

CITIZENS  
CONCERNED



BLAIR COUNTY  
CHAPTER

Precious Life Banquet, Friday, March 23, Jaffa Shrine  
Ruth Graham, guest speaker; for tickets call 944-2669

Citizens Concerned for Human Life

# Blair County Life News

Volume 4 Number 2

Presenting the Pro-Life Message to Blair County, Pennsylvania

Spring 2012



2012 Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation

**TOWN HALL MEETING**

**Thursday, April 12, 2012**

**7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

**Carson Valley Church of the Brethren  
122 Church Road, Duncansville**

*Featuring Michael Ciccocioppo, Executive Director, and Andrew Blair, Education Director  
Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation*

**COME, BE INFORMED, BE INSPIRED, BE MOTIVATED!**

**This event is free and open to the public - refreshments will be served**

- ◆ We are facing A VERY CRITICAL time both nationally and statewide with regard to pro-life legislation.
- ◆ The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation is the largest pro-life advocacy group in the state and has incorporated the town-hall meeting in its educational initiative to visit pro-life communities across the state.
- ◆ This is a great opportunity to meet pro-life leaders and network with pro-life friends from around the region.
- ◆ The first hour of the Town Hall Meeting will consist of a lively and fast-paced presentation by Michael Ciccocioppo, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, and Andrew Blair, Education Director, covering the latest information on a wide range of pro-life issues and a look at the Federation's programs and plans to deal with the opportunities and challenges we are facing in the pro-life movement. The second hour will consist of a question and answer session with the audience to address items of interest to pro-lifers that were not covered during the presentation.
- ◆ For more information about this Town Hall Meeting, call Beth, 814-696-2960 or email: [prolifetownhall@atlanticbb.net](mailto:prolifetownhall@atlanticbb.net).



*Hosted by Blair County Chapter, Citizens Concerned for Human Life*

814-946-0681; email: [Blair@CentralPAProlife.org](mailto:Blair@CentralPAProlife.org)

[www.blaircountyprolife.com](http://www.blaircountyprolife.com)



# News to Know

## Obama agency rules Pepsi use of cells derived from aborted fetus 'ordinary business'

The Pepsi Company, which is set to release the new product Pepsi Next in the coming weeks, is facing a more robust boycott as pro-life activists protest the company use of cells derived from an aborted fetus in flavor-enhancing research. But Pepsi has succeeded, with help from the Obama Administration, in keeping its controversial operations from consideration by its shareholders.

In a decision delivered February 28, President Obama's Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) ruled that PepsiCo's use of cells derived from aborted fetal remains in their research and development agreement with Senomyx to produce flavor enhancers falls under "ordinary business operations."

Debi Vinnedge, Executive Director of Children of God for Life, the organization that exposed the PepsiCo-Senomyx collaboration last year was "appalled by the apathy and insensitivity" of both PepsiCo executives and the Obama administration.

"We're not talking about what kind of pencils PepsiCo wants to use—we are talking about exploiting the remains of an aborted child for profit," she said. "Using human embryonic kidney (HEK-293) to produce flavor enhancers for their beverages is a far cry from routine operations!"

"In other words, PepsiCo thinks its stockholders are too stupid to understand what they are doing with the remains of aborted children," Vinnedge stated. "Well they are about to find out just how smart the public really is when they turn up the heat on the world-wide boycott!"

Oklahoma Senator Ralph Shortey has proposed a bill SB1418 banning the sale of products that are developed with or contain aborted fetal remains. In the case of Pepsi products, the cells derived from the aborted fetus do not end up in the final product.

"We commend the Senator for his courageous move," noted Vinnedge. "The public is already saying no thanks to all Pepsi beverages and Pepsi Next is just that—the "next" product to avoid!"

To date, the world-wide boycott has expanded to include Canada, Germany, Poland, UK, Ireland, Scotland, Spain, Portugal, Australia and New Zealand.

—LifeSiteNews.com, March 5, 2012

Pepsi is not the only company that is making products that rely on cells from babies killed in abortions. See: <http://www.lifenews.com/2012/03/06/pepsi-not-only-company-making-products-based-on-fetal-cells/>

—LifeNews.com, March 6, 2012



**There is a difference of life or death between embryonic stem cell research and adult stem cell research. Come to Bedford's Dinner and be informed. See page 7.**

## Obama admin OKs using aborted babies' brains in lab tests

The Obama administration is getting grief from a pro-life group for approving an experiment using the remains of the bodies of unborn children victimized in abortion for research continues in U.S. laboratories.

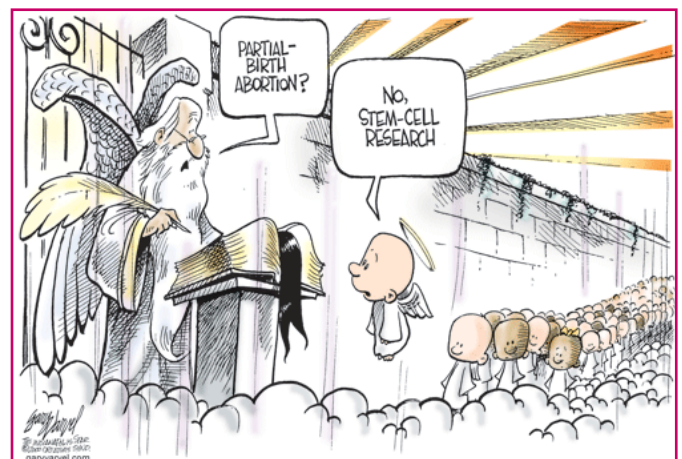
Scott Fischbach, the director of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life uncovered the information showing a clinical trial approved by the Food and Drug Administration uses brain tissue from aborted unborn babies to treat macular degeneration. StemCells Inc. will inject fetal brain stem cells into the eyes of up to 16 patients to study the cells' effect on vision.

In its press release announcing the clinical trial, StemCells Inc. was careful to refer to the fetal brain material as "purified human neural stem cell product" or HuCNS-SC cells, rather than "fresh human fetal brain tissue," a description which can be found elsewhere on its website.

—LifeNews.com, March 16, 2012; <http://www.lifenews.com/2012/03/16/obama-admin-oks-using-aborted-babies-brains-in-lab-tests/>

## What we can learn from the Komen debacle

To many, the recent controversy over the Susan G. Komen Foundation may seem a defeat for the pro-life movement and a victory for Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider. The breast cancer charity initially intended to cut ties to Planned Parenthood, an organization it has long supported, but ultimately reversed that decision after a calculated media onslaught by Planned Parenthood and its pro-abortion allies. However, despite the continued funding for the abortion giant, there were several pro-life achievements in that fight that are being overlooked. The pro-life movement capitalized on the controversy to further expose Planned Parenthood. Greater attention was given to the fact that Planned Parenthood is currently under Congressional investigation for the misuse of federal funds, Planned Parenthood does not actually provide mammograms and Planned Parenthood's business model revolves around abortion. *continued on page 11*



Reprinted with permission of Gary Varvel

# Pro-Life Student Oratory Contest Winners

Central PA Citizens Concerned for Human Life recently held its Regional Pro-Life Student Oratory Contest on Abortion, Infanticide, Euthanasia or Embryonic Stem Cell Research. The contest was open to students in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin and Somerset Counties.

In the **Varsity Division** (Grades 11-12), the first-place winner is **Thomas Sicree**, of Boalsburg, Centre County. Thomas is a senior who is homeschooled; his parents are Andrew and Rebecca Sicree. Thomas was awarded a cash prize of \$200. The second-place winner is **Erin Servey**, State College, a junior, who attends State College Area High School; Erin's parents are Ken and Vivian Servey. Erin was awarded a \$150 cash prize. Thomas and Erin will present their speeches at the Bedford County CCHL Dinner on April 21. (See page 7 for more information.)

In the **Junior Varsity Division** (Grades 9 and 10), the first-place winner is **Teresa Sicree**, of Boalsburg, a sophomore who is homeschooled. Teresa's parents are Andrew and Rebecca Sicree. Teresa received a \$150 cash prize. Second-place winner is **Clare Patterson**, of Hyndman, a sophomore, who attends Connections Academy (cyber school); Clare's parents are Martin and Mary Patterson. Clare was awarded a \$100 cash prize.

The judges in the Oratory Contest were Thomas Forr, Chet Kowalski and Marge Bradley. Each entry was judged on introduction, content, presentation and conclusion. Congratulations, winners, and thank you, judges!

## Varsity Winners



Thomas Sicree ♦ 1st Place  
*Abortion Must Be Destroyed*

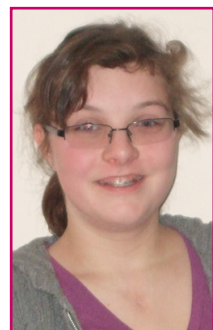


Erin Servey ♦ 2nd Place  
*The Right of Life – Created by God and Supported by Our Founding Fathers*

## Junior Varsity Winners



Teresa Sicree ♦ 1st Place  
*No More Little Sisters*



Clare Patterson ♦ 2nd Place  
*How Does Roe v. Wade Affect Today's Young Woman?*



## SAVE and DONATE YOUR USED BOOKS!

*Book Drop-off Locations  
in Altoona and Duncansville  
(call first to arrange drop-off  
or for more information, 696-9304)*

## Come to Blair County CCHL's USED BOOK SALE!

**Date in late summer or early fall to be determined**

**Will be held at St. Patrick Parish, Newry**

**Watch for more details in CCHL summer newsletter**





## Contact Information

### *President*

**President Barack Obama**  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
Opinion Line: 202-456-1111, M-F, 9-5  
Fax Number: 202-456-2461  
[www.whitehouse.gov/contact/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/)

### *Pennsylvania U.S. Senators*

**The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.**  
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Washington, D.C. 20510  
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### **The Honorable Pat Toomey**

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### *Pennsylvania U.S. Representative (9th District)*

#### **The Honorable Bill Shuster**

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Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-2431; [www.house.gov/shuster](http://www.house.gov/shuster)

#### **Blair County Office**

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814-696-6318 or 800-854-3035

### *Governor of Pennsylvania*

#### **The Honorable Tom Corbett**

225 Main Capitol Bldg., Harrisburg, PA 17120  
717-787-2500; [www.governor.state.pa.us](http://www.governor.state.pa.us)

### *Pennsylvania State Senator (District 30)*

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#### **Hollidaysburg Office**

309 Allegheny St., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648  
814-695-8386; [www.senatoreichelberger.com/](http://www.senatoreichelberger.com/)

### *Pennsylvania State Representatives (Blair County)*

#### **The Honorable Mike Fleck**

(District 81-Snyder Twp.-part, Tyrone Bor.-part, Tyrone Twp.-part)  
159A East Wing  
P.O. Box 202081, Harrisburg, PA 17120  
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Snyder Township Municipal Building  
Tyrone, PA 16686  
814-684-5200

#### **The Honorable Richard A. Geist**

(District 79-Allegheny Twp. (part), Altoona, Logan Twp.)  
144 Main Capitol Building  
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#### **Altoona Office**

1331 12th Avenue, Suite 104, Altoona, PA 16601  
814-946-7218

#### **The Honorable Jerry Stern**

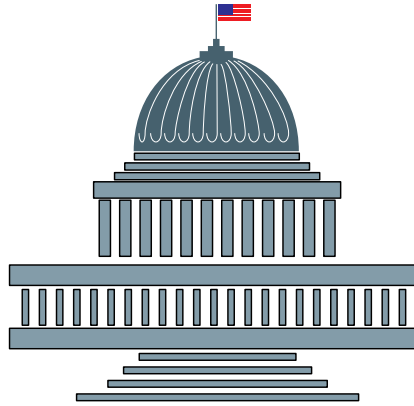
(District 80-Allegheny Twp. (part), Antis Twp., Bellwood Bor., Blair Twp., Catharine Twp., Duncansville Bor., Frankstown Twp., Freedom Twp., Greenfield Twp., Hollidaysburg Bor., Huston Twp., Juniata Twp., Martinsburg Bor., Newry Bor., North Woodbury Twp., Roaring Spring Bor., Snyder Twp. (part), Taylor Twp., Tyrone Bor. (part), Tyrone Twp. (part), Williamsburg Bor., Woodbury Twp.)

315A Main Capitol Building  
P. O. Box 202080, Harrisburg, PA 17120  
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# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



## HHS Issues New Rule on ObamaCare Scheme to Fund Abortion Insurance

*By National Right to Life Committee Legislative Director Douglas Johnson and NRLC Senior Legislative Counsel Susan T. Muskett, J.D.*

The Obama Administration has taken another step in what amounts to a four-year plan to make abortion-covering health insurance, subsidized by the federal government, commonly available in the United States.

The latest action came on March 12, when the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a lengthy regulation that spells out how some of the components of the massive 2010 Obama health care law (“ObamaCare”) will be implemented.

The new rule—consuming 644 pages, including HHS’s commentary—is concerned mainly with the “exchanges,” which are the government-operated health insurance markets that must be established in every state by January 1, 2014. While states may retain responsibility for administering the exchanges, they must do so according to the detailed blueprints provided in the federal law and in federal regulations, including the new rule.

One part of the ObamaCare law establishes a big new program to provide federal subsidies for tens of millions of American families whose household income is 400 percent or less of the federal poverty level (\$92,000 for a family of four). (Only health plans that join the exchanges will be eligible to sign up federally subsidized

clients, which provides a strong incentive for health plans to enlist in the exchanges.) These federal subsidies can be used to purchase health plans that cover all abortions. This is one of the abortion-expanding aspects of ObamaCare that caused NRLC to strongly oppose the legislation when it was under consideration in Congress in 2009 and 2010.

## OBAMA ASSURANCES HOLLOW

During the 2009-2010 congressional debate, President Obama repeatedly told the American people that he was not seeking federal funding of abortion in his healthcare legislation. For example, in a speech to a joint session of Congress on September 9, 2009, the president claimed that “under our plan, no federal dollars will be used to fund abortion.” NRLC repeatedly pointed out that such claims were flatly inconsistent with the actual legislative proposals that Obama was pushing—indeed, the president played a key role in removing House-approved language (the Stupak-Pitts Amendment) that would have prevented subsidies for elective abortions under any component of the book-thick health-care legislation.

In March, 2010, Obama persuaded a small group of Democrat House members to support the bill—and to provide the margin needed for enactment—by signing an executive order that he touted as a firewall against federal funding of abortion. In reality, the executive order was political theatre, nearly devoid of substance. In a March 21, 2010 statement, NRLC warned that the executive order was “issued for political effect” and “does not correct any of the serious pro-abortion provisions in the bill,” adding that “a lawmaker who votes for this bill is voting to require federal agencies to subsidize and administer health plans that will pay for elective abortion, and voting to undermine longstanding pro-life policies in other ways as well.”

Cecile Richards, the president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA), the nation’s largest abortion provider, also dismissed

the executive order as “a symbolic gesture” (*USA Today*, March 25, 2010), as she welcomed enactment of the ObamaCare law.

During 2011, the Obama White House issued formal veto threats on two bills (the Protect Life Act and the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act), both approved by the House of Representatives, that would restore effective barriers to federal subsidies for abortion.

### **NEW RULE SPELLS OUT SOME DETAILS**

The new rule spells out some, but by no means all, of the details on how abortion coverage will be paid for in the developing exchange system.

Under the rule, a health plan that covers all abortions may participate in an exchange unless a state enacts a law that explicitly prohibits such coverage (known as an “opt out” law). If a health plan covers abortion, the rule forbids the plan from calling attention to that fact in any of its advertising or explanatory materials. The disclosure of abortion coverage can be provided “only as part of the summary of benefits and coverage explanation, at the time of enrollment.” This provision seems designed for no other purpose than to ensure that many people who would not deliberately sign up for abortion-covering plans will do so inadvertently, because of the federally enforced gag rule.

Once a person is enrolled in an abortion-covering plan, he or she will be required to pay a defined monthly charge for the abortion coverage, dubbed the “abortion surcharge” by critics. This abortion surcharge is not optional—every enrollee in the plan must pay it, including families that have moral objections to abortion and/or that contain no females of reproductive age.

Some media stories have reported that the “abortion surcharge” will be \$1 per month, but in fact, the law and rule say something quite different—they say that the surcharge must not be “less than one dollar per enrollee, per month.” The surcharge could be a good deal more than \$1, depending on how many abortions are paid for and how much they cost.

Neither the law nor the rule contain any limitations on reasons for which abortions are sought or how late in pregnancy they occur. HHS has so far avoided spelling out in any detail how the abortion surcharge payments will be made.

From the pro-life perspective, the exact method of collecting the payments is not very important. The most important fact is that the federal government will be helping tens of millions of Americans purchase exchange-participating health plans, many of which will cover abortion on demand. When the government pays for health insurance, it pays for what the insurance pays for. The abortion surcharge is merely a bookkeeping device that is intended to obscure the reality that the federal government will be purchasing abortion-on-demand insurance—which is a sharp departure from decades of previous federal policy under the Hyde Amendment, the Federal Employees Health Benefits program and other federal programs.

### **STATE OPT-OUT LAWS**

The ObamaCare law specifies, and the rule repeats, that a state may enact an “opt out” law that prohibits coverage of abortion in the health plans that participate in the exchange in that state. So far, 15 states have enacted variations on such laws, and other state legislatures are considering such legislation.

However, while enactment of state “opt out” laws is important, they do not reach the heart of the problem. A state legislature may forbid coverage of abortion in the exchange-participating health plans in that state—but under ObamaCare, the taxpayers who live in that state may not “opt out” of subsidizing the abortion coverage for other Americans, perhaps numbering tens of millions, who live in other states that do not enact opt-out laws.

Moreover, the ObamaCare law provides additional mechanisms by which the Obama Administration will be able to expand abortion-covering insurance in the future, step by step.

For example, the ObamaCare law provides that a different federal agency, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), will offer so-called

“multi-state” health plans. Eventually, each “multi-state plan” will be offered throughout the country. The law provides that one such federal plan will have limitations on abortion coverage, at least initially, but it leaves the door open to one or more additional federal plans covering abortion on demand.

In the new rule, HHS does not reveal how the OPM-administered “multi-state” plans will handle abortion coverage. The HHS commentary merely says that such issues “will be described in future rulemaking published by OPM.” Presumably, the Obama Administration prefers to reveal the answers to such questions after the November presidential election.

### **FUTURE MANDATES POSSIBLE**

The HHS rule released on March 12 is entirely separate and distinct from the controversy that has erupted around another component of ObamaCare, which is a provision allowing HHS to mandate that virtually all health plans cover, without copayments, any medical service that the Secretary of HHS places on a list of “preventive services.”

Earlier this year, the Administration ignited a national controversy by placing all FDA-approved contraceptive methods and sterilization on the mandatory preventive services list. NRLC has warned that if President Obama is re-elected, his administration could expand the “preventive services” list to include all abortions. The effect of such a mandate would be that health plans in general—whether federally subsidized or not—would be required to cover abortion on demand without copayments. However, enactment of a properly drafted “opt out” law should shield the exchange-participating plans in a given state from any such mandate.

While some of the details of the Obama Administration’s abortion-expanding campaign remain to be revealed, the new rule is only the latest evidence that pro-life objections to ObamaCare were well founded, and that only repeal and replacement of the ObamaCare law will prevent a vast, federally-dictated expansion of abortion access in the United States.

—*NRL News Today*, March 12-16, 2012



## Obama Mandate Could Fine Religious Groups \$2,000 Per Employee

The new Obama mandate that requires religious groups to pay for birth control and drugs that may cause abortions for their employees could result in fines as much as \$2,000 per employee or \$100 each day if they refuse to comply.

Recently, Republicans in Congress asked the Congressional Research Service to examine the new mandate and the consequences for employers that do not want to follow it because it would violate their consciences, and CRS issued a document finding noncompliant employers could face federal fines of \$100 per day per employee.

"If a group health plan or health insurance issuer failed to provide contraceptive services pursuant to guidelines authorized by ACA, it seems possible ... that a plan participant could be able to bring a claim for that benefit," the memo states. —*LifeNews.com, March 6, 2012*

## Sebelius, Obama Administration: Reducing People Cuts Health Care Cost

Last week while testifying on Capitol Hill during a budget hearing for Obama's 2013 budget proposal, HHS Secretary, Kathleen Sebelius said: "Reducing pregnancies will cut health care costs."

What does this mean? It means reducing the amount of possible Americans (through birth control) or Americans (through abortion) will reduce money the federal government will have to spend on healthcare costs.

This is the direct result of what happens when the government is in control of healthcare spending. First, they tell you what kinds of procedures you have, what your employers must pay for, and, next, it will be how many children families can have. Think the one-child policy in China is extreme? President Obama and his key advisers are already thinking this way: more people = more costs. —*LifeNews.com, March 6, 2012*

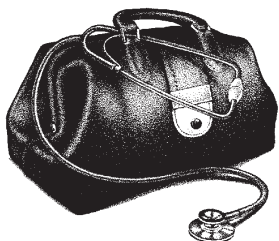
## Repeal of IPAB, "Death Panels," Moves Forward in House

The repeal of the Independent Payment Advisory Board, which has been derisively called "death panels" by detractors, is moving forward in the House of Representatives.

Lawmakers on a House health subcommittee began the process of reversing one of the more contentious parts of Obamacare last month when the Energy and Commerce Health subcommittee voted 17-5 to repeal it—with pro-abortion lawmakers Rep. Frank Pallone of New Jersey and Rep. Edolphus Towns joining with Republicans to vote to end it.

Then, with support from across the political spectrum, the House Energy and Commerce Committee, by a voice vote, approved H.R.452, which would repeal the IPAB.

—*LifeNews.com, March 5, 2012*



## Repeal Government Rationing Board Under Obama Health Law

## PA Legislators Support Ultrasound Bill

Pennsylvania has long awaited the opportunity to introduce new life-saving pro-life legislation, and now with the election of a pro-life governor, Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation and other pro-life groups have crafted a great bill to send to Gov. Corbett's office to do just that.

It is HB 1077; The Women's Right to Know Act. This bill will guarantee a pregnant woman the right to see an ultrasound image of her unborn baby 24-hours before a scheduled abortion.

Pro-abortion forces have attempted to mislead and distort the facts surrounding this benign medical procedure. HB 1077 **DOES NOT** specify the type of ultrasound method used—whether it be the traditional imaging that virtually all women receive or another ultrasound method called a transvaginal ultrasound used routinely by Planned Parenthood abortion facilities to determine the gestational age of the unborn baby before an abortion.

Pro-abortion forces are trying to scare off PA legislators with objections to the transvaginal ultrasound method that they themselves use. They are using inflammatory language such as "rape" to describe this painless, routine procedure to mislead and frighten off legislators. It's a total scare campaign without any truth or merit, and our local legislators will not be bullied by this gang of radical pro-abortion activists.

Pro-life co-sponsors, Rep. Jerry Stern, Rep. Rick Geist, Rep. Dick Hess and Rep. Mike Fleck all understand that this is a pro-woman bill designed to help women make an informed life and death decision. This is a pro-women bill because it will empower women with the information that they need about their baby's gestational age and other vital information they may not otherwise receive. If these so-called women's rights organizations really cared about women, they would not try to hide the real facts about their pregnancies from them.

At present, the unborn baby does not yet have the right to life, but you would at least think that women would want other women to have a right to know all the facts about their pregnancies. A big thank you to our local lawmakers for looking out for the women whom they represent, born and unborn! —*Beth Britz, Political Education Chairperson Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Blair County*

## National Right to Life Convention June 28, 29 & 30, Arlington, VA

The 42nd annual meeting of pro-life grassroots leaders and experts from across the country is coming to the nation's capital this summer. The Convention is three days of inspirational speakers, hands-on training, educational workshops, the latest information, pro-life exhibits, a teen convention and much more. Major speakers include: Lila Rose, Live Action President, Carol Tobias, NRL President and Steven W. Mosher, Population Research Institute President. The Convention will be held at the **Hyatt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Jefferson Davis Hwy., in Arlington, VA.** To make reservations at the Hyatt, call 703-418-1234 or visit [www.nrlconvention.com](http://www.nrlconvention.com). To register for the Convention, call 202-378-8842 or go to [www.nrlconvention.com](http://www.nrlconvention.com).

# Adult Stem Cell Treatments for Multiple Sclerosis and Other Diseases?

Parkinson's, Lupus, Diabetes, Leukemia ...

**SAVE THE DATE – Saturday April 21, 2012 5PM**

St Thomas School, 129 West Penn St, Bedford

## 8th Annual Dinner Featuring Dr. James M. Rossetti

James M. Rossetti, DO is Associate Director of the Cell Transplantation Program and Director of the Apheresis Program at the Western Pennsylvania Hospital. He is an Assistant Professor at the Temple University School of Medicine and an Adjunct Clinical Instructor for the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Dr. Rossetti is a recognized expert in hematological malignancy with particular interest in myeloid malignancy, acute myelogenous leukemia, myelodysplasia, and cellular therapy.

Dr. Rossetti serves on the Advisory Board of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Western Pennsylvania Chapter. He is a member of American College of Physicians, the American Osteopathic Medical Association, the American Society of Hematology, the American Society of Blood and Marrow Transplantation, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the Pennsylvania Society of Oncology and Hematology and the Myelodysplastic Syndromes Foundation, which recognizes Dr. Rossetti as a recommended specialist physician dedicated to treating disorders that inhibit healthy blood cell production.



Dr. Rossetti's is an accomplished clinical investigator with numerous publications in the scientific and lay literature and is a particularly sought after speaker. As an adult stem cell transplant physician, Dr. Rossetti has a keen interest in debunking the myths surrounding stem cell debate. He has spoken widely in support of adult stem cells, which preserve life at all levels of development. Through his slide show, meet some of the patients he has treated with their own stem cells. Adult stem cells come from the patient - no risk of rejection!

### Silent Auction 5 to 7 PM - Dinner at 6:00 PM Come Hear the Regional Oratory Contest Winners

**RSVP 652-6755 by 4/11 - \$15 - \$25 per Couple - \$8 for students - under 5 free**  
**Checks should be made out to Bedford County CCHL**

Be a 2012 Sponsor & Help Us Meet our 2012 Sponsorship Goals  
10-Platinum/\$250, 15-Gold/\$100, 30-Silver/\$50, 60-Bronze/\$25

*Sponsored by Bedford County Citizens Concerned for Human Life*

We are against unsuccessful *embryonic* stem cell research & therapies, which kill human embryos.

[www.BedfordCountyProLife.org](http://www.BedfordCountyProLife.org)

Learn more about successful stem cell therapies at [www.stemcellresearch.org](http://www.stemcellresearch.org).

# My Brother's Life: Very Valuable Despite Down Syndrome

By Cal Thomas

How does one measure whether a life was a success, or a failure? Some would measure it by recognition, that is, how many knew the person's name. For others, the measure of a successful life would be the amount of wealth accumulated, or possessions held. Still others would say a life was successful if the person made a major contribution to society—in medicine, sports, politics, or the arts.

By that standard my brother, Marshall Stephen Thomas, who died January 5, was a failure. If, however, your standard for a successful life is how that life positively touched others, then my brother's life was a resounding success.

Shortly after he was born in 1950, Marshall was diagnosed with Down syndrome. Some in the medical community referred to the intellectually disabled as "retarded" back then, long before the word became a common schoolyard epithet. His doctors told our parents he would never amount to anything and advised them to place him in an institution. Back then, this was advice too often taken by parents who were so embarrassed about having a disabled child that they often refused to take them out in public.

Our parents wanted none of that. In the '50s, many institutions were snake pits where inhumanities were often tolerated and people were warehoused until they died, often in deplorable conditions. While they weren't wealthy, they were committed to seeing that Marshall had the best possible care, no matter how long he lived. Because of their dedication and thanks to the Kennedy family and their commitment to the rights, causes and issues related to the mentally and physically challenged, Marshall had a longer and better quality of life than might have been expected. He outlived his life expectancy by nearly 40 years. He lived his life dancing and singing and listening to music he loved.

Yes, it cost our parents a lot of money to give him the care they believed he deserved. They might have taken more vacations, owned a fancier house and driven a luxurious car, but before we valued things more than people, they valued Marshall more than any tangible thing. And that care rubbed off on me and other family members.

The stereotype about people who call themselves conservatives is that we don't care for the less fortunate. Even if that were true (which it isn't), Marshall deepened my sensitivity and understanding for the mentally and physically challenged and for those who, like our parents, committed themselves to caring for others who were touched by a malady that could easily have been ours.

I was seven years old when Marshall was born. A year or two later when the diagnosis was made, I bought a popular book written by Dale Evans and gave it to our parents. It was called "Angel Unaware." The ti-

tle was taken from a verse in the New Testament which says, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." (Hebrews 13:2) Evans' book was about the Down syndrome child she had with her husband, Roy Rogers.

Roy and Dale named their daughter Robin Elizabeth and their commitment to her (she died at the age of 2) strongly influenced our parents' decision to take care of Marshall, rather than institutionalize him. While it was sometimes difficult for them and later after their death, for me, we never regretted that decision because of the joy Marshall brought to our lives.

In an age when we discard the inconvenient and unwanted in order to pursue pleasure and a life free of burdens, this may seem strange to some. I recall a line from the long-running Broadway musical, "The Fantasticks": "Deep in December, it's nice to remember, without a hurt the heart is hollow." Marshall Thomas' "hurts" filled a number of hollow hearts.

At the end of the Christmas classic "It's a Wonderful Life," George Bailey reads an inscription in a book given to him by Clarence, his guardian angel: "Remember, no man is a failure who has friends."

No life is a failure when it causes so many to care for others. At that my brother succeeded magnificently. *With a twice-weekly column appearing in over 600 newspapers nationwide, Cal Thomas is the most widely read and one of the most highly regarded voices on the American political scene. A graduate of American University, Thomas is a 35-year veteran of broadcast and print journalism. This column was originally published at NewsBusters.*

—LifeNews.com, January 9, 2012



Boaz Reigstad, hand-crafted by God  
*I may not be perfect, but I'm happy. I am God's handiwork and I bear His image. I am blessed. I am the 10% of children born with Down Syndrome who survived Roe v Wade.*

—Reprinted with permission



# The New Scar on My Soul

*This is a tragic story. The decision to use assisted reproduction has consequences.*

**M**y soul carries a new scar. The pain is fresh and keen, and I know that while time might see the pain fade, I will never fully recover from what I've seen, and done. For I have failed, intentionally and knowingly, in the first duty of a parent: protecting the lives of two of my children.

My wife and I wanted children; alas, we needed IVF treatment to realize this dream. Several cycles and multiple embryo implantations later, we welcomed our blessing from God, who is the light of our lives.

Recently, we tried for another.

"It never rains, but it pours," said the fertility doctor—of the three embryos that were implanted, all three took. We were faced with the news of triplets. I was shocked, knowing the burden that would entail, but since God gave us three, I was prepared to do whatever I needed to do to help, manage, and provide.

My wife? Something snapped. She insisted that we do a "selective reduction" from three to one, or else she would have a full abortion. She was adamant. She would not carry three. She would not carry two.

I was presented with a Coventry-esque decision: save one, or save none. I chose the former, though I tried on several occasions to convince her to at least keep twins. I failed.

We were told, point-blank, by the doctor who would do the procedure that they would inject potassium chloride into the placenta to stop the hearts. We were told, point-blank, that it was painless. Even then, I knew I was being lied to, but given the choice presented, I agreed anyway. My mantra became "Save one, or save none."

Before the procedure, my wife's eyes teared up; she asked the doctor over and over if they would feel pain, and was assured they would not. I asked again if my wife was sure about this because once done, it could not be undone. She said she was sure, but her tears and her looking away from the screen, deliberately, and her wanting me to not look either, told me the truth: she knew as well that this was wrong. I wanted to insist that she look, but I think that her mind—already fractured by the news of triplets—would have snapped permanently had she seen the images onscreen. And to save the one, and for the sake of the one we already had, I needed my wife sane.

My wife didn't look, but I had to. I had to know what would happen to my children. I had to know how they would die.

Each retreated, pushing away, as the needle entered the amniotic sac. They did not inject into the placenta, but directly into each child's torso. Each one crumpled as the needle pierced the body. I saw the heart stop in the first, and mine almost did, too. The other's heart fought, but ten minutes later they looked again, and it too had ceased.

The doctors had the gall to call the potassium chloride, the chemical that stopped the children's hearts, "medicine." I wanted to ask what they were trying to cure—life? But bitter words would not undo what had happened. I swallowed anything I might have said.

I know they felt pain. I know they felt panic. And I know this was murder. I take cold comfort in knowing that as far as we can tell, the survivor is still fine, and in knowing that this decision did not come from me; I would have taken the chance on triplets, even with all the work and effort it would have required. I pray that this one child will come to term, will be born into this world alive and healthy, and I know he or she will have all our love.

But that emotional scar will ache my whole life. I see my child's smile every night and anticipate a new one in some months...but I think of the two smiles I will never see. Every day, returning from work, I hear "Hi Daddy!" and know there are two voices and two giggles that I will never hear. I play with and cuddle my child, looking forward to the same with the second...but I know there are two sets of hands that will never touch mine, two sets of toes that will never be counted, two hugs that will forever be absent from my arms.

I pray to God every day to take those two innocents to Him, to welcome them, and I ask them every day for forgiveness. As I will every day for the rest of my life. I don't know what accommodation my wife will make mentally and spiritually. That is her business, and a burden her conscience must bear.

But let nobody fool you. It is not painless for the child, and anyone who says otherwise is a liar. Abortion is not an excision of a featureless bunch of cells; it is infanticide. We have revived the practice of child sacrifice to the new deities of casual sex and convenience.

We rationalize the reality of murder by altering our perspective of the nascent life through euphemisms like "fetus" or descriptions of "a clump of cells"...just like the Nazis convinced themselves that the people screaming as they were shot or gassed were "Untermenchen," subhuman, and therefore guiltlessly exterminated.

This is how every perpetrator of genocide has always rationalized his or her actions. By doing likewise, we condemn our own souls

I wept in joy, a few years ago, when I saw my first child's heartbeat on the screen. And I weep in agony now at the memory of two of my children's heartbeats being stilled. "Save one, or save none" has been eclipsed by "Out, out, damned spot!" as I wonder how I can redeem myself.

If, by baring this scar for others to see, I can prevent an abortion, perhaps that will help to balance the scales for when I face God's justice and I finally meet those two children—who I hope will forgive me for my failure.

*—The author's name has been withheld by request.*

*American Thinker, March 4, 2012*

## The Parable of the Kosher Deli

*continued from back page*

question generated by a government mandate is whether the government will impose its belief that eating pork is good on objecting Orthodox Jews. Meanwhile, there is no imposition at all on the freedom of those who want to eat pork.

That is, they are subject to no government interference at all in their choice to eat pork, and pork is ubiquitous and cheap, available at the overwhelming majority of restaurants and grocers. Indeed, some pork producers and retailers, and even the government itself, are so eager to promote the eating of pork, that they sometimes give pork away for free.

In this context, the question is this: can a customer come to a kosher deli, demand to be served a ham sandwich, and if refused, bring down severe government sanction on the deli. In a nation committed to religious liberty and diversity, the answer, of course, is no.

So in our hypothetical story, because the hypothetical nation is indeed committed to religious liberty and diversity, these arguments carry the day. In response, those proposing the new law claim to hear and understand the concerns of kosher deli owners, and offer them a new “accommodation.”

You are free to call yourself a kosher deli; you are free not to place ham sandwiches on your menu; you are free not to be the person to prepare the sandwich and hand it over the counter to the customer. But we will force your meat supplier to set up a kiosk on your premises, and to offer, prepare, and serve ham sandwiches to all of your customers, free of charge to them. And when you get your monthly bill from your meat supplier, it will include the cost of any of the “free” ham sandwiches that your customers may accept. And you will, of course, be required to pay that bill.

Some who supported the deli owners initially began to celebrate the fact that ham sandwiches didn’t need to be on the menu, and didn’t need to be prepared or served by the deli itself. But on closer examination, they noticed three troubling things. First, all kosher delis will still be forced to pay for the ham sandwiches.

Second, many of the kosher delis’ meat suppliers, themselves, are forbidden in conscience from offering, preparing, or serving pork to anyone. Third, there are many kosher delis that are their own meat supplier, so the mandate to offer, prepare, and serve the ham sandwich still falls on them.

This story has a happy ending. The government recognized that it is absurd for someone to come into a kosher deli and demand a ham sandwich; that it is beyond absurd for that private demand to be backed with the coercive power of the state; that it is downright surreal to apply this coercive power when the customer can get the same sandwich cheaply, or even free, just a few doors down.

The question before the United States government—right now—is whether the story of our own church institutions that serve the public, and that are threatened by

the HHS mandate, will end happily too. Will our nation continue to be one committed to religious liberty and diversity? We urge, in the strongest possible terms, that the answer must be yes. We urge you, in the strongest possible terms, to answer the same way. ♦

## New Pregnancy Support Center in Tyrone

ELM or Every Life Matters Pregnancy Support Services, 221 Hospital Dr., Ste. 3, in Tyrone, officially opened in January to counsel and talk with pregnant women, refer them for medical or social services or offer pregnancy and fetal development education. Its mission is to promote a culture of life within our society in order to serve people facing unplanned pregnancies.

The faith-based program was developed by Jen Harry, director, and Laura Stine, board president.

ELM offers free self-administered pregnancy tests, referrals for adoption and pregnancy and fetal development education. Classes are offered on exercise, prenatal nutrition and parenting. Women who may need help obtaining clothing or formula can come to the center.

ELM is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays and Fridays. Anyone interested in receiving services, being trained as peer counselors or donating to the center can call 814-650-7899.



### Prayer for the Helpless Unborn

*Heavenly Father,  
In your love for us, protect  
against the wickedness of the devil,  
those helpless little ones to whom*

*You have given the gift of life.*

*Touch with pity the hearts of those women pregnant  
in our world today who are not thinking of motherhood.  
Help them to see that the child they carry is made in  
Your image—as well as theirs—made for eternal life.*

*Dispel their fear and selfishness and give them true  
womanly hearts to love their babies and give them birth  
and all the needed care that a mother alone can give.*

*We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, our  
Lord. Amen. †*



*For the sake of Your name, O Lord, give me life. †*

*—Ps: 143:11*

# From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

The article on page 8 by Cal Thomas caught my attention for personal reasons.

Devin Rhoa passed away last month at the age of twenty-seven. Devin was a survivor. His parents, Pete and Pat Rhoa, were in their late forties when Devin was born with Down syndrome.

Those who have studied the statistics know that due to amniocentesis almost ninety percent of those diagnosed with Down syndrome today, in utero, are aborted. Devin was one of the lucky ones whose parents valued the gift of life.

Devin lived a full life. He participated in Special Olympics, swimming, bowling and bocce. His Dad and Mom were very proud of him and attended his practices and games. His brothers and sisters and their spouses and children loved him and he loved them.

When Devin's Dad, Pete, passed away, Devin became the man of the house. When his brother, Dave, gave a brief eulogy at this funeral Mass, there was not a dry eye among those gathered when Dave related how Devin felt about both of his parents.

Was Devin's life worth living? Ask those who knew him.

Sincerely,



—R. Thomas Forr, Jr., President, Blair County Chapter  
Citizens Concerned for Human Life

# The Consequences of Roe v. Wade

# 54,559,615

## Total abortions since 1973 in U.S.

Based on numbers reported by the Guttmacher Institute 1973-2008, with estimates of 1,212,400 for 2009-2011. GI estimates a possible 3% under-reporting rate, which is factored into this total. —National Right to Life Committee, January 2012

# Citizens Concerned for Human Life Needs YOU!

Help the Blair County Chapter of CCHL in its pro-life efforts! We really need your membership donations to help continue the printing and mailing of our newsletter and other pro-life materials, to sponsor Life Chain in October and the March for Life buses to Washington each January. Our existence as a pro-life organization in this community is dependent on your support. Please consider a membership donation (see form at bottom of this page). Another great way to help contribute is by sending in a donation in memory of loved ones who have died or in honor of a special occasion such as a birthday, graduation or anniversary of someone near and dear to you. Blair County Life News will publish your name as well as the names of those you are honoring and/or remembering. Instead of flowers or a card, your donation will help us save lives.


# Komen debacle

continued from page 2

As a result of the Komen debacle, the whole country now knows that the breast cancer charity funds the nation's largest abortion provider. Pro-life advocates can no longer be looked at as conspiracy theorists for mentioning that fact. Many even within the pro-life movement were previously unaware of the connection between the two organizations. We can be rest assured that Komen will no longer have the backing of pro-life advocates.

—Andrew Bair, Education Director

Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Online News, February 15, 2012



**Blair County Life News**  
**Blair County Chapter**  
**Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc.**  
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 2715 Third St., Altoona, PA 16601; phone: 814-946-0681  
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 website: [www.blaircountyprolife.org](http://www.blaircountyprolife.org)

# Blair County Chapter, Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc. Membership Form

Blair County CCHL believes that human life has value in all stages of development from conception until natural death, and is committed to speaking on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves — the unborn, the aged, the incapacitated. Won't you please help in our struggle to preserve respect for human life? A contribution brings you the newsletter as well as educational materials and special mailings.

_____ Annual Membership	\$ 10.00	_____ Other
_____ Student/Senior Member	\$ 5.00	

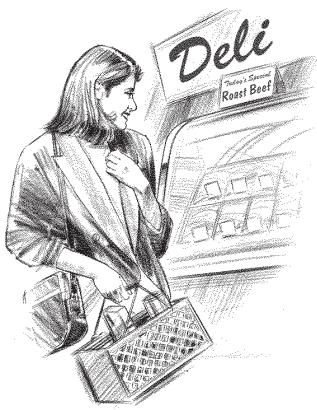
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 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form and return with your donation to: Blair County Chapter, CCHL, 2715 Third St., Altoona PA 16601. For more information, call 814-946-0681. Sorry, donations are not tax-deductible.



**BLAIR COUNTY CHAPTER  
CITIZENS CONCERNED FOR HUMAN LIFE, INC.**  
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## The Parable of the Kosher Deli

On Wednesday February 16, 2012, the Most Reverend William E. Lori, Bishop of Bridgeport and Chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee for Religious Liberty, gave testimony before Congress. He appeared before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the United States House of Representatives.

*Bishop Lori spoke on behalf of all of the Catholic Bishops of the United States. They are unanimous in their effort to have the HHS Edict which seeks to compel Catholic institutions and organizations to distribute contraceptives and abortion inducing drugs as well as offer sterilization rescinded. Now is not the time for Catholics to be critical of the US Catholic Bishops. Now is the time for all of us to stand with them.*

*The Bishop's testimony was brilliant. We want all of our readers to learn from it as we all undertake the struggle to defend the Church against this unjust Edict and a New Catholic Action. We call upon all of our readers around the globe to pray for his Excellency—and for all of our Bishops. We pledge to stand in unwavering solidarity with them. Here is Bishop Lori's complete testimony:*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Committee, for the opportunity to testify today. For my testimony today, I would like to tell a story. Let's call it "The Parable of the Kosher Deli."

Once upon a time, a new law is proposed, so that any business that serves food must serve pork. There is a narrow exception for kosher catering halls attached to synagogues, since they serve mostly members of that synagogue, but kosher delicatessens are still subject to the mandate.

The Orthodox Jewish community—whose members run kosher delis and many other restaurants and grocers besides—expresses its outrage at the new government mandate. And they are joined by others who have no problem eating pork—not just the many Jews who eat pork,

but people of all faiths—because these others recognize the threat to the principle of religious liberty.

They recognize as well the practical impact of the damage to that principle. They know that, if the mandate stands, they might be the next ones forced—under threat of severe government sanction—to violate their most deeply held beliefs, especially their unpopular beliefs.

Meanwhile, those who support the mandate respond "But pork is good for you. It is, after all, the other white meat." Other supporters add "So many Jews eat pork, and those who don't should just get with the times." Still others say "Those Orthodox are just trying to impose their beliefs on everyone else."

But in our hypothetical, those arguments fail in the public debate, because people widely recognize the following.

First, although people may reasonably debate whether pork is good for you, that's not the question posed by the nationwide pork mandate. Instead, the mandate generates the question whether people who believe—even if they believe in error—that pork is not good for you, should be forced by government to serve pork within their very own institutions. In a nation committed to religious liberty and diversity, the answer, of course, is no.

Second, the fact that some (or even most) Jews eat pork is simply irrelevant. The fact remains that some Jews do not—and they do not out of their most deeply-held religious convictions. Does the fact that large majorities in society—even large majorities within the protesting religious community—reject a particular religious belief make it permissible for the government to weigh in on one side of that dispute? Does it allow government to punish that minority belief with its coercive power? In a nation committed to religious liberty and diversity, the answer, of course, is no.

Third, the charge that the Orthodox Jews are imposing their beliefs on others has it exactly backwards. Again, the

*continued on page 10*