

# Right to Life Newsletter

of Shelby County

March 2010

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Volume 37 Issue 3

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

## Volunteer corner

• Thank you to all those who have returned membership volunteer forms. We're very grateful for your help and look forward to working with you throughout 2010.

## Mark your calendar...

- Deadline for submissions to the April newsletter: March 24.
- Board meetings: March 2, April 6, 7 pm.

## Clothing center report

We served 131 people during the month of January, of whom 57 received free items, 5 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)

## Gonidakis Headlines Shelby County RTL Members Meeting



All Right to Life members are invited and encouraged to attend a membership meeting at 7pm, Friday March 12 at the Alpha Center in Sidney (330 E. Court St.).

Michael Gonidakis, Executive Director of Ohio Right to Life, will be the keynote speaker. Before joining ORTL, Gonidakis practiced law in Columbus and served as campaign manager for pro-life Ohio Supreme Court justices Terrence O'Donnell and Robert Cupp.

Also joining us will be ORTL Director of External Affairs, Gillian Stechschulte. Stechschulte is a recent graduate of Miami University, where she studied architecture and design and was involved in Campus Crusade for Christ.

Special local guests include Michelle Dieperink, Connie McEldowney, and Elizabeth Trisler. Dieperink, a nurse residing in Troy, will share her personal abortion story. McEldowney, a Russia member of RTL, will talk about her pro-life children's book, *Josiah's Journey*. Trisler will speak about her experience as the winner of National Right to Life's oratory contest.

We anticipate the program lasting approximately an hour and a half, followed by time for refreshments and fellowship. Dress is casual. **Because of the nature of the program and the presentations, we recommend discretion in bringing children.** High-school age teens and older are welcome.

All members are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about our local organization and its work, to re-energize your zeal for the pro-life cause, and to meet and socialize with other RTL members. Don't miss it!

## Russia Garage Sale: March 18-20

The annual Russia Garage Sale is Right to Life's most successful fundraiser. Please consider assisting this event by donating goods, working at the sale, or attending and purchasing some of the thousands of useful items available for sale.

The sale will be held Thursday to Saturday, March 18-20, at St. Remy Hall in Russia. Hours will be 9 am-7 pm on Thursday and Friday, and 9 am-12 pm on Saturday.

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## **Russia Garage Sale** continued from page 1

**ACTION ITEM**

To donate good, clean, salable clothing and/or small items please contact the RTL office at 498-1812, or see your church bulletin for your local drop-off site. You may also drop items off Wednesday, March 17, at St. Remy Hall from 9 am-6 pm.

Because volunteers spend many hours organizing the sale, we request that only clean and salable clothing be donated. Having to throw away stained clothes adds a lot of work. It is also extremely helpful when clothing donations are sorted by size and bagged or boxed accordingly.

If you would like to donate large items, such as furniture, and are not able to store them until the sale, please contact Maria Hoehne at 937-295-2627.

There is a bake sale and raffle held in conjunction with the garage sale. Baked items may be brought to the garage sale on Wednesday, March 17, from 9 am-6 pm. Additional baked goods will be accepted throughout Thursday of the sale. Raffle tickets are included with this newsletter. Please return them through the mail or directly to the sale by Saturday morning.

Volunteers are needed to help work at the sale, Wednesday through Saturday. A phone call to Karen Rosenbeck, 937-526-5814, would be greatly appreciated!

## **Day of the Unborn Child: March 25**

This month we celebrate the Day of the Unborn Child. The date was chosen because it falls nine months before the most celebrated birth in Western civilization, known throughout the world as Christmas. Regardless of whether one emphasizes the secular or religious aspects of the March 25th memorial, the symbolic interval of a full-term pregnancy reminds us of the reality and dignity of life from conception. Find more about how to honor this day at [www.dayoftheunbornchild.com](http://www.dayoftheunbornchild.com).

## **40 Days for Life, Spring Campaign**

Although our local group will focus on the Fall campaign, 40 Days for Life also occurs during February and March. We encourage members to participate, as they are able, in the customary practices of prayer, fasting, and witness for life. See [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com) for more information.

## **2010 Elections Right Around the Corner**

It's not too early to start thinking about supporting the pro-life cause at the polls. Primaries for important local, state, and national races will be held May 4. Get involved by learning about and supporting pro-life issues and candidates, and by trying to persuade others of their importance. Two helpful web sites are:

[www.politicalresponsibility.com](http://www.politicalresponsibility.com) (Sponsored by Priests for Life; lots of resources)

[www.ohiovotesforlife.org](http://www.ohiovotesforlife.org) (Sponsored by Ohio Right to Life PAC; candidate information, endorsements)

## **Newsletters Now Online**

Thank you to the many members who have signed up to receive their RTL newsletters via e-mail. Anyone may now access the newsletter on the web at [www.shelbycountyrntl.org](http://www.shelbycountyrntl.org). Click on "Newsletter Archive" in the menu bar at the top of the page. We are in the process of posting back issues, as well. Pages can be easily shared by printing or by forwarding via e-mail.

## Attention Pastors: Life Solidarity 2010

On Thursday April 22, 2010, there will be a gathering of leaders to advance the protection of the unborn. All are welcome to attend Life Solidarity 2010 at the Schindler Banquet Center in Xenia, Ohio.

Conference speakers and other activities will explore the issues, as well as provide resources and guidelines for life affirming ministry. The overarching purpose of this gathering is to bring together God's people from across racial lines and theological traditions to overcome barriers toward presenting a united calling for defense of life in the womb. **All area clergy are especially urged to attend this convocation.**

Speakers will include Bishop Harry Jackson of Hope Christian Church in Washington, D.C.; Greg Koukl of Stand to Reason; and the Rev. Arnold Culbreath of Life Issues Institute. Please encourage your pastor to participate in this exciting event. Find more information at [www.lifesolidarity.com](http://www.lifesolidarity.com).

## Trisler Receives Ohio House Commendation, Finally



Elizabeth Trisler, winner of Shelby County, Ohio, and National Right to Life Oratory Contests, received her much-deserved and much-delayed proclamation from the floor of the Ohio House on February 17. The proclamation was presented to the Shelby County teen for her hard work, determination and outstanding national achievement at the Right to Life Oratory Contest. She also received similar recognition from the Ohio Senate, a measure introduced by Senator Keith Faber.

Trisler had received national publicity when House Speaker Armond Budish accepted, postponed, and then cancelled a request by Trisler's State Representative, John Adams, to present the proclamation on the House floor. After receiving extensive criticism from Ohio Right to Life, a wide variety of other groups, and national, state, and local media, Speaker Budish relented and allowed the presentation.

The controversy received attention from FoxNews, where Elizabeth and her mother Sandi appeared, many Ohio papers, including the Cleveland Plain Dealer and Columbus Dispatch, and national pro-life news outlets.

"We are pleased that this talented and committed young woman received the honor she deserved," said Elyse Putnam, Public Relations Director for Ohio Right to Life. "We are also pleased that the correct message has finally been sent to Ohio teens that respectful participation in the debate over the great issues of our time is something our democracy should encourage, not stifle," said Putnam.

With information and photo courtesy of Ohio Right to Life.

## Memorial, Online Donations Support Right to Life

Please remember Right to Life in your estate planning and when considering memorial donations for friends and loved ones. Contributions to the RTL Endowment Fund should include the memo "Right to Life" and be payable to "Community Foundation," 100 S. Main St., Suite 202, Sidney, OH 45365.

The Community Foundation announces that it is now able to accept online donations by credit card via PayPal. Contributions can be made through the Foundation's web site, [www.commfoun.com](http://www.commfoun.com). The Community Foundation will absorb the transaction fee normally associated with PayPal, so your entire contribution will be deposited in the RTL Endowment Fund.

Thank you for your continuing generosity.



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## **\$38 Trillion: Abortion's Economic Impact**

In its latest estimate on the economic impact of abortion, the Movement for a Better America is reporting that the abortion toll is projected to climb to a new high of 52,333,000 as of January 22, 2010, the 37th anniversary of Roe v. Wade. The group also estimated that the economic impact has risen to \$38.5 trillion in lost U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) since 1970.

"This year alone, the impact involved another \$2.45 trillion, or roughly equal to half the GDP of Germany and France combined," said the Movement in a press release.

MBA President Dennis Howard, who has been researching the economic impact of abortion since 1992, said, "The number of lives lost to surgical abortion has reached 17% of the total U.S. population of 307,000,000. So it's not surprising that this year's increase is equal to 17% of U.S. GDP."

The estimates are based on average GDP per year since 1970 after abortion became legal in our largest states and the cumulative number of abortions. The estimates do not include babies lost to abortifacients and contraception because of the lack of public data.

Howard has been warning since the mid-1990s that the US faced a major financial crisis based on ongoing demographic trends. He cited the collapse of the former Soviet Union as an example of the impact of demographics on economies.

"The main reason for their collapse was internal – 300 abortions for every 100 live births for decades ... Right now, there are not enough younger women to reverse their population decline. They could lose another 40 million people by 2050."

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