

Annual Garage Sale Scheduled

Our annual garage sale fundraiser is planned for **April 3-5** at St. Remy Hall in Russia, Ohio. The sale will run 9a.m.-7p.m. on Thursday & Friday, and 9a.m.-2p.m. on Saturday. To donate, please drop items off at St. Remy Hall on Monday & Tuesday, March 31 and April 1, from 9a.m. - 9p.m. (donations will not be accepted after Tuesday). For other drop-off arrangements, call the RTL office at 937-498-1812. We ask that you continue to donate only clean and salable items (not torn, stained, or damaged). Pre-sorting of clothes by size is very helpful! There will also be a **bake sale** in conjunction with the garage sale. Baked goods may be brought to the garage sale on Wednesday, April 2, from 9a.m.-7p.m. Additional baked goods will be accepted throughout the sale. **VOLUNTEERS** are always needed to work at the sale, Tuesday-Saturday. Call Maria Hoehne at 937-638-3165 with questions; your generosity each year is greatly appreciated!



Dates to Remember

April 3-5: Annual Garage Sale

April 12: Statewide Oratory Contest (winner of our local contest, held on Feb 24, will be competing)

May 10: Annual Scramble for Life golf outing

Ohio RTL visits our Thrift Shop

Shelby County Right to Life was visited by Ohio Right to Life on Friday, February 7th. Afton Simonelli and Emma Martinez, both of ORTL, were shown our Thrift Shop and Women's Center- Sidney by outgoing director Anne Schmiesing. ORTL's visit was prompted by their desire to better support local chapters and forge new relationships within ORTL's and SCRTL's staff.

(Pictured to the right, L-R: Emma Martinez, Shae Gaier [incoming SCRTL director], Anne Schmiesing [outgoing SCRTL director], and Afton Simonelli)



Passing the Baton

Reflections from the out-going director, Anne Schmiesing

One of my favorite aspects of running track in high school was the teamwork in the 4x400m relay. The effort we put in was not just for ourselves but for the team; then we passed the baton to the next runner. The handoff was just as important as the effort we put into our run, but if we dropped the baton those efforts were in vain.

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March-April Prayer Intentions

For the new Presidential administration and officials to prioritize life while decision-making; for healthcare workers caring for those in delicate stages of life



Passing the Baton continued

At Right to Life of Shelby County, we work for an extremely important cause, so when I felt God calling me to pass the baton, I wanted to make sure I was putting it in good hands. A little over a year ago, when I saw there was an opportunity to bring a talented and energetic young woman onto our team, I was grateful when she agreed to take the baton. It has been a pleasure and an honor working with Shae (Goubeaux) Gaier over the last year to assure that we have a smooth handoff. Shae will officially take over as director on March 1 and I'm confident she will "run so as to win."

Shae's immediate and extended family have been long-time supporters and members of Right to Life, but the first I remember hearing of Shae was as a notable long-distance runner when my older kids were in high school. I know that Shae not only has strong pro-life convictions and professional skills, she has endurance which is another important quality in this ministry.

Looking ahead, we can see that five decades of Roe v. Wade eroded the culture so badly that sending abortion-related legal issues "back to the states" was wholly inadequate. Undoing a legal precedent is far easier than undoing the cultural precedent it entrenched. The moral breach caused by legalized abortion has inundated us with many related injustices: sex trafficking, experimental "gender therapy" on children, mass creation-then-destruction of human life through artificial reproductive technologies (IVF, etc.), and the list goes on.

Although I will no longer be working directly for Shelby County Right to Life, I will still be available as a Pro-Life Consultant and facilitator for post-abortion healing, as needed. My husband and I began as co-directors in 2007. Kevin was called to other work in 2019. Now, anticipating our youngest child entering high school next fall, I've had a growing sense that God has other plans for me, though I'm not certain, yet, where He is leading me. But I move forward with confidence that our new director will benefit from the strong team I've enjoyed working with: our wonderful board of directors, guided by President Mike Monnier, and our compassionate Thrift Shop Staff led by Teresa Reck. Thank you to all of them and to innumerable people in our community who have encouraged and provided invaluable support to me and our staff in service to our community. Godspeed!

Change in Contact Info: Please note that the director's email address: director@shelbycountyrctl.org will be transferred to Shae as of March 1. You will no longer be able to reach Anne directly through that address.

2025 SCRTL Board Members

Michael Monnier (President), Theresa Chaney (Vice-President), Melissa Blenman (Secretary), Andrew Elsner (Treasurer)

Additional board members: Ann Joslin, Brenda Bensman, Kathy Vogler, Luke Berning

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: Walter Elsass

In whose name memorial donations were made in December 2024.

May he rest in eternal peace.

Kroger and Sam's Club say 'errors' by 'third party vendors' listed abortion pill on their websites

In our January/February 2025 newsletter, we covered a story following Sam's Club and its decision to list the abortion pill mifepristone on their pharmacy website. However, an update has occurred: Sam's Club has removed the abortion pill and noted that it was listed "in error". Carole Novielli, reporting for Life Action News on December 18, 2024, had the updated information.

Days after Live Action News originally broke the news that both Kroger and Sam's Club were displaying the abortion pill mifepristone (200mg) — also known by its brand name, Mifeprex — for sale on their pharmacy websites, the grocery store giants have issued statements insisting that the drug was displayed for sale on their websites due to "errors" in drug listings by "third-party vendors," which the pharmacies use to "aggregate medication pricing."

...Live Action News also received communications from trusted sources stating that they had obtained information from Sam's Club — which claimed that their pharmacy's listing, too, had been due to an error with a third-party pharmacy tool. Live Action News sought to verify this information, and received a swift response from Allison Van Matre, Senior Director of Global Communications for Sam's Club.

Van Matre provided the following statement "on behalf of the company" regarding whether or not Sam's Club is selling the mifepristone abortion pill as was found on its pharmacy website: "We use a **third-party vendor** to aggregate medication pricing, and their **tool provided incorrect information**" (emphases added).

President Donald Trump Signs Pardons for 23 Pro-Life Americans

In the days leading up to the annual March of Life in Washington D.C., President Trump signed the pardons for 23 pro-lifers who were prosecuted for peacefully protesting outside abortion clinics across the United States. These pro-lifers were charged with violating the FACE (Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances) Act, a 1994 law that is supposed to protect both "reproductive healthcare facilities" AND pro-life churches. However, the FACE Act is far more likely to be weaponized against pro-life advocates than against criminals who vandalize and destroy crisis pregnancy centers and churches. Steven Ertelt and Ben Johnson covered the story for LifeNews.com on Jan 23, 2025.

Earlier this month, Thomas More Society attorneys submitted to the Trump administration formal requests for presidential pardons on behalf of 21 of those pro-life advocates who have been unjustly prosecuted, convicted, and in several cases, imprisoned, by the Biden DOJ. In their letter submitted to President Donald J. Trump, Thomas More Society attorneys urged "that these pro-life Americans are deserving of full and unconditional pardons." The communicated pardon request package included 21 individual pardon requests, one for each pro-life advocate, outlining the specific facts of each case, their upstanding personal and moral character, and the reasons why President Trump should grant a presidential pardon.

"Today, freedom rings in our great nation. The heroic peaceful pro-lifers unjustly imprisoned by Biden's Justice Department will now be freed and able to return home to their families, eat a family meal, and enjoy the freedom that should have never been taken from them in the first place," reacted Steve Crampton, Thomas More Society Senior Counsel. "These heroic peaceful pro-lifers were treated shamefully by Biden's DOJ, with many of them branded felons and losing many rights that we take for granted as American citizens. Today, their precious freedom is restored. What happened to them can never be erased, but today's pardons are a huge step towards restoring justice. Thank you to President Trump and his team for righting these grievous wrongs of the previous administration." (continued on page 4)

A word from our Board President

"As President of the Board of Right to Life of Shelby County, I want to thank Anne for her years of service as the Executive Director. She has been committed to the education of our members, children, and those who just want to know what our organization is about concerning life issues. She annually provided presentations to our local schools, churches, and communities. She coordinated many programs and events so every Shelby County resident had the opportunity to educate themselves on life topics and gain a better understanding and knowledge of our mission. We have been very blessed with Anne and her family's involvement and commitment to our organization with their many hours of service. We appreciate that she will continue to be a resource and consultant to the Right to Life of Shelby County board and staff. Best wishes to Anne in God's guidance for her future endeavors." *Mike Monnier, SCRTL Board President*

Pardons continued

"Today is a new day for the pardoned pro-life advocates who have suffered FBI raids, federal prosecutions, and severe punishment for peacefully and courageously witnessing for life. We thank President Trump for keeping his promise to these pro-life mothers, fathers, grandparents, pastors, and priests," added Peter Breen, Thomas More Society Executive Vice President and Head of Litigation. "What happened to these peaceful pro-life individuals must never happen again. We urge Congress to act swiftly in repealing the FACE Act to make sure that the Justice Department can never again weaponize this law to target peaceful pro-lifers with severe charges."

While signing the pardons, President Trump noted that it was a "great honor to sign this". Ensuring the freedom of these passionate pro-life protesters was a notable campaign promise of President Trump.