
RTL Spearheads Post-Abortion Training

Shelby County Right to Life, in collaboration with the Elizabeth's New Life Center, recently sponsored a training session for area volunteers who wish to be involved in assisting those who are suffering from the loss of a child through abortion. The event was held in March at a meeting room in the Piqua public library.

Inisher Collins, who heads ENLC's abortion recovery program in Dayton, led the group of ten participants as they explored the most effective ways to guide post-abortive women and men through the healing process. Participants included a professional counselor, a non-profit coordinator, and ministry leaders from several churches.

One participant in the seminar was also a featured speaker, who shared her experience as a grandmother of a child lost through abortion. She explained that she was unaware of the loss for several months after it had occurred, but she observed a dramatic change of behavior in the young parents of the child. She finally invited her own child to confide in her about what was causing the self-destructive behavior she noticed. She shared that her grief and distress is ongoing, but she has found some healing and purpose in helping others.

The Women's Center of Sidney can place interested individuals in a local Forgiven and Set Free recovery program or refer them to their Dayton ENLC office. The organizers of the seminar intend to have the eleven-week program available for support groups or individual support in Shelby County in the near future. RTL's representative at the seminar, Anne Schmiesing, explained that the program was initiated because "regardless of anyone's thoughts or feelings about the legality of abortion, observation and research make it overwhelmingly clear that those making abortion decisions are impacted at a very deep level, often with serious long term emotional consequences."

More information about abortion recovery is available at www.HopeAfterAbortionDayton.org.

Golf Outing: Sign Up Now

Time is almost up! Registration for the Scramble 4 Life closes this Friday. Contact Julia to sign up now: scramble4life@gmail.com or 937-489-9129.

More information can be found at www.shelbycountyrtrl.org.

Garage Sale Success

Thank you to all who helped to make our garage sale another amazing success. Maria Hoehne and her army of volunteers do a phenomenal job and we are grateful!

Congratulations to the Scott and Melissa Armstrong family, who won more than \$500 in the garage sale 50/50 raffle!

Thrift Shop Report

February

142 Customers
8 Work-to-earn shifts
3 Free units

March

123 Customers
3 Work-to-earn shifts
1 Free units

Should Abortion Be Permitted in “Exceptional” Cases?

In a recent forum for Republican candidates for the Ohio House, there was discussion about exceptions to pro-life laws so as to permit abortions in cases of rape, incest, and to protect the life of the mother. Shelby County RTL takes the position that the legal protection of human life should contain no such exceptions. We do so not because we are unconcerned about the wellbeing of the mother, but because we believe—on the basis of evidence and sound reasoning—that comprehensive, no-exceptions legal protection is best for *both* mother and baby. In this article, we focus on the exception for sexual assault. The following are excerpts from the article, “Protect Girls Pregnant Through Rape From Abortion.” Please access the entire, excellent article, at the website of the Elliot Institute, AfterAbortion.org.

Research suggests that abortion carries greater physical and psychological risks for rape victims than does continuing the pregnancy — something that has been attested to by women and girls who have been there.

In our survey of 192 women who became pregnant through sexual assault, it was found that:

- Nearly 80 percent of the women who aborted a pregnancy conceived in sexual assault 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 and in some cases, especially those involving teenage girls, was even forced to have the abortion by others.
- 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 have found that adolescents, women with a history of sexual assault or abuse, and those who have second- or third-trimester abortions are all more likely to have difficulty coping after abortion.

Abortion advocates and some “human rights” groups have used the cases of pregnant victims to demand that countries overturn their abortion laws. But abortion will do nothing to help the already traumatized victims, and can only cause additional harm.

In the book *Victims and Victors*, one of the survivors, Jackie, wrote: “I soon discovered that the aftermath of my abortion continued a long time after the memory of my rape had faded. I felt empty and horrible. Nobody told me about the pain I would feel deep within causing nightmares and deep depressions. They had all told me that after the abortion I could continue my life as if nothing had happened.”

Wiping out the pregnancy is a way of hiding what happened, a “quick and easy” way to avoid dealing with the survivor’s true emotional, social and financial needs. As Kathleen wrote: “I, having lived through rape, and also having raised a child “conceived in rape,” feel personally assaulted and insulted every time I hear that abortion should be legal because of rape and incest. I feel that we’re being used by pro-abortionists to further the abortion issue, even though we’ve not been asked to tell our side of the story.”

May/June Prayer Intentions



3

For all in our Right to Life family — members, staff, and board — who are suffering in body or spirit. May they be restored to health and happiness.

For the elections on May 8 and for our nation, may concern for the protection of human life at all stages guide the decisions of voters and political officeholders.

Ohio is One of the Most Pro-life States in the Country

In recent years, Ohio has banned abortion on babies with Down syndrome, introduced a bill that recognized preborn babies as human beings, and passed a 20-week abortion ban. And women must be given an ultrasound and, if their preborn baby's heart is already beating, the opportunity to see it. The legislature is also currently considering mandating burial or cremation for preborn babies killed in abortion.

This has upset Christina Cauterucci, who wrote an op-ed at Slate, complaining that state lawmakers are too “extreme” for a purple state. And while Cauterucci makes sure to argue that most Ohioans — like most Americans — want abortion to be legal, she completely ignores that most polls have found that people favor heavy restrictions on abortion. So is Ohio truly extreme? Not in the least.

Polling is consistently clear: only a small number of Americans want abortion to be legal, on demand, and completely unrestricted. While the abortion industry and its advocates want abortion to be widely available and taxpayer funded, most Americans want abortion to be highly regulated and rare. A majority of Americans view abortion as morally wrong, want it banned after the first trimester except in very rare circumstances, and want it outright banned after 20 weeks. Most Americans also support other restrictions, like laws requiring parental consent, waiting periods, counseling, and informed consent. And after all, this is the standard for most of the world; very few countries have abortion laws as permissive as the United States.

So is it Ohio that's extreme? Or is it the abortion industry? It looks like Ohio is, indeed, following the example of consistent polling. Are these pro-life laws? Yes, but they are laws that Americans support. And they are laws that are necessary.

Take Cauterucci's ire towards the potential ultrasound law. While she acts as if pre-abortion ultrasounds are a tool invented by pro-lifers to humiliate abortion-minded women, ultrasounds are not only a “routine part” of what happens before an abortion, but are medically necessary, both before and after the abortion. The abortionist will need to determine her gestational age, so he can then determine which abortion procedure to use.

Ohio is looking out for women; pro-abortion activists are just trying to make sure abortion is as widely available as possible. Ohio is one of the most pro-life states in the nation, but that doesn't make it extreme, nor is being pro-life a partisan issue. Approximately one-third of Democrats identify as pro-life, and there have been widespread calls for the DNC to reject its pro-abortion extremism.

No matter which way you look at it, Ohio comes out on top of this argument.

By Cassy Fiano, LiveAction.org, April 8, 2018, via Ohio RTL e-mail, April 10, 2018. Edited for space.

In memory of long-time member Mary Lou Schulze.

+ May she rest in peace. +

Voting Resources

Primary elections are coming up on Tuesday, May 8. There are a number of contested races, including Ohio House, governor, and US Senate.

For those who live in the 84th state house district, Mercer County Right to Life printed very helpful statements from each candidate in its April newsletter. It can be found online at mercerlife.org — find “newsletters” in the menu box on the left and click on April 2018.

Two Ohio pro-life organizations issue endorsements of candidates: Right to Life Action Coalition and Ohio Right to Life PAC. Find them online at www.rtaohio.org and ohiovotesforlife.org.

Another helpful source of information on candidates is ivoterguide.com.

Prayer for Elections

Almighty God, Lord of Life and King of all Nations, we beg you to look kindly upon our country and help us to choose our new leaders wisely. Inform our consciences and enlighten our judgment, that we may elect those who will mercifully uphold justice and strive to protect the least among us. May our nation once again respect religious freedom, authentic marriage, the importance of family and the value of every human life from conception to natural death. May our great land, built on both personal responsibility and charity towards the less fortunate, always balance prosperity with care for the elderly, the poor, the sick, and the abandoned. May we elect honest and trustworthy candidates who will always uphold the common good and protect our God-given rights. In concert with the great founders of our nation, may we confidently proclaim, “In God we trust”. Amen.