

### Volunteer Corner

- Thank you to Sara Stueve for agreeing to oversee the RTL parade float. Sara needs volunteers to ride on the float in area parades (mothers with small children). She also needs volunteers to drive the float. Please contact her at 526-3950, or sarastueve@earthlink.net. Thank you to Ron Meyer and Wayne Krebs for their many years of service constructing and driving the float.
- RTL needs volunteers to help at the Kids Around the Court Square event in Sidney on Saturday, June 27, 9 am to noon. Contact Anne at 492-5584.
- Thank you to April Harshbarger and Sandy Gefrey for their assistance at the RTL health fair booth.
- Thank you to Molly LaForme and Rachel Wiseman, who gave pro-life presentations to schools and youth groups during the past school year.

### Mark your calendar...

The deadline for submissions to the July newsletter is June 22.

### Clothing Center report

We served 122 people during the month of April, of whom 41 received free items, four took literature, and one was referred to the Women's Center.

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

### On the Web...

RTL of Shelby County:  
[www.shelbycountyrctl.org](http://www.shelbycountyrctl.org)

Ohio RTL:  
[www.ohiolife.org](http://www.ohiolife.org)

National RTL Committee:  
[www.nrlc.org](http://www.nrlc.org)

## Oratory Champ Trisler Repeats as State Winner



On Saturday, April 25th, Elizabeth Trisler of Shelby County Right to Life won the 2009 Ohio Right to Life Oratory Contest and will compete at the National Right to Life Oratory Contest, held this summer in Charlotte, North Carolina. The Ohio Right to Life contest, co-sponsored by the Otterbein Students for Life, was held on the campus of Otterbein University.

"We are very proud of Elizabeth and all the participants in this year's oratory contest," stated Mike Gonidakis, President of Ohio Right to Life. The judges for the 2009 Oratory Contest included Tracie Johnson, Chairman of Ohio Right to Life; Professor Keith Miller (retired) of Capital University; Monica Mack, Director of Kinder Women's Care Center; and Nathaniel Bean, the Vice-President of Otterbein Students for Life.

The eleven eligible high school juniors and seniors, each of whom won their local Right to Life Chapter contest, wrote an original speech on abortion, embryonic stem cell research, infanticide, or euthanasia.

"The issue of the sanctity of life is one that is at the forefront of public debate," continued Gonidakis. (continued on page 2)

## Obama's First 100 Days: A Pro-Life Perspective

President Barack Obama marked his first 100 days in the White House at the end of April, and his record is replete with aggressive promotion of abortion and attacks on pro-life advocates. Obama has used tax dollars to pay for abortion and embryonic stem cell research and stacked his administration with abortion advocates.

Obama began fulfilling his promises to abortion advocates during his first week in office when he overturned the Mexico City Policy that prevented forcing taxpayers to fund groups that promote and perform abortions in other countries.

Instead of urging Americans to honor and respect the dignity and worth of human life as other presidents have done, Obama used the 36th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision to celebrate the 50 million abortions that have been done since then.

Even those who say they want to work with Obama are concerned about his extensive pro-abortion record. (continued on page 4)

## Lehman Pro-LifeGuards Pay Tribute to Abortion Victims

The Pro-LifeGuards, a student group at Lehman Catholic High School, has erected a field of crosses on the grounds of the high school. Visible from heavily traveled I-75 and state route 29, the crosses are a striking reminder of the damage inflicted by abortion.



With assistance from Right to Life and other donors, the students purchased, constructed, and painted 4,000 white crosses, to symbolize the number of babies lost to abortion each day in the United States. It took the 75-member group four weeks to assemble the one-foot-by-three-foot crosses. They worked under the guidance of adult advisors, Fr. Jason Bedel, Michael Staudt, and Jill Heitmeyer.

Pro-LifeGuard president Michael Nguyen and vice president John Staudt orchestrated the effort. In a feature story in the Sidney Daily News, Staudt explained the effort's significance: "We're building the white crosses to symbolize the number of abortions performed each day in the United States or 1.6 million each year. We were inspired to create an awareness among the Lehman community."

The site was dedicated during a ceremony at Lehman on Friday, May 15, during which Fr. Bedel of Holy Angels Church offered a blessing and reflection. RTL co-director Anne Schmiesing attended. "It was a beautiful and moving tribute to the lives lost to the violence of abortion over the last four decades," Schmiesing commented. "The crosses will be a reminder to all to pray for all those hurt by abortion: the children, the mothers and fathers, the abortionists themselves."

The display is already having an impact. In a letter from Lehman president Michael Barhorst to RTL, Barhorst noted that he has received positive comments from local citizens and businesspeople. One visitor to the school tearfully shared how the experience and pain of abortion had affected her own family.

May the outstanding work of the Pro-LifeGuards be a means of encouragement, conversion, and healing to all who encounter it.

### Poll: Pro-Life View Gaining Steam

According to a new Gallup poll, 51% of Americans consider themselves pro-life on the issue of abortion while 42% consider themselves "pro-choice." Gallup reports that this is the first time a majority of Americans have identified themselves as pro-life since it began conducting the poll in 1995. About as many Americans now say abortions should be illegal in all circumstances (23%) as say it should be legal under any circumstances (22%). Another 53 percent of Americans say abortions should be legal, but only under certain circumstances.

### Trisler Wins State Contest (continued from page 1)

"Today's teens are tomorrow's public officials and pro-life leaders. Ohio Right to Life will continue to provide every opportunity to encourage our youth to establish the skills needed to communicate the Pro-Life message in a positive way. This was a great opportunity to hone their public speaking skills and meet other pro-life students," stated Gonidakis.

As the winner of the state competition, Trisler and a guest will receive an all-expense paid trip to the National Oratory Contest on June 20, 2009. The winner of the national contest will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.



Elizabeth is willing to deliver her speech to area organizations, churches, or youth groups. To invite her to your gathering, contact the RTL office. Congratulations to Elizabeth, and good luck in Charlotte!

This article is adapted from an Ohio Right to Life Press Release, April 28, 2009

## Garage Sale Raffle Winners

A big thank you once again to all the volunteers and patrons who made this year's garage sale so successful. We're grateful, too, to those who purchased raffle tickets and especially to the individuals and businesses who donated the prizes. The lucky winners were:

- 1st Becky Berning, Sidney - \$300.00 (donated by Friends for Life)
- 2nd Jeanne Naveau, Russia - \$200.00 (Friends for Life)
- 3rd Carl York, Russia - \$100.00 (anonymous)
- 4th David & Sharon Mautz, Maplewood - \$100.00 (anonymous)
- 5th Pat Kinsella, Sidney - \$50.00 (Hoehne Professional Painting Contractors)
- 6th Jerome Holdheide, Houston - \$30.00 (Meyers Tavern, Botkins)
- 7th Judy Voisard, Sidney - Sterling Silver Jewelry (Kathy's Collection, Russia)
- 8th Dan & Bonnie Paulus, Russia - \$25.00 Pampered Chef certificate (Lisa Holthaus, Ft. Loramie)
- 9th David Dial, Sidney - \$25.00 certificate (Silver Cross Catholic Books & Gifts, Ft. Loramie)
- 10th Ruth Brown, Botkins - \$25.00 certificate (Cruizers, Russia)
- 11th Rita Monnin, Botkins - Mary Kay Products (Barb Reithman, McCartyville)
- 12th Rita Schmidt, Sidney - \$25.00 certificate (Decor & Floor, Ft. Loramie)
- 13th. Dan & Bonnie Paulus, Russia - gift certificate (Cracker Barrel, Piqua)
- 14th. Sue Hoehne, Anna - gift certificate (Perkins, Ft. Loramie)
- 15th. David York, Russia - rosary (Sharon Holdheide, Ft. Loramie)
- 16th J.F. Batty, Versailles -Girl Diaper Cake (Bev Boerger, Russia)
- 17th Mildred Mack, Botkins - Boy Diaper Cake (Bev Boerger, Russia)

## Father's Day: June 21

According to the Guttmacher Institute, one-third of American women will have had an abortion by age 45. Seldom reported, however, is the fact that an equally significant number of men have played a role in terminating a pregnancy.

Some have participated through persuasion, or by providing the financial means for the abortion. Still others were against an abortion, but had no sway in the decision to terminate their child.

Only in recent years have we realized that men suffer from their loss, as more and more seek healing. Warren Williams, founder of Fathers and Brothers Ministries says he believes men are coming forward for help because God instilled in men a desire to be a protector of their lineage, a provider for their families, to be a husband and father.

Men are suffering and grieving the loss of their children, and though their grief may be expressed differently than that of a woman, it is grief nonetheless and they too need tender care and biblical counseling to experience forgiveness and healing.

Intervention at the appropriate time in the decision-making process may spare both the young man and woman from the lifelong pain and trauma of abortion. Biblical counseling for post-abortive men and women is essential for them to heal and begin their life anew in Christ.

### Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, We pray for young men who have participated in the termination of their children and are broken as You are over their loss.

Forgive their sin, Lord, and bring opportunity for healing and renewal of their minds in Christ Jesus.

For those suffering from an abortion they did not choose, restore their joy as they learn to forgive others and trust You with their future. In the name of Christ, who heals the brokenhearted. Amen.

Adapted from [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com).

# Right to Life of Shelby County

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## Obama's First Hundred Days (continued from page 1)

Frank Page, leader of Taylors Baptist Church and a member of Obama's White House faith committee, told CBN News, "By and large I have not been very encouraged by our president's first 100 days in regards to pro-life issues, in regards to sensitivity to the evangelical community."

During his first two months, Obama put people in key policy positions in the White House, Justice Department and his Cabinet who are not only abortion advocates but former staff and board members for top pro-abortion organizations like Emily's List and NARAL.

Obama's second major pro-abortion policy decision came in February when he proposed overturning pro-life conscience protections President Bush put in place to make sure medical staff and centers are not forced to do abortions.

In his third decision, Obama announced \$50 million for the UNFPA, the UN population agency that has been criticized for promoting abortion and working closely with Chinese population control officials who use forced abortions and involuntary sterilizations. His fourth major policy decision saw him sign an executive order forcing taxpayer funding of embryonic stem cell research.

In March, Obama's team shut out pro-life groups from attending a White House-sponsored health care summit. Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion business, made the invitation list as did other pro-abortion groups. Obama made his first judicial appointment and named pro-abortion federal Judge David Hamilton to serve on the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Other judges, including potential Supreme Court nominees, are expected to be pro-abortion as well.

By Steven Ertelt. This item is edited for space and reprinted with permission from LifeNews.com, April 29, 2009.