

CITIZENS  
CONCERNED



BLAIR COUNTY  
CHAPTER

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Citizens Concerned for Human Life

# Blair County Life News

Volume 15 Number 1

Presenting the Pro-Life Message to Blair County, Pennsylvania

Winter 2023



Crossroads clinic is licensed with the state of Pennsylvania and offers life-affirming peer counseling on options.

There are also classes for new parents on pregnancy, parenting, child care, life skills and more. In exchange for completing a class, clients receive a "point" that can be exchanged for material items such as cribs, car seats, diapers and other items.



## New Area Pregnancy Center Opens!

**C**CROSSROADS PREGNANCY CENTER held a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 29 at the new Altoona office at 212 Frankstown Rd. The faith-based, nonprofit organization provides free and confidential services to women and families in the Altoona area, and also has offices in Huntingdon, Mifflin and Juniata counties.

Crossroads provides free medical services including pregnancy testing, limited ultrasounds for confirmation of pregnancy and STI testing and treatment for chlamydia and gonorrhea.



Other services provided free of charge are mentoring for new fathers, sexual integrity classes, post-abortion healing and support.

For more information, call the Altoona office at 814-201-2147 or visit the website: [crossroadspcs.org](http://crossroadspcs.org).



*Pregnant and feeling like you are between a rock  
and a hard place? Find a better place.  
Pregnancy Resource Centers don't take a dime,  
but what they give you back is priceless.*

## Contact Information

### President

#### **President Joseph Biden (D)**

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

### Pennsylvania U.S. Senators

#### **The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D)**

United States Senate  
393 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
202-224-6324  
[www.casey.senate.gov/contact](http://www.casey.senate.gov/contact)

#### **The Honorable John Fetterman (D)**

Senator-Elect/United States Senate  
248 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
202-224-4254; [www.fetterman.senate.gov/contact](http://www.fetterman.senate.gov/contact)

### Pennsylvania U.S. Representative (13th District)

#### **The Honorable John Joyce (R)**

U. S. House of Representatives  
1337 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-2431  
Web contact: [www.johnjoyce.house.gov](http://www.johnjoyce.house.gov)

### Blair County Office

5414 6th Ave., Altoona, PA 16602  
814-656-6081

### Governor-Elect of Pennsylvania

#### **The Honorable Josh Shapiro (D)**

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

### Pennsylvania State Senator (District 30)

#### **The Honorable Judy Ward (R)**

**Capitol Office**  
460 Main Capitol Bldg., P. O. Box 203030  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
717-787-5490  
Web contact: [www.senatorjudyward.com](http://www.senatorjudyward.com)

### Hollidaysburg Office

1904 North Juniata St., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648  
814-695-8386

### Pennsylvania State Representatives (Blair County)

#### **The Honorable Jim Gregory (R)**

**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.

### Capitol Office

159A East Wing, House P.O. Box 202080  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
717-787-9020  
Web contact: [www.repjimgregory.com](http://www.repjimgregory.com)

### Bellwood Office

135 Stadium Dr., Box 111, Bellwood, PA 16617  
814-742-7204

### Hollidaysburg Office

324 Allegheny St., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648  
814-695-2398

#### **The Honorable Louis C. Schmitt, Jr. (R)**

**District 79**- Allegheny Twp. (part), Altoona, Logan Twp., Tunnelhill Bor.

### Capitol Office

415 Irvis Office Bldg., P.O. Box 202079  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
717-787-6419  
Web contact: [www.repschmitt.com](http://www.repschmitt.com)

### Altoona Office

1331 12th Ave., Ste. 104, Altoona, PA 16601  
814-946-7218



## Legislative Update

**Lawmakers in PA want to turn back the clock on legal protections for preborn children and their mothers**

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

The Pennsylvania General Assembly was truly ahead of its time back in 1989 when it passed the Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act.

This landmark law was an omnibus measure which included protections for preborn babies in the later stages of pregnancy...parental consent...informed consent...a 24-hour waiting period for abortions...and protections against sex selection abortions.

The law became the basis of the U.S. Supreme Court decision *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* in 1992. The High Court upheld most of the provisions of the Act, striking a spousal notification provision. The Court's decision ushered in an era when states were able to pass meaningful protections for preborn babies, even in light of the 1973 ruling *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion in all 50 states.

With the High Court's 2022 *Dobbs* decision, we have entered the post-*Roe* era. Sadly, however, some lawmakers in Pennsylvania want to turn back the clock on legal protections for preborn children and their mothers.

A co-sponsorship memo is circulating for a bill that would repeal the Abortion Control Act entirely and replace it with something called the Bodily Autonomy Act. The proposal would wipe out common sense abortion restrictions which are supported by a vast majority of the public.

At a time when *Roe* has finally been relegated to the ash heap of history, pregnant women and their babies in Pennsylvania face new legal threats. This is why it is imperative that we educate people about the wisdom of protective laws such as the Abortion Control Act.

**Action Item: If you live in Pennsylvania, please urge your state representative to oppose the so-called Bodily Autonomy Act.**

*—National Right to Life News, December 14, 2022*

## Looking ahead to the “landscape of abortion”

*By Dave Andrusko*

Kate Zernike is one of the many *New York Times* reporters whose beat includes abortion. Aided by colleague Ruth Graham, she produced “The New Landscape of the Abortion Fight” for the [December 10] *Times*.

With the mid-term elections complete and Congress approaching adjournment, this no doubt seemed like a good time to write an overview.

Of course, much of the beginning focuses on the ballot initiatives swept by pro-abortionists on November 8. Pro-abortion forces are eyeballing additional states but, as Zernike points out, “ballot initiatives aren’t an option in every state.”

Where then? “The path to restoring abortion rights still runs largely through state legislatures, where it has traditionally been harder to mobilize voters and donors.” So if it is true, as Zernike writes, there were additional pockets of voters last month, what does it mean going forward?

For James Bopp Jr., general counsel of the National Right to Life, a net gain in people voting “doesn’t mean a change in the abortion issue,” he said.

“In every state I’ve seen—and I’ve seen 30 or 40—the Republicans picked up seats in their statehouse and state senate,” he added. “So, if it was true there was some kind of abortion rights wave, it would have caught all these people. There’s no real evidence that there was a net benefit, or you would have seen the opposite of victories for Republicans in every state.”

*continued on page 10*



# Student Contests 2023

## REGIONAL ORATORY CONTEST

**Written Copy Due: February 27, 2023**

**Regional Competition: March 5, 2023**

The Citizens Concerned for Human Life Regional Oratory Contest is open to all 9th-12th grade students in **Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin and Somerset Counties.**

Students must prepare a five to seven minute pro-life talk on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia or embryonic stem cell research. Speeches must be from a pro-life perspective and delivered as written, but need not be memorized. The student may use a podium and appropriate hand gestures but may not use props. A written copy of the speech must be emailed by **February 27, 2023** to: **Janet Creighton: janetcreighton3495@gmail.com**. In the email, send the following: name, address, city, county, phone, email address, school, name of parent(s)/ guardian. Then, call Jan, **814-623-1314**, to let her know that you emailed your entry.

### **Awards**

**Varsity (Grades 11 & 12)** - 1st Place \$200, 2nd \$125, 3rd \$75

**Novice (Grades 9 & 10)** - 1st Place \$150, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$50

All regional contestants may also be a contestant for the state competition. Being a contestant for the regional competition does not automatically enroll you in the state competition.

**Pro-Life Dinner Invite**—All regional contestants will be invited as our guests to the Bedford County Annual Pro-Life Dinner. The top two Varsity contestants will be invited to speak at the dinner.

## PENNSYLVANIA STATE SPEECH CONTEST PENNSYLVANIA PRO-LIFE FEDERATION - BE A LIGHT FOR LIFE! **Submit video/written entry by April 15, 2023**

*Speak Up for Those Who Cannot Speak for Themselves!*

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation contest is open to high school juniors and seniors. A Novice Contest will be held for high school freshmen and sophomores. Students must write and give an original 5-7 minute pro-life speech on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia or stem cell research. Students must video record the speech and submit the video and written speech to the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation by **April 15, 2023**. Cash prizes will be awarded. In addition, **the first-place winner of the Senior High Oratory Contest and a chaperone will receive an all-expense-paid trip** to attend the **National Oratory Contest** at the National Right to Life/Teens for Life Convention, **June 23-24, 2023**, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. For complete contest rules: **www.paprolife.org** or call **717-541-0034**. The student will represent Pennsylvania in the National Right to Life Oratory Contest during the Convention.

## 2023 STUDENT ESSAY CONTESTS PENNSYLVANIA STATE ESSAY CONTEST

**Written Copy Due: March 1, 2023**

The **2023 Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation "Be a Voice for the Voiceless" Essay Contest** is open to PA students in grades 7-12. Students must write a pro-life essay about abortion, infanticide, euthanasia or stem cell research. There is a 500-word limit for essays submitted by students in grades 7-9 and a 750-word limit for students in grades 10-12. Each essay must include a cover page downloaded from the Federation website: **www.paprolife.org/for-students**. Winning essays will receive cash prizes. Deadline for entries is **March 1, 2023**. Essays can be e-mailed to **lifelines@paprolife.org** or mailed to the **Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation; 4800 Jonestown Rd., Suite 102; Harrisburg, PA 17109**.



## NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE ESSAY CONTEST

The National RTL Essay Contest is open to students in grades 10-12 (Senior Essay) and grades 7-9 (Junior Essay). Prizes awarded will be: 1st Place-\$400; 2nd-\$300; 3rd-\$200 and will be awarded in each level. Essays shall be 300-500 words in length and answer the question: **"Why are you pro-life?"** Essays must be mailed (not by email) between **December 20, 2022 and January 21, 2023**, and be postmarked by **January 21**. Mail to **Scott Fischbach, 4249 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55409**. For more information on the complete rules, please email Scott at **sfischbach@aol.com** or visit the NRLC website at **nrlc.org**. NRLC also offers Oratory and Video Contests; see website for more information.

# MARCH FOR LIFE 2023

Friday, January 20th

  
**MARCH FOR LIFE**  
#WhyWeMarch | [MarchForLife.org](http://MarchForLife.org)



## March With Us in Washington, D.C.

The Blair County Chapter of Citizens Concerned for Human Life has arranged bus transportation from the Altoona area to the March for Life, departing from St. Therese Church parking lot (Altoona) at 7:00 a.m., stopping at St. Mary Church (Hollidaysburg) at 7:20 a.m. and lastly, Walmart (East Freedom) at 7:45 a.m.

Cost: Adults \$15; Students \$10

Bring a bag lunch; a dinner stop will be made on the return trip.

### Reserve a seat!

Call Pat at 814-946-0681, Roxanne at 814-695-8008 or Kathleen at 814-591-0248.

(Donations to help with bus expense are appreciated! Mail to Blair Co. CCHL, 2715 Third St., Altoona, PA 16601.)

### Regional Chapters' transportation to March for Life, January 20th

The Bedford County Chapter will have at least one bus leaving the Lincoln Highway Walmart parking lot at 9 a.m., and returning approximately 8 p.m. For more information, contact Pam Lucas at 814-652-6755.

The Centre County Chapter bus transportation to the March for Life leaves from the State College area; contact Sue Rogacs at 814-238-9590.



The Cambria-Somerset County Chapter buses leave from three locations. In the Carrolltown/Ebensburg area, call Bill and Patti Frederick at 814-344-6521; in the Johnstown area, call Joe Boito 814-266-1554; and in the Somerset area, call Kim Stiffler at 814-233-6727.

## LOCAL MARCH FOR LIFE

St. Matthew's Church, Tyrone, Sunday, January 15, 2023, Noon

Following the service, there will be a March to the tomb of Baby Doe  
A luncheon will be served after the March at the Church hall; all are invited



# Motherhood Isn't Fatal

By Bradley Mattes, President, Life Issues Institute

**A**bortion advocates have said over and over that having a baby will derail a woman's plans for college and a successful career.

According to the pro-abortion mantra, women must sacrifice the lives of their unborn children to succeed in life. Evidence shows they couldn't be more wrong.

Vox, a far-Left online publication, posted an article titled "5 ways abortion bans could hurt women in the workforce." It falsely claimed that women's professional lives will suffer greatly without access to abortion on demand until birth.

**A typical antiquated attitude of the modern-day feminist is that women are incapable of a successful career if they become mothers.**

Apparently, **Sarah Merrill** didn't get the company memo. Sarah and her husband are the parents of nine children—five sons and four daughters. Here's where it gets interesting. She just graduated from medical school and is attending Indiana University with her sights set on becoming a neurosurgeon, where only five percent of this select group are women.

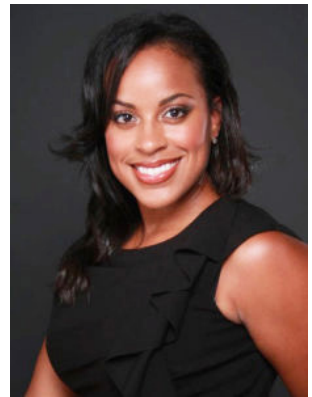
Dr. Michele Halyard, dean of the Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine where Sarah graduated, has no doubt Sarah will succeed. "If you can make it through having nine children and keep your sanity, neurosurgery residency should be a piece of cake because there's no amount of stress that you can't handle."



Here's a name you might know. **Amy Coney Barrett**, Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Aside from Chief Justice, there is no higher position in the judicial realm. While a professor at Notre Dame University, students voted her Teacher of the Year three times. Justice Barrett has seven children, two of them adopted from Haiti and the youngest with Down syndrome. It doesn't appear being a mother to a large family had any detrimental effect on her judicial aspirations. She would probably say her kids enhanced them.

As a single mother, **Aisha Taylor** faced an arduous journey before saying yes to a very unexpected pregnancy that resulted in twins. The father of her daughters placed intense pressure on Aisha to abort the babies, and she nearly gave in before finding a pro-life pregnancy center brimming with staff and volunteers who loved on her and offered real, practical resources and emotional support.

Aisha has more than survived. She has thrived. The twins are now seven, and Aisha has a successful business called FNPhenomenal. Its goal is to empower single women with relevant and practical, biblically-based support and advice when facing an unexpected pregnancy.



**Allyson Felix** is the most decorated American track and field athlete (male or female) in Olympic history. When she became pregnant, her sponsor Nike discriminated against her by attempting to reduce her pay by 70%. There is incredible pressure on female athletes to abort their babies. Allyson has proven that motherhood isn't fatal when it comes to joining the top echelon of world athletes. She made history and capped her athletic career while a mother at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. During her Olympic career she achieved seven gold, three silver, and one bronze for a total of 11 Olympic medals.

This is just the tip of the iceberg of a vast number of women who are quietly making their mark professionally while saying yes to life for their children. History is littered with erroneous predictions that motherhood is the kiss of death to women's success in the professional world. Every day more and more smart, talented, and determined women are proving them wrong.

We live in an enlightened world where we can combine the rights of both the mothers and their unborn children. We can love them both.

—Life Issues Institute, December 15, 2022

# Abortion: A Physician's Story

By Dr. Shelly Theobald, Family Medicine, with emphasis in OB

As many of you know or can at least tell by my Facebook page, I am not one to “post” much and generally consider myself a non-Facebooker. Since first learning about the new legislative laws being passed on abortion in New York, I was immediately reminded of a wise friend’s words, to me, five years ago as she urged me to make “my story” public. She stated that prior to hearing about my experience, she knew very little about what actually happens in an abortion and believed that most people do not understand and likely do not even think much about the actual abortive procedure.

She strongly felt that everyone should be made aware of what actually happens in an abortion and that only through education can there be change. At the time, I shrugged it off. I did not grow up in the United States and try to stay out of politics and social media as much as possible. But I do have a story: a story that still makes me feel sick and want to cry, 8 years later. I am not sure it will make a difference or even be read by more than just my family and friends, but that is no reason to not speak out.

I was in my 3rd year of medical school in Beer Sheva, Israel and was excited to be starting my obstetrician and gynecology rotation at Soroka Medical Center. One day, we were told that we would be rotating through several clinical exam rooms to experience the various “fields” of OB/GYN.

I was switching with my classmates to enter a room where a “procedure” was taking place. There was a pregnant lady lying on a standard OB/GYN exam bed who was apparently consciously sedated. Next to her was an ultrasound machine and I smiled as I saw a baby about 17 weeks gestation floating peacefully in its amniotic sack, it’s tiny heart beat flickering on the monitor screen.

I still had no idea what the “procedure” was until suddenly I saw a long pointed object come into the triangular view of the ultrasound monitor and I watched in horror as the “tool” suddenly jabbed straight at the little baby. The baby immediately jolted violently as it reacted to the pain of the stab. I could not move: I felt paralyzed, dumbfounded.

I remember thinking, “This mother needs to wake up and see what they are doing to her baby! She needs to know!”

The stabs kept coming and the baby continued to reel, its little arms and legs flailing and punching in the amniotic fluid as it fought to survive. It felt like an eternity but finally the movement stopped. The stabs kept coming, but the life was gone and the struggle was over. The little hands that only moments earlier seemed to wave at me from the ultrasound monitor were severed off!

Bit by bit, the baby was cut into indistinguishable pieces of tissue and the skull was crushed. Next came the vacuum, and as the doctor who performed the “procedure” pulled out the pieces of conception, I heard him chuckle. He turned to us, and with a grin I will never forget, he held up one of those tiny, perfect hands with forceps and reached it out to each of us saying, “high five, high five,” and laughed each time! I looked at him with disbelief!

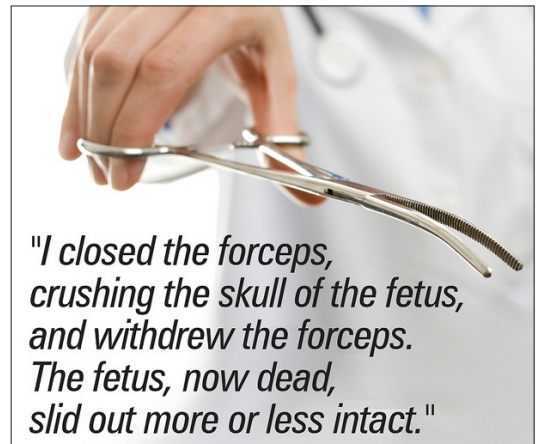
After my shock wore off I asked why the mother had chosen to have an abortion and he replied with a shrug that he was not sure, but said if he remembered right, she had possibly been exposed to a varicella zoster (the chicken pox), and therefore wanted an abortion. He shrugged again, then under his breath, he said, “you know, everyone needs their excuse,” and left the room.

I have no idea what that young mother was going through or her reasons for wanting an abortion. I have no idea what she was told about abortion or if she had the procedure explained to her in any detail. I do not write this to judge or condemn this mother or any other mother. I only want to create awareness because I want to believe that if that mother was awake and was able to see her little baby waving to her from the monitor—if she saw the long “tool” and knew that was about to stab her baby to pieces—that she would never have chosen to abort her baby.

I understand this is not always the way babies are aborted, and often, at earlier gestations, chemicals are used. You could argue that chemicals are a more humane way, but even Hitler used “humaneness” to calmly kill Jews in gas chambers. The arguments about when a life is a life are meaningless to me: that day I witnessed a baby literally fighting for its life, reacting to the jabs of death just like any “live” person would.

I do not claim to be political. I am neither a Democrat nor a Republican, as I do not like to be boxed in to any belief system and instead prefer to form my own. On one hand I am entirely against abortion in any form (with the exception of the extremely rare cases that you can ask me about), yet I also strongly believe in the necessity of social service programs to help that mother and her new baby. More than anything, I am pro-life and believe that the little baby I saw stabbed to death that day had a right to say no!

—National Right to Life News Today, December 9, 2022; this first appeared in Right to Life of Michigan News





## ...Abortion is a “monstrosity”

His adult critics respond with ad hominem attacks

By Dave Andrusko

The writer of this particular letter to the editor described himself as a Boy Scout who was “going to be sharing with you my views and ideas about abortion.”



And did he ever!

“In my opinion, abortion is a monstrosity—ending a life without the child’s choice,” he wrote. “It’s destroying the future for a life that hasn’t had the chance to live.”

There were only two responses, initially, both from the same guy. Snarky,

smarter-than-thou, just what you would expect from a pro-abortionist mocking a kid for writing about “ending a life without the child’s choice.”

Pshaw, the pro-abort responded. “Human children don’t get to make choices until about three years old,” as if he didn’t understand the young man was making the point that the child’s life was taken away by someone else—unjustly and brutally—a “monstrosity” if ever there was one.

A couple of hours later, two others piled on (one, like the first pro-abort, took two runs). Even meaner, even more beside the point.

But what irritated them was that the Boy Scout was stating an undeniable truth in a straightforward, uncynical way: abortion takes away a child’s future. None of the three (presumably adult) responders addressed that—instead relying on juvenile ad hominem attacks.

As the father of an Eagle Scout, I know that this Boy Scout was demonstrating faithfulness to the core truths of the Scout Oath:

*On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.*

—National Right to Life News, December 13, 2022



*I had to find four extremities  
(two arms and two legs), a spine, a skull,  
and the placenta, or my patient would suffer  
later from an incomplete abortion...  
My attention was so focused on my perceived  
patient that I managed to deny that there  
were, in fact, two patients involved—  
the expectant mother and a very small child...  
I had to wonder, how can having a child be so  
wrong for some people  
that they will pay me to end its life?*

—Dr. McMillan, former abortionist,

“How One Doctor Changed Her Mind About Abortion”



### *Need Help In a Crisis Pregnancy?*

#### **Crossroads Pregnancy Help Center**

212 Frankstown Rd., Altoona

814-201-2147; website: [crossroadspcs.org](http://crossroadspcs.org)

#### **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; website: [preciouslifeinc.com](http://preciouslifeinc.com)

#### **Real Alternatives, Inc.**

1-888-LIFE-AID; website: [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)

website: [rachelvineyard.org/](http://rachelvineyard.org/)

#### **Family Life**

Diocese of Altoona/Johnstown

Pastoral Guidance

814-886-5551; [familylife@dioceseaj.org](mailto:familylife@dioceseaj.org)

## Pro-Life Pregnancy Centers

*continued from page back page*

- 14,977 paid staff (25 percent of whom are licensed medical professionals)
- 53,855 volunteers (12 percent of whom are licensed medical professionals)
- 10,215 licensed medical professionals involved as pregnancy center workers (paid staff and volunteers combined)
- **Exceptional Client Satisfaction**—Consistently high

client satisfaction rates reported to pregnancy centers reflect that women, men, and youth who visit centers feel respected, valued, and well cared for.<sup>[4]</sup> Client satisfaction reported to two national networks in 2019 continues to validate excellence in care at affiliated pregnancy centers around the country. At Care Net affiliated pregnancy centers on average per center, 99.19 percent of clients/patients who completed a written survey indicated that their overall experience at the center was positive. One network has noted the “satisfaction rating is higher than that of Netflix, Chipotle, and the iPhone.” Heartbeat International affiliated centers equally reported positive client satisfaction of 99.6 percent on average per center through client exit surveys. This accounts for about 2,100 pregnancy centers.

### Who Values Pregnancy Center Work?

Federal and state governments recognize and value the impactful work of pregnancy centers. State health departments actively refer to pregnancy care centers in at least 20 states.<sup>[5]</sup> State-level resolutions honoring pregnancy centers have been passed in at least 21 states.<sup>[6]</sup> Centers are recipients of some government monies through “Choose Life” license plates in at least 29 states and the District of Columbia, state-funded or TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) block grants funds in at least 8 states, Alternatives to Abortion state funds in 13 states, Sexual Risk Avoidance grant monies, and limited Medicaid reimbursement in 17 states<sup>[7]</sup>—but at least 90 percent of funding for pregnancy centers is raised locally at the community level and more than 80 percent of centers receive no government funding at all.<sup>[8]</sup>

### Under Attack

Pregnancy centers have been under attack by pro-abortion advocates since first opening their doors. A 2015 California law, dubbed the Reproductive “FACT” Act, which forced life-affirming pregnancy centers to display information, including a phone number, on how women can obtain a free or low-cost abortion, was struck down as unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2019. The Supreme Court ruling was a victory for free speech protections. Similar laws in Maryland, New York and Texas have been found unconstitutional at the federal court level. Pervasive attacks against pregnancy centers in academia have increased over the past decade. Efforts to demonstrate and validate the essential, highly valuable and impactful care provided at centers remain vitally important to protect the life-saving work they do.

High standards in care have become a centerpiece of pregnancy center services. Affiliates of the three largest national networks (Care Net, Heartbeat International, and NIFLA), as well as eight other networks, provide ongoing training, resources, and/or services subject to an overarching national code of ethics instituted in 2009, “Our Commitment of Care and Competence” (CCC), recently updated in 2019.<sup>[9]</sup>

The code provides that all medical services be under the supervision and direction of a licensed physician in accordance with applicable medical standards. The code also addresses truthfulness in all communications; client information confidentiality; rigor in screening volunteers and staff, nondiscrimination, a consistent life ethic, and kindness to and compassion for clients. Compliance with all legal requirements regarding employment, fundraising, financial management, taxation, public reporting, and financial disclosure are also included in the code. Pregnancy centers maintain strict confidentiality protections as guided by federal, state, and local law.

Other pregnancy center parent organizations, even if not officially recognizing the CCC, require their affiliates to abide by high standards of care which prioritize integrity in client care, a consistent life ethic, and adherence to legal and regulatory guidelines.<sup>[10]</sup>

### Summary

Pro-life pregnancy centers in the U.S. providing essential and professional care are now over 50 years old.<sup>[11]</sup> They are model, community-based organizations found in virtually every type of community—rural, urban, suburban, college settings, even as mobile medical units—across the country. The multitude of medical, education, and support services pregnancy centers provided to women, men, youth and babies are evidence of the impact and measurable good centers are achieving. The growing cadre of licensed medical professionals as staff and volunteers involved at pregnancy centers now number over 10,200 in 2,132 centers and are emblematic of their medical success. The nearly 54,000 volunteers at centers nationwide reflect investment by citizens and professionals who esteem the work being done.

In addition, referral to a community provider or the direct provision of abortion pill reversal (APR) at pregnancy centers gives “tangible hope” to women who regret starting the chemical abortion process and seek to stop it. Expanded outreach for victims of human trafficking, clients challenged with opioid addiction, and women and men struggling with past abortion experiences through after-abortion support and recovery efforts are examples of the ways pregnancy centers in the U.S. are meeting critical needs of people in their communities and helping to provide hope and healing.<sup>[12]</sup>

Pregnancy centers are a shining example of how “Love Saves Lives” and stand on their strong record of care. Read more at [www.lozierinstitute.org/pcr2020](http://www.lozierinstitute.org/pcr2020).

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# Life Chain 2022 - Thank You for Your Witness to Life! Save the Date! Sunday, October 1, 2023



## Pro-Life Pregnancy Centers

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[1] Portions of this fact sheet are drawn from “Pregnancy Centers Stand the Test of Time,” the second edition in “A Legacy of Life and Love” report series, published in October 2020. Available at [www.lozierinstitute.org/pcr2020](http://www.lozierinstitute.org/pcr2020).

[2] See [www.lozierinstitute.org/pcr2020](http://www.lozierinstitute.org/pcr2020), p. 16.

[3] See [www.lozierinstitute.org/pcr2020](http://www.lozierinstitute.org/pcr2020), p. 16-18.

[4] See [www.lozierinstitute.org/pcr2020](http://www.lozierinstitute.org/pcr2020), p. 66.

[5] Brief of Amici Curiae March for Life Education Fund, Charlotte Lozier Institute, National Pro-Life Women’s Caucus of the Susan B. Anthony List, National Institute of Family and Life Advocates v. Becerra, filed January 12, 2018 with the U.S. Supreme Court. P. 20ff. <https://lozierinstitute.org/pro-life-groups-file-brief-in-pregnancy-help-centers-conscience-case/>

[6] See Positive Pregnancy Center Resolutions Sweep the Country ([heartbeatinternational.org](http://heartbeatinternational.org)), Tennessee Resolution Honoring the TLC Community Center (HR 299)—Rewire News Group, Resolution honoring crisis pregnancy centers passed by Ohio House: How they voted—[cleveland.com](http://cleveland.com), West Virginia Pregnancy Center Coalition Praises the West Virginia Senate Honoring Pregnancy Care Centers ([heartbeatservices.org](http://heartbeatservices.org)), <https://www.care-net.org/center-insights-blog/ky-resolution-2018>; Michigan HR 104—A resolution to declare May 13th, 2021, as Pregnancy Resource Center Awareness Day in the state of Michigan

[7] See [www.lozierinstitute.org/pcr2020](http://www.lozierinstitute.org/pcr2020), p. 92.

[8] Ibid.

[9] “Our Commitment of Care and Competence.” Updated 2019. Heartbeat International. Available at: <https://www.heartbeatinternational.org/about/our-commitment>.

[10] [www.lozierinstitute.org/pcr2020](http://www.lozierinstitute.org/pcr2020), pgs. 63, 66.

[11] See A-Half-Century-of-Hope-A-Legacy-of-Life-and-Love-FULL.pdf ([pcdn.co](http://pcdn.co)), p. 4.

[12] See [www.lozierinstitute.org/pcr2020](http://www.lozierinstitute.org/pcr2020), pgs. 69-85.

Moira Gaul, M.P.H. writes for the Charlotte Lozier Institute.  
—LifeNews.com, March 8, 2022



*Sweeter even than to have had the joy  
of caring for children of my own  
has it been to me  
to help bring about a better state  
of things for mothers generally,  
so their unborn little ones could not  
be willed away from them.*

~ Susan B. Anthony ~

## “Landscape of Abortion”

continued from page 2

Then there was what Mr. Bopp called the “enormous net benefit” to the anti-abortion side: Republicans took control of the U.S. House of Representatives—if only narrowly. Had Democrats held their majority, they would have continued to try to pass the Women’s Health Protection Act, which would guarantee a nationwide right to abortion. “They were going to go for the stake in the heart,” Mr. Bopp said.

He expects that Republican-controlled legislatures will continue to pass laws like one adopted in Indiana this summer banning abortion except in cases of rape or incest, or to save the life of the pregnant woman.

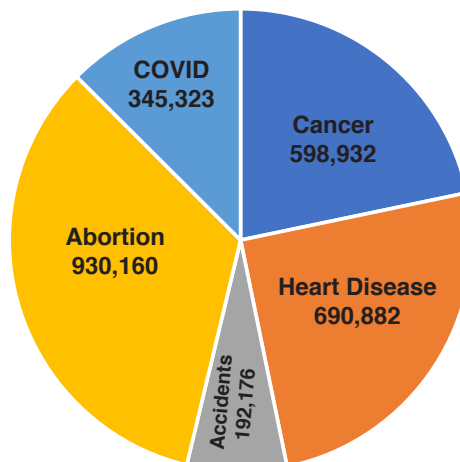
In some ways, pro-abortion forces agreed with Bopp.

For now, however, the midterms did little to make abortion more available to the 34 million women of reproductive age who live in states that have prohibited it since *Roe* was overturned. Additional states have restricted it early in pregnancy. Ms. Standiford, of Planned Parenthood, said: “Before the election, there were 18 states with abortion bans in effect; after the election, there were 18 states with abortion bans in effect.”

Looking forward, let’s add more states with widespread protective laws.

—National Right to Life News Today, December 12, 2022

## Top Annual Deaths in U.S. 2020



—National Vital Statistics System: mortality statistics/cdc.gov

**Blair County Life News**  
**Blair County Chapter**  
**Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc.**

Winter 2023; Vol. 15, No. 1  
President & Publisher: R. Thomas Forr, Jr.  
Secretary/Editor: Marge Bradley

*Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc. is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-denominational organization dedicated to educating and upholding the truth about abortion, infanticide, euthanasia and embryonic stem cell research. CCHL is composed of chapters made up of persons of all ages, sexes, races and cultural backgrounds. CCHL, Inc. is an affiliate of the PA Pro-Life Federation and the National Right to Life Committee. Donations are not tax-deductible.*

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



## From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

Last year at this time, my column was about Nellie Gray and prior "Marches for Life." My focus was on Nellie and her hope that *Roe v. Wade* would be overturned and that all pre-born babies' lives would be saved.

Well, thanks to Nellie's persistence and efforts, the March for Life achieved one of its goals when the Supreme Court in the *Dobbs* decision overturned *Roe* after forty-nine and a half years. The other goal was not achieved as babies' lives are still being taken with a vengeance.

Many states have enacted legislation or Constitutional Amendments protecting the so-called "right to abortion."

What can we do now?

We can continue to march and vote but, more importantly, we can pray and sacrifice that hearts will be changed.

We must show love and compassion for those who have had abortions and we must pray for those who continue to advocate for it.

We must ask for the intervention of those Holy Innocents who were martyred in Bethlehem two thousand years ago to intercede for the innocent babies of today who are being led to slaughter in the name of reproductive rights.

Let us continue the fight for the babies. "NO EXCEPTIONS."

Please remember Doug Bradley, the husband of Marge Bradley, our Editor, in your prayers; he passed away on November 20, 2022. He helped and supported Marge with all of her pro-life activities for over 46 years. May he rest in peace.

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



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## Pro-Life Pregnancy Centers Helped Two Million People Provided \$266 Million to Help Women—In Just One Year



By *Moira Gaul, M.P.H.*

**P**ro-life pregnancy centers (formerly known as crisis pregnancy centers and also as pregnancy care or resource centers) are faith-based, community-based, not-for-profit organizations which first began to appear in the U.S. in the late 1960s, as abortion was becoming legal, to provide care and resources to assist women with immediate and ongoing needs related to unexpected pregnancy. Their focus on alternatives to abortion, also known as life-affirming services, was and is designed to empower a woman to welcome her child into the world.

Today, pregnancy centers provide an expanded range of essential and professional care encompassing support services, medical care, and resources, usually at no cost to the women, men, and youth they serve. Personalized care is provided within a respectful, compassionate, and supportive environment by trained workers/individuals.

In 2021, there are approximately 3,000 pregnancy center locations in the U.S. (counting medical mobile units as separate locations).

### What Do They Do?

Provide essential and professional care to vulnerable women and youth on a free or low-cost basis typically including: pregnancy testing; options consultation (in-

cluding education on parenting and adoption, parenting and child raising, and abortion); medical services (early obstetrical ultrasounds, medical exams, STD testing and treatment, and increasingly other health services); prenatal and parenting education; material assistance; sexual risk avoidance education; after-abortion recovery support; referrals for medical care; and linkages to vital community and public health resources.

Care is provided by trained workers and licensed professionals through a holistic health paradigm taking into account emotional, social, mental, spiritual as well as physical health. By providing practical assistance and links to needed resources, pregnancy centers improve health outcomes for women and promote health and well-being for themselves, their children, and their families.

### What's the Impact?

Data from 2019 shows that pro-life pregnancy centers served close to two million people, with services and material assistance with a total value of over \$266 million.<sup>[2]</sup> 2019 findings for 2,700 centers in the U.S.<sup>[3]</sup>

- 8 in 10 locations (or 2,132) offer free ultrasounds
- 486,213 free ultrasounds performed
- 731,884 free pregnancy tests
- 967,251 free consultations with new clients
- 810 locations offer STD Testing
- 563 locations offer STD treatment onsite
- 291,230 clients attended Parenting and Prenatal Education Classes
- 21,698 clients attended After-Abortion Support and Recovery Sessions
- 305 locations offer Abortion Pill Reversal
- 2,525 locations offer material assistance such as baby items (including diapers, baby clothing outfits, new car seats and strollers)
- 120 Medical Mobile Units with ultrasound (at least) rolling on the road to bring services to women out in the community

*continued on page 8*