

CITIZENS  
CONCERNED



BLAIR COUNTY  
CHAPTER

Citizens Concerned for Human Life

# Blair County Life News

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Presenting the Pro-Life Message to Blair County, Pennsylvania

Summer 2022



## OVERTURNED

### The End of Roe: A New Chapter in Defending Life

By John Stonestreet, Dr. Heather W. Peterson, and Dr. Timothy Pagett

**A**fter nearly 50 years of waiting, working, praying, and weeping, a moment longed for by millions around the nation and around the world has arrived. In a 6-3 decision, the Supreme Court of the United States overturned, not only the heinous 1973 Supreme Court decision known as *Roe v. Wade*, but also the equally flawed decision from 1992, *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*.

Ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, the Supreme Court found that these earlier cases, the foundation of so-called abortion rights for a half-century, were without legal merit. Therefore, the final ruling was as follows: "The Constitution does not confer a right to abortion; *Roe* and *Casey* are overruled; and the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives."

To be clear, this ruling doesn't end abortion in America, nor does it legally ban abortion. It means that state-level restrictions on abortion are not immediately invalidated by Supreme Court decisions that even honest pro-abortion legal theorists have recognized as poorly decided. It means that the work to see abortion swept into the same dustbin as other historic evils can now proceed legally unencumbered as it has long been. The next milestones are that abortion is made illegal in as many places as possible and, eventually, as unthinkable as slavery is.

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## PA Constitutional Amendment

The Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives have passed the Constitutional Amendment which would bar taxpayer funding of abortion and would keep abortion out of the PA Constitution. The legislation ensures that the people, through their duly-elected representatives, would decide abortion policy rather than the courts. The Amendment was included in Senate Bill 106. The Amendment must pass the House

and Senate again next session before the issue can be placed on the ballot for voters to decide. The next session begins in January. The legislation does not need to be signed by the Governor since it is a Constitutional Amendment. **To find out more about the Amendment—and to sign a petition—please go to: <https://www.paprolife.org/pa-life-amendment>.**

## Support Pregnancy Resource Centers!

A dangerous package of bills now before the General Assembly, HB 2626, HB 2627, HB 2628, and HB 2629, would shore up the abortion industry by defunding pregnancy resource centers. Please send an immediate message to your state lawmakers urging them to oppose these terrible bills. Pregnant women and their families need our immediate help!

—Maria V. Gallagher, Legislative Director, Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation

## 89 Members of Congress press for audit into allegations of illicit fetal tissue research at University of Pittsburgh

In a bicameral letter on June 2, 89 Members of Congress called on Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Inspector General (IG) Christi Grimm to conduct an immediate audit into whether the University of Pittsburgh violated federal law while conducting fetal tissue research subsidized by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The push for a comprehensive IG audit comes after HHS ignored serious concerns raised in previous letters by the Members of Congress who all oppose fetal tissue research. Instead of probing the alarming allegations, the Biden Administration said that the NIH Office of Extramural Research had “been in discussions” with the University of Pittsburgh that resulted in the commissioning of an “independent, third-party firm” whose report could be found publicly posted on the University’s website.

“Rather than conduct an independent evaluation of its own, NIH chose to accept and endorse a report that had been paid for by the institution it had been asked to investigate,” the lawmakers wrote in the letter led by Reps. Chris Smith (R-NJ), Vicky Hartzler (R-MO), Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO), Lisa McClain (R-MI) and Mike Kelly (R-PA) together with Sens. James Lankford (R-OK), Steve Daines (R-MT), and Josh Hawley (R-MO).

The flawed report—issued by the DC-based firm Hyman, Phelps and McNamara (HPM) and financed by the University—has been widely criticized for narrowing the scope of the investigation to sidestep key questions about the abortion procedures and the baby-victims.

In their letter to Grimm, the lawmakers reiterated the grave allegations that HHS refused to address, including concerns that University researchers had illegally altered abortion procedures solely for the purpose of obtaining fetal tissue, or derived fetal tissue by organ or tissue harvesting from aborted babies who were born alive and then killed.

“When we raised these concerns with HHS, we received an unacceptable response that failed to substantively address either question,” the lawmakers wrote to Grimm. “We ask for your assistance in conducting an audit, consistent with the extent of your jurisdiction, to answer the questions that the Department has failed to answer.”

—National Right to Life News Today, June 2, 2022

## OVERTURNED

*continued from front page*

Already, state officials have begun working to outlaw or dramatically restrict abortion in their states. Ohio's attorney general has moved to revive its "heartbeat bill," abortion will be illegal in Tennessee within a month, and Missouri has effectively ended the vile practice already. Much has begun, with many areas already prepared to enact similar pro-life laws, and much more remains to be done.

The *Dobbs* ruling is not a surprise. The final draft of the majority opinion was virtually unchanged from an earlier draft leaked back in May. Not only did Justice Alito, who authored the opinion, conclude that a Mississippi abortion restriction could stand, but also that *Roe* and *Casey* were promulgated without any constitutional or historical precedent, that the so-called viability argument was inadequate, and that decisions about regulating abortion should return to voters and their elected officials.

Justices Breyer, Sotomayor, and Kagan co-authored a dissent, which (I suspect) will be quoted far more often than the majority opinion by most media outlets, especially this line: "With sorrow—for this Court, but more, for the many millions of American women who have today lost a fundamental constitutional protection—we dissent," wrote the justices.

The main difference between the leaked draft of the opinion and the final version is must-read material for everyone. In four pages, beginning on page 35 of his opinion, Justice Alito absolutely dismantles the dissent. "The dissent," writes Alito, "does not identify any pre-*Roe* authority that supports such a right—no state constitutional provision or statute, no federal or state judicial precedent, not even a scholarly treatise."

Or again,

"Like the infamous decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, *Roe* was also egregiously wrong and on a collision course with the Constitution from the day it was decided. *Casey* perpetuated its errors, calling both sides of the national controversy to resolve their debate, but in doing so, *Casey* necessarily declared a winning side. Those on the losing side—those who sought to advance the State's interest in fetal life—could no longer seek to persuade their elected representatives to adopt policies consistent with their views."

Of course, many are outraged by this decision. Women's March President Rachel Carmona already declared a "summer of rage." In recent weeks, there have been acts of arson and vandalism, threats of violence against pro-life leaders and conservative justices, all with promise of more to come. In mid-June, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York and Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore released a statement asking "our elected officials to take a strong stand against this violence, and our law enforcement authorities to increase their vigilance in protecting those who are in increased danger." According to Lila Rose of Live Action, the Department of Homeland Security has warned churches and other pro-life organizations to be prepared for "extreme violence" coming from pro-abortion agitators.

Today, it is right to celebrate a long-awaited and hard-earned victory in the fight to protect pre-born lives, with thanks to God. We thank God for this cultural grace. We thank Him for the Roman Catholics who called out this evil when many Protestants took refuge in moral ambiguity, and for courageous Protestants like Francis Schaeffer who called evangelicals out of their moral slumber on abortion. We thank God for all who spoke for life, signed petitions, attended rallies, crafted legislation, were spat upon and yelled at by those for whom *Roe* was a sacrament, not of life but of death. We thank God for the many people, mostly women, who have showed up every day for women and their children at churches, pregnancy resource centers, living rooms, and elsewhere to show compassion and speak life.

There've been times in the last 50 years when many assumed we'd never see the end of *Roe*. I confess to being among those skeptics. Today, a colleague reminded us of a Henry Wadsworth Longfellow poem, and now Christmas carol, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day":

**"Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The Wrong shall fail,  
The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men."**

Although today we celebrate with thanksgiving to God, tomorrow we get back to work...until abortion is not only illegal but also unthinkable.



*—Excerpted from National Right to Life News Today, June 27, 2022*

# The word “women” is conspicuously missing, is “vanishing,” from abortion debate

By Mary Szoch



On June 8, the *New York Times* published an article pointing out that the word “women” is conspicuously missing, is “vanishing,” from the abortion debate.

Author Michael Powell referenced a recent ACLU tweet that read, “Abortion bans disproportionately harm: Black, Indigenous and other people of color; the LGBTQ community; immigrants; young people; those working to make ends meet; people with disabilities. Protecting abortion access is an urgent matter of racial and economic justice.”

This tweet, Powell contended, left out a relevant demographic: women.

It should be noted that the ACLU’s entire tweet lacks any basis in reality, as abortion disproportionately kills unborn people of color, very young people, those living in poverty, and those with disabilities.

Given the tweet’s faulty reasoning, pro-lifers can assume that the ACLU did not leave women off the list because they recognize protections for the unborn do not in fact “disproportionately harm” women. No, the omission of the word “women” was deliberately intended to deny truth in an appeal to the far Left.

In recent years, Americans have seen the elimination of “women” gain major traction from pro-abortionists. In their guide “Talking about Abortion,” Planned Parenthood of Tennessee and North Mississippi advises, “Use gender neutral and inclusive language because trans and non-binary people also experience pregnancy and need abortion care. Try replacing “women/she/her” with “people,” “pregnant person,” or “they/them/their/theirs.”

In his 2022 budget proposal, President Biden replaced “mothers” with “birthing people.” And perhaps most famously while speaking to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform Congresswoman Cori Bush (D-Mo.) inadvertently provided a powerful pro-life testimony, and then proceeded to refer to moms as “birthing people.”

In the past few months, however, some have recognized that efforts to gain broad support for the idea that anyone other than a woman could be a mother have fallen flat, and so, they try to strike a middle ground.

NARAL’s most recent messaging guide on talking about abortion states, “we found that solely using “person” (or “people”) in place of “woman” (or “women”) can be confusing... For many, it can create real barriers to understanding and support—especially among older audiences, including older women. The majority of Base and Conflicted people simply do not yet understand enough about gender identity, sexuality, or even basic reproductive

processes to enable them to understand why transgender men or people who are nonbinary would need to access abortion care. There is still a tremendous amount of education that needs to happen.”

In other words, the donor base isn’t woke enough to accept the lie that a man could give birth to a child.

Others have noticed this, too. Though it is challenging to tell if it was a gaffe or not, following the leak of the Dobbs decision, President Biden referred to abortion as a “woman’s” fundamental right. Even Ilhan Omar, who previously co-introduced the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021—which ironically was littered with “birthing people” language—messed on women.

It seems the far left is attempting to backtrack from the elimination of women because they realize it is the lie that could bring their house of cards to the ground. But, this is certainly not the first time the pro-abortion industry has used disingenuous wording to erase a person.

The pro-abortion industry has always peddled the lie that abortion is about “privacy,” “choice,” and “bodily autonomy.” These lies deny the reality that the conversation surrounding abortion always involves the lives of two distinct people who exist in relationship with one another—a mother and her child.

Let us pray that as members of the pro-abortion industry begin to release the need to acknowledge the truth that only women can be pregnant, they will also recognize the truth that every pregnant woman is a mother carrying within her a child who is a beautiful gift from God deserving of the right to life.

Mary Szoch is Director of the Center for Human Dignity, Family Research Council.



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## Now, an Embryo Is Mere “Pregnancy Tissue”



A pro-life campaigner holds a model of a 12-week-old embryo

By Wesley Smith

**A**bstortion politics has corrupted medical science. The establishment is so obsessed with promoting abortion that it is apparently willing to subvert scientifically accurate descriptions in the discussion.

For example, get this. Rather than call an embryo an embryo—which is a medical term—an article in *JAMA Insights* [Journal of the American Medical Association] (published by the AMA) has coined a new depersonalizing term for unborn human life destroyed in the womb. From an article on so-called “medical” abortions (my emphasis):

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) first approved a medication abortion regimen in 2000, which consisted of mifepristone (a progesterone antagonist that *causes pregnancy tissue to detach from the endometrium*) and misoprostol (a prostaglandin that induces cervical softening and uterine contractions)...

Although cramping and bleeding diminish *after the pregnancy tissue passes*, light cramping is normal for a few days and light bleeding is common for a few weeks...

Retained nonviable *pregnancy tissue* occurs in less than 3% of cases and can be managed expectantly with repeat misoprostol or with dilation and curettage based on patient preference...

Patients should be evaluated if they have unusually heavy bleeding (soaking >2 pads/h for >2 h in a row), fever more than 24 hours after using misoprostol, recurrence of severe abdominal pain *after passage of pregnancy tissue*, or persistence of pregnancy symptoms more than 1 week after medication abortion.

Good grief. “Mary, when is your pregnancy tissue due?” Progressive ideology corrupts everything.

—National Review, June 4, 2022

Wesley J. Smith is Chair and Senior Fellow at the Discovery Institute’s Center on Human Exceptionalism.

## Unwanted Children

**E**very child has the right to be wanted.

But why should any parent not want a child?

Should a child be unwanted because the parents fear a change in their lifestyle?

Should a child be unwanted because the arrival of another person in the home will throw the family budget out of balance?

Should a child be unwanted because a birth will upset some preset timetable?

Should a child be unwanted because, like Abraham Lincoln, he or she will be raised in poverty?

Should a child be unwanted because he or she might have some physical handicap?

Should a child be unwanted because the birth would reveal wrong conduct by the parents and shame looms larger than life?

How can any parent not want a child who is yet unseen?

How can a child be unwanted who has not yet had the opportunity to love or receive it...whose cry has never been heard...whose arms still wait to give their first hug?

Is it fair to deny birth to a child thought to be unwanted when that child has never had the chance to convince the parent of his or her worth?

And who is this unwanted one?

One who bears the image of both parents.

But more than that.

One who reaches back through generations, combining all family roots in one special person.

Very special.

So unique that this child can never be replaced.

No other person will have the same appearance.

No other person will have the same temperament.

No other person will have the same ability to solve problems that trouble all of us.

No other person will have this child’s voice.

No other eyes will carry the same expressions as these.

No one will be the same mix of past and present.

So if this child is not allowed to live, we lose more than a statistic.

We lose a very special part of the past that is intended to be shared with this family.

We lose a family historian.

We lose one who seems to step out of old family portraits to walk among us.

We lose grandma’s beauty.

And grandpa’s gift to build.

We lose great-grandma’s sense of humor.

And great-grandpa’s ability to invent or make the ground produce a bumper crop.

When a child is aborted, a family loses part of its heritage and we all lose the reward of that person’s presence in the world.

“Children are the heritage of the LORD:  
and the fruit of the womb is His reward.” —Psalms 127:3  
—Rev. Roger Campbell

# 2022 Oratory Contest Winners

Printed below are the entries of Second-Place Senior and Junior Varsity winners, Isabella Giovanelli and Helena Sicree, respectively. First-Place winning presentations were highlighted in the Spring 2022 issue of *Blair Life News*. Third and Fourth-Place entries will be reprinted in the Fall 2022 issue.

**Isabella Giovanelli** is a senior at Chestnut Ridge High School; Isabella won Second-Place Senior Varsity and \$150. She is the daughter of Vic and Amy Giovanelli of Bedford. **Helena Sicree**, a sophomore, is homeschooled and won the Second-Place Junior-Varsity prize of \$100. Helena is the daughter of Andrew and Rebecca Sicree of Boalsburg.

## Being a Voice for the Voiceless

By Isabella Giovanelli

Second-Place Senior Varsity Winner



**L**ife, a four-letter word that can be the most powerful word in the world. Life can come in all shapes and sizes. Life is precious and can end at any moment. Sometimes life can be too short. Sometimes life isn't lived like it should be or even lived at all. Imagine not getting a chance to live. Imagine not having the life you deserve to live like everyone else.

Sadly, there are millions of innocent babies who haven't had the chance to live the life they deserve on this earth. Their life is fragile. It is our responsibility to protect it and cherish it and not let others ruin it and murder it.

I will be informing you today on all the deepest and darkest secrets of reproductive care that they don't want the world to know; also, why abortion is murder of an innocent human being, and lastly, the destruction abortion brings not only to the innocent life but for others that were lied to about what abortion really entails. Millions of babies have gone through murder, and it is our job as humans to put a stop to this brutal slaughter of innocent children.

As Senator Lankford stated from his pro-life speech, "Reproductive care seems like such a nice little euphemism, but what it really means is paying someone in a clinic to reach into the womb with a surgical instrument to pull the arms and legs off a child in the womb so that they will bleed to death in the womb and then suction out the little boy's or girl's body parts one at a time. That is what reproductive care means."

Abortion is the termination of a life inside the mother's womb. Reproductive care would never use the word termination because they know it sounds too brutal. Instead, they say, "oh, we are just going to remove the cells inside of you and then you won't have to worry about this ever again."

Some think, wow a true hero. Someone who can solve my problem of an unwanted pregnancy. Someone who can take the pain away of knowing there is a baby growing inside of me, and finally someone whom I can trust. This is far from the truth; this is a lie.

Reproductive care isn't just removing cells, they are brutally murdering a living and growing human inside the woman. That is the real definition of abortion. The abortion industry wants to give the perception that abortion is all sunshine and rainbows. Women are in a critical time where they feel like their whole world is coming to an end and they are seeking for some help. They don't know what

to do or they fall under pressure from outsiders. They do what is said to them, the easiest way of solving their problem. That is an abortion.

Deceiving these women about what an abortion really is just to get an extra dollar has to be the most despicable thing a human can do. Clinics don't take into consideration the amount of pain and harmful, unsafe side effects the mother and the murdered baby will face. The mother is just another number in the books. The number in the book will never be looked back at again. The mother and the aborted baby will be forgotten, and no care or compassion will come from the clinics. Just as long as the mother has the abortion, the clinics will not even think twice about her.

Abortion is murder. Mothers may not know the full length of what has been done to the precious baby inside of them. They might not know that the living, breathing, heart-beating human inside of them is a precious life that is ready to come into this world unharmed and untouched. Society doesn't know the full length of the procedure and everything that goes into it because reproductive care either does two things. Number one hides everything, or number two lies about what actually happens in the clinic. People don't know the truth about what an abortion is.

An example of one of the many abortions available for women is an hysterotomy. During the last three months of pregnancy, an hysterotomy is used. During this procedure, the umbilical cord is cut while the baby is still inside the womb, which suffocates the baby. If the baby is delivered alive, the baby is left to die ("Abortion Facts"). This is just plain and simple murder. The baby is left to suffocate with little chance to live. If the child does live miraculously, then the baby is left alone to die and have no help while they battle for their life. This execution of the child is inhumane. Humans do not walk past an unattended baby in the middle of the road ready to get hit by the big semi-truck coming. We would instantly save the small child that cannot even walk. The abortionist just lets the child suffer and die alone with no help. This is the cruelest thing you can do to a child who is already battling for their life. Leave them in the room where they were to be terminated and let them suffer alone. We wouldn't even let a stray dog die without help. We are talking about a living, breathing human very much alive, left out on a table like an animal to die and later thrown into a trash can with no sympathy.

Innocent children are being eliminated, slaughtered, and torn to pieces every day. Instead of naming these clinics reproductive care, it should be named murder house because that is what it is. The doctors inside of these clinics know exactly what they are doing to these innocent human beings and need to stop now. These babies deserve a chance to live, and we the people are the voice for the voiceless. ♦

# Haunting Children

By Helena Sicree

Second-Place Junior Varsity Winner



**T**hey say that ghosts aren't real—that the spirits of the dead don't come back to haunt you—to dwell in your dreams and pull your life down the drain. However, to many people dealing with the after-effects of having an abortion, these dark manifestations appear very real indeed. So much so, in fact, that a single abortion can leave a woman struggling for years afterward

as she tries to resolve her traumatic experience. So many women are in pain, feeling as though their abortion follows them everywhere, which has led many girls, both young and old, to turn to anything for healing. Abortion strains women's future relationships, too, by even going so far as to give their other children reoccurring nightmares. If a fetus is merely a "clump of tissue," how can it be that its death haunts women so much?

"Every single cell in my body was hurting," Cheryl Riley said, recounting when she had had an abortion when she was 19. She was eight weeks pregnant at the time and she had woken up crying and bleeding afterward. Riley went to the bathroom and passed out, but they only put her in a bed and gave her juice and cookies as aftercare. They told her she'd be okay in a few days, but, as she tells it, "I suffered through 12 years before I was okay." After her abortion, Riley describes how her relationship with her boyfriend immediately turned toxic and he became abusive, while she turned to alcohol and drugs to cope with her depression. She had suicidal thoughts and no self-esteem, and admits that, at that time, "I didn't care about myself. Every time I wanted to forget about the abortion, I'd stuff it down, but it would pop up like a beach ball in a pool." No matter who she turned to for help, whether it was psychologists, psychiatrists, and even her mom, nothing seemed to resolve the matter of her abortion, which haunted her everywhere. Eventually, she was convinced to go to confession, which turned out to be the beginning of the end. She received God's forgiveness, and was finally able to forgive herself, though the road to healing was long and painful.

In retrospect, Riley says that "Abortion is a trauma. And we cannot go through an abortion experience and go back to society and be okay. Women do not use abortion as a form of birth control. It is a reenactment trauma that these girls go through..." This is precisely why abortion is so wrong. It scars women so emotionally that they keep coming back to the clinics, believing each time that it will be different, that something will be better, will change. It has been hypothesized that the re-enactment of unresolved conflicts spawning from a trauma is the mind's way of trying to confront the problem and deal with it, so a person can move on with their life. With abortion, however, because of how society has convinced people

it is something good, many women will suffer for years before being able to confront what they did and try to find healing and forgiveness.

Therefore, it should come as no surprise that women feel literally haunted. This is especially true in places where Christianity isn't as prominent. As in Japan and Thailand, there has been a surge of Buddhist temples to hold mizuko kuyo, or memorial services for children who've died prematurely, as in miscarriages, stillbirths, and, most of all, abortions. Though these services are accused of profiting off women's guilt, with pricey fees for building memorial statues for the aborted children and yearly fines for their upkeep, many women still go to them. They're seeking closure and peace, either because they are racked with grief and guilt, or because the women feel that their lives are being disrupted by "fetus ghosts."

Some women claim to have strange experiences since having an abortion, like Ant, who aborted her child when she was thirteen, and had since gotten married and had another girl. She relates how, "I've often felt someone was tugging at my leg or playing with my hair...sometimes I would see a beautiful girl in my dreams. She told me that she was my daughter."

However, these eerie occurrences can be less benign than just dreams and can affect not only women. One man in his 60s visited a temple hoping to appease a ghost he felt he had, saying that, as one of the temple monks related, "He was a playboy in his youth and was concerned that some women had abortions because of him. He was experiencing severe backaches and had difficulty sleeping..."

Though it's unclear whether there really are ghosts of deceased children haunting their parents, the fact remains that abortion has left an unmistakable impact on people, and not a good one. It doesn't help matters that, as one American missionary says of non-Christian Japanese culture, "There is no Japanese solution to resolve guilt. There is no concept of forgiveness by God. So these women feel like they have to suffer until they die."

Not only do women feel like they are haunted by their deceased children, but some mothers have related how their other children are affected by it. In a study on post-abortion survivor syndrome, one mother took her only child, an eight-year-old girl, in for evaluation because she was not sleeping well, was irritable, frequently burst into tears, could not concentrate, and often seemed distracted. It turned out that it all began with a reoccurring nightmare that frightened the girl terribly. In the dream, she had three siblings with her and was playing in a bank of sand. They had tunneled into the sand, and her three siblings had crawled in, when the sand collapsed and buried them alive. Though she was an only child, and could recall few details about the other children, the girl was thoroughly convinced that those were her sisters and brother. The mother later said that she had three early miscarriages that her daughter could not have known about. Somehow the girl knew or suspected the deaths of her siblings and was worried that something would happen to her. Upon

*continued on page 10*

# Teen thought abortion was the only answer until a pregnancy center offered help

By Pregnancy Help News

Zayda and Delia Jo traveled with the Reliance Center and Heartbeat International for Heartbeat's Babies Go to Congress event May 12.

Heartbeat International is the largest network of pregnancy help organizations in the U.S. Babies Go to Congress invites Members of Congress to meet with moms and their babies, and the pregnancy help organizations that served them. The interactions are key in raising awareness for pregnancy help and conveying the fact that pregnancy help centers are good for America to federal lawmakers.

Cole accompanied Zayda, Delia Jo, and the Reliance Center team to Washington D.C. to be present behind the scenes for Zayda, providing support.

He's come a long way from the mindset of thinking abortion was the answer, thinking that raising a child at their age could not be done, and from the denial early in Zayda's pregnancy that Delia Jo was not who she was.

"And now, she's the best thing that's ever happened to us," Cole told *Pregnancy Help News*. "I mean, 110% I've matured and I'm not the same person I was at all."

The two are committed to co-parenting no matter what.

Taking the step to seek help from the Reliance Center, to choose life, and to be his daughter's dad is Cole's effort to thwart brokenness for Delia Jo.

"My parents were not together when I was a kid," he said, "and I want her to have that (both parents)."

Asked what he would say to a friend who was in his same situation, finding oneself a father at a young age, scared and unsure of what to do, Cole is quick to answer.

"It's not the end of the world at all," he said. "It's more the start of one."

"I mean, it's not the end of the world at all. You know?" he said. "If you could find someone that can help you and guide you through it, like Heather did for us."

"We had no idea what we were doing and how we were gonna do it," Cole said. "And then by the time that Heather helped us through everything, it was the best decision we ever made."

He cautions against making a pregnancy decision feeling rushed or pressured.

"Just think things through and think what's best for the kid and think what's best for you guys, you know?" he told *Pregnancy Help News*. "I mean, if we would've gone ahead with the abortion, I think my life would've been a lot different. I don't think it would've been as happy as it is."

And on the question of how he likes being a father?

"A hundred percent wouldn't trade anything for it," Cole said. "I love this kid more than anything, she is my favorite."

—LifeAction.org, May 24, 2022



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## When You Became You...

...teaches the foundational pro-life lesson:  
you were always you,  
in and out of the womb

By Dave Andrusko

Having had their elementary school schedule in an upheaval due to the pandemic, our daughter-in-law supplemented the education of our 11-year-old and 8-year-old grandchildren who were periodically learning their regular subject matter online.

Like probably all other parents, she is looking for ways to teach not just the basics of math, science, reading and writing, but the essentials of how to treat others with kindness, gentleness, and respect—and why.

Enter “When You Became You,” a gorgeously illustrated children’s book, written by Brooke Stanton and Christiane West. We know, although the wider culture often seems dumbfounded at the thought, that you were always you. And that’s what this book accomplishes subtly, thoughtfully, and systematically.

Consider...from the first page on, this little book tells the reader, “You are a human being.” In numerous clever ways, Stanton and West illustrate this foundational truth: “And from the moment your life begins, you are the same human being throughout your entire life.” In other words, the book teaches the continuity of human life.

For example, “A human infant is a human being... You used to be toddler.... A human toddler is a human being,” and so forth.

“When You Became You” teaches the equality of all human life. Doesn’t matter if you are young or old; or if you can or cannot “talk/walk/dance,”—or “even if you aren’t born yet”—you are what?

“A human being.”

The drawings are simple but beautiful and guaranteed to keep the young reader’s attention. They teach invaluable lessons in ways children can assimilate.

Most importantly, “When You Became You” teaches that whatever stage our lives are at, it’s just a period in our human existence that we have categorized. You and I aren’t more human when we are fully grown or less human when we were a zygote. We were always important, always a human being, just because we have a human nature.

My favorite one-two-three punch is a trio of passages that come about two-thirds of the way through the book:

“You were the same you at different stages of your life.

“Most stages of your life happen after you are born.

“But you did a lot of growing as a human being before you were born, too!”

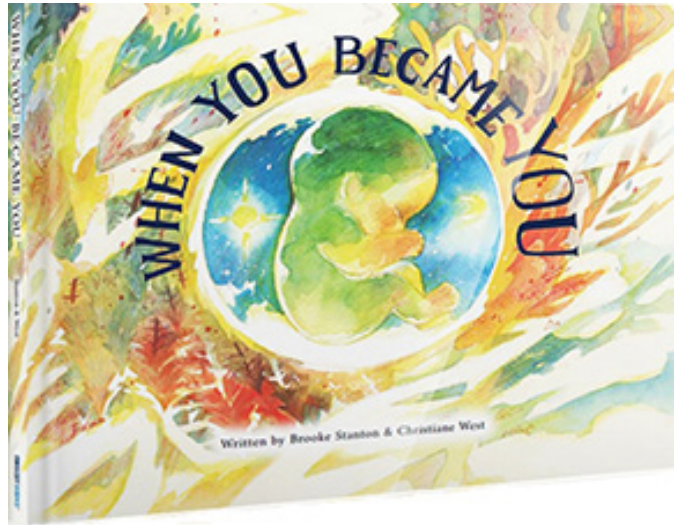
One review put it this way:

“This is an adorable children’s book for teaching children about the continuum of life. Illustrated with deep colors, it depicts human beings in the womb so that children can see what they looked like when they were beginning to grow and how they have grown into the child they are today. Spanning the pages, these illustrations are beautiful and allow children to really understand how they developed.”

“When You Became You” can be purchased at all the usual spots, including Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Do yourself—and your children/grandchildren—a huge favor and purchase at least one copy.

—National Right to Life News Today, April 11, 2022



### Haunting Children

continued from page 7

realizing this, and with her mother’s reassurance to love and protect her, the girl’s symptoms and fears went away. This is but one of many occurrences that happen when a child finds out or suspects that his/her mother may have lost children or had an abortion. The living children tend to have survivor’s syndrome, and this is more apparent when their parent had an abortion rather than a miscarriage. They feel as though they don’t deserve to be alive, and often become stressed and anxious that they might lose their parent’s love, or that their misbehavior caused their parents to not want any more children. All of this can result in nightmares such as those that the eight-year-old girl experienced.

Overall, it becomes clear that abortion has severe consequences on women afterward. Some women keep coming back to the clinics, in the hopes that it will be different each time. Others turn to drugs or alcohol to cope with their trauma, and experience ghosts or feel haunted from what they did. Still more women try to find healing but realize that their relationships with their other children have been strained by what happened. All in all, abortion causes so much pain to everyone involved with it, leaving women hurting for years to come. ♦

## From the President's Desk

### Deo Gratias

Thanks to our God and Father and our parents who gave us the gift of life. Thanks to each of you who prayed, donated, marched, protested, voted, wrote "Letters to the Editor," handed out "Precious Feet," and wore them, took up collections for the "March for Life," went on the "March" in D.C. or Tyrone, gathered diapers, wipes, formula and other supplies for "Birthright, Precious Life, Every Life Matters or Crossroads," contributed to or worked for pro-life organizations, attended banquets or breakfasts, supported local, state and federal pro-life candidates including, most importantly, President Donald Trump on behalf of the unborn. All of these efforts contributed to The Supreme Court's decision reversing "Roe v. Wade."

Thanks to all those who came before us who organized pro-life organizations such as National Right to Life, Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Birthright, Precious Life, Every Life Matters, Cross Roads, the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation—for the purpose of defending unborn life.

A special thank you to Congressman John Joyce, State Senator Judy Ward, Representatives Louis Schmitt and Jim Gregory and past State Senator John Eichelberger, all who have been unyielding in their defense of Life.

As Congressman Henry Hyde wrote:

"When the time comes, as it surely will, when we face that awesome moment, the final judgment, I've often thought, as Fulton Sheen wrote, that it is a terrible moment of loneliness. You have no advocates, you are there alone standing before God—and a terror will rip your soul like nothing you can imagine. But I really think that those in the pro-life movement will not be alone. I think there'll be a chorus of voices that have never been heard in this world but are heard beautifully and clearly in the next world—and they will plead for everyone who has been in this movement. They will say to God, 'Spare him, because he loved us!'"

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

### RALLY FOR LIFE - Join Us!

**Sunday, July 31 - 5:00 p.m.**

**Blair County Courthouse**

**Allegheny St., Hollidaysburg**

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PA State Representative Jim Gregory

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Donations may be made in memory of loved ones who have died or to honor someone special, for a particular occasion, or just because... Blair County *Life News* will publish your name as well as the names of those you are honoring and/or remembering. Send donations to **Blair Co. CCHL, 2715 Third St., Altoona, PA 16601**. Thank you!

### Need help in a crisis pregnancy?

#### Every Life Matters (ELM)

1351 Logan Ave., Tyrone  
814-650-7899; [TheELMPSS@gmail.com](mailto:TheELMPSS@gmail.com)

#### Precious Life, Inc.

1716 12th Ave., Altoona  
814-944-2669; [preciouslifeinc.com](http://preciouslifeinc.com)

Real Alternatives, Inc., 1-888-LIFE-AID  
[realalternatives.org](http://realalternatives.org)

### Post-abortion counseling

#### Project Rachel

814-884-8000; [ProjectRachel@dioceseaj.org](mailto:ProjectRachel@dioceseaj.org)

#### Rachel's Vineyard

877 HOPE 4 ME (877-467-3463)  
[rachelsvineyard.org/](http://rachelsvineyard.org/)

#### Family Life

Diocese of Altoona/Johnstown  
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814-886-5551; [familylife@dioceseaj.org](mailto:familylife@dioceseaj.org)

### Please Support Blair County Chapter, Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc.

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~ Denzel Washington ~