

Thrift Shop Implements New Work-to-Earn Program

RTL's thrift shop has been from the beginning an important part of its outreach to the community, a recognition that a comprehensive pro-life approach requires attention to families who are struggling to provide for the needs of their children.

Our goal at the same time is to assist clients in a way that respects their dignity as persons who may at times be dependent on others but who are also capable of taking responsibility for their own welfare. Therefore RTL does not hand out free items carelessly, but always seeks to combine a generous charitable spirit with an obligation to encourage our clients to greater responsibility, and to be good stewards of our benefactors' donations.

In pursuit of this goal, most clients "purchase" our clothing and other items at discount rates. For clients who are unable to afford even these prices, we have policies in place that enable our staff and volunteers to provide a limited number of free items such as diapers to those they judge to be truly in need.

In addition, we have offered programs that permit clients to receive free material in exchange for demonstrating their good faith and willingness to contribute to the betterment of themselves and others. In the past, we have sponsored parenting classes that clients could attend in exchange for gift certificates. We have discontinued those classes, but in their place have implemented a "work-to-earn" program. Clients who are interested can help out in the thrift shop in return for the free items they need.

Shop manager, Ann Cordonnier, and the shop volunteers do a great job working with these clients and the program has been successfully operating since June. *See page 2 for a related thrift shop story.*



RTL Volunteers Promote Respect for Life at Fair

Thank you to all of our members who promote our mission by staffing the RTL booth at the Shelby County Fair.

The booth is a great opportunity for us to get a pro-life message into the view of a large number of people, many of whom do not otherwise make contact with Right to Life.

Pro-life information and displays are available at the booth. As usual, the "Right to Life" hand fans were a popular item and could be spotted as they were being carried across the fairgrounds.

A special thank you to Karen and Les Berning for organizing volunteers and for setting up and taking down the displays.

ORTL Raffle Tickets Inside

Enclosed is a page of tickets for the annual Ohio Right to Life Sweepstakes. A \$10 donation buys the whole page of 12 tickets. Please return tickets and money to Shelby County RTL, PO Box 72, Sidney, OH 45365 or place in the secure drop box to the left of the thrift shop entrance.

Proceeds benefit both pro-life efforts at the state level as well as our local group. Thank you!

(E-newsletter recipients may print ticket sheets from our website. From the home page, click "Newsletter Archive" and find "September/October 2015.")

Clothing center report

In June, 184 clients purchased items, 43 used earned gift certificates, and 20 received free items.

In July, 161 clients purchased items, 22 used certificates, and 18 received free items.

25 extra boxes of clothing were donated to Dayton Right to Life.



RTL Float Visits Local Parades

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Football was the theme of the 2015 Right to Life float. The float, which appeared at Versailles Poultry Days, Botkins Carousel, and Anna Homecoming, emphasized the need to respect life at all its stages with its slogan, "Prolife from Kickoff until the Final Touchdown."

A big thank you to Brenda Bensman for organizing the float this year, and to all those who assisted in any way.

Going Above and Beyond: The Ladies of RTL are Building a Culture of Life Every Day

The RTL Thrift Shop is open 5 days a week and is RTL's constant presence in downtown Sidney. What goes on there on a daily basis is largely hidden from the world—and even from our own members—so we try occasionally to give you all a glimpse into the extraordinary work being done by ordinary people: the ladies who run the thrift shop.

In mid-July, a young mother, "Maria," came into the store to pick up some supplies for her eighteen-month-old daughter. Our volunteers already knew Maria from her previous visits to the shop. In the course of conversation, Maria shared that she had just gotten a job and was struggling to find day care for her child. She was trying to get off government welfare by finding employment and was starting her job immediately, but she had no money to pay for day care until her first paycheck came in, and she wasn't able to call on family to provide short-term help.

The ladies of RTL sprang into action. Thrift shop volunteers called other RTL members. One volunteer offered to provide transportation for the child. Another searched for openings at affordable day care centers. Two families agreed to help watch the baby until she could be suitably placed with a care provider. The RTL folks gave Maria the few days she needed to line up family members to assist as she got established in her job routine. One volunteer has continued to help Maria with transportation to her job.

This is only one of countless examples of the way our shop staff go beyond their duties to serve our community. The mentality starts at the top, with manager Ann Cordonnier. "It's all about building relationships with these girls," Ann says. Ann knows from experience how forming such relationships helps not only the clients but also the thrift shop. She cites the case of one longtime client who eventually became a volunteer herself. "She became protective of us, of the shop," Ann explains. She watches for shoplifters and shames them for trying to take advantage of the "good people" who make the thrift shop possible.

Interacting positively with the customers who come in the shop is sometimes challenging, but our volunteers make a difference by treating everyone with dignity and by genuinely caring for them and trying to do the best for them—even when that means insisting that they take responsibility for their own actions. The ladies of the thrift shop are a tremendous blessing to RTL and to our community.

If you'd like to join them, Ann is always looking for volunteers to fill shifts or serve as substitutes. Just call the office at 498-1812 and ask for Ann or leave a message.

Canadian Medical Association Votes: Doctors Must Refer Patients for Euthanasia

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) voted to reject a motion that would protect the conscience rights of physicians who refuse to refer patients to die by euthanasia at their annual General Council meeting [last week] in Halifax. A media release from the CMA stated: "Conscientious objection was a contentious issue, with 79% of delegates voting against a motion to support conscientious objectors who refuse to refer patients for medical aid in dying."

The Globe and Mail quoted Dr. Jennifer Tong of Vancouver who warned: "coercing physicians against their conscience" would damage patient-doctor relations and push some out of the profession.

By Alex Schadenberg, LifeNews.com, August 27, 2015. Edited for space.

September/October Prayer Intentions



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We pray for the success of this fall's 40 Days for Life campaign. May the prayer and witness of those who participate lead our communities and our nation to a greater respect for human persons at every stage of their lives.

Pray for Life at Botkins Area Churches: September 23-24

The annual Fall 40 Days for Life Campaign begins September 23. Immaculate Conception Church in Botkins and St. Joseph Church in Wapakoneta will be observing this campaign with a 40 Hours devotion from 6am on Wednesday, September 23, to 10pm on Thursday, September 24. Please consider committing to one hour of prayer at either of these churches during this time. You can sign up by contacting Jenny Weatherhead for Immaculate Conception in Botkins: 937-693-2331 (cortnjen@watchtv.net); or Lori Wilson for St. Joseph in Wapakoneta, 419-738-2440 (lwilson@bright.net); or Tim Dietz 937-693-2753 (timanddarladietz@gmail.com).

Pro-Life Teachers: Don't Support Abortion with Your Union Dues

As membership renewal time rolls around for the Ohio Education Association and the National Education Association, it's important to remember that these organizations support the abortion agenda. Rather than taking a pro-life or even a neutral position, as their members' diverse views would seem to demand, they have passed pro-abortion resolutions and regularly support pro-abortion candidates. As many have pointed out, what kind of organization promotes the destruction of its future clientele (the babies who will become students)?

If you or someone you know is a public school teacher, you should be aware that you have other options. Find out how to avoid paying dues to the OEA at TeachersSavingChildren.org. (Go to the "Resources" tab and click on "Union Options.")

Teachers Saving Children is an organization founded to try to influence the educational unions. It is also a resource for teachers wishing to conscientiously object to those organizations' pro-abortion positions. You don't need to support the abortion agenda with dues taken from your paycheck: Learn more at TeachersSavingChildren.org.

Thousands of Pro-Life People Protest at Planned Parenthood Clinics in Over 350 Cities

Tens of thousands of pro-life advocates across the country — perhaps as many as 50-75,000 people in all — protested at Planned Parenthood abortion clinics across the country on August 22. They protested to raise national attention to the massive scandal at Planned Parenthood, where its staff and officials have been caught selling aborted babies and their body parts.

After eight shocking videos that have caught top Planned Parenthood abortion practitioners arranging to sell aborted babies — and even dissecting one live baby — millions of pro-life people are up in arms.

The protests took place in over 350 cities in 47 states and 5 countries — with hundreds of people in many cities and over 6,000 in the Twin Cities in Minnesota alone.

Organizers of the protests say they are the outgrowth of recently released Planned Parenthood expose videos showing the abortion company trafficking in aborted baby body parts and showing a complete disregard for women and unborn children.

Eric Scheidler of Pro-Life Action League told LifeNews: "These videos are exposing the American people to the truth about Planned Parenthood and the truth about abortion. How can you deny the humanity of a tiny person whose body parts are being harvested for medical use? Worse yet, how can you make jokes about it, like the Planned Parenthood doctors do in these videos? It's time to cease all taxpayer funding of this corrupt organization."

By Steven Ertelt, LifeNews.com, August 22, 2015.

In memory of **James Butz**, in whose name RTL received memorial donations.

+May he rest in peace.+



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Outstanding Speakers Featured at Upcoming Dayton Pro-Life Conference

The 12th Annual LifeTech Conference will be held September 12 from 9am to 4pm at the Kennedy Union Ballroom on the campus of the University of Dayton.

The program features an excellent lineup of speakers, including: Michael Manhart, executive director of Couple to Couple League, "Teaching NFP with Technology"; Pastor Walter Moss, Canton Four Square Church, "Why I am a Black Pro-Life Pastor"; Dr. Gary George, Catholic Medical Association, "BabySound: 3.5MHz for Life [on new ultrasound technology]"; and Greg Schutte, MarriageWorks! Ohio, "Supporting the Culture of Life through Strengthening the Family."

Registration for the conference is available online at LifeTechConference.org. The \$50 registration fee (only \$15 for students) includes continental breakfast and lunch. This is a wonderful opportunity to explore ideas at the cutting edge of the pro-life movement and gain practical knowledge to help you build a pro-life culture in your own life.

Join us—and more than a thousand other communities across North America—for the

Life Chain

Sunday, October 4, 2:30-3:30, on the court square in Sidney.

Please park across from the court square (to maximize sidewalk visibility). Signs will be provided.

Refreshments afterward at the RTL office/thrift shop.