

## Rain Holds Off for Life Chain

Sunday, October 6, was a rainy day, but that didn't dampen the spirits of the sixty pro-lifers who showed up to pray for an end to abortion. They joined thousands of others at hundreds of locations across the country who came out for this year's Life Chain.

Skies cleared in the early afternoon, in time for the 2:30 event. Father Daniel Hess, parochial vicar of Holy Angels Catholic Church in Sidney offered an opening prayer. Andrew Nielson, one of the contestants in RTL's spring oratory contest, delivered his speech, sharing with the crowd how his mother had chosen life despite being warned of potential health complications.

The group then selected signs and took up posts around the court square to present a pro-life message to passing motorists. After this period of prayer, all gathered back at the courthouse steps for a closing prayer offered by Fr. Daniel Hunt, parochial vicar at Immaculate Conception parish in Botkins.

Drips began to fall as the event came to a close, and ten minutes later the skies opened in a downpour — but by that time participants were safely on their way home. We are thankful to God for the blessing of cooperative weather, and we are thankful to all of those who gave of their time for this witness to God's gift of life.

Mark your calendar

Remember to vote in elections for local officials:

Tuesday, November 5 (see prayer, page 4).

- Deadline for submissions to the December newsletter: Nov. 21.
- Board meeting: November 12, 7 p.m.

Clothing center report

In September, 148 clients purchased items, 12 used certificates from classes, 40 received free items, 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.

## Another Ohio Abortion Mill Closes

Today, Ohio Right to Life confirmed that the Cleveland Center for Women's Health, owned by late-term abortionist Martin Ruddock, has officially closed.



This is the third abortion clinic in Ohio to close its doors in the past 6 months. Sources cite Ohio Right to Life's late-term abortion ban law as the main reason for the clinic's closure and for Ruddock leaving Ohio.

"The fact that this late-term abortionist closed down and moved out of this state demonstrates that common sense pro-life legislation saves lives," said Mike Gonidakis, President of Ohio Right to Life. "Ohioans overwhelmingly oppose late-term abortions and reject these despicable practices by so-called doctors like Martin Ruddock and the abortion industry."

Abortionist Martin Ruddock has a history of running afoul of state health regulations. Upon inspection in 2006, Ruddock's clinic was cited by the Ohio Department of Health for failing to meet basic health standards, such as checking a patient's vitals before performing a late-term abortion.

"It appears that Martin Ruddock had a consistent track record for disregarding health standards and putting women's lives in danger," says Gonidakis. "Women are safer today in Cuyahoga County, because this abortion clinic is closed. We hope that more abortion clinics will close, innocent lives will be saved, and that the abortion industry will continue to be exposed for what it truly is," says Gonidakis.

From Ohio Right to Life press release, October 14, 2013.

## November 22: Join Us for a Pro-Life Flash Mob!

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Friday, November 22, 2013 is the annual Winter Wonderland parade in Sidney. Right to Life usually pulls a float, but this year we are planning something different, and need a lot of people to march in the parade.

THIS IS TO BE A JOY-FILLED GATHERING, with the theme LIGHT UP LIFE. It is a POSITIVE witness.

WHAT TO WEAR: It will likely be cold, but if you can, please wear bright yellow. If you don't have yellow, come anyway.

WHAT TO BRING: Bring flashlights to light up the balloons. Bring pleasant noisemakers, like jingle bells, baby rattles, tamborines — items that are easy to carry and not obnoxiously loud. Bring your smiles and exuberance.

WHAT WE WILL PROVIDE: Bright yellow balloons with a LIFE message.

Please RSVP to Anne Schmiesing <aschmiesing@woh.rr.com> or (937)492-5584, if you or your group would like to join us. Anne will need to provide you with RTL's line-up number and instructions for the parade.

## Ohio Abortions Hover Near Historic Lows

Today's release of the 2012 Ohio Abortion Report by the Ohio Department of Health shows that, following the historic 12 percent drop in abortions in 2011, abortions last year remained near the lowest levels ever, even with a slight rise from 2011. The 3 percent increase in 2012 (24,764 to 25,473) leaves abortions at the second-lowest level since 1976, when record-keeping first began, and significantly lower than 2010 levels (28,123 abortions).

The 2012 Abortion Report also reveals a: 5.3 percent overall increase within the African American community; 1.7 percent overall decrease within the white community; 30 percent decrease in abortions after 19 weeks gestation; increases in the major metropolitan areas of Cuyahoga, Franklin and Hamilton Counties; decrease in Lucas County (Toledo), and; decrease in teen abortions and increases in age groups older than 20

"We grieve for the loss of life represented by this report, and rise in abortions last year — even if it's slight — is a tragedy that reminds us that our work is not done," said Mike Gonidakis, President of Ohio Right to Life. "Fewer babies are alive today — especially in the African American community — and the blame for that tragedy lies squarely on the shoulders of Planned Parenthood, the rest of the abortion industry, and every politician who campaigned on their behalf last year."

Last year's hard-fought presidential election again found Ohio as the key battleground state, which meant millions of dollars were spent there by abortion industry leader Planned Parenthood in their support of their political ally, pro-choice President Barack Obama. Through political advertising, Planned Parenthood succeeded in further building their brand and expanding their business.

"As the first African American president, Barack Obama acted with complete irresponsibility and dangerous disregard by campaigning for and bringing business to an organization that has historically targeted minority communities," continued Gonidakis. "The results speak for themselves: abortions among whites went down while abortions among African Americans increased. This is a crisis that last year's election only worsened."

Significant progress was made in decreasing abortions among babies older than 20 weeks. Following the passage of the Ohio Right to Life Late-Term Abortion Ban in 2011, abortions after 20 weeks gestation fell by 30 percent last year.

"Right now, the pro-life community is wondering how much higher last year's abortions would have been without the life-saving laws that have already been enacted in Ohio," said Gonidakis. "We fully expect Planned Parenthood and NARAL to celebrate the overall abortion increase, but we nevertheless hope that they will one day work with Ohio Right to Life, pregnancy help centers, and the rest of the pro-life community to lower the number of abortions and bring Ohio back to life."

The full 2012 abortion report can be found online at ORTL's website, [www.ohiolife.org](http://www.ohiolife.org).

From Ohio Right to Life press release, October 1, 2013.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for all the blessings of 40 Days for Life: our LifeChain; the closing of abortion clinics in Ohio and around the country; all of our volunteers and supporters who are persevering in helping to build a culture of life in Shelby County. Let us pray in thanksgiving also for our members—those who have been with us for many years and those who have recently joined. Our members are our pro-life presence in this county. Please continue to pray for more pro-lifers to join in this important cause.



Please forward or share this newsletter with at least one other person this month. Thank you.

### Dutch Euthanasia Deaths Soar: Increase Includes Victims Incapable of Consenting

Although assisting suicide is only legal for a small fraction of the world's population, its advocates in the U.S. and abroad remain focused on promoting this dangerous legislation. While opponents of euthanasia and assisted suicide have long warned of the dangers to vulnerable populations, evidence of abuse is mounting in Europe.

In one country, the Netherlands, overall euthanasia deaths soared by 13 percent last year – and this included many patients with dementia and some suffering only from psychiatric problems. This poses the question, "How can those with dementia and mental illness 'chose' assisted suicide?"

The number of people in the Netherlands killed by medical euthanasia has more than doubled in the 10 years it has been legal. The nation reported that the number of documented euthanasia deaths totaled 4,188 in 2012. Shockingly, this number now represents more than 3% of all deaths nationwide from all causes. One explanation for the large increase in 2012 is the introduction of mobile euthanasia units allowing patients to be killed by lethal injection when family doctors refused.

In 2002, the Netherlands passed a law legalizing euthanasia. This law codified the twenty-year-old practice of failing to prosecute doctors who have committed euthanasia under certain conditions. While there are other guidelines, two major ones are 1) that the patient must be experiencing unbearable pain; and 2) the death request must be voluntary. It is important to note that the Hague Court of Appeals ruled that the pain guideline was not limited to physical pain, and that "psychic suffering" or "the potential disfigurement of personality" could also be grounds for euthanasia.

Of the 4,188 reported deaths in 2012, 42 people with dementia and 13 patients suffering severe psychiatric problems were killed. This raises alarm that any so-called guidelines are insufficient to protect the vulnerable. This message is carrying over into the debate in the United States.

Currently, doctor-prescribed suicide is legal in only Oregon, Washington, and Vermont — and may have some legal protection in the state of Montana, due to a court decision. The most recent state to enact the practice is Vermont, and its law contains less so-called safeguards than does the Netherlands statute.

For the first three years, the Vermont law grants doctors immunity from prosecution for providing a lethal dose of medication if they follow a loose list of rules, including making sure the patient is terminally ill and making a voluntary, informed decision. In 2016, that list of rules expires, with the hope that doctors will have established their own personal guidelines.

After the rules expire, the law protects physicians who prescribe legal drugs for their patients from civil or criminal liability, and from any sort of professional misconduct charges. The law will still require informed consent, mandating that doctors inform patients of "all feasible end-of-life services," including palliative care and hospice, but it will no longer mandate when or how doctors respond to requests, as long as "the patient makes an independent decision to self-administer a lethal dose of medication."

While Vermont works towards a possible repeal of its dangerous law, things are heating up in New Jersey. The assisting-suicide advocacy group, Compassion & Choices, formerly the Hemlock Society, is at work promoting a bill in New Jersey in essentially the same language that governs both Oregon and Washington. The language, developed initially for Oregon, purports to "safeguard" the practice and restrict it to the terminally ill and the competent.

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However, the so-called safeguards (similar to those failing in the Netherlands) have been widely criticized by medical groups and those in the disability rights community.

The measure pending in New Jersey has gotten traction under the false notion that it will be providing terminally ill people with merely one more "option." However, this is far from the truth. If you live in New Jersey it is critical to point out that states cannot afford to legalize this dangerous and uncontrollable practice of turning doctors from healers into those who prescribe death to their most vulnerable patients.

By Jennifer Popik, J.D., Legislative Counsel, NRLC's Powell Center for Medical Ethics. [NationalRighttoLifeNews.org](http://NationalRighttoLifeNews.org), September 25, 2013.

### Prayer for Elections

O God, we acknowledge you today as Lord, not only of individuals, but of nations and governments. We thank you for the privilege of being able to organize ourselves politically and of knowing that political loyalty does not have to mean disloyalty to you.

We thank you for your law, which our Founding Fathers acknowledged and recognized as higher than any human law. We thank you for the opportunity that this election puts before us.

Lord, we pray that your people may be awakened. Let them realize that while politics is not their salvation, their response to you requires that they be politically active. Awaken them to know that the same hands lifted up to you in prayer are the hands that pull the lever in the voting booth; that the same eyes that read your Word are the eyes that read the names on the ballot, and that they do not cease to be Christians when they enter the voting booth.

Awaken your people to a commitment to justice; to the sanctity of marriage and the family; to the dignity of each individual human life. Lord, we rejoice today that we are citizens of your kingdom. May that make us all the more committed to being faithful citizens on earth. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.