

Right to Life Newsletter

of Shelby County

February 2012

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www.shelbycountyrctl.org

Volume 39 Issue 2

Building a Culture of Life in Shelby County, Ohio, since 1974

Candlelight Vigil Blessed with Good Weather

It was another meaningful observance of the Roe v. Wade anniversary, as nearly 200 people gathered at the court house to pray for an end to abortion. The smaller-than-average crowd was due to two Shelby County buses (Teens for Truth and Lehman) going to pray at the Dayton abortion clinic instead of attending the vigil. One bus load of area youth departed for Washington following the procession around the court square.

Although rain fell steadily beforehand, it ceased during the vigil, presenting ideal weather conditions for this year's event. Elder Bud Freeman from Sidney Wesleyan Fellowship offered an opening prayer and reflection, followed by a brief presentation by RTL co-director, Kevin Schmiesing. Board member Jenni Bohman highlighted the upcoming membership meeting and Makayla Phillips delivered her first place speech from the 2011 oratory contest. Brian and Stephanie Swank of Sidney Apostolic Temple again provided inspirational music, and Fr. Dan Schmitmeyer of Holy Angels Church closed the ceremony with a prayer of blessing.

Thank you to chairman Dan McSweeney and all who assisted and attended this year's vigil.

Mark your calendar

- RTL Membership Meeting: April 17.
- Deadline for submissions to the March newsletter: Feb. 23.
- Board meeting: Feb. 7, 7pm.

Clothing center report

We served people 173 during the month of December, of whom 60 received free items, 2 took literature, and 2 were referred to the Women's Center.

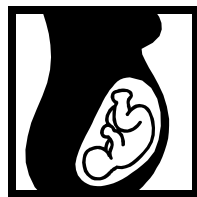
Call for Laundry Volunteers

The thrift shop is in need of assistance washing donated clothing. If you are able to pick up and take care of a load of laundry on occasion, please contact Ann Cordonnier at the office, 498-1812.

Right to Life of Shelby County is a 501(c)(3) educational and service organization. All donations are fully tax-deductible.

Unborn Baby Saves Father's Life

File this one under amazing tales: We've all heard stories of how children — or even pets — have been able to alert 911, emergency officials or simply another person to an alarming situation that involves a life or death situation.



In this case, in a story out of Atlanta, Georgia, a baby saved his father's life before he was even born.

According to Sara McDonald, who is 7 1/2 months pregnant, her husband, Thomas, wouldn't be here today if her baby hadn't given her a very powerful sign that something was wrong — a big kick. She says that kick from her baby, Cameron, jolted her out of a deep sleep where she found her husband unresponsive.

She told reporters he didn't have a heartbeat and that he was "purple from the waist up." She was, understandably, terrified and called police after trying to perform CPR herself. Officers say they weren't sure he would make it, but fortunately he did, and he's going to be fine.

McDonald has no doubt that her unborn son was responsible: "It's like my baby saved my husband's life. And he's not even here yet and he saved his dad's life. It's an amazing feeling..."

By Steven Ertelt, LifeNews.com, January 16, 2012. Used with permission.

Pro-Life Oratory Contest: \$300 Grand Prize!

The 2012 Shelby County Pro-Life Oratory Contest for high school juniors and seniors will be held Monday, February 20 (President's day), at 6:30 pm at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sidney. Prizes for 1st through 3rd places are \$300, \$150 and \$100 respectively. The winner will continue to the state contest (Saturday, April 21 in Columbus).

Contestants are to research, write, and present an original pro-life speech—5 to 7 minutes in length—on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia or stem cell research. See www.nrlc.org/oratory/index.html for rules. The winner of the state contest receives an all-expense-paid trip to the national contest (June 30 in Washington DC) where the top prize is \$1000.

Many research resources are available at the Right to Life office, on Poplar St. across from the courthouse. Rules, other guidelines, recommended online resources and tips will be sent to any student who registers. Contact Anne Schmiesing at 937-492-5584 or director@shelbycountyrctl.org with questions or to register. Registration deadline is Thursday, February 16.

Fantastic Pro-Life Speakers Coming to the Area



Damon Owens

--“Teen Talk” for high school students, Wednesday, Feb. 15, 7-8:30pm, Ft. Loramie Junior High Gym; \$5 at the door; walk-ins welcome; please register groups of 10+.

--“God, Sex, and the Meaning of Life” for college age and adults, Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012, 7-9:30pm, St. Michael Church, Ft. Loramie; free will donations.

--“Proclaiming Theology of the Body” for Catholic priests and deacons, Thursday, Feb. 16, noon-3:30, CJs High Marks, Sidney; lecture free, participants pay for meal, RSVP by noon, Wed., Feb. 15.

Reservations: Kate Boeke, 937-295-2179 x113, kateb@nflregion.org; or Rev. Steve Shoup, 937-295-2891 x101. Sponsored by St. Michael Church, Ft. Loramie, Sts. Peter and Paul, Newport; St. Mary, Greenville, and Shelby County Right to Life.

Gianna Jessen

Wednesday, March 7, 7:30-8:30pm, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Coldwater.

Through words and song, international speaker Gianna Jessen shares her miraculous journey of life from survivor of an attempted saline abortion to steadfast defender of life. Her story is one of courage and hope for all. Sponsored by Mercer County Right to Life and the Coldwater Cluster of Catholic Parishes.

“God is using Gianna to remind the world that each human being is precious to him.” -- Mother Teresa of Calcutta.



Russia Garage Sale in April: Start Saving Those Treasures

The annual Right to Life garage sale will be held April 12-14 at St. Remy Hall in Russia. Please keep us in mind as you're cleaning out garages and storage rooms. This is a major fundraiser for RTL and is totally dependent on the generosity of our members who donate items.

Many area churches will begin collecting items in April. We will accept items anytime during open hours (Tues.-Fri., 9:30-4) at the RTL office. If you would like to donate large items early, or have any questions, please contact Maria Hoehne, 937-526-5008.

Primary Elections Coming Up

Please pray for the election of pro-life candidates.

March 6 is Election Day. It is very important that pro-lifers translate their convictions into votes. In order for any of us to vote intelligently, we need to know candidate positions on the issues. We hope to have the responses to a candidate questionnaire for the local candidates who are running in contested primary races in the March newsletter. RTL does not endorse candidates, but it is part of our educational mission to inform members about election and candidate issues. Absentee voting began on Jan. 31. We are hoping to have questionnaire results available at the RTL office by mid-February in case you need them before the March newsletter. Contact Mary Schmiesing (hmschmiesing@embarqmail.com) with questions.

Shelby County will be split into two different districts for the state representative race. Part of the county will remain in the 85th district and part of the county will be in the 84th district. Please contact the Board of Elections for any election information (498-7207) or Shelby@sos.state.oh.us.

Have a Child Recently Turned 18? Protect End-of-Life Decisions

A reminder that Right to Life has Ohio Protective Medical Decisions Documents (PMDD) available at the office/thrift shop. This advance directive names a Durable Power of Attorney for health decisions, in case a patient is incapable of making those decisions for him/herself.

Most people think such a document is only for those who are very sick or very old. That's not true. It's absolutely essential for anyone who is 18 years old or older.

Some (but not all) states have laws to cover a patient who hasn't designated someone to make health care decisions. Such laws contain a "priority listing" of those who can make decisions for an incapacitated patient. But, in some states, those decisions may be limited to withholding or withdrawing treatment. They may not give the necessary authority to protect a patient. In other states, the law gives doctors the power to decide for patients if there are conflicts among those on the list.

From Patients Rights Council homepage, www.patientsrightscouncil.org.

St. Nicholas of Myra Visits Thrift Shop

Jolly Old St. Nick made an appearance at the RTL Thrift Shop, Saturday, December 3. The visit was held in conjunction with Downtown Sidney's "Christmas of Yesteryear" observance, which features special offers and events at downtown businesses. The shop offered candy, half-priced toys, and other treats for children and adults who visited.

Thank you to thrift shop manager Ann Cordonnier who organized the event and to Nick Cordonnier who played the role of his namesake. Photo reprinted with permission of the Sidney Daily News.



In memory of Ruberta Hemmert,
 Charter member and officer of Right to Life;
 Clothing center volunteer, prayer supporter, and advocate for life in countless ways.
 +May she rest in peace.+



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Report: Ohio 17th on State Pro-Life Ranking

The national pro-life legislative group Americans United for Life has released its seventh annual ranking of states across the country based on the way each deals with a comprehensive list of life issues – from abortion to euthanasia. For the second time in three years, Louisiana tops the list, followed closely by Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, and Arkansas. Indiana was listed as the most improved state last year.

Louisiana led the way by passing the Signs of Hope Act, Obamacare Abortion Opt-Out, Ultrasound Before Abortion Act, Abortion Facility Closure Ability, Health Care Rights of Conscience Act, Choose Life License Plate Re-Authorization, and Human-Animal Hybrid Ban all since 2009. Before that it approved the Cord Blood Donation Education Act, Ban on Public Funding of Human Cloning, and “Trigger” Law Banning Abortion on Overturn of Roe v Wade.

Washington, California, Hawaii, Vermont, and Montana come in as the least life-affirming states, while Arizona, Indiana, Kansas, North Carolina, and Utah rate as the “most improved.”

AUL president Charmaine Yoest said that the remarkable gains for life at the state level reveal that many state legislators are creating a blueprint for legislative changes when Roe v. Wade is ultimately overturned. She told LifeNews that 2011 -- which produced a record number of pro-life laws passed at the state legislative level -- was a watershed year in the defense of life. Forty-seven states considered more than 460 abortion-related measures, ultimately enacting more than 70 of them.

Ohio placed seventeenth among the fifty states. The full rankings can be viewed at www.aul.org.

By Steven Ertelt, LifeNews.com, January 19, 2012. Edited for space and used with permission.