

## Volunteers Bring Pro-Life Message to the Fair

The pro-life fair booth is one of Shelby County Right to Life's oldest and most important programs. It started in a tent near the midway, with a display case showing the development of a preborn baby. The setting, materials, and personnel (at least some of them!) have changed, but the purpose remains the same: to touch the lives of fairgoers with a message of respect for the vulnerable unborn, disabled, and elderly.

Again this year, hundreds of passersby viewed the display in the Merchants Building over the course of the fair, with many stopping to talk and to take literature or other pro-life items.

We are very grateful to all of our volunteers who give of their time and who do such a wonderful job engaging visitors to the booth. We are thankful especially for Karen Berning, who has designed and erected the display, and organized the volunteers for many years.

As we have said in our annual letters and elsewhere: our members are Right to Life—and this is nowhere more evident than in the work of our fair booth volunteers. We look forward to many more years of bringing the pro-life message to the Shelby County Fair.



## Refurbished Thrift Shop Reopens

Most of the renovation of our office and thrift shop is complete and the store has resumed its regular hours. The place looks great and will improve our ability to serve our clients and members for years to come.

This remodel was necessary in part because our building has had some mold problems, and the removal of all the old carpet will help clear that up. The thrift shop workers needed a place to wash clothing donations, and more space for clothing display. For these reasons, we reorganized the store area, added clothing racks, and installed a washer and dryer.

A huge thank you goes to Henry and Ann Cordonnier who provided much of the planning and labor for the project. And to the donors who provided funds specifically for this purpose--RTL didn't need to tap into our annual operating funds at all, thanks to the generosity of these supporters.

Thanks, too, to all who assisted with the moving and construction. Your help was indispensable. Special thanks to Lowe's for offering a significant discount on the flooring, and to Freshway Foods for providing a truck for storage.

The thrift shop serves more than a thousand clients every year, furnishing low-cost clothing and other items for babies and young children. We also provide ongoing guidance to mothers through our parenting classes, a collaborative project with the Women's Center Sidney. Shop manager Ann Cordonnier and our volunteers regularly offer counsel and compassion to mothers in need.

If you'd like to see the improvements, please join us for an Open House immediately following this year's Life Chain on Sunday, October 5.

## Join Us! Life Chain, Open House

Please join us Sunday, October 5, 2:30-3:30, for our area's annual Life Chain. We will gather at the west steps of the courthouse at 2:30 for a brief program, followed by a period of prayer and witness on the sidewalks on the court square.

Immediately following the conclusion of the Life Chain, we invite you to visit our renovated thrift shop for an Open House.

### Clothing center report

In June, 150 clients purchased items, 14 used certificates from classes, 23 received free items, and 2 were referred to the women's center. In July (closed two weeks for renovation) 139 clients purchased items, 13 used certificates from classes, and 9 received free items.

## Pro-Life Conference in Dayton: This Saturday!

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Shelby County RTL is one of several sponsors of the annual LifeTech conference, which is focused on technological, medical, and scientific aspects of the life issues. There is always an excellent lineup of speakers and this year is no exception. Please consider attending this outstanding event.

Speakers and topics include: Gary Anderson, State Culture of Life Activities Director, Ohio Knights of Columbus, "The Silent Genocide: Down Syndrome Babies and Abortion"; Jerry Cirino, President, Cleveland Right to Life, "Historical Lessons of Progress, Life, and a New Media Response"; Colleen Gerke, Director, Archdiocese of Cincinnati Family and Respect Life Office, "A Vision for Ministry in the Promotion of Life"; Dr. Arthur M. Kunath, School Founder & President, Tri-State Arthritis & Rheumatology and St. Edmund Campion Academy, "Contraception: Societal and Demographic Implications"; David & Amber Lapp, Co-Directors, Love and Marriage in Middle America Project, "Marriage Disappearance in 21st Century America: Considerations For the Respect Life Movement"; Kayla Smith, Director of Legislative Affairs, Ohio Right to Life, "Overturning Unjust Laws: Protecting Life Through the Legislative Process."

Registration is \$50 per person, \$25 per student, and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Members of the clergy may register at the student price of \$25. For more information or to register, visit the conference website, [www.lifetechconference.org](http://www.lifetechconference.org).

### Twin Brothers Become Priests After Their Mother Rejects Abortion

Fr. Paulo and his identical twin, Fr. Felipe, were born in 1984 despite doctors encouraging their mother, Rosa Silva, to have an abortion.

Silva was a paramedic, and before discovering she was pregnant, exposed herself to x-rays while performing routine duties. At the time, abortion was legal in Chile for "therapeutic" reasons, and doctors encouraged her to end the life within her because her scans showed abnormalities. She was told that her baby had two heads, three arms, and its feet were sort of entangled. Silva said that instead of abortion, she would accept whatever God gave her.

When she delivered on September 10, 1984, two sons came out, and they were identical twins! Felipe was born first, but when Rosa's placenta would not detach, doctors suggested scraping her womb. She refused, and 17 minutes later, Paulo was born.

"This last detail is very significant for me," said Fr. Paulo. "The doctors inserted instruments to remove the placenta because it wouldn't come out. My mother knew that I was there. I was late, but I came out." Had doctors scraped his mother's womb, he would likely have been "gravely injured."

Fr. Paulo told the Catholic News agency, "How can I not defend the God of life? This event strengthened my vocation and gave it a specific vitality, and therefore, I was able to give myself existentially to what I believe."

It wasn't until the twins were in their sixth year of seminary formation that they learned about their mother's remarkable courage. But they both agreed that it was wise that she decided to wait for the right time to reveal what happened during her pregnancy their delivery. "It was surely the wisdom of my mother and her heart that allowed us to learn of such an amazing event at the right time," Fr. Paulo said.

Although the twins grew up in a Catholic family, when they grew older, they drifted away from their faith. But when their parents went through a trying time and got divorced, they went back to the Church. On April 28, 2012, the twins were ordained as priests and celebrated their first Mass at Our Lady of Mercies in Lagunillas.

#### Thank you, Holy Angels

Earlier this summer, a collection from the parishioners of Holy Angels Church provided packages of diapers and other baby items for the RTL thrift shop.

Thank you!

Their mother's courage is yet another example of the beautiful gift that can come from what doctors might call an "incompatible with life" pregnancy. If it were up to Rosa's doctors, her twins would have never been born, and the world would have been without two men who've dedicated their life to service.

By Sarah Zagorski, LifeNews.com, August 11, 2014. Edited for space.

We pray for good weather and good turnout for our Life Chain, and for positive impact from this year's 40 Days for Life campaign (September 24-November 2).

We pray in thanksgiving for our fair booth volunteers, for our thrift shop staff, volunteers, and clients, and we pray for blessings on them and their families.



## Ohio Right to Life Sweepstakes

Enclosed in this issue of the newsletter is a sheet of tickets for the annual Ohio Right to Life Sweepstakes. Buying tickets not only supports state-level efforts to protect the unborn, it also benefits our local RTL, which receives a portion of the proceeds.

The tickets are one dollar each or \$10 for the sheet of 12. Please complete the ticket information (chapter: Shelby County) and send tickets and payment to RTL, PO Box 72, Sidney, OH 45365, or place them in the secure drop box to the left of the office entrance. Tickets must be submitted no later than Monday, October 6.

More tickets are available for download at our web site, or for pickup at the thrift shop.

### Ohio Clinic Loses License: Unsafe Abortion Mills are Real "War on Women"

An Ohio abortion clinic has lost its license necessary to do surgical abortions after failing a state health inspection.

The Ohio Department of Health has denied the ambulatory surgical facility license required to do surgical abortions at Northeast Ohio Women's Center a 2127 State Road in Cuyahoga Falls. According to Right to Life of Northeast Ohio, which emailed LifeNews today, abortion center owner and operator David Burkons was issued the determination letter on July 31, 2014.

The license was denied based on the failure of the facility's general health inspection. Among the many violations included: no policies or procedures; no quality assurance program; lack of staff training; no director of nursing; no emergency care plan; multiple drug violations, including expired drugs and testing materials.

"Right to Life of Northeast Ohio has been consistently working to expose the unsafe operation of Northeast Ohio Women's Center with the media, and has filed complaints with the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Medical Board about both the facility and David Burkons," the group said.

The pro-life group added: "Ohio laws and regulations exist in order to protect the health and welfare of clients at ALL ambulatory surgical facilities, not just abortion facilities. We are grateful that ODH has denied this facility's surgical license, but are saddened that these health and safety violations are not enough to stop this unsafe facility from providing what their website calls "high quality health care", including chemical abortions using RU486."

The news comes on the same day a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic has been fined by the state of Ohio for running a filthy, unsanitary abortion clinic that puts the lives and health of women at risk.

Ohio Right to Life obtained documentation of enforcement actions against three abortion facilities by the Ohio Department of Health. Among them is a \$25,000 fine issued to Planned Parenthood of Bedford Heights due to severe violations of health and safety standards. Such violations include the facility's failure to adhere to infection control policies, including exposed urine samples.

"We're deeply concerned, though admittedly unsurprised, that multiple abortion facilities are jeopardizing the lives and health of women," said Mike Gonidakis, president of Ohio Right to Life. "The real war on women is being waged everyday in these unsafe and unsanitary abortion mills. These reports shock the conscience and reaffirm our resolve to protect life from Ohio's abortion industry."

By Steven Ertelt. LifeNews.com, August 1, 2014.

In memory of Esther Winner, in whose name memorial donations were made to Right to Life.

+May she rest in peace.+

## “Pro-Choice” Activists, Politicians Abandoning Term

Recently, we read about a change in how abortion advocates identify themselves. Their strategy, according to the New York Times, is to remove their “pro-choice” identity and re-identify themselves as advocates of “women’s health.”

The New York Times reports:

The change “is something that we have been talking about for several years,” said Cecile Richards, the president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America. “I just think the ‘pro-choice’ language doesn’t really resonate particularly with a lot of young women voters. We’re really trying to focus on, what are the real things you’re going to lose? Sometimes that’s rights. Sometimes that’s economic or access to health care for you or for your kids.”

This story reaffirms what we have all known for years: That advocating for abortion is simply not a winning strategy.

This is why the Toledo Blade recently recommended that [Ohio governor candidate] Ed FitzGerald broaden the idea of “war on women” to encompass much more than abortion. While FitzGerald initiated his campaign by identifying as “100% pro-choice,” he has since backed away from that identity. Advocating for abortion might appeal to his fringe supporters, but it just wouldn’t be a winning campaign with most Ohioans...

The retreat from the “pro-choice” identity tells us something very important: We must continue to stick the word “abortion” to every pro-choice candidate, from Ed FitzGerald on down.

By Katie McCann, excerpt from Ohio Right to Life e-mail, July 31, 2014.

# Equal Rights!—For Pre-born Women...