

Volunteer corner

We are in need of more volunteers to staff the thrift shop. If you are able to offer one afternoon per month for this important service, please contact Ann at the office, 498-1812.

New web resources

Shelby County RTL now has a Facebook page! Search for "Right to Life of Shelby County" at Facebook.com.

Ohio Right to Life has a new site geared toward youth and offering multimedia and social networking features. Check out Ohio Life Wire at ohio-life.weebly.com.

Mark your calendar...

- Deadline for submissions to the June newsletter: May 26.
- Board meetings: May 4, June 1, 7 pm.

Clothing center report

We served 174 people during the month of March, of whom 61 received free items and nine took literature.

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

Local College Student Interns at Ohio RTL

The local pro-life movement continues to generate young people who are making a difference far beyond the boundaries of Shelby County. The latest example is Erin Cain, the first beneficiary of Ohio Right to Life's new intern program for college students. Erin is the daughter of RTL members Deb and Denny Cain of Anna, and a senior at Ohio State University, where she is studying English and Professional Writing and is president of St. Paul's Outreach, a Catholic college ministry. We interviewed her for this newsletter.

Tell me a bit about your background in the pro-life movement.

I grew up in a very Catholic, pro-life home; my parents have eight kids. For as long as I can remember, we've been praying for the end to abortion, even when I didn't know exactly what that meant. But I knew that abortion was murder, and that, of course, was wrong. I went to my first March for Life in D.C. when I was in the sixth grade; after that first time, I went almost every year through high school.

How did you learn of the ORTL internship? How did you apply for it?

One of the girls that works at ORTL is involved with Saint Paul's Outreach. She had told me about the internship; I was so excited and applied almost immediately. Applying was pretty simple, a cover letter which included answering a few questions, plus my resume. I e-mailed these both into the office and they contacted me to set up an interview.

What sorts of tasks have you done at ORTL?

I've done everything from ordering over-sized baby bottles to writing articles for the quarterly newsletter. Back when we were preparing for the Rally for Life with Sarah Palin, I answered about fifty calls in two hours from supporters calling to get free tickets. I did a lot of preparation work for that event. Continued on page 2

Nebraska Abortion Law Could Weaken Roe

The Nebraska legislature has signed off on a bill that could head to the courts and ultimately weaken further the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision that has resulted in 52 million abortions. The bill bans abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy based on the well-established concept of fetal pain.

The legislation has been hailed by pro-life advocates across the country for its innovative approach and focusing the public's attention on unborn babies who have been medically documented as pain capable at 20 weeks gestation.

National Right to Life attorney Mary Spaulding Balch told LifeNews.com that the bill could make its way to the Supreme Court to alter national abortion law further and set a wide-ranging precedent. Continued on page 3

The End of Abortion

Editor's Note: 40 Days for Life is a pro-life program of prayer and action that is conducted nationwide twice per year. Our local group actively promotes the fall campaign, which will be coming up in September. The spring campaign recently ended, and director David Bereit offered the following reflection.

If you've ever been to a graduation ceremony, you may have heard the event referred to as "commencement exercises." Yes, the day marks the end of a period in the graduate's life — but most importantly, it marks a beginning. Such is also the case with 40 Days for Life.

You may have heard me say that 40 Days for Life campaigns could well mark the beginning of the end of abortion in the communities where those campaigns are held — and across the nation and around the world. There have been many, many blessings that God has given us during these 40 days. But the truth is, this is just the start. "The beginning of the end of abortion" means that seeds have been planted. When will the seeds sprout? When will they bear fruit? The answer is God's alone, of course. But who will water the seeds? Who will keep the garden free of weeds?

The answer is — YOU! There are many things you can do to keep the momentum rolling. For one thing ... please keep praying! At a 40 Days for Life rally in Hagerstown, Maryland, a man told of going to pray at the abortion facility with his wife and eight children. While they were there, a woman canceled her abortion appointment and decided to keep her child. Some days later, the man's 4-year-old son said, "Daddy we saved a baby. When are we going again?"

What else can you do? Train to be a sidewalk counselor outside the abortion facility. Support — and volunteer for — a pro-life pregnancy resource center. Start a pro-life group at your church or school. Promote the pro-life viewpoint in letters to the editor or calls to radio talk shows. Speak up for the babies in this year's political discussions.

Reprinted from www.40daysforlife.com. Edited for space.



Erin Cain Interns for ORTL Continued from page 1

I have been in charge of sending out "E-Weekly," a new initiative to let supporters know what's happened each week with Ohio Right to Life. I get to prepare most of the content for this. I also have been working on a couple articles for the quarterly newsletter. I interviewed Dr. Jeffrey Barrows, founder of Gracehaven, a home for victims of domestic minor sex trafficking, and Joe Young, a leader at Heartbeat International.

What have you learned? Anything that stands out as an especially valuable experience?

I've realized how much goes into pro-life organizations. It's not what I expected; it's greater. Being pro-life isn't just a preference, it's a part of our daily lives. It also has been really awesome to see how many pro-lifers there are in Ohio and to see their dedication to the cause.

When I learned about human trafficking, I realized that the pro-life movement isn't just about saving lives in terms of abortion; it's about protecting our right to life—and helping and supporting those who are too weak to stand up for themselves, in this case, the victims of human trafficking.

I had the opportunity to go to the statehouse with ORTL for our Legislative Day. I spent the morning with Ron Meyer (President, RTL-SC), meeting with Rep. John Adams and Sen. Keith Faber. Although we didn't get to lobby them, since they both are strong pro-lifers, it was still really awesome to be able to see the work that is going on in the statehouse, and just to have the opportunity to stand up and express our beliefs.

Would you recommend this intern program to other college students?

Yes. I never expected that I would get this much out of an internship. I've learned more about what I believe in and why I believe it, how to promote these pro-life views, and I've even had some great writing experience!

Anyone interested in the ORTL internship program may contact Elyse Putnam, 614-547-0099 or EPutnam@ohiolife.org.

Primaries: May 4

ACTION ITEM

One of our obligations is to act in the political sphere in a way that is consistent with our pro-life convictions. Please remember the importance of voting for 100% pro-life candidates, men and women willing to buck popular opinion and party politics to stand up for protection of the unborn. Elections this year are critically important, beginning with the Ohio primaries on May 4.

Before you vote, take the time to investigate candidate positions and records. One good resource is www.ohiovotesforlife.org.

Nebraska Law Continued from page 1

“Although it will be a case of first impression, there are strong grounds to believe that five members of the current U.S. Supreme Court would give serious consideration to Nebraska’s assertion of a compelling state interest in preserving the life of an unborn child whom substantial medical evidence indicates is capable of feeling pain during an abortion,” she said.

The ban on partial-birth abortions that made its way to the Supreme Court twice brought home the pro-life message that abortion kills an unborn child and was responsible for shifting public opinion on abortion squarely into the pro-life category. It also paved the way for states to, for the first time since Roe, ban at least some abortions. The Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act could see the same group of five members of the Supreme Court uphold it as constitutional and allow more abortions to be prohibited.

Balch says the pro-life group wants the Supreme Court to redraw the line away from the viability standard about when abortions can be prohibited. “What I would like to bring to the attention of the court is, there is another line,” Balch said. “This new knowledge is something the court has not looked at before and should look at.”

Fetal pain is not a new concept and the leading national expert on the topic confirms unborn children definitely have the capacity to feel intense pain during an abortion. Dr. Kanwaljeet Anand of the University of Arkansas Medical Center has said he and other specialists in development of unborn children have shown that babies feel pain before birth as early as 20 weeks into the pregnancy. Anand said many medical studies conclude that unborn babies are “very likely” to be “extremely sensitive to pain during the gestation of 20 to 30 weeks.”

An April 2004 Zogby poll shows that 77% of Americans back “laws requiring that women who are 20 weeks or more along in their pregnancy be given information about fetal pain before having an abortion.” Only 16 percent disagreed with such a proposal, according to the poll, commissioned by the National Right to Life Committee.

By Steven Ertelt. Reprinted with permission from LifeNews.com, April 13, 2010. Edited for space.

Sexual Assault and Abortion: What the Research Says

There has been very little research conducted to date on the experiences of women who became pregnant as a result of rape or incest. One survey was conducted by the Elliot Institute for our book, *Victims and Victors: Speaking Out About Their Pregnancies, Abortions and Children Resulting From Sexual Assault*.

Our survey was based on letters and survey responses of 192 women who became pregnant as a result of rape or incest. 164 were victims of rape and 28 were victims of incest (sexual assault involving a family member). Overall, 69 percent continued the pregnancy and either raised the child or made an adoption plan, 29 percent had abortions and 1.5 percent had miscarriages. Continued on page 4



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Elliott Institute Study on Assault, Abortion Continued from page 3

- Nearly 80 percent of the women who aborted the pregnancy reported that abortion had been the wrong solution.
- Most women who had abortions said that abortion only increased the trauma they were experiencing.
- In many cases, the victim faced strong pressure or demands to abort. 43 percent of rape victims who aborted said they felt pressured or were strongly directed by family members or health workers to abort.
- In almost every case where an incest victim had an abortion, it was the girl's parents or the perpetrator who made the decision and arrangements for the abortion, not the girl herself. In several cases, the abortion was carried out against her expressed wishes, and in a few cases, without her knowledge that she was pregnant or that an abortion was taking place.
- More than 80 percent of the women who carried their pregnancies to term said that they were happy that they had continued the pregnancy.
- None of the women who gave birth to a child conceived in sexual assault expressed regret or wished they had aborted instead.

Further, studies that examine risk factors for psychological problems after abortion women with a history of sexual assault or abuse are more likely to have difficulty coping after abortion. For a more detailed account of the survey results, see the book, Reardon, Makimaa, and Sobie, *Victims and Victors: Speaking Out About Their Pregnancies, Abortions and Children Resulting from Sexual Assault* (Springfield, IL: Acorn Books, 2000) 19-22.

Reprinted courtesy of the Elliot Institute, PO Box 7348, Springfield, IL 62791-7348. Additional material is posted at www.afterabortion.org.