-march rally. The speakers ranged from legislators to women who have suffered abortions.

The pre-March rally is something Mary Kay Culp, director of Kansans for Life, enjoys. She attended the rally last year so she could see Gov. Sam Brownback, R-Kansas, receive an award for passing pro-life legislation.

"The Kansas folks always make it a point to be at the front of the rally," Culp said.

An important part of the pro-life movement – one most people don't consider – is the pain an abortion causes the mother. And for Culp, the March is about more than saving babies.

"We all owe the women of America an apology for letting them believe abortion is liberating when, in fact, it sets a burden on their shoulders for the rest of their lives," Culp said. "A lot of people don't know how much we care about that issue. They think that we just love babies."

Culp enjoys seeing how many youth are involved in the movement. During the 2016 march – when Washington was caught in a blizzard – some student made an alter out of snow and held mass. "Our young people are strongly pro-life. To see it is really encouraging," Culp said.

One such young person is Emma Widaman of Pleasant Hill, Mo. Widaman attended the march with her mother six years ago – when she was just a freshman in high school.

She had been attending youth group with a friend where they discussed sex trafficking and abortion.

Widaman said she felt like the Lord laid those two issues on her heart.

"I really felt convicted that I would be involved in both of those later in my life," Widaman said.

Widaman is now seeking a nursing degree in hopes of using her education

to help in that realm. Widaman's parents encouraged her to get involved in the movement and have her voice heard.

"It was crazy," Widaman recalled. "It was crowded with people. It was awesome because you know all the people around you are like-minded."

Widaman recalled how videos of abortions were being played during the rally – showing the graphic images of abortion and what it does to the mother – let alone the child.

"It made it so real that these are real lives they are murdering," Widaman said.

Overall, the three women believe their voices were heard.

"You're adding to the crowd," Widaman said. "Your prayers and your support matter in the spiritual world."

For Culp the rally serves as a way to remind the other side the pro-life movement is not going away.

"Every few years someone declares the movement dead," Culp said. "Even though I know they're completely wrong, it's still gratifying."

Culp has met pro-life supporters from Ireland, France, England. Even a few celebrities like Kelsey Grammer.

For Fahlstrom, she was honored to lend her voice to something she believes in so strongly.

"Just the fact that I was able to go and say 'I'm against this,'" Fahlstrom said. "And it's the fact that we have the right in this country to stand up and say 'this is wrong.'"

BE counter-culture!

The challenge of being a "respect life Christian"

In probably no other area of life are Christians as counter-cultural as we are in the area of respecting the dignity and worth of human life. The culture in which we live was described aptly by Pope John Paul II as a "culture of death". By this he meant that our cultural norms accept war, starvation, poverty, lack of freedoms, abortion on demand, capital punishment, euthanasia and countless other affronts to human life and dignity as normal. It is, also, very clear that today we cannot depend upon either law or custom to reflect the fact that our country grew out of a Christian worldview and set of Christian principles. These are enshrined in our Constitution, Bill of Rights and other foundational documents.

Even though it might not be true for long, our currency still proclaims the original spirit that "In God We Trust". We stand out, however, as Christians in a secular, anti-spiritual, materialistic and hostile culture that would like to marginalize us and our faith as a quaint story that once made life easier to bear. While we do not have to undergo martyrdom in a Roman coliseum today, we do have to suffer the cynicism, hostility and ill-informed rantings of newspaper and television editorials.

In the face of all of this, it is critical that we make clear our stand for life and freedom. We believe that all human life is a sacred expression of the love and creativity of God. We believe that as such all-human life deserves protection, nurturance and the right to thrive. For us, no human life is without value or unworthy of societal status and reverence. Beginning with the foundational right to life, we also fight for basic rights

■ See GENERATION page 11



Family values, Fifth Commandment show why we are pro-life

Not to mention respect for the Lord's gift of life

Family values become such only as they are owned and shared by husband and wife, passed along intentionally to children, reinforced by siblings and grandparents, applied to concrete issues and decisions, practiced in the lifestyle of the family.

It is not enough to pay lip service to a traditional, Judeo-Christian ethic - whatever that means. It is not enough to call oneself conservative, mouth all the politically correct positions of a so-called "moral majority," and express appropriate horror at what has happened to values in America. Values are convictions made practical. They are personal

principles applied to real issues. They are the consistent expression of what you are and believe, in actions as well as words. Values are woven into the fabric of your being. They frame your window on life. They trigger your response to situations.

Nowhere is that more apparent than in the issues of life which God addresses in his Fifth Commandment, "Thou shall not kill." We are a society confused over the issues of life, from genetic engineering to living wills. We are a society driven by issues of health, traumatized by news-cameras' images of death, challenged by the problems of aging. But

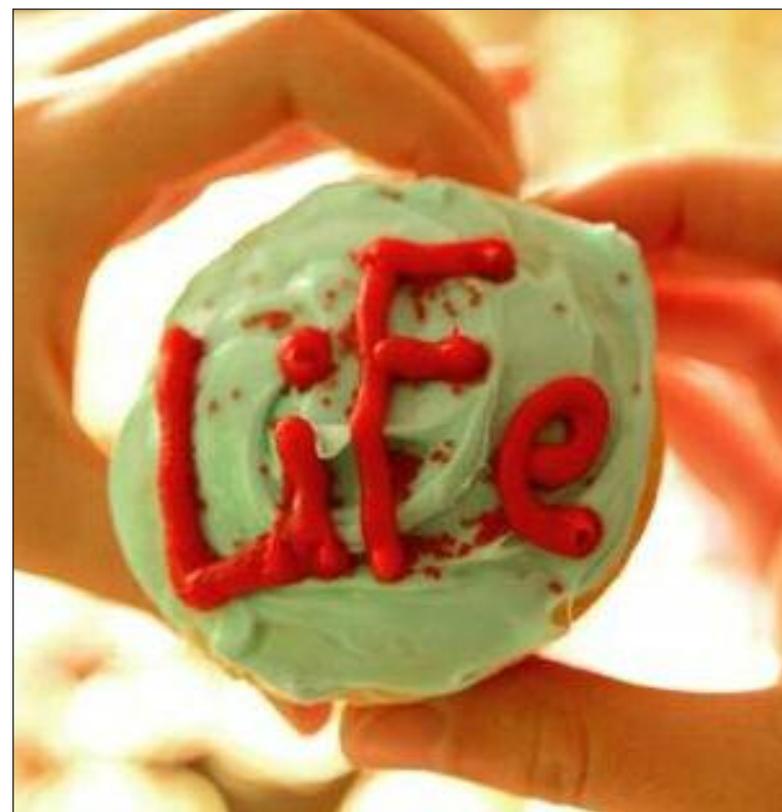
more than anything, we are a society in search of reasons for living. That calls for something beyond public opinion and pious platitudes. That calls for a clear and consistent life ethic from God to guide us into "Lasting Values For Every Family."

Let us state, before elaborating, three simple "Life Principles:" Life is FROM God. Life is UNDER God. Life is FOR God.

It makes a huge difference how one views the origin and source of life. If life is no more than the serendipitous consequence of evolution, it has no meaning or value apart from the biological system and physical universe of which it is an inconsequential part. If life has no Creator, then it has no Ruler. In short, life has no objective values if secular humanism and biological evolution explain life. The loss of values in contemporary western civilization is no mystery.

By stark contrast Christianity asserts that life is from God. He is its creator, not simply in some general sense, but the creator of all life and each life. Listen to Psalm 139: "You, Lord, created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made...All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Because God is the creator of life, each life has intrinsic value. Your life is precious because God made you. Not what you're like or what you can do to establish your worth. God has already



done that. And when you have grasped that truth of God for yourself, you will begin to understand the value God has placed on every other human being created specifically by Him.

The principle that life is from God has another important implication. If God alone creates life, then God alone has the right to terminate life. Because He is the Ruler of life, He makes the rules that govern life

Life is also under God. He is no mere

transcendent deity, uninvolved and disinterested in the lives of those he has made. He didn't pass laws of nature and retire from his legislative office. God has an active role in life in general, and in your life in particular. In Psalm 75, the Author of Life writes, "I choose the appointed time; it is I who judge uprightly." Some times in your life are hard and some times are happy, but all the time your life is in God's hands.

Some people's lives are described by illness and incapacity, by poverty and oppression; but nobody's life is defined by its condition. The so-called quality of life is simply a flawed human effort at quantifying and categorizing the blessings of God upon life. Life is not less because God allows physical, psychological or socio-economic suffering.

That life is under God assures also that life is in God's care. "The eyes of all look to you, O Lord, and you give them their food at the proper time," the psalmist David affirms. "You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. The Lord is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made.

Because we exist for God, it is also true that God establishes the values for our life. He determines what is right and wrong, good and bad, important or insignificant. He establishes priorities and principles for living life. In fact, he IS the priority that fixes the value of all the rest of life. The prophet Isaiah used a potter and pottery to illustrate the point.

We pots exist to serve the potter according to how he designed us to serve. If one is a cup, one acts like a cup not a vase. If one is storage jar, one holds what the potter stores in us rather than wishing to be a plate. He who made us not only establishes our value, but our values thereby.

Three biblical principles: Life is FROM God, UNDER God, and FOR God.

Jesus shapes our values in the issue of life, because as Colossians 3 says it, "JESUS IS OUR LIFE."

-by Pastor Paul Kelm

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ABORTIONS IN AMERICA

A look at the issue by facts and figures

INCIDENCE OF ABORTION

■ A total of 699,202 abortions were reported to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for 2012, the most recent year numbers are available. (Reporting is voluntary and not 100%.)

■ In 2012, the total number of abortions decreased by 4.3% over 2011 numbers. In 2011, the total number of abortions decreased by 5% over 2010 numbers.

■ The Associated Press reported in June 2015 that nationwide the number of abortions decreased by an average 12% since 2010.

■ CDC showed that 3,988,076 babies were born in the U.S. in 2014, the most recent year numbers are available.

■ In the United States, about half of all pregnancies are unintended.

■ Of all unintended pregnancies, 4 in 10 are aborted.

■ Twenty-one percent of all pregnancies in the U.S. end in abortion (not including natural miscarriages). (2011 numbers)

■ There has been a steady decline in abortions since 1980.

■ Each year, about 1.7% of all women aged 15-44 have an abortion.

■ Of the women obtaining abortions in any given year, about half of them have had at least one previous

abortion.

■ By age 45, one third of American women will have had at least one abortion, although this figure is now in dispute and may be much lower.

■ Some 1.06 million abortions were performed in 2011, down from 1.21 million abortions in 2008, a decline of 13%.

■ The U.S. abortion rate in 2011 was 13.9 abortions per 1,000, down from 19.4 per 1,000 in 2008.

■ 88.7% of all abortions take place by the twelfth week of pregnancy.

■ 12% of abortions in the U.S. occurred in teenagers.

WHY WOMEN GET ABORTIONS

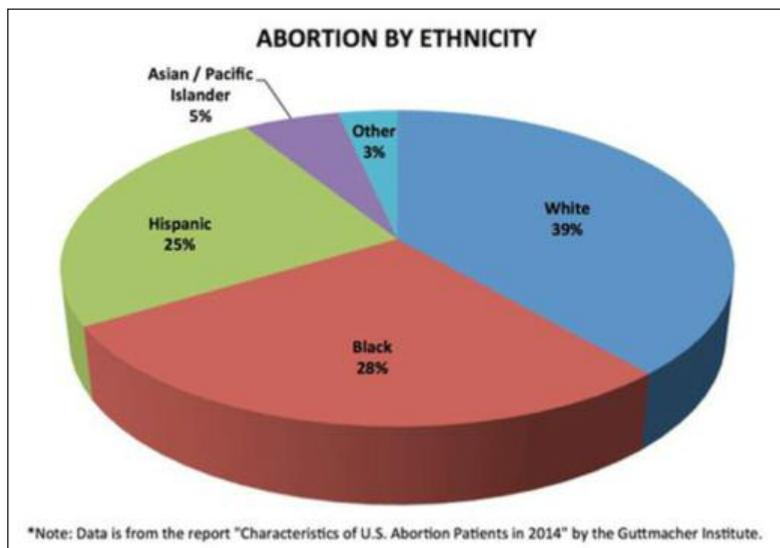
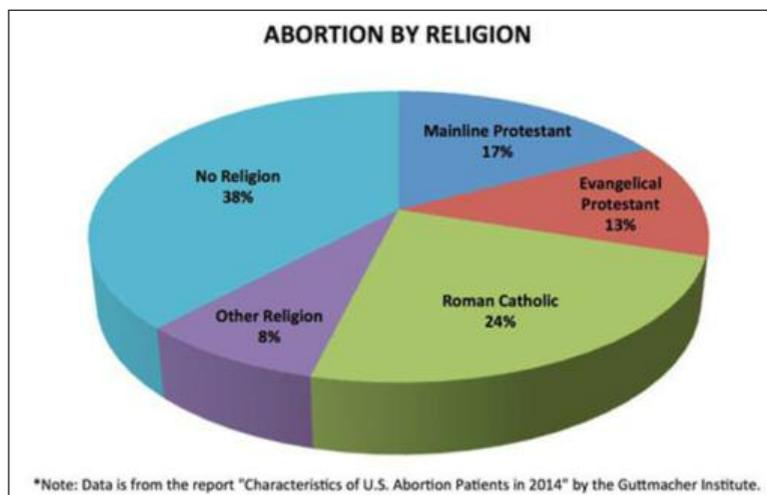
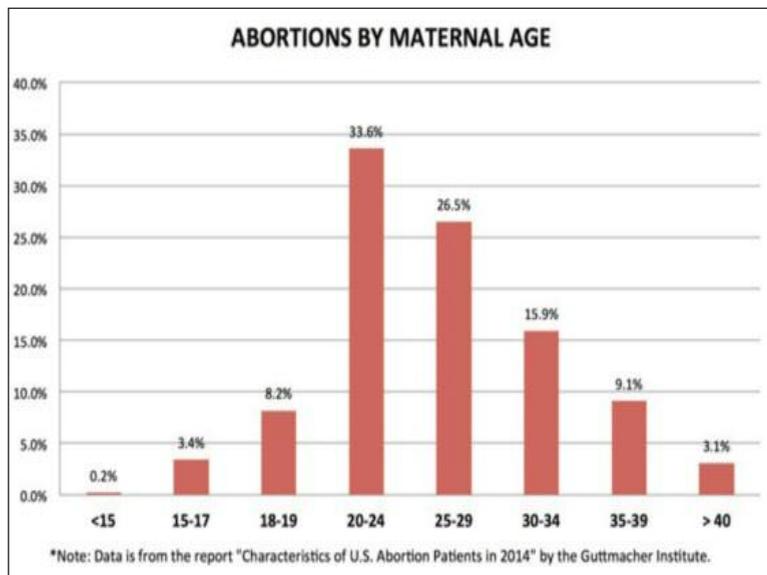
■ Some 1.06 million abortions were performed in 2011, down from 1.21 million abortions in 2008, a decline of 13%.

■ Women who have never been married account for one-third of abortions in America.

■ Less than 1% of all abortions take place because of rape and/or incest.

■ Women give an average of 3.7 reasons why they are seeking an abortion including the following:

- 21% Inadequate finances
- 21% Not ready for responsibility
- 16% Woman's life would be changed too much



- 12% Relationships, unmarried
- 11% Too young and/or immature
- 8% Children are grown; she has all she wants
- 3% Baby has possible health probs.
- <1% Pregnancy caused by rape/incest
- 4% Other

ABORTIONS BY RACE

■ Blacks comprise only 13% of the population of America but account for 28% of all abortions.

■ Black women are five times more likely to abort than white women.

■ 69% of pregnancies among blacks are unintended, while that number is 54% among Hispanics and 40% of

pregnancies among whites.

■ Planned Parenthood, the largest seller of abortions in the United States, has located 80% of its abortion clinics in minority neighborhoods, disproportionately targeting minorities for abortion.

For more info, read the report: "Racial Profiling and Population Control," by Mark Crutcher, Life Dynamics

Nation elects pro-life prez, Kansas budget woes affect pro-life bills

By Kathy Ostrowski, Kansans for Life Legislative Director

After a November presidential election which developed into a national referendum on abortion, pro-lifers can share a collective "whew!"

For the first time ever, political parties and their presidential candidates publicly staked out totally opposite positions—unlike previous elections, in which most candidates tried to minimize their positions on controversial issues. Hillary Clinton made abortion-on-demand a cornerstone issue of her 2016 campaign: abortion available to everyone at any time up until delivery, and at taxpayer's expense! In addition, in spite of the national furor over the sale of aborted baby parts to the highest bidder, Clinton wanted to expand taxpayer funding to America's largest abortion provider, Planned Parenthood.

Trumped spoke with passionate opposition to late-term abortion and promised to put pro-life candidates on the U.S. Supreme Court and defund Planned Parenthood. He eked out a victory in state after state, effectively turning all but the states in the Northeast and West Coast bright red.

Back in Kansas, which has been leading the nation in pro-life laws, elections turned a bit backwards, with 23 lawmakers retiring in May and 27 pro-lifers losing their primary or general election. While the pro-life majorities in both chambers are holding, there has been an influx of state reps and senators elected primarily to "fix" school funding and tax receipt deficits.

■ See KANSAS LEGISLATION page 10

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Alternatives Clinic: Life-Saving Help in a Life-Changing Way

"I was homeless and pregnant," said Paula. "The dad was pushing for an abortion. I knew I couldn't do it. [Then] someone told me about [Alternatives Clinic]. I was amazed to know that I wasn't alone. People did care...there was hope.

"[The ladies at Alternatives Clinic] introduced me to a lot of great people. I now attend church. I have a home, a job, and a car. They didn't do it for me — they helped me; I still had to do my part. [Alternatives Clinic] is amazing; I'd be lost without [them]."

In closing, Paula shared, "[Before], I was sad and depressed. And everything's turned around. I have my faith back. I have good people in my life. I have a new baby and a home [for her]. I'm happy. Some girls don't think they have any other choice. When they come here, they find out there are many options and they are not alone."

Alternatives Clinic is a nonprofit medical clinic and pregnancy resource center in Harrisonville, Mo. providing services to Cass County and surrounding areas. The clinic is staffed by two part-time registered nurses as well as other support staff and volunteers.



Alternatives Clinic provides a variety of free, confidential services to the individuals and families they serve such as pregnancy testing; limited obstetrical ultrasound; information on sexually transmitted infections; peer counseling; prenatal, parenting, and life skills classes; a clothing closet; a food pantry; community referrals; as well as financial assistance for those who qualify.

An on-site prenatal clinic providing full service prenatal care is also available on Monday afternoons. The prenatal clinic is staffed by Dr. Tieman, Dr. Chappell, and Dr. Sunny from Goppert-Trinity Family Care. The doctors accept pregnancy Medicaid, private insurance, and self-pay patients.

Rachel House uses technology to bring life into focus

When Lori came to Rachel House for the first time, she was determined to have an abortion. After talking with our client advocate, she had nearly changed her mind, but when she returned for her ultrasound appointment she had been arguing with the baby's father and was again strongly considering abortion. She was certain she would not get the support she needed from him and felt that a baby would tie her to a man she no longer wanted to see.

During the ultrasound appointment, Lori teared up when she saw the baby's heart beating. Over and over, she said, "That's my baby!" The next time we saw Lori, she reported that she had canceled her abortion appointment after that ultrasound. She was now determined to parent her baby no matter whether the baby's father chose to be involved or not.

Statistics tell us that if an abortion-minded woman visits an abortion clinic first, 80% of the time she chooses abortion. But if she receives an ultrasound at



a life-affirming pregnancy center first, 80% of the time she chooses life. At Rachel House, our focus is to be the first choice for women at risk for abortion in our communities. Meet Adrian, born to Lori in February. The services we offer make a difference for LIFE on a daily basis.

Rachel House is dedicated to meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of women seeking assistance in unplanned pregnancies. Our focus is to

protect the unborn and provide spiritual guidance in a Christ-centered environment. We offer free pregnancy tests, life-affirming ultrasounds, and a 20-week education program to those who qualify.

Rachel House serves Kansas City from five locations: Grandview, Independence, Kansas City, Lee's Summit, and in the Northland; and we look forward to seeing 3,000 women in our centers in 2017. Together we are making a



Annual Pro-Life Prayer Vigil-Kansas City, Missouri

Join the Annual Prayer Vigil on January 27, 2017 from 12:00 noon until 1:00 pm sponsored by Missouri Right to Life-Western Region. There will be prayer for both the unborn, their mothers and those considering assisted suicide/euthanasia. Prayer will be offered for those traveling to Washington, DC for the annual March for Life. The Vigil will be held across the street from the Federal Courthouse at 9th Street in Kansas City. Please come, join with pastors, ecumenical groups and those working in the pro-life community.

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Kansas City Mo 64151
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816 746 4855
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info@parkvillemensclinic.com

Considering Abortion, Woman finds Center with Vitae's Help

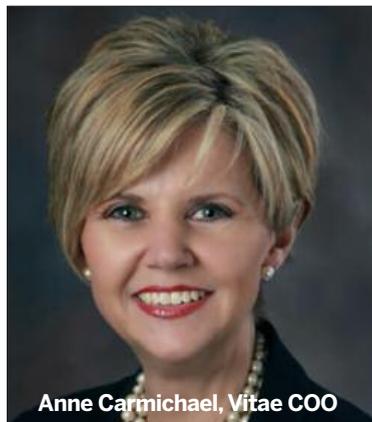
When a woman is pregnant and doesn't want to be, it's a very scary time. While looking for answers she is also looking for hope. Retooled pregnancy center websites that "speak" to the abortion-minded woman are giving women real hope across the country, including the Greater Kansas City area. Vitae Foundation's Right Brain research is what makes these websites different and attractive to women facing an abortion decision.

"These websites are like magnets in cyberspace to women seeking abortion, drawing them out of the darkness and into a light that offers real help and a relationship of support," Anne Carmichael, Vitae's COO and Senior Market Director, stated.

Bridgit Smith, Executive Director of Pregnancy Care Center is seeing a big difference in the traffic at her center in Lawrence, Kan. In the past, they had difficulties connecting with younger clients. Since the new Vitae website was launched, they are seeing a lot more clients—including students—signing up for appointments through the website.

"In November, a woman we'll call Rachael emailed us through the new website we wouldn't have if not for Vitae," Smith stated. "The website was designed to speak directly to the abortion-minded clients. In the email, a scared Rachael wrote: 'Having a little trouble deciding adoption or abortion. I've never thought I'd be one to consider abortion, but I'm in a bad spot. I'd like to learn more...please just email.'"

The staff at PCC emailed Rachael back and set up an appointment for her to come into the center for options counseling. The staff listened to her concerns and fears, then presented all of the options available to her. Included was information about an attorney who provides his counsel pro bono for young women deciding to place their child for adoption. Rachael was interested in contacting the attorney. She also went ahead and scheduled a sonogram appointment. When the appointment time came, however, Rachael didn't



Anne Carmichael, Vitae COO

show up.

"We all were disappointed, but we continued to pray, believing she still hadn't made a final decision," Smith noted.

A week later, Rachael contacted PCC again through the website. She shared that arrangements had been made for her to meet with the attorney to start the process of adoption.

"The attorney called us to confirm the appointment with PCC staff and asked if the center had referred this young mom to him," Smith explained. "He laughed when he explained that Rachael told him she had been referred by Planned Parenthood! His reply was, 'I don't think they would refer you to me.'"

The attorney and birth parents have met and are in the initial stages of deciding on a forever family for their baby. Because this young woman is no longer in a relationship with the birth father, she currently does not have a place to live. A volunteer from PCC who has housed previous clients is meeting with Rachael about the possibility of staying with the volunteer and her husband until the baby is born.

"None of this would have been possible if this young woman hadn't found our new website and felt comfortable enough to reach out to us. We can't thank Vitae enough for the website and for the findings from their research. We are better able to serve the women of Douglas County, Kansas, because of them!" Smith stated.

Missouri Right to Life Western Region

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www.mrlWesternRegion.org

January 27th

March for Life Washington, DC
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Noon to 1:00 pm
Federal Courthouse, KCMO

Annual May Golf Tourney

14th Annual Golf Tournament
May 19, 2017



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KS LEGISLATION

continued from page 7

Despite a very successful educational campaign to 'Not Retain' Judges on the State Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, they all kept their jobs. However, the liberal, pro-abortion judges we targeted (who received 76-84 % approval in past elections) barely survived at 55% support (they needed 50%). The three judges supported by Kansans for Life each received 115,000 more votes than any of the others.

The 2016 state legislature was a victim of the focus on budget issues, and the session was abruptly shortened by a few weeks to save on expenses. This damaged



"Simon's Law" to protect parental rights, is promoted by the Crosier family, shown here with baby Simon before his untimely death.

Kansans for Life's push to enact Simon's Law, and after passage in the Senate 37-3, we ran out of time to move it through

the House.

Under Simon's Law, "Do Not Resuscitate" (DNR) orders on children will be barred unless the parents give permission. Shocking testimony revealed that infants and even older children suffering chromosomal abnormalities have been denied life-sustaining treatment due to physician bias against their "quality of life." Parents found out too late—after their child died—that "DNR" orders were ordered without their knowledge or consent. This session, we will bring back the bill for consideration.

Kansas did enact two pro-life laws:

1) The very popular budget prioritization of Title X "reproductive service"

federal money. This is funding that Planned Parenthood used to get, but now goes to full-service public clinics

and hospitals.

2) A ban on midwives in independent practice from performing abortions.



44th Anniversary of Roe vs. Wade:
61 million U.S. Abortions!



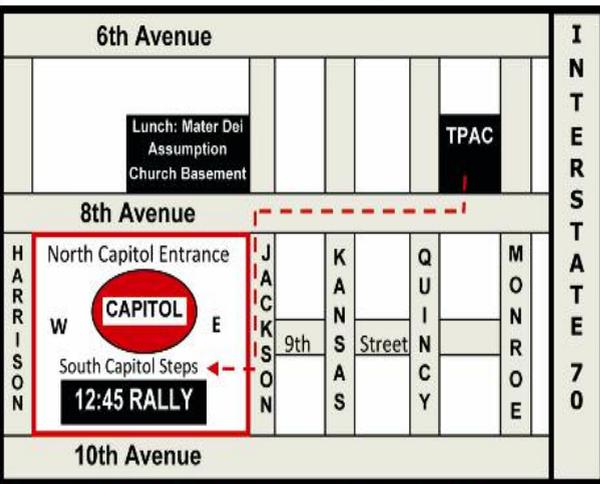
Topeka, Kansas Monday, Jan. 23rd

Rally, Learn, Pray & March for Life!

STOP
DISMEMBERING
UNBORN
BABIES

When we became the first state to ban dismemberment abortions, one Kansas judge stopped the ban. That ruling is now under appeal to the KS Supreme Court. We hoped to get enough Kansans to vote not to retain the liberal members of that court. We came close: only 55% of Kansans voted to retain them, but to succeed we needed to push their votes under 50%. We're not finished! JOIN US at the Kansas Capitol in Topeka on January 23rd to discover how you can help!

- 8:30 AM **REGISTRATION** - Location this year for registration/donuts/exhibit booths, as well as workshops, will be in the downstairs Capitol's Visitor Center inside the North Entrance, NOT, as before, on the first floor rotunda. Enjoy donuts, visit booths, drop off donated baby items, pick up legislator room lists, etc.
- 9:00 - NOON **LOBBY** - Take a tour, watch KS House in action, and other activities to be announced. Info at registration.
- 9:00 - 10:00 **WORKSHOPS** - Location: Rooms 3 & 4 North, Capitol Visitor's Ctr., basement level, North Capitol Entrance. Room 3 North: Denial of care at the beginning and end of life, by Kathy Ostrowski, KFL Legislative Director Room 4 North: How activist Courts Harm Kansas Pro-life Laws by Jeanne Gawdun and Mary Kay Culp
- 10:00 - 11:00 **WORKSHOPS REPEATED**
- 11:00 - 12:30 **CATHOLIC MASS** - Topeka Performing Arts Center Auditorium (TPAC) --see map below.
- 11:30 - 12:30 **EVANGELICAL PRAYER SERVICE** - Room 4 North, Capitol Visitor's Ctr., basement level. With Topeka Pastor David Epps, director of Billy Graham ministry in Kansas
- 12:30 - 12:45 **MARCH FROM TPAC TO SOUTH CAPITOL STEPS LED BY THE KANSAS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**
- 11:30 - 2:30 **LUNCH** - Mater Dei-Assumption Church basement. Lunch available for free will donation, or bring your own.
- 12:45 - 1:15 **RALLY FOR LIFE** on the south Capitol steps featuring:
Governor Sam Brownback, introduction of pro-life legislators by David Gittrich, and more.
- 1:30 - 2:30 PM **WORKSHOPS** - Location: Rooms 3 & 4 North, Capitol Visitor's Ctr., basement level, North Capitol Entrance. Room 3 and 4 North: Subjects to be announced



Capitol Entrance:

Enter on North side only. There is a drive for drop offs.

Parking:

On street: 10 hr. North & West of Capitol; 2 hr. spots more available. Feed the meter. They ticket.
 Under capitol: (2 hrs maximum, or ticket)
 Crosby Pkg. Garage: 8th Ave btw Kansas & Jackson;
 Centre City Parking Garage: 9th & Kansas Avenue;
 Park-N-Shop: Quincy btw 6th & 7th;
 Coronado Parking Garage: Quincy btw 9th & 10th.

Emergency Numbers for KFL Personnel:

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For late-breaking info and updates go to the KFL Facebook page: Kansans for Life; KFL web site: www.kfl.org; or TW: @kansansforlife

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Kansas City, MO 64113
Dawn Shipman | 816-361-2233
dawns.lighthouse@mbch.org
www.lighthousekc.org

GENERATIONS

continued from page 5

of healthcare, education, employment, freedom from racism and prejudice and for freedoms of religious practice. Our Catholic systems of education, healthcare and charity embody and express our core respect-life commitments. To treat these core ministries of our church as mere "social services" that can be defined and managed by government rules and regulations is a particularly odious attack upon our rights and respect life principles.

Misinterpretations of the "separation of religion from the state" or the "sacred from the secular" that would seek to justify intrusion upon religious liberty need to be exposed for the fictions that they are.

It is our responsibility as Christians to express our respect for human life in our own behaviors, in our public activism and through the ballot box. Life in a democracy respects diversity

and freedom and works for the common good. At times we must express our beliefs assertively as in the "Annual March For Life" held on January 27 in Washington, D.C., letter writing, phone calls and personal visits to legislators. It is also important that we pray and show active spiritual and

"It is our responsibility as Christians to express our respect for human life in our own behaviors, in our public activism and through the ballot box."

material concern for all the citizens of our country, especially the most vulnerable and at risk among us. To be counter-cultural and to stand out is not such a bad place to be. We can be a fulcrum for change, a leaven for growing the most human of all emotions and attachments: to life and to its enhancement. We believe in a beautiful and "seamless garment" of respect life commitments and concerns. As "respect-life" Catholic Christians, we are making and can make even more of a difference for the better in our country. We just need to be courageous and persistent so that our voices are never silent.

— Msgr. Michael D. McGraw

Missouri Right to Life lists legislative agenda for 2017

Missouri Right to Life is working diligently to prevent your state tax dollars from being used for abortion services, human cloning and embryonic stem cell research. During the 2017 session, Missouri Right to Life will call on our legislators to take up and pass the expanded abortion clinic inspection bill.

The following list gives an overview of "some" of the pro-life legislation we are asking our pro-life legislators to pass:

ACTION REQUESTED OF MISSOURI LEGISLATURE BY MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE:

- Pass expanded abortion clinic inspection bill
- Required annual on-site inspection
- Tighten reporting requirements to ensure baby body parts are not bought or sold
- Provides whistleblower protection for those who work in abortion clinics
- Pass pain-capable unborn child protection act
- Ban dismemberment abortions
- Defund Planned Parenthood - redirect funding to federally qualified health centers to provide expanded services for women's health care
- Ban public funding for abortion services, human cloning and embryonic stem cell research
- Two parent notification before a minor has



Missouri Right to Life, Legislative Liaison, Susan Klein and pro-lifers from across Missouri lobby at the Missouri State Capitol at the annual Pro-Life Action Day.

- an abortion
- Ban sex-selection abortions
- Prevent do-not-resuscitate orders from being placed in a minor child's medical file without parental consent
- Require informed consent info be given to women referred to out of state abortion clinics
- Required guidelines for health care decision makers in end of life decisions
- Pro-life protective language on budget and economic development bills to prevent funding for abortion services, human cloning (SCNT), embryonic stem cell research (ESCR) and all human life-destroying research
- Continued funding for alternatives to abortions and tax credits for pregnancy resource centers

Plan to attend pro-life lobby day on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 - It will be an exciting day! Activities begin at 10:00 a.m. - Rally at Noon on the 1st floor rotunda. Come, meet your new legislators!

Imagining a world where every child is valued and mothers and fathers are equipped to build strong families that positively impact their communities.



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**A Action
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T Things!**

**Missouri Right to Life
"Show Me Life" Pro-Life Action Day
Tuesday, March 14, 2017
(registration begins at 10:00 a.m.)
Missouri State Capitol ~ 1st Floor Rotunda**



Your pro-life legislators are making every effort to ACT to save innocent human lives.

We need you to ACT!

- Come to Jefferson City for Pro-Life Action Day to encourage your legislators to pass pro-life legislation.
- Visit with your legislators, then join the Noon Rally to hear our inspiring special guest!

Priority Legislation

- Tighten abortion clinic inspection statute to require at least one annual on-site inspection of abortion facilities and require an accounting report for the disposition of all tissue from aborted babies.
- "Whistleblower" protection for abortion clinic employees.
- Continue to redirect federal funding of family-planning dollars to federally qualified health centers and state rural health agencies for expanded health care for women.

Guest Speaker Melissa Ohden

Melissa is the survivor of a failed saline infusion abortion in 1977. Despite the initial concerns about Melissa's future after surviving the attempt to end her life at approximately seven months gestation, she has not only survived but thrived.

In 2012, Melissa founded The Abortion Survivors Network

which seeks to educate the public about failed abortions and survivors while providing emotional, mental, and spiritual support to abortion survivors. Since its founding, Melissa has been in contact with over 206 survivors.

Fulfilling the purpose that she believes God set out for her when He saved her, Melissa is truly a voice for the voiceless.

Transportation is available from many areas of the state.

Contact Missouri Right to Life, 573.635.5110, or visit www.missourilife.org for further information.



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Jefferson City MO 65102
www.missourilife.org

WEAR RED FOR LIFE!

Partnering for Life - Rachel House and If Not For Grace Ministries

by **Jama Edlund**

The body of Christ has many parts, and it is vital that we all work together to accomplish the work He has called us to. This is why partnerships are so important to If Not For Grace (INFG). One of our longest-standing partnerships is with Rachel House Pregnancy Resource Centers—a place of refuge and truth for women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy.

God often uses our pain and struggles to help others. That is why many abortion-wounded women choose to volunteer at pregnancy resource centers like Rachel House. Time and again, women who go through the services at INFG have shared that they want to help girls who are dealing with an unplanned pregnancy to make a better decision than they did. They want to be able to share how abortion has negatively affected their lives so these girls won't have to experience the same pain and loss.

Last summer, the staff of Rachel House referred several women who wanted to volunteer at one of their five centers to INFG to participate in our services. Why do they do this? A woman who has received healing from her abortion(s) is a woman who makes a great client advocate. Not only can she share the story of the struggle caused by her abortion experience, hopefully impacting the client toward a positive life choice, but she can also share her testimony of God's love and grace after the experience with those who have made an abortion decision with a previous pregnancy.

For those who have not participated in formal recovery, hearing a similar story to their own, viewing the fetal models used with the clients, or getting a glimpse of an ultrasound can trigger an emotional reaction they weren't prepared for. By going through a Her Choice to Heal class and Reconciliation Weekend, God can help them process through specific struggles they are having as a result of their abortion(s) and live free from the emotional triggers that once plagued them.

Our mission is to provide opportunities for restoration to the abortion-wounded and our vision is to see them living authentic, abundant lives; mobilized for Kingdom expanding work. We are seeing this vision realized in those who go on to volunteer at Rachel House after walking through the healing journey with If Not For Grace. Praise be to God!

—Jama Edlund is Her Choice to Heal Coordinator, INFG Ministries

Quadruplets are Christmas gifts for family

Four precious little gifts came early this Christmas for a Newnan, Georgia family.

On Dec. 16, Kortney Miller, 23, gave birth to naturally-conceived quadruplets: boys Brandon, Brayden and Bryant and girl Kenlee, the Today Show reports. Doctors said both mom and babies are doing well.

The quadruplets are extremely rare. Doctors say the chance of conceiving quadruplets naturally, without help from fertility treatments, is one in 700,000.

Miller said multiples run in her family, and early in her pregnancy, she had a sense that she was having twins. During one of her first ultrasounds, she said the technician asked her if multiples ran in her family. The ultrasound technician then told Miller that she had four babies in her womb.

"I never thought there would be four," she told Today. "My mother was with me, and she said, 'You're carrying on the tradition!'"

As shocked as they were, Miller said



The Miller quadruplets: Brandon, Brayden, Bryant and Kenlee

she and her husband also felt "very blessed" by the news.

Miller said she went to the doctor's office on Dec. 16 expecting a routine prenatal visit. She was 29-weeks preg-

rience."

The Millers said they spent Christmas together in the hospital with their quadruplets and older son Bentley, 4.

nant at the time. Instead of the check-up, doctors told her that the babies were coming, according to the report.

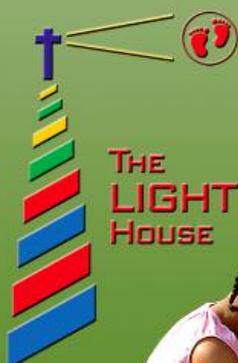
The babies were born minutes apart by cesarean section on Dec. 16, each weighing between 2 and 3 pounds, according to the report. The family's OBGYN, Dr. Heather Turner said the babies are still in the hospital, but they are doing really well.

"They are our very special early Christmas presents," Turner said. "What a terrific family. This was something I'll probably never see again in my practice. It was a thrilling experience."

Families Make the Difference

Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, nurturing environment. When a child's family is not able to provide for that child, a foster or adoptive family can. You can make a difference by becoming a "family" for a hurting child. You can also make a difference by providing support for foster or adoptive families.

MBCH Children and Family Ministries and its affiliate The LIGHT House offer a variety of Christian foster care and adoption services.



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Kansans for Life

Valentine Banquet

Tuesday, Feb. 7th

The Ritz-Charles , 137th & Antioch, Overland Park, Kansas

Cost is free with opportunity to donate.

5:00 p.m. Silent Auction & Social Time

7:00 p.m. Banquet & Program

Speaker: David Daleiden

Learn how a 1999 call to KFL helped Daleiden's 2013-2015 undercover video expose result in a new criminal referral of Planned Parenthood to the FBI by the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee.

In 2013, David Daleiden founded the Center for Medical Progress and launched his "Human Capital" aborted baby parts investigation which included undercover videos.

Last year Daleiden told the National Catholic Register that part of his preparation included studying a series of events which began in Kansas 15 years ago when our OP KFL office got a call from a "fetal procurement technician" working inside the Planned Parenthood at 103rd and Roe. Through sobs, the man reported he was moved to call us after being handed a pan with 24 week twins to dissect, **who were still moving!**

Our office — **the one supported by this very banquet** — connected the man with Life Dynamics in Texas who got the attention of then-ABC 20/20 reporter Chris Wallace who did an episode March of 2000. They also got the attention of a U.S. House committee, but the man's testimony was compromised at the hearing by threats by the abortion industry. In 2015, Daleiden told the National Catholic Register that lessons learned from that episode informed his efforts which have led to the recent referrals.

Earlier this year a Texas DA threw Daleiden and his project partner in jail basically for telling the truth via his undercover videos. **We welcome Mr. Daleiden and that truth to Kansas!**

As a former banquet attendee, KFL donor, etc., you are getting first notice!

But ACT FAST before this goes viral on social media!

RSVP now, but names of others in your group/table of 10 must be in by 1/23.

RSVP Required: By return mail or

E-MAIL: kansansforlife@aol.com

Questions/Info: (913) 642-5433

BEING PRO-LIFE—MEANS VOLUNTEERING!

Robert Zornes | Mother's Refuge

So often we hear people say they are pro-life. When we ask them what they are doing about it, they say, "Nothing." I believe that being pro-life means taking an active stand to show that we do to actively show that we believe all life is valuable. Being pro-life means helping others. One way could be volunteering at a maternity home such as Mother's Refuge.

For example, volunteers babysit. We have several volunteers that help relieve the mothers while they are studying in school or just relaxing for a few minutes.

Another volunteer opportunity is through their professional services and experiences. We often need carpenters, plumbers, electricians, handymen, cooks, hairdressers, and many more. We also need teachers and tutors. If you call a pro-life ministry to volunteer, you may not be put to work immediately. We are required to do a background check, and sometimes background checks can take a while.

But, don't get discouraged. If there is not something for you to do right then, you will be put on a call list of people that are willing to help. So, when the garbage disposal isn't working, the door is jammed, or a mom needs tutoring, you can help. Many pro-life ministries are on a very tight budget, and having a list of volunteer professionals to call is a blessing.

For instance, one of our young moms goes to an English-as-a-second-lan-



guage-based GED class. Once a week, we have a dutiful volunteer who comes to babysit. Without her active help, our staff would have less time to teach classes, transport others residents to appointment, or prepare a meal.

Another way for volunteers to help these young mothers is to be a houseparent helper. This is someone willing to be a second hand to our direct care staff. At Mother's Refuge, we call them "life savers", because they are there to help watch the babies, cook a meal, get girls ready to go on outings, or just available to serve. There are many times when every mother wishes she had an extra hand. It's even more true to us with a house full of young mothers learning to care for their babies.

While some people may think that these young moms should be punished for their problem, we at Mother's Refuge believe that no life is a mistake, and it is a blessing to help these young moms turn their lives around. As Jesus said, "As you do unto the least of these, you do also to me".

Being a pro-life volunteer truly ministers to those who are there to get a second chance at life.

If you would like to volunteer at Mother's Refuge, contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Katie Early, at Katie@MotherRefuge.org or call her at 816-800-0453.

—Robert Zornes is Executive Director of Mother's Refuge.



Black Americans for Life | Kansas City

Black American unborn lives matter. Black Americans for Life is a ministry which is committed to protecting the sanctity of all human life from fertilization to natural death. We believe all God's children are precious and deserve to be protected regardless of race, economic or social status.

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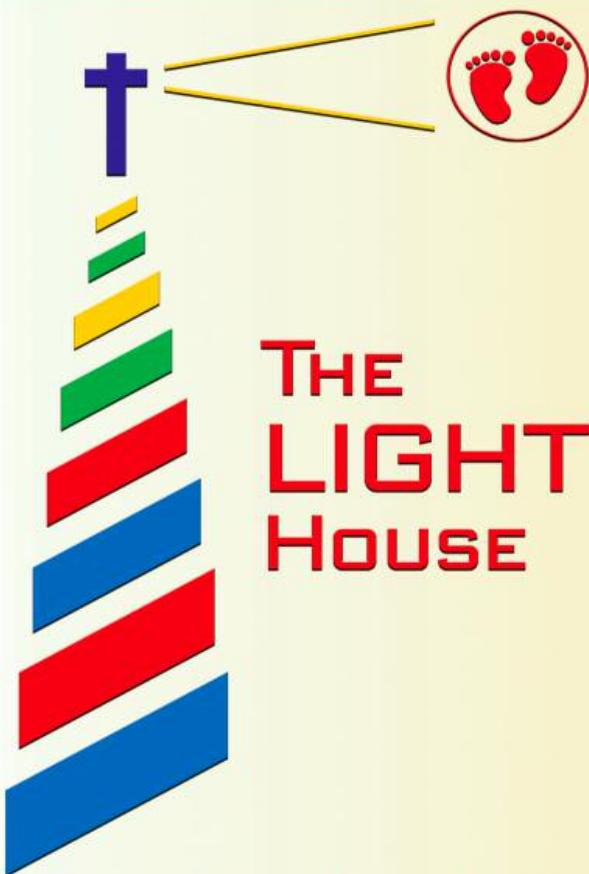
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