

Volunteer Corner

RTL is in need of volunteers to design, decorate, and drive our parade float for local festivals. If you are able to help with one or more of these tasks, please contact the office as soon as possible.

Welcome to new clothing center volunteers Janet Aselage, Carol Carity, and Betty Johnson. Thank you to all who assist in this important service.

Mark your calendar...

The deadline for submissions to the June newsletter is May 18.

The next board meeting will be May 26 at 7:30 pm.

Clothing Center report

We served 178 people during the month of March, of whom 51 received free items, 2 took literature, and 3 were 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

Ohio RTL:
www.ohiolife.org

National RTL Committee:
www.nrlc.org

Another Record Year for Garage Sale

It was another outstanding year for the Russia RTL Garage Sale. The following report is from co-chairs Maria Hoehne and Bonnie York:

Words cannot express how appreciative we are for all who worked at, supplied items to sell, or purchased items from the Shelby County Right to Life garage sale. The proceeds from the sale will help to save the lives of babies right here in Shelby County! That impact alone is beyond comprehension.



A special thanks to: Ft. Loramie Stor & Lock for donating the use of a storage space, all the local churches for providing a drop-off site and delivering the items to the sale, Karen Rosenbeck for organizing the workers, St. Remy Church for allowing us to use their hall free of charge, Dave York for setting up the stand-up signs, Marcy Bensman and Regina Hemmelgarn for providing lunch for the set-up crew, and to Connie McEldowney and her family for all their help at the hall. A great big thanks to the volunteers who managed the sale and who are too numerous to list!

Many thanks to Maria, Bonnie, and all those who help with this event in so many capacities. It provides a major portion of RTL's annual budget and thereby helps us to continue our pro-life work in countless ways. (A list of the raffle winners will be included in next month's newsletter.)

Ohio Pro-Life Law Now in Effect

Ohio's new Protecting Pregnant Women from Coercion and Violence Act went into effect in April. In addition to protecting pregnant women from violence and coerced abortions, the new law allows individuals to seek damages by offering proof against abortion facilities demonstrating a pattern of failing to report known or suspected child sexual abuse.

The Ohio Supreme Court has noted this new provision in a recent case. The new law, sponsored by former Rep. Michelle Schneider:

- Requires abortion facilities to post a "No One Can Force You to Have an Abortion" poster;
- Requires mandatory minimum prison sentences for assault and increases penalties for domestic violence if the offender knew the victim was pregnant;
- Permits recovery of compensatory and exemplary damages in a civil action for failure to file required reports of known or suspected child abuse;

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White House Staffer: More Than Two Million Red Envelopes Deluge President

A White House mailroom staffer has confirmed that nearly 2.5 million red envelopes have made their way to President Barack Obama to protest his pro-abortion record. The staff member says the campaign is one of the largest efforts he can recall in his 35 years working at the White House.

The mailroom worker, identified in a WorldNetDaily interview as Steve, helps oversee the mail destined for the president. Asked if he had seen a deluge of red envelopes in recent weeks, Steve responded: "Uh, yes. Believe me, they made it here. Quite frankly, there was definitely a deluge of mail coming through," he laughed. "I had to handle them all."



Though President Obama is in Europe on a foreign trip, the White House worker said the Obama administration has noticed the flood of red envelopes against abortion. "I've been here 35 years, so I've seen presidents come and go," he told WND. "This campaign ranks up there with the big ones."

Inspired during a prayer, Massachusetts resident Chris Otto came up with the idea of sending red envelopes to President Barack Obama to protest his pro-abortion policies. As he told LifeNews.com back in February, what started out as an email request to 120 of his ministry friends and supporters turned into a nationwide phenomenon that saw others ask pro-life advocates to coordinate sending their red envelopes to Obama this week.

"We are trying to change the president's heart," Otto says. "This is a message to a man that God hears the cry of innocent blood. It is not a political stunt, although I hope it changes policy in Washington."

A Texas man named Brian Potter set March 31 as the date for sending the red envelopes and that coordination appeared evident in the comments from the White House mailroom employee. Several web sites have been set up in support of the project and the people who have responded saying they sent or will send envelopes has reached over 1.5 million, though not everyone has registered with the web sites.

"For me, this has been a living parable of my philosophy of life and ministry: 'Listen to the Lord, and do what He tells you,'" Otto tells LifeNews.com. "I was not expecting such a dramatic outcome."

By Steven Ertelt. This item is edited for space and reprinted with permission from LifeNews.com, April 7, 2009.

Ohio Pro-Life Law Now in Effect (continued from page 1)

- Provides mandatory prison sentences and payment of restitution to victims in cases of "human trafficking" for prostitution.

Recently, the Ohio Supreme Court issued an order directing the parties in *Roe v. Planned Parenthood Southwest Ohio Region* to file briefs addressing whether the provisions of the new law apply to the case. The case was brought by Cincinnati-area parents whose minor daughter had an abortion at a Planned Parenthood facility without her parents' knowledge after being sexually abused by her adult coach. The parents allege that Planned Parenthood failed to comply with the statute requiring reports of known or suspected child abuse as well as Ohio's parental consent statute.

"We are proud that Ohio has acted to protect women and children from coercion and abuse," said Mike Gonidakis, President of Ohio Right to Life. "Coerced abortion, violence against pregnant women, and child abuse have no place in a civilized society," Gonidakis said.

This article is adapted from a press release from Ohio Right to Life, April 7, 2009.

Endowment Fund Off to a Good Start

Thanks to our generous members, the RTL Endowment Fund has made a promising beginning. The purpose of the fund is to ensure the long-term financial stability of our organization, ensuring that our efforts to build a culture of life will continue. Our goal is for the fund eventually to reach \$100,000, providing enough annual income to cover building rental costs. Just five months after initiation, donors have contributed more than \$7,000. We are grateful to all those who have given.

If you have not yet donated to the fund, please consider supporting RTL in this way. Even if you would rather keep supporting RTL with a regular annual donation (we need those too!), the endowment fund is a good cause to keep in mind as you are planning your estate. Donations deposited there will remain and continue to support the pro-life cause for decades to come.

Contributions to the endowment should be sent directly to the Community Foundation of Shelby County, which administers the fund on behalf of RTL. Checks should be made payable to Community Foundation of Shelby County, with Right to Life on the memo line, and sent to:

Community Foundation
Courtview Center, Suite 202
100 S. Main Ave.
Sidney, OH, 45365

However you choose to contribute to the pro-life cause and to RTL more specifically—through your time, talent, or treasure—your efforts are valuable, and we are grateful.



Planned Parenthood Boycott List Now Available

Many who value life are rightly concerned to support only companies that do not contribute to the abortion industry, pro-euthanasia groups, or other anti-life entities. Life Decisions International (LDI) is a Virginia-based organization that monitors the corporate supporters of Planned Parenthood. RTL has purchased The Boycott List from LDI. Because of copyright restrictions, we cannot copy or distribute the list, but members of RTL may view the list at the office. (The copyright restrictions are of particular concern because of LDI's interest in disseminating only current and accurate information to the public.) The list is considered valid through July 2009. Included on the list of corporate contributors to Planned Parenthood are Levi, Merck, Warner Brothers, Johnson & Johnson, and Holiday Inn, among many others. Those interested in participating in either a boycott or a letter-writing campaign to these companies, may visit the RTL office and ask to see The Boycott List.

Prayer Chain for Pregnant Mothers

We should all be praying constantly for greater respect for life. For those who feel a more specific prayer calling, you might consider signing up for RTL's prayer chain.

The prayer chain requests are generated from the Women's Center in Sidney. Whenever staff there believes that a woman who has visited or contacted their office is still planning to get an abortion after they have done all they can to convince her otherwise, they call our prayer chain coordinator. Those who sign up on our prayer chain will be sent an e-mail with "prayer request" in the subject line, asking for prayers for the woman and her unborn child. To maintain confidentiality, no name or other identifying information is given, but you will be praying for a specific mother and child in need at that time.

The prayer chain coordinator is Cheryl Flood, and you may sign up by contacting her at floodsidney@aol.com. Your e-mail address will not be used for any other purpose. Please consider participating in this important service to our community and to the cause of life.

Right to Life of Shelby County

P.O. Box 72

Sidney, OH 45365-0072

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Return Service Requested

Clothing Center Donations Needed

We are grateful for the countless donors who have contributed clothing and other items to our thrift shop over the years. For some time, we were not encouraging further donations of clothing because of a surplus. Due to several factors, the situation has changed.

For one, our new location offers both more storage space to handle extra clothing and better visibility, resulting in increased traffic. Additionally, the economic downturn has resulted in more cost-conscious shopping and increased numbers of needy families, driving more clients into our shop.

Now more than ever, then, RTL's clothing center is serving a vital need by providing low-cost clothing and other items to mothers with babies and young children. If you have extra maternity or children's clothing appropriate to age 12, please consider donating to RTL. For a full statement of our donation policy, see our web site (click on "Office Information").

Please note: We can no longer accept car seats manufactured more than 5 years ago. Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support.

Membership Reminder

If there is a "Your Membership is Due" stamp on this newsletter, that means we have not yet received your membership dues for 2009.

At your earliest convenience, please send a check for \$12, payable to Right to Life, to RTL-SC, PO Box 72, Sidney, OH 45365. Thank you!