

Right to Life Thrift Shop Serves in Time of Need

As a non-profit, service organization, the Right to Life Thrift Shop met the exceptions criteria regarding the governor's COVID-19 restrictions on businesses. Our operations manager, Jen Bohman, kept our doors open to ease some of the intensified financial strain faced by some families in our community with the economic slow down. Bohman reported an increased level of desperation in many of those we serve, as many local charitable organizations had closed or dramatically reduced hours, yet these clients continue to face a great deal of uncertainty.

RTL members have helped bridge the gap; because of your generous donations of diapers, wipes and formula, RTL-SC has been able to offer those items for free. Gas cards and groceries have also been provided to assist those most in need. **Continued donations are welcome.**

[Thrift Shop hours](#) are back to normal.

RTL Garage Sale Update:

The **Garage Sale Fundraiser** is **postponed** till further review of the governor's restrictions on activities. Some **larger items are currently being sold** via the [RTL Thrift Shop Facebook](#) feed. The new raffle drawing date will be determined when the garage sale is rescheduled and will include all raffle tickets submitted to date. [Raffle tickets, available online](#), can still be submitted.

Trump's Funding Ban on Fetal Tissue Use Relevant to COVID-19

Last summer, the Trump administration added to their many pro-life credentials by banning federal funding of research involving tissue from aborted children. This spring, the ethical ban on fetal tissue research is being upheld in the pharmaceutical race to find a vaccine for COVID-19.

[Children of God For Life](#), monitoring biomedical researchers, has noted several COVID-19 vaccine research companies currently using some of the same fetal cell lines used and/or developed for other common vaccines. Attorneys General from 15 states (14 Democrats, 1 Republican) have asked the Trump administration "to end your Fetal Tissue Ban to allow our top scientists the ability to solve this global health crisis." Meanwhile, not all "top" scientists seem reliant on unethical cell lines, as several companies are making advances in vaccine development without fetal cell lines.

In [response](#) to the state Attorneys General, many prominent Americans – including over 130 from Congress, and the US Conference of Catholic Bishops with other pro-life groups – asked Trump to maintain the funding ban on fetal tissue research, during the COVID-19 cure search.

The pushback is in line with recommendations from a 2005 [Vatican statement](#), that bears repeating, regarding the use of vaccines "tainted" by aborted fetal cell lines: *"doctors and [families] have a duty to take recourse to alternative vaccines (if they exist), putting pressure on the political authorities and health systems so that other vaccines without moral problems become available. They should take recourse, if necessary, to the use of conscientious objection with regard to the use of vaccines produced by means of cell lines of aborted human fetal origin...creating pressure so that alternative vaccines are prepared, which are not connected with the abortion."*

Unfortunately, almost all standard childhood [vaccines available in the USA](#) are abortion-tainted, with no clean alternatives in the US (as of the first half of this decade) in spite of availability in other countries.

Thrift Shop Report

February

165 Customers
8 Work-to-earn shifts
43 Units, assistance program

March

196 Customers
2 Work-to-earn shifts
65 Units, assistance program

April

51 Customers
114 Units, assistance program

Maryland Pro-Life Advocates Harassed As Hagerstown Police Selectively Enforce Stay At Home Orders

The Thomas More Society (TMS) has come to the defense of a woman threatened by police officers for her pro-life advocacy outside of a Hagerstown, Maryland, abortion facility. In a letter sent to [city authorities], TMS attorneys have demanded that the city confirm immediately in writing that Wanda King and her colleagues may return to their peaceful activities outside the Hagerstown Reproductive Health abortion facility without fear of arrest or citation.

“As long as the abortion mill is engaging in business as usual, our clients have a right to be outside on the public sidewalk witnessing to life and offering alternative healthcare options,” said Michael McHale, Thomas More Society Counsel.

The latest incident prompting the demand letter occurred on April 7, 2020. That morning, three Hagerstown police officers, standing shoulder to shoulder, approached King while she was standing on the sidewalk outside the abortion vendor. There, they threatened her with a \$5,000 fine for allegedly violating Maryland’s “stay at home order.” King was present with one other individual, each of them maintaining approximately 15 feet of distance from each other, as they prayed and peacefully expressed a pro-life message.

Michael McHale, of TMS, stated, “We stand fully prepared to defend the constitutional rights of Ms. King and other pro-life individuals to be outside Hagerstown Reproductive Health to exercise their freedom of speech and religion while practicing social distancing, and we are ready to take immediate court action if necessary. As long as the abortion mill is engaging in business as usual, our clients have a right to be outside on the public sidewalk witnessing to life and offering alternative healthcare options, while of course maintaining social distancing and gathering-size limitations.”

[[A later TMS article](#) indicated that, as of April 22, the intervention was successful: “We are pleased that Hagerstown authorities have recognized and corrected their previously erroneous view of our clients’ constitutional rights to free speech and free exercise of religion,” stated Michael McHale, Thomas More Society Counsel. “As long as abortion vendors continue to put women and children at risk – even during a state of emergency when all other elective procedures are banned – there will be a need for Ms. King and other life advocates to be near the abortion facility offering hope and information on life-affirming alternatives to abortion.”]

[Article](#) reprinted with permission from [ThomasMoreSociety.org](#). Edited for space.

Thomas More Society Legal Team Challenges Inconsistencies

During the COVID-19 pandemic, inconsistencies have abounded. Notably, in spite of doctors and practitioners across the country having to close their practices due to orders to stop all elective or non-essential medical procedures, abortion clinics across the country have been given a pass – by inconsistent applications of state orders – to continue their elective procedures, resulting in the death of many children. Pro-life organizations in Ohio, with the help of Thomas More Society (TMS), pushed for a consistent application of the order involving abortion clinics; however, Federal District Court Judge Michael Barrett allowed abortions to continue.

Thomas More Society is a legal team “dedicated to restoring respect in law for life, family, and religious liberty,” providing *pro bono* legal services for various organizations and states, including the recent intervention in Ohio. Another notable client is David Daleiden, of the Center for Medical Progress, whose valuable journalistic film footage exposed the abortion industry’s market in fetal body parts. Much of the impact of the footage has been muted by Planned Parenthood’s colossal efforts to have them silenced. The appellate court battle continues for a few of the charges, though most charges have failed. TMS president, Tom Brejcha, rhetorically asked: “What does it tell you that the Daleiden case may have been the first time that any journalist has been criminally charged with violating the California recording law in the many years it has been on the books?”

Donations to assist Thomas More Society in their pro bono work can be made via [their website](#).



For all families suffering from financial, emotional or other health issues during this economic recession.

Pro-Life Resources for Churches, Schools or Families

The Culture of Life Studies Program has developed workbooks and programs to use for church programs and classrooms, or teaching your own children. CLS director, Cathy Daub, shares her recent experience with end-of-life-issues highlighting the importance of a pro-life Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care.

What Your Children Don't Know Can Hurt Them

By Catherine Daub, director of Culture of Life Studies Program. Edited for space.

My 80-year-old father underwent emergency surgery for a ruptured aortic abdominal aneurysm where he had a less than 6% chance of survival. The surgery was successful, but a few days after surgery, without warning, his airways closed. They had just given him an injection of a new medicine, and my sister and I thought he was going into anaphylactic shock. I asked, "Could epinephrine hurt?" There was disagreement and debate among the staff, who left the room to discuss the answer. My sister and I stood next to my dad in sheer terror. We tried to get him to breathe slowly. He was tearing at the bed rails, gasping for each breath, his eyes rolling back in his head. Then came the on-call doctor—a resident asking who had power of attorney; a tense exchange about his treatment followed.

"I need to know if we should intubate him if he stops breathing."

I jumped in: "That's considered ordinary care, and besides he has it in his file to use extraordinary means if necessary. Of course you should intubate him."

The resident insisted intubation was considered a "heroic measure," which he said was the proper term, according to the hospital.

"Call it whatever you want. He has a directive that says to keep him alive!" I was completely shocked that they were even asking the question.

So I continued, agitated, "We're talking about a ventilator, correct? I'm pretty sure that's not heroic or extraordinary or whatever you want to call it, but I don't have his power of attorney. You'll need to call my mom." She confirmed the statement.

It all turned out okay. They ended up giving him epinephrine and several breathing treatments. No intubation was needed. They calmed him down, and after a while he began to breathe normally again.

When it was over, I asked the resident why they didn't just refer to my dad's medical records. I know it's in his file to use "heroic" or "extraordinary" care. His response: "Sometimes in the heat of the moment families change their minds."

I'm still floored by the exchange. I'll never know if we saved my dad's life by just being there and asking questions. And I'll never know if they would have just let him suffocate to death had we not been there.

On the plane ride home, I wondered about my own teens. They know the basics of euthanasia. They know that it's okay to question doctors. They know we are living in a culture of death. But, really, would they know what questions to ask if my husband or I were in the same situation one day? They have questions that deserve well thought out and accurate answers to help them navigate the murky waters they live in. We used our recently released Culture of Life Studies workbook, [Without Mercy](#), which opened the door for regular communication about what is going on in the world. It's a topic we've covered before, but it has to be repeated. Don't wait to share the truth with your teens. Your life may depend on it one day!

Editor's note: [CLS's digital resources](#) are currently available for free during the government restrictions on activities. If you are an educator, check out their materials online.

Also, be sure you currently have a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care for anyone in your family 18 years or older. [PMD Documents](#) are available at the RTL office or we can order more, at cost.

Be aware medical staff are not always on the same page with each other about what treatments are best for a patient. You have a right to ask questions or seek a second opinion, if time allows.

Digital Newsletter Bonus Section: Abortion Hurts Women

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Abortion providers frequently litigate efforts to set even minimum safety standards for abortion, as in the current SCOTUS case, *June Medical Services v. Russo*. During hearings, the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) filed a noteworthy amicus brief, to the Supreme Court, which the ACLJ outlines in their [Five Fast Facts article](#) excerpted here:

“Our brief makes a particular point of rebutting the phony claim that abortion is safer than childbirth, explaining that ‘the premises underlying this myth are embarrassingly inadequate.’ Here is a short summary:

“The abortionists’ claim rests on a comparison of data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on ‘abortion mortality’ ...and ‘pregnancy mortality....’ Sounds simple, right? Wrong!”

[The ACLJ article goes on to explain 5 problems with the calculations, which are listed below. See the article for a full explanation of these points.]

“1. If a woman dies from abortion, she is also counted as a pregnancy death.”

“2. The pregnancy mortality rate doesn’t measure deaths ‘per pregnancy’ but instead ‘per live birth.’ That means the pregnancy mortality rate is artificially inflated.”

“3. The pregnancy mortality rate does not reflect the stage of gestation.”

“4. Abortion deaths are underreported, perhaps vastly so.”

“5. Abortion mortality statistics likely will not include many delayed deaths that result from abortion. Published studies show that women who have abortion have a higher rate of dying from *any cause*, including suicide and other fatalities, than do women who give birth.”

“Our ACLJ amicus brief lists hundreds of cases of abortion patients being carried off in ambulances across the country, often at rates of three to five dozen or more incidents each year, from 2011-2019. This is just the tip of the iceberg – the few cases where someone witnessed the incident and there was a published account. Planned Parenthood itself conceded, as a federal appeals court noted in a prior case, that more than 200 women must be hospitalized after abortion each year, in Texas alone!”



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who chose to donate even though the event was cancelled.

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Memorials: Former RTL volunteer Caroline Barker; Bernard Arkenberg (in whose name a memorial donation was made); and RTL member Susan Borchers. May they rest in peace.