

Hearts Full of Gratitude

The summertime can bring many changes to our lives: schedule disruptions with vacations and no school for the kids, later bedtimes due to later sunsets, and more outside time with loved ones are just a few. At Right to Life of Shelby County, we are also experiencing some changes of our own. New faces and roles amongst our staff mean trainings and growing pains; it also means “goodbye” to some of our longtime volunteers and employees. These changes come with an abundance of thankfulness!

We are grateful to Jen Bohman and her family for many years of faithful service to RTL and our Thrift Shop, specifically. She steps down to allow more time to attend to needs of her family, as a mother, grandmother, sister, and friend to many. She will continue to volunteer her time to coordinate our Fair Booth.

Thank you to Kathy Muhlenkamp, who graciously assisted in covering our Thrift Shop after Jen’s resignation.

Karen Berning has dedicated much time and effort to maintaining our window displays outside the Thrift Shop. She is passing the torch and we are thankful for her talent!

The Dietz family organized and facilitated another successful Golf Outing in May (see specific details on page 3). Thank you to all our sponsors, volunteers, and participants!

Our parade float was viewed by several local communities this summer thanks to the Platfoot family, helping further spread RTL’s mission of building a culture of life in Shelby County.

These are just a few of our generous volunteers who donate many hours to allow RTL to thrive. If you or an organization feel the call to help spread our message of life to our surrounding communities, please reach out to our Director, Anne Schmiesing, at director@shelbycountyrctl.org.



Above photo:
A few members of the Platfoot family participating in a local parade with our float, themed “Children are a Gift from God”

Right photo: one of the many window displays Karen Berning has crafted over the years



July-August Prayer Intentions

For all those who have lost their lives in service to our nation. For students, parents, and school staff as they plan for the upcoming school year. For pro-life advocates experiencing persecution in all forms.



Premature Baby Born 17 Weeks Early Heads Home

A family in Iowa experienced a joyful and miraculous event seven months after the birth of their baby: her homecoming. Molly Rossiter, of LifeNews, reported on June 12, 2024 on the Eilers family and their incredible [story](#).

Eight-and-a-half ounces...[is what] Evelyn Eilers weighed when she was born 17 weeks early at University of Iowa Health Care in September 2023, making her the smallest surviving infant in the U.S., and one of three tied for third-smallest in the world, according to the Tiniest Babies Registry.

Evelyn's parents, Emily and Ted Eilers of Solon [Iowa], knew their daughter had the best team working for her. The survival outcomes for extremely premature infants at UI Health Care Stead Family Children's Hospital are among the best in the world. And when Evelyn was diagnosed with a usually fatal condition, a treatment protocol designed by UI doctors and researchers saved her life.

She was under a team of caregivers at UI, led by neonatologist Timothy "TJ" Boly, DO.

Despite Evelyn's tiny size, she was able to clear her first major hurdle: her head and mouth were able to accommodate the breathing tube.

...but the biggest hurdles came when she was about a month old and developed two new conditions both of which carry high death rates. First, Evelyn developed necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), a life-threatening infection in her intestine that was causing damage. In addition, the NEC led her to develop capillary leak syndrome, a rare but historically fatal condition that caused some of her smallest blood vessels to break apart and leak fluid into surrounding tissues.

Pediatric surgeons removed the damaged part of her intestine, and immediately following surgery Boly implemented a new treatment protocol for the capillary leak syndrome that was created by Boly and other physician-scientists at the University of Iowa. The treatment involves three medications: a high-dose steroid to reduce inflammation, an asthma medication that has been found to heal the capillaries, and an IV immunoglobulin to help the immune system clear infection. The UI team started using the protocol in infants in 2021. Boly says that in the five years prior, the mortality rate for capillary leak syndrome was 100%. With the new treatment, he says, it's just 20%.

More than seven months after her birth, Evelyn was able to go home. She's still on constant oxygen and is receiving nutrition through a feeding tube, but she is otherwise a typical newborn.

IN MEMORIAM

Right to Life continues its work for the protection of all human life, in honor of those who have offered time, prayer and other resources to this cause during their lifetimes.

In memory of: Jeff Barhorst, Damian J. Bruns, and Rosemary Fullenkamp

In whose names memorial donations were made in May and June.

May they rest in eternal peace.

Seeking New Volunteers

2024 Shelby County Fair and Thrift Shop

We are seeking NEW volunteers to help assist with our Fair Booth from July 21-27 as substitutes; we also are in need of weekly volunteers in our Thrift Shop. If interested in helping or if you would like more details, please contact Anne (director@shelbycountyrtil.org).




Updated Staff and Contact Information

Anne Schmiesing remains the Executive Director who oversees all operations; she can be reached at director@shelbycountyrtil.org. Loretta Golden is the Building Supervisor and Tina Herring is our Thrift Shop Liaison; they can both be reached at the office phone number (937-498-1812).

Shae Gaier is our new Communications Manager. Ideas for the newsletter or social media can be shared with her at comms@shelbycountyrtil.org or emailed to the director.

Barbie Covault is our Financial Secretary who assists with our accounting records, handles donations, and is a valuable consultant for the Thrift Shop. She brings helpful wisdom from her prior experience managing St. John's Thrift Shop (run by St. John's Lutheran Church).



Right to Life
of Shelby County

The 2024 Scramble-4-Life raises over \$5,700 for the Pro-Life Cause

2025 Scramble-4-Life Date Set

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Saturday, May 10
Shotgun Start 8:30am


21 Teams Participate in the 13th Annual Scramble-4-Life

On Saturday, May 11, Right to Life of Shelby County hosted its 13th Annual Scramble-4-Life golf outing at Shelby Oaks Golf Club. 21 teams participated in the event that was sponsored by 28 area businesses and families. Commemorative golf balls, door prizes, 50/50 raffle money, gift cards, and \$700 in prize money were awarded to participants.

A special thanks to everyone who supported this pro-life event! The money raised will help Right to Life of Shelby County continue its efforts to promote respect and legal protection for all human life from the moment of conception until natural death.

As a result of all of the generous donations, the Scramble-4-Life raised over \$5,700 for the Right to Life organization this year bringing the cumulative total raised from this event to over \$78,000!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Jim Caviezel to speak at Dinner for Life following Ohio March for Life

The Ohio Right to Life is excited to announce that renowned actor Jim Caviezel, best known for his role as Jesus in *The Passion of the Christ* and more recently as Tim Ballard in *Sound of Freedom*, will be speaking at the Dinner for Life on Thursday, October 3rd, 2024, in Columbus at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$150 each; more information can be found on Ohio Right to Life's website.

State Oratory Contest Final Results

Summer Hoying, the winner of the Shelby County Right to Life Oratory Contest and a senior at Fort Loramie HS, placed second in the state competition that was held in early May in Columbus. Our local area was represented well, as the Auglaize County participant placed third. Well done and congrats ladies!

We Are Hiring!

We are accepting resumes to fill a part-time Thrift Shop Manager position at Right to Life. We have a strong support staff which is able to keep the shop operating smoothly. We hope to hire by mid-August. Duties include: scheduling staff and volunteers to cover hours of operation, working at the Thrift Shop 1-3 days per week (with some flexibility), providing assistance for our clients, overseeing intake and sorting of items donated to the shop, and handling some organizational tasks using basic computer software (word processing, email, and basic spreadsheets). We are seeking an individual who is a good mission fit with strong pro-life, pro-family values and collaborates well with our team. More detailed job information is available upon request. Please send inquiries and resumes to director@shelbycountyrtil.org. A follow-up questionnaire will be sent to candidates who submit a resume.

New Opportunities

By Shae Gaier, Communications Manager

Before anything else, I'd like to thank Anne and the board for the opportunity to serve as the Communications Manager and briefly introduce myself. My husband Joel and I were married in December of 2020 and live in Anna, where we are raising our 18-month-old son and will be adding a new baby in late October. I have the blessing of being a stay-at-home mom most of the week, and I am also a PTA at a local outpatient physical therapy clinic. My family and I are active members of Sacred Heart of Jesus parish; farming, family walks and bike rides, and watching *The Dukes of Hazzard* reruns are favorites in our home.

I encourage all our members to remain hopeful. The last couple years have been a rollercoaster for the prolife community. Summer of 2022 brought the high of the reversal of *Roe*; fall of 2023 brought the low of Ohio enshrining the so-called "right to abortion" in our constitution. Locally, our communities and families remain divided over so many life issues: IVF, euthanasia, contraception, abortion, and surrogacy. Despite these issues, I am hopeful the fresh faces, ideas, and vigor Shelby County RTL is experiencing within its staff will be able to ignite a new passion for the pro-life movement within our area and souls. I look forward to serving our county and continuing the vital work of building a culture of life.