



## Right to Life in 2024, After Major Election Loss

### A message from the director

2023 was a difficult year for Ohio's pro-life advocates, with the loss of two important elections, setting the stage for the legal overturn of many of the pro-life laws Ohioans had fought so hard to pass. For those of us who engaged many voters in conversation in the past year, it is clear that a high number of registered voters don't really know what they are voting about when they go to the polls. Exit polling bore this out. Polling showed that a majority of voters believe there should be at least some legal restrictions on abortion beyond what is permitted in the recently passed abortion amendment, but their responses were inconsistent with the way they voted on the abortion amendment, indicating a lack of understanding (including not understanding the practical differences between a Constitutional amendment and a state statute). In 2022, Michigan passed a similar amendment and within a year of that legal change, there are already surveys showing "voter regret," after voters began to see that what pro-life advocates had told them would happen was true.

We fought hard, but such widespread misinformation and ignorance didn't happen over night, and wasn't simply a result of pro-abortion ads of the past year. We have several generations of people whose consciences have been formed by the abominable Roe v. Wade decision, and in spite of it being overturned, its poisons permeate our culture still.

In 2023, as in most years, there were ambulance calls from abortion clinics that were ignored by the media, yet are indicative of the many physical scars left behind after abortion, not to mention universal spiritual and emotional wounds. Many of the efforts we've made to help bring about the healing of those wounds have met with resistance, because the trauma is so deep. Educating others who are saturated by secular influences is also difficult; at one of the talks I gave last year to 8th grade students, one misguided young man raised his hand to say that we need abortion because "abortion is done for lots reasons including because the world is over populated." Of course such a claim was easily countered with statistics and logic, but that's not the kind of response I usually get from students in Shelby County and it was alarming. Although Shelby County is above average in respect for human life, there is still immense work to be done.

The life of our savior, Jesus Christ, certainly consisted of what seemed insurmountable setbacks, but knowing of His resurrection enables us to see victory in every defeat. So, in 2024 we will carry on our educational efforts, and continue serving our community, offering hope to those who come to our thrift shop in need of assistance or healing. In the coming year we want to expand our collaboration with other social service agencies, continue building relationships with churches that joined the spiritual battle before the November election, and—along with other Ohio pro-life groups—look at ways to legally protect children, in spite of the new amendment, and determine if there is any way to rid our state of its impact.

**Thank you all for your efforts and support.** Even though the November election results were what I expected as most likely, based on the history of abortion related initiatives in both red and blue states across the nation, it was still immensely disheartening to lose so much after all the time, talent, and treasure that went into fighting for legal protection of human life. The battle for saving lives remains heavily reliant upon personal contact, assisting individuals in person, since the law, unfortunately, gives free rein for killing and maiming children and their mothers. We thank you for your continued support for our pro-life, pro-family mission, and we ask you to stay tuned in the coming year for anything you can do to help.

**Membership Renewal letters are included with this newsletter.** Your renewal enables you to collaborate in our mission of serving others. **Thank you for your support!**

## January-February Prayer Intentions

For Ohio and other states to find ways to legally protect all human life, in spite of illegitimate abortion amendments being passed; and—in this presidential election year—for candidates with pro-life integrity to have success.



## Dates to Remember in 2024

- **January 19, 2024** (Friday) — **National March for Life in Washington DC** commemorates the catastrophic Roe v. Wade decision; though it has been overturned, its effects are not erased. Shelby County Right to Life is not sending a bus to DC, but we encourage people to make the trip on their own, as it is inspiring and energizing to be with so many pro-life Americans from around the nation.
- **February 19, 2024** (Monday/President's Day) — **Oratory Contest** (See details below.)
- **March 14-16, 2024** (Thursday-Saturday) — **Garage Sale** at St. Remy Hall in Russia. Start saving your gently used but no-longer-needed items to donate to the sale. Drop-off locations and times will be listed on our website, Facebook pages, some church bulletins, and in the March newsletter.
- **March 19, 2024** (Tuesday) — **Presidential Primary Election in Ohio** (Polls open 6:30am-7:30pm.)
- **May 11, 2024** (Saturday) — **Golf Outing at Shelby Oaks Golf Course**. Shot gun start at 8:30am.



## Pro-Life Oratory Contest for High School Juniors and Seniors

- ☀ **Monday, February 19 at 6:30pm** (President's Day) at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sidney.
- ☀ **Prizes: \$400+, \$250, and \$100 for 1st-3rd.** One winner receives an **additional \$100 travel stipend** for participating in the state contest (usually in May, in Columbus). The state-level



winner continues to the national competition (location and date TBD, usually June).

- ☀ **Eligibility:** All high school juniors and seniors who are residents of Shelby County or attend a Shelby County high school. Contestants are to give a pro-life speech, 5-7 minutes in length, on one of four topics: abortion, doctor-prescribed suicide, infanticide, or embryonic research. We'd love to hear an evaluation of the continued effects of Roe v. Wade, or of the Dobbs decision.
- ☀ **Register by Friday, February 16 (by 11:59pm)** using contact info listed below. For rules and contest resources go to the [oratory contest page on the RTLSC website](#).
- ☀ **Contact** Anne Schmiesing: [director@shelbycountyRTL.org](mailto:director@shelbycountyRTL.org) or 937-658-3535 (cell), for more information and to register.

## Adoption is a Loving Option

For anyone open to adopting a child in need of a caring home, or open to participating in foster care, there are many adoption agencies in Ohio to explore, but Ohio Job and Family's Foster and Adopt website is one place to gather initial information.



## Shelby County Right to Life Thrift Shop Report

*November-December 2023*

638 Assistance Program clients  
10 Work-to-earn shifts  
15 New clients  
12 Emergency Assistance clients

*Assistance Program is monthly aid.  
Emergency Assistance is 2x  
per year/ per client.*

In memory of: + [Sam Doseck](#),  
In whose name memorial donations were made in November.  
May he rest in eternal peace.

## Opposing the "National Abortion Hotline"

The federal government just announced it will fund a “national abortion hotline.”

When a woman finds out she is facing an unplanned pregnancy, she needs compassion, hope, and accurate information about all of her options – including the costs and risks associated with abortion. But the government wants to make sure that the only choice she is given is abortion... while ignoring the science about its risks. That’s why the government is using the controversial Title X grant program – a key funding source for abortion giants like Planned Parenthood – to finance their new abortion referral line.

Those of us who are dedicated to protecting innocent unborn lives are alarmed by this latest example of dangerous government overreach. This new abortion hotline will compete with pro-life hotlines that help women and men find life-affirming alternatives to abortion, like pregnancy centers. These pro-life alternatives are in danger of being overtaken by the government’s deep pockets and pro-choice propaganda. *[Information from a petition put out by [care-net.org](http://care-net.org).]*

Please pray that the hotline will not be implemented.

## Quitter’s Stories from Abby Johnson’s Website

After Abby Johnson quit the abortion industry, she founded **And Then There Were None**, an organization that has helped hundreds of others step away from the abortion industry...and heal. The ATTWN website ([AbortionWorker.com](http://AbortionWorker.com)) has a Quitter of the Month page that highlights many of those stories. One example is the story of Pam Barr who—because of an injury in her late 20s—was unable to continue working at Planned Parenthood. She explains:

I returned home to try to heal but the depth of the wounds inflicted by working in the abortion industry were so severe. I had two more failed marriages because I lacked the ability to connect, really commit, and be completely honest with another person. Over the next two decades I took different nursing jobs around town, some part-time, some full-time. When my third marriage failed, I found myself living alone and working in a city I had not lived in before. I had started going back to church by then, and had once again grown close to God, just like I had when I was young. The people I went to church with were nice folks, and when the opportunity came to join a small group, I jumped at it. One of the women in my small group revealed that she was a volunteer in a pro-life ministry. It had been nearly 20 years since I had anything to do with the abortion industry, and yet, the need to confess came surging up, like it had been sitting just below the surface for all those years. I took her aside, and as soon as I opened my mouth, my face pulled from the strain and went disfigured. I cried awful, ugly tears.

“You need to speak with Abby Johnson,” she said. Whoever Abby was, I agreed.

Abby graciously invited me to an ATTWN healing retreat, and I was eager to attend.

While on retreat, I recalled two abortions that particularly hurt the most—my own. I had had two abortions between my first and second child. I was just 16 the first time I got pregnant. I couldn’t get pregnant again so quickly and have three babies before I turned 25. I didn’t want to become some pitiful statistic. During the rest of the retreat, I listened, but did not speak and I did not cry. I was the only one who didn’t say a word. I think I may have just gone rigid by the shame of it all. But when I got on the plane to go home, my heart broke open, and big, fat, silent tears streamed down my face. That area where I had stuffed the guilt had been knifed open by my shame, and my body and soul began to react. So shaken by my own complicity in enough abortions to fill an entire stadium, I ran to the bathroom and vomited.

As painful as it sounds, the wound had to be reopened in order to heal properly. It made me feel something—hope. It burned more deeply now, first kindled when Abby responded to my email, and was fanned into flames by listening to the other women at the retreat.

Sometimes we must go back over healing bridges that we have already crossed and cross them again. Healing is a journey, not a destination.

# Reporting Maternal Deaths and Serious Injury From Abortions

*Excerpts are from website pages and articles of Operation Rescue*

According to their [maternal deaths archive](#):

Operation Rescue has published many reports on documented cases of women who have succumbed to fatal abortion complications. All of these reports contain supporting documentation. Many of them include actual 911 call recordings. Some of them include autopsy reports.

These deaths were all avoidable. If abortions had not been sought, these women might be alive today, along with their aborted children. With rare exceptions, the abortionists who were responsible for this tragic loss of life have faced little or no consequences.

This archive represents just a small fraction of women who have died from so-called “safe and legal” abortions. [The archive can be found at [OperationRescue.org](#)

Numerous [Operation Rescue articles](#) also report physical injuries requiring ER visits after abortion, which are ignored by the media and government officials. Excerpts below are examples, from homepage articles, of injuries during 2023.

- In early November, in less than a week’s time, a dangerous “medical” facility located in Granite City, Illinois [called The ‘Hope’ Clinic], had three more medical emergencies. As with prior emergencies at this location, staff used ambiguous language with emergency dispatch personnel.

- An employee of Women’s Med Center of Dayton (WMCD) in Ohio called 911 on October 25 to report that a 33-year-old woman needed transport to a nearby hospital for emergency medical intervention. [*Operation Rescue outlines ambiguous language used in the call and concludes:*] It has become obvious that the employees of WMCD have been instructed to use evasive language to conceal the gravity of their botched abortions. In the past, a pattern was established of requesting “urgent but not emergency” transport by ambulance. This facility also has a habit of requesting silent approach (no sirens), creating a perceived lack of urgency and [use of] travel methods that would slow the arrival of emergency medical personnel to the scene.

- On April 26, 2023...an ambulance was observed at...one of the busiest and most troubled abortion businesses in Greater Chicago. According to the computer-aided dispatch transcript, the 911 call was made for an emergency transfer of a 40-year-old female.

This Chicago abortion facility is part of the chain, Family Planning Associates Medical Group, founded by Edward Alred, also known as “Fast Eddie” for inventing the “assembly-line abortion.” Clinics affiliated with this chain have been sued for botched abortions and patient deaths.

This particular abortion business has employed some of the most disreputable abortionists. Among them were Willie Parker, accused of sexual misconduct, and Deborah Nucatola, who was exposed during the 2015 Center for Medical Progress undercover investigation of Planned Parenthood’s dark practice of selling aborted babies’ body parts.

Just as the words and crimes of abortionists eventually come to light, so does information about hidden injuries sustained by unsuspecting women who enter the doors of facilities like this one.

*Operation Rescue reports that “Under the Federal Freedom of Information Act, the public has a right of access to 911 calls and other related records...however, the city of Chicago refused to supply the audio recording of the 911 call” leading to questions about Chicago covering for the abortion chain.*

## Patients Rights Council Tracks Abuses Related to Assisted Suicide

*The following report [PRC Update 104, V. 37, No.3 (2023)] indicates how nationwide promotion of assisted suicide encourages, hides, and enables abuses in care for the elderly and disabled.*

In less than five years, 41-year-old Heather Pressdee worked as a nurse in twelve different nursing facilities. In her seventh facility she was charged with the murder of 4 patients, although a total of 17 patients died under her care. She was also charged with the attempted murder of 18 other patients who survived. In one of the facilities, Sunnyview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Butler, PA, where six patient deaths were linked to her employment, one coworker told investigators that “she was always saying that residents ‘just needed to die.’”

Pressdee moved from facility to facility with few questions asked, but had questionable conduct that began shortly after her employment as a nurse in 2018. While employed at one nursing home facility in Harmarville, she was disciplined for administering medication without a doctor’s order. Later in 2019, she listed a fake name as a reference.

If the facilities are not monitoring the number of deaths in a facility, the spike in deaths wouldn’t be noticed. [See [Patients Right Council](#) for more updates like this.]