

CITIZENS
CONCERNED



BLAIR COUNTY
CHAPTER

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Citizens Concerned for Human Life

Blair County Life News

Volume 15 Number 2

Presenting the Pro-Life Message to Blair County, Pennsylvania

Spring 2023

2023 National RTL Convention in Pittsburgh!

Dozens of speakers. Two days. One mission:



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Congratulations, 2023 Oratory Contest Winners!

Senior Varsity Winners (Grades 11 and 12)

Sarah Hamilton, a junior who is homeschooled, is the First-Place Senior Varsity Winner of the Citizens Concerned for Human Life (CCHL) 2023 Oratory Contest. She is the daughter of Robin Hamilton of Windber. Sarah was awarded a \$200 prize.

Matthew Levri is a junior who is homeschooled. Matthew was awarded \$150 for his Second-Place entry in the Senior Varsity contest. Matthew is the son of Ed and Maureen Levri of Altoona.

Helena Sicree, a junior who is homeschooled, was awarded the Third-Place prize of \$125. Helena is the daughter of Andrew and Rebecca Sicree of Boalsburg.

Bridgette Miller, a junior at Great Commission Schools, won the Fourth-Place prize of \$100. Bridgette is the daughter of Naomibell Miller of Altoona.

Junior Varsity Winners (Grades 9 and 10)

Wyatt Tanner, a freshman at Great Commission Schools, is the First-Place Junior Varsity winner. Wyatt is the son of Stephanie Wojcik, of Duncansville. Wyatt was awarded \$150.

Mark Sicree, a freshman, is homeschooled and won the Second-Place prize of \$100. Mark is the son of Andrew and Rebecca Sicree of Boalsburg.

Adrianna Levri, a freshman, is homeschooled and won the Third-Place prize of \$75. Adrianna is the daughter of Ed and Maureen Levri of Altoona.

The judges for the Oratory Contest, held March 5, were: **Paul Kowalski**, long-time member of Citizens Concerned for Human Life and retired from PPG; **Sue Konopka**, a physician associate and **Suzanne Daley**, businesswoman. We are grateful for their involvement in pro-life events. Many thanks also to **Marita Forr**, timekeeper for the speeches, and **Jan Creighton**, Bedford Co. Chapter, CCHL, for her assistance with organization of and arrangements for the contest.

Printed below is Sarah Hamilton's First-Place Senior Varsity entry, entitled, "The Ongoing Need." The presentation of First-Place Junior Varsity entrant, Wyatt Tanner, entitled "The Effects of Abortion," is found on the back page. The presentations of the other winners will be reprinted in subsequent issues of this newsletter. "Well done and congratulations," to all!

The Ongoing Need

By Sarah Hamilton, First-Place Senior Varsity Winner



The setting: Planned Parenthood. The situation: she's pregnant. She has an ultimatum: choose abortion, or choose life. What if she chooses life?

Many women choose abortion. But what about the ones who choose life? What happens to them? Who is there to help them, to provide for them, to give them care?

Mary Alice Cloukey plays a quiet role in helping women make the decision to choose life. Mary Alice assembled a small team of prayer warriors to join her in praying at the Planned Parenthood Center in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The team didn't carry signs or wear special shirts, like others who protested nearby. They simply stood across the street and prayed silently, marching around the center seven times as the Israelites marched around the city of Jericho in Joshua, chapter 6. In an interview, Mary Alice stated, "I know He can do mighty things through our prayers, even if we never see the results."

Since the 1970s, when Mary Alice chose life for her baby, she has felt a connection to the abortion issue and women in need. Doctors warned her that, because of a medical diagnosis, neither Mary Alice nor her daughter were guaranteed to live. Despite the pressure to abort, she pressed forward. Mary Alice reminisced, "When she was born, she was perfect. She was beautiful, she's a brilliant person." Mary Alice's personal story inspires her to stand up and fight for the unborn.

Prayer warriors fighting in the unseen realm for the unborn and their mothers are vital to the care we give to women in crisis. There are also more visible organizations that take a stand to help those who cannot help themselves.

When Polly Claire's Tea Room of Chattanooga, Tennessee, closed in March 2022, Pastor Deven Wallace saw the opportunity. She created Genesis House of Tea, named for new beginnings and her adopted daughter, Genesis. All the surplus revenues of the tearoom go to non-profits that assist women in crisis, according to *Chattanooga Times Free Press*. According to the ministry's website, their mission is to restore women's "digniTEA."

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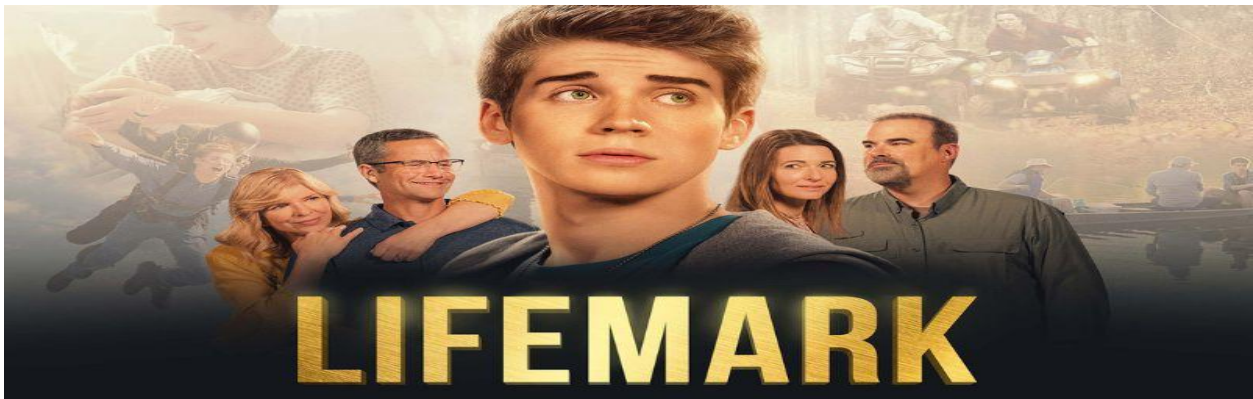
See the **LIFEMARK** movie at:

OLV School Auditorium in State College, PA

Saturday, April 22nd @ 3:00pm & Sunday, April 23rd @ 2:00pm

Rated PG13 - **FREE ADMISSION**

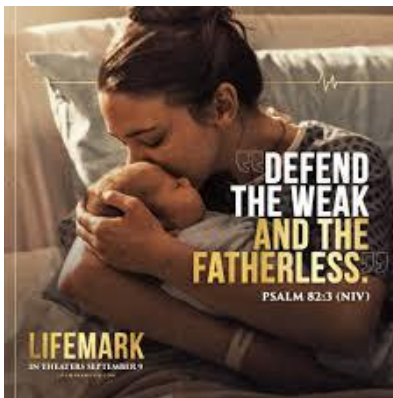
Sponsored by Centre County Chapter Citizens Concerned for Human Life



Lifemark is based on a true story of an 18 year old young man who finds out he has been adopted as a newborn and meets his birth mother. It shows that God has a plan and purpose for each child's life, no matter how they come into the world.

Come join us to see this moving film. It will touch your heart!

She gave him life.



They raised him.



They BOTH courageously loved him with the heart of a parent, giving him what they could when they could.

However parenthood comes to you, it's a miracle!

FDA's Latest Decision to Allow Pharmacies to Stock and Sell the Abortion Pill Mifepristone

On Thursday, March 2, National Right to Life released a white paper in a question-and-answer format addressing common concerns regarding the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) decision to update labeling for mifepristone (generic for Mifeprex) that would allow pharmacies to dispense the drug.

"More than two dozen deaths and thousands of complications are associated with the use of the mifepristone/misoprostol chemical abortion method," said Randall K. O'Bannon, Ph.D., director of education and research for National Right to Life and author of the white paper.

"With these safety concerns, it is not surprising that questions have arisen regarding the FDA's decision to allow pharmacies to dispense the abortion drug combination."

O'Bannon continued, "Thousands of 'adverse events,' on record with the FDA include serious infections, severe hemorrhaging, and the rupture of previously undiscovered ectopic pregnancies."

Mifepristone is used in combination with misoprostol, a prostaglandin, to cause an abortion. Mifepristone blocks progesterone, leading to the death of the unborn baby, while the second drug, misoprostol, causes powerful, painful uterine contractions to expel the dead or dying baby.

The FDA's revised Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) for Mifeprex would require that the drug only be dispensed by pharmacies that have completed certification and only those pharmacies, once certified, could dispense the drug prescribed by certified prescribers who have pledged to follow FDA guidelines regarding the screening and counseling of patients to ensure they know the risks and dangers.

—National Right to Life Committee, Inc.

To read in-depth report, search "National Right to Life releases white paper, March 2, 2023."



Every Life Matters (ELM) Pregnancy Support Services

Services we offer:

Free Pregnancy Tests

Limited Obstetric Ultrasounds

Parenting and Prenatal Education

Post-Abortion Recovery and Material Resources

Upcoming Events

Beginning Wednesday, March 22, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

ELM will host **Time to Heal-Beyond Survival**

Offering Hope, Healing & Restoration

For info, please call 814-650-7899

Up LIFT Tyrone workshop will begin on Tuesday, March 28th, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. & 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Free workshops focusing on Budgeting 101.

Open to anyone who feels they could use some help.

Meals will be provided. Call to register 814-650-7899.

Yellow Umbrella Walk

Saturday, April 15th, 10 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Calvary Tyrone, 1062 Pennsylvania Ave., Tyrone

Lunch will be served. This is a fundraiser for ELM.

Ticket-in is a gift card to Amazon or Walmart in any amount.

Carol Steffen, Executive Director

1351 Logan Ave., Tyrone, Pennsylvania 16686

Phone: 814-650-7899

TheELMPSS@gmail.com ♦ www.elmcenters.org

All material and monetary donations to ELM are tax-deductible.

Make checks payable to: **Every Life Matters (ELM)**.

Abortion Pill Rescue Network

CALL 24/7 HELPLINE: 1-877-558-0333

It may not be too late to save a pregnancy

Nearly half of abortions in the U.S. occur through the "abortion pill." As these numbers continue to rise, no woman should ever feel forced to finish an abortion she regrets. An unplanned pregnancy can be scary and many women make decisions to abort when they are terrified and stressed. After some time, many women change their minds about a chemical abortion.

The abortion pill comes in two parts and is approved for use up to 10 weeks of pregnancy. The first chemical, mifepristone (or RU-486) is the first pill used in a chemical abortion and blocks the effects of progesterone, a hormone necessary for a pregnancy to thrive. The second part, misoprostol, expels the baby. If a woman has regrets after taking the first pill, the pregnancy may be saved.

From the moment a woman takes the abortion pill, she has about 72 hours to change her mind and save her baby. The Abortion Pill Rescue Network's 24/7 contact center answers more than 150 critical calls a month from women who regret their abortion decision. Statistics show that thousands of lives have been saved (and counting) through the abortion pill reversal protocol.

The Abortion Pill Rescue Network connects women who have taken the first dose of the Abortion Pill to a network of medical professionals trained to administer the Abortion Pill Reversal protocol. Time is precious, and so is your baby—call **1-877-558-0333**.

—AbortionPillRescueNetwork.com

19th Annual Pro-Life Dinner

Crossroads Bible Church

5564 Business Route 220, Bedford

Friday April 28, 2023

**Dinner at 6:00 p.m. ~ Doors open at 5:00 p.m.
Come early to check out our door prizes and Basket Raffle!**



Featured Speaker: Christine Flowers

Christine Flowers is a syndicated columnist for Cagle News, which publishes her weekly column nationwide, including the Bedford Gazette. Often tackling pro-life issues, Christine has long been involved in the pro-life movement and considers this to be the most important human rights issue of our time. Read her column at

www.cagle.com/author/christine-flowers

Christine was born in Baltimore and raised in Philadelphia. She is a graduate of Bryn Mawr College and Villanova Law School, and has studied at the Sorbonne in Paris. She has been practicing immigration law, with a concentration in asylum and human rights work since 1995. In her free time, she enjoys Philadelphia Eagles football, old movies, traveling, learning new languages and spending time with her nephew Alex and her two Black Labs, Chance and Sophie. We are looking forward to a powerful pro-life message from Christine.

Adults \$20 - Students \$15 - 4 & under free

RSVP Lynne 814-276-3638 or Pam 814-652-6755 by 4/24/23

Checks should be made payable to Bedford County CCHL

Mail checks to: Pam Lucas; 262 Zion Rd; Everett, PA 15537

Be a 2023 Sponsor of our "Save the Babies" Projects!

Platinum/\$250, Gold/\$100, Silver/\$50, Bronze/\$25

Sponsorship Form at: www.BedfordCountyProLife.org/sponsor

Sponsored by Bedford County Citizens Concerned for Human Life

www.BedfordCountyProLife.org

The Ongoing Need

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Some fundraise for other non-profits who help women in need. Others, such as Precious Life, Inc. of Western Pennsylvania help women directly. Precious Life's website explains that their ministry began in Altoona, Pennsylvania in 1985 with a 24-hour hotline for women in crisis. Since then, it has expanded to three locations in the area, as well as a center in Romania. I spoke with Reverend Scott Manganella, the executive director and co-founder of Precious Life. "Precious Life is...designed to provide positive alternatives to abortion," he stated. The organization provides free pregnancy testing, counseling and clothing for both mothers and children.

The St. Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home in Warsaw, Nebraska, is another caring place for mothers in crisis. The *National Catholic Register* explains how women can live in the home for up to three years after the birth of their children, receiving vital care, parenting classes, and other support from the home's director, Mary Pat Jahner, and other volunteers.

Whether it's praying at a Planned Parenthood center in Johnstown, manning a 24-hour hotline in Altoona, operating a tearoom in Chattanooga, or running a maternity home in Warsaw, people are working to provide a way forward for the women who choose life. However, they need our help. They can't operate alone; there is too much to do to care for families in need. It is time for us to join forces with those who are already serving. But maybe it's not your calling to run a ministry. What are other ways you can support women in crisis?

You can pray like Mary Alice. You can fundraise like Genesis House of Tea. You can gather and distribute supplies like Precious Life. You can open your house and your heart for women in crisis like the Gianna Home. You can become a foster parent, or adopt like the Wallaces. You can make a difference.

Not only are these options available to you, but there are many other ways to help women in need. For example, find out if your church has a program that ministers to women who made the decision to choose life. Go out into your community and search for those who need support. Sometimes all it takes to make the biggest difference is having a willing listener or a shoulder to cry on. Offer to help with childcare, buy Christmas and birthday presents for the children, or invite the family over for dinner. Perhaps, every time you go shopping, buy one extra item, such as diapers, wipes, or baby formula, for someone you know

who needs it. Or, you can donate the items to a ministry like Precious Life.

These are all ways to make a difference in the lives of a woman and her child. It doesn't matter how big or small, the aid you give can be life-changing. Now is your time to stand up and join the countless volunteers who have dedicated their time and their lives to the ongoing needs of women in crisis. Let's get to work.

References:

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Chattanooga Times Free Press. July 20.

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Manganella, Rev. Scott. 2023. Interview by author. Johnstown, PA. February 20.

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The Effects of Abortion

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groups are Rachel's Vineyard for women's and men's recovery and the Fathers Forever Foundation. These groups even go into jails to help prisoners after abortions and are fighting for the neglected field of men's psychological damages after abortions. So the answer to the question is that fewer abortions will be beneficial to the mothers for not having to go through the psychological damage it causes and men could avoid the long road to recovery, and more babies would live.

To recap—Fathers often go through addictions and suicidal thoughts and plans because of abortion; mothers go through psychological problems after an abortion, relationships are heavily affected after abortions, most male prisoners have dealt with abortions, deployed soldiers commonly have to deal with abortion, and Christianity and other groups deal with the neglected road of men's recovery after abortion.

So Jason had the pills he would use to kill himself, but he couldn't end up doing it. He went back to church to meet with a pastor about this. After meeting with the pastor he worked hard to get rid of his drug and alcohol addiction. He found Nancy, who would become his new wife and they moved to Arizona together. On the 10th anniversary of the abortion he started to feel depressed about it so he created the Fatherhood Forever Foundation. This group has now helped many fathers heal after the effects of abortions. ♦



Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice!

May your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

If you, Lord, keep account of sins, Lord, who can stand?

But with you is forgiveness...

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

~ Psalm 130:1-2, 7 ~

Men and Abortion—Resources/Books for Healing



Fatherhood Aborted addresses the emotional devastation of men involved in abortion. Discusses the aftershocks of abortion, including violence, addictive behaviors, isolation, resistance to authority, and difficulty bonding with women and children. Includes personal accounts of post-abortive men's own experiences and shows that the path to forgiveness and healing is found in a vital relationship with Christ.

Redeeming A Father's Heart presents the powerful stories of 10 courageous men with the common desire to present the truth of their abortion experience and the consequences of this life changing decision.

Men and Abortion: A Path to Healing focuses on the problems experienced by post-abortive men, including anger, helplessness, guilt, relationship problems and grief. The steps toward healing are described in terms of each of these problems. An excellent aid not only for post-abortion men, but for all those who care for and counsel them.

Sons of Adam is a prayer and companion workbook to *Men and Abortion: A Path To Healing*. The central need is a safe place where a man can tell his story with neither complacency nor condemnation. Offers short scripture readings, traditional prayers, other men's stories, questions for reflection, and simple blessing prayers.

The House of Esau manual, written by a post-abortive father, details a process designed to alleviate some of the stresses experienced by a father who has lost a child to abortion. Understanding gained by various Men and Abortion Network members is included.

Through letters written more than 40 years after the author lost his daughter to elective abortion, **Letters to Pilgrim** shares the author's life and the life he imagines his daughter might have lived. His pain and his hard-won peace are candidly shared with his readers.

In **Dearest Angel**, the author shares the depth of his pain as a post-abortive father. He has done a great service to those who walk where he has walked and those trying to understand the pain of a father who has lost his child to abortion.

In **Forgiveness: I Just Can't Forgive Myself**, Robert D. Jones identifies five possible assumptions behind the longing for self-forgiveness. In the process, he pinpoints a deeper problem—and a deeper solution to ongoing guilt. By dispelling a number of misconceptions, Jones clears the path to a joyful realization of complete forgiveness in Christ.

Father's Choice: Tony's life changes the moment he learns he's going to be a father. A casual relationship grows serious and he faces a choice that will ultimately be made for him. Tony tries to persuade his girlfriend to keep their baby but she chooses abortion and Tony blames himself. Did he say the wrong things? Was he just not good enough? Would he ever get another chance to be a father? Tony's experience shows that abortion isn't just a women's issue, but one that can also affect men in unexpected ways.

Each abortion involves both a man and a woman and often leaves them wounded and confused, immediately or even years later. Abortion causes multiple losses: the child, the relationship, self-worth, and hope. **Men and Abortion: Finding Healing, Restoring Hope** recognizes that abortion debases fatherhood as it violates a man's instinct to protect and care for those he loves.

Swallowed by a Snake: The Gift of the Masculine Side of Healing is an acclaimed contribution to the existing literature about coping with loss, blending folklore, cross-cultural analysis, and clinical advice to help men and women understand the specific context and needs of grieving men.

To order any of the above books, go to menandabortion.net. Other resources are also available at this site.



*Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger and abounding in kindness...
Not according to our sins does he deal with us, nor does he requite us according to our crimes.
~ Psalm 103: 8, 10 ~*

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/

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

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

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

Blair County Office

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

Governor of Pennsylvania

The Honorable Josh Shapiro (D)

508 Main Capitol Bldg., Harrisburg, PA 17120
717-787-2500; 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

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

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

Altoona Office

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

PA Constitutional Amendment

Maria V. Gallagher, Legislative Director

Dear Pro-Life Leaders,

Pro-abortion Democrats in the Pennsylvania legislature are pushing a pro-abortion Constitutional Amendment.

The radical Amendment would mean all-out taxpayer funding of abortion. It would also strip away common sense protections such as informed consent, parental consent, the late-term abortion ban, and 24 hour waiting periods for abortion.

Please send a message now to your state lawmaker, urging him or her to stop the so-called "Reproductive Rights Amendment."

You can send an immediate message to your legislator: https://oneclick-politics.global.ssl.fastly.net/messages/edit?promo_id=18546.

Please share this message with your chapter members and pro-life friends and family. Thank you for standing up for life!

—*Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation*

www.paprolife.org

2021 Pennsylvania Abortion Statistics

Pennsylvania has been monitoring and reporting on abortion data since 1975. This report is produced pursuant to Section 3214 of the Abortion Control Act, 18 Pa. C.S. § 3214(e)(1).

In 2021, there were 33,206 abortions performed in Pennsylvania. Nearly half, (14,949) of all abortions performed in Pennsylvania were to white individuals, and 14,620 were to Black or African-American individuals. Abortions to individuals of Hispanic origin accounted for 3,862, or 11.6 percent, of all abortions in 2021. More than 88 percent (29,358) of the abortions performed in Pennsylvania in 2021 were to unmarried individuals.

The largest age group having abortions was 25-29, accounting for 9,771 (29.4 percent) of all 2021 abortions. Individuals under age 20 accounted for 7.7 percent of all abortions in 2021, and individuals under age 18 accounted for 2.1 percent. Comparatively, in 2020, individuals under age 20 accounted for 7.9 percent, and individuals under age 18 accounted for 2.4 percent.

Similar to 2020, 92.9 percent of the abortions performed in 2021 were on Pennsylvania residents. Residents of other states, territories and other countries accounted for just 2,352 abortions in 2021.

Of the abortions performed in 2021 in Pennsylvania, 92.1 percent were performed in nine counties: Allegheny, Bucks, Dauphin, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, and York.

More than 36 percent of Pennsylvania residents having abortions were residents of Philadelphia County. Other counties that account for a greater percentage of resident abortions included: Allegheny (3,437); Montgomery (1,767); Delaware (1,720); Dauphin (1,082); Bucks (1,033); and Lehigh (1,025). Of all 67 counties, 26 (38.8 percent) showed a decrease in the number of resident abortions performed in 2021 compared to 2020.

In 2021, there were 322 reports of complications from abortions that were submitted by physicians; 34.7 percent more than the 239 reported in 2020. More than 74 percent of the complications were related to retained products of conception, 12.7 percent to bleeding and 5.9 percent to infection.

Notes: The source for the number of abortions reported in Pennsylvania in 2021 is the "Report of Induced Termination of Pregnancy," which is an individual report filed for each procedure. The source for the complications data is "Abortions: Report of Complications," a separate reporting form completed by physicians who have provided medical care to an individual because of a complication resulting from an abortion or attempted abortion. Unknowns are excluded from all calculations.

—*Pennsylvania's 2021 abortion report was published online by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, December 2022*

https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/HealthStatistics/VitalStatistics/Documents/Pennsylvania_Annual_Abortion_Report_2021.pdf

2021 Pennsylvania Abortion Statistics

Induced Abortions Performed in Pennsylvania by Age of Woman	
Age (Years)	Number
12 or Under	3
13	19
14	59
15	112
16	201
17	293
18	792
19	1,094
20 - 24	9,101
25 - 29	9,771
30 - 34	7,049
35 - 39	3,551
40 - 44	1,076
45 or Older	85
Unknown	0
Total	33,206

Induced Abortions Performed in Pennsylvania by Race of Woman January - December 2021	
Race of Woman	Number
White	14,949
Black or African-American	14,620
Asian / Pacific Islander	1,082
Multi-Race	1,426
All Other Races	309
Unknown	820
Total	33,206

Induced Abortions Performed in Pennsylvania by Primary Type of Procedure January - December 2021	
Primary Abortion Procedure	Number
Suction Curettage	13,410
Sharp Curettage	4
Dilation and Evacuation	1,360
Intra-Uterine Instillation (Saline or Prostaglandin)	3
Hysterotomy/Hysterectomy	3
Medical (Nonsurgical)	18,370
Other	56
Total	33,206

Induced Abortions Performed in Pennsylvania by Age of Woman and Weeks of Gestation January - December 2021									
Age (Years)	Total	Weeks of Gestation							
		8 or Less	9-10	11-12	13-14	15-17	18-20	21-23	24 or More
Under 15	81	31	20	12	5	6	5	2	0
15 - 17	606	281	142	61	42	41	22	17	0
18 - 19	1,886	1,194	347	136	86	74	38	11	0
20 - 24	9,101	6,147	1,530	586	378	249	135	76	0
25 - 29	9,771	6,825	1,463	615	338	293	126	111	0
30 - 34	7,049	4,934	1,022	409	250	193	107	134	0
35 - 39	3,551	2,456	486	189	170	115	72	63	0
40+	1,161	834	145	63	44	42	20	13	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	33,206	22,702	5,155	2,071	1,313	1,013	525	427	0

Induced Abortions Performed in Pennsylvania by Weeks of Gestation	
Weeks of Gestation	Number
8 or Less	22,702
9 - 10	5,155
11 - 12	2,071
13 - 14	1,313
15 - 17	1,013
18 - 20	525
21 - 23	427
24 or More	0
Total	33,206

Induced Abortions Performed in Pennsylvania by Primary Type of Procedure and Weeks of Gestation January - December 2021									
Primary Procedure	Total	Weeks of Gestation							
		8 or Less	9-10	11-12	13-14	15-17	18-20	21-23	24 or More
Suction Curettage	13,410	7,383	2,302	1,815	913	593	276	128	0
Sharp Curettage	4	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Dilation and Evacuation	1,360	63	26	35	353	393	223	267	0
Intra-Uterine Instillation-Saline or Prostaglandin	3	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
Hysterotomy/Hysterectomy	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Medical (Nonsurgical)	18,370	15,225	2,815	210	41	25	25	29	0
Other	56	29	10	10	3	1	0	3	0
Total	33,206	22,702	5,155	2,071	1,313	1,013	525	427	0

Note: Weeks of gestation are based on clinical estimate.

Induced Abortions Performed in Pennsylvania by Marital Status of Woman January - December 2021	
Marital Status	Number
Married	3,724
Unmarried	29,358
Unknown	124
Total	33,206

— Pennsylvania's 2021 abortion report was published online by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, December 2022
https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/HealthStatistics/VitalStatistics/Documents/Pennsylvania_Annual_Abortion_Report_2021.pdf

Precious Life Banquet, March 31st

The Precious Life Banquet will be held **Friday, March 31, 6:00 p.m. at the Jaffa Shrine**. Steven Holland, founder of "Broken Not Dead Ministries" will be the featured speaker. Tickets are a \$20 donation and may be obtained by calling **814-944-2669** or by going to: preciouslifeinc.com; click on "tickets" under Events.

SAVE THE DATE!

Celebrate Life Banquet 2023

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Banquet will be held **Saturday, October 28** at the Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA. Mark Houck will be the recipient of the PA Pro-Life Leadership award. To read Mark's inspiring story, go to: <https://www.paprolife.org/blog/mark-houcks-example>.

Need Help in a Crisis Pregnancy?

Crossroads Pregnancy Help Center

212 Frankstown Rd., Altoona

814-201-2147; website: crossroadspcs.org

Every Life Matters (ELM)

1351 Logan Ave., Tyrone

814-650-7899; TheELMPSS@gmail.com

Precious Life, Inc.

1716 12th Ave., Altoona

814-944-2669; website: preciouslifeinc.com

Real Alternatives, Inc.

1-888-LIFE-AID; website: realalternatives.org

Post-abortion counseling

Project Rachel

814-884-8000; ProjectRachel@dioceseaj.org

Rachel's Vineyard

877 HOPE 4 ME (877-467-3463)

website: rachelvineyard.org/

Family Life

Diocese of Altoona/Johnstown

Pastoral Guidance

814-886-5551; familylife@dioceseaj.org



Blair County Life News

Blair County Chapter

Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc.

Spring 2023; Vol. 15, No. 2

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.

2715 Third St., Altoona, PA 16601; phone: 814-946-0681

email: blair@centralpaprolife.org

website: www.blaircountyprolife.com



They also sin who only stand and watch.

~ Ann Perry ~



—The Master's Love, Nathan Halabu

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Willing to Risk Rejection

... Truth was nailed to the cross at Calvary in Jesus Christ. It should be equally evident that the crucifixion of truth continues throughout the course of history. Should we expect otherwise in our own time? ... The cross implies, rather, that we will be crushed at times in an unequal fight... We can trust that the experience of rejection is united to his mysterious presence and, perhaps in the long run wins more souls than we can realize...

—Fr. Donald Haggerty, a priest of the Archdiocese of New York, is currently serving at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.



From the President's Desk

Want to Go to a Convention?

Over 42 years ago, I attended my first National Right to Life Convention at the expense of Citizens Concerned for Human Life of Blair County.

That experience, in Covington, Kentucky, changed my life. The speakers were tremendous and I learned so much. Coming from a Catholic background, I heard Rev. Jerry Falwell speak at a rally across the Ohio River in Cincinnati, Ohio and was impressed by what I heard and witnessed from this evangelical leader.

A group of young women from Cleveland, Ohio, told a story about their intervention at a proposed "common ground" meeting in Washington, D.C. between pro-abortion leaders and pro-life leaders. The goal was to come to some sort of compromise about what would be acceptable to everyone—except the unborn child. The meeting was well publicized and covered by the press.

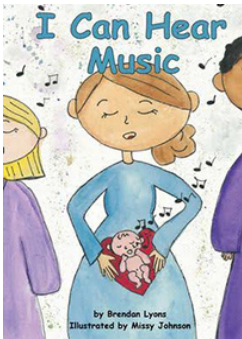
The ladies from Ohio had another idea about the acceptability of abortion. One of their group had found, in a dumpster behind an abortion clinic, a perfectly formed baby. They described how they cleaned the baby and took her with them to the meeting. When the discussion was ongoing about how to reach a compromise on the issue, one of the ladies stepped forward, and with respectful dignity, called the assembly to attention and displayed the child and stated, "this is what we are debating about." The pro-abortion crowd, shocked at the reality of what was being displayed, ended their discussion. Afterwards, the ladies described how the baby was laid to rest in a cemetery after a blessing by a Catholic priest.

I had tears in my eyes and still choke up remembering the details.

Well, this year, the Convention is in Pittsburgh. You are invited to go, and CCHL will help with your registration fee. My family and I cannot be there because of a pre-planned vacation with my children and grandchildren, but you are all invited and perhaps the experience will change your life. Sincerely,

R. Thomas Forr, Jr., President

Blair County Chapter, Citizens Concerned for Human Life



I Can Hear Music by Brendan Lyons and illustrated by Missy Johnson is a rhyming book with a simple theme: children in the womb can hear. They can hear their mother's heartbeats, speaking voices, and the sounds of a marching band. "And when I am born, you might be surprised, the voice that you sing with is one I recognize." *I Can Hear Music* is a good introduction for toddlers and a particularly good fit for young ones who are awaiting the birth of a younger sibling and want to know more about what's going on in there!

Donations have been made—

In Honor of:

Pro-Life Work

Requested by: Joe & Joan Keller
 Patricia A. Byrne
 Michael & Sharon Byrne
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 E. Philip Schmelzlen
 Msgr. Stanley B. Carson
 Joe & Cathy Koehle
 Ron & Donna Greene
 Paul & Nancy Head
 David & Agnes Kirsch

In Memory of:

Deceased McNelis All-Stars

Requested by: Chris McNelis

Bud & Donna Seidel

Requested by: James Seidel

Elsie Massimilla

Requested by: Frank Massimilla

Cheryl Ann Consalvo

Requested by: Heather Consalvo
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Betty Consalvo

Requested by: Melissa Plessinger

Loretta Zeth & Geraldine Rose

Requested by: Ron & Donna Greene

Mary Lou Healy

Requested by: Donna Cavalet Houck

*A special thank you to all
 who donated for the March for Life.*

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!

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

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 our quarterly newsletter. Thank you!

Annual Membership \$10.00 In Memory of: _____
 Student/Senior Member \$5.00 In Honor of: _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

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.
2715 Third St.
Altoona, PA 16601

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The Effects of Abortion

By Wyatt Tanner, First-Place Junior Varsity Winner



Jason was a hardworking man in the Air Force. Jason eventually met a childhood friend of his and later married her. One day he came home to hear that his wife was pregnant. He was ecstatic but it soon turned to fear once she brought up abortion. Jason tried to convince her not to, but she already made up her mind and she aborted the baby. He later broke up with her because of the abortion. Jason, after this, went into a deep state of depression, heavy drinking, and drugs. He also had plans to kill himself.

The first question the Oratory contest asks is—Is it the truth? Well, when talking about an abortion, the truth is the father commonly does not stand up for the baby, saying that it is the mother's choice. Only during or after an abortion does the father feel guilty for the baby's death. After an abortion men will distract themselves with work, drinking alcohol, or pornography to not think about the baby as Jason did. When men go see a doctor about this issue, the doctors usually shrug them off. Most relationships also do not remain together after an abortion—like Jason broke up with his wife after she aborted their child. Some men even commit suicide after an abortion, as Jason had plans to do.

The effects on the mother after an abortion are also severe. The mothers during an abortion are usually crying or feeling guilty for what they are doing—like a young girl named Gina did after her parents forced her to get an abortion. Gina, after the abortion, clung to her abusive boyfriend. She did this because her parents, who forced her to get the abortion, hated him. Gina did this to feel like she had control over something. Most women, after an abortion, wish that they were still pregnant—like Gina did after she had her abortion. Women, after an abortion, have long-term psychological damage that they suppress, but it can come back years later through any kind of trigger. So, the truth is that both mothers and fathers go through problems after an abortion.

Another question asked is—will it create goodwill and better friendships? Relationships, after an abortion, suffer severe effects also. Most relationships do not last after an abortion—like Jason broke up with his wife after she had her abortion. This is due to the pressure that it puts on both sides of the relationship. If the abortion is hidden from the man, it is even worse. When men figure out about an abortion, if it's hidden, they usually break up with her on the spot. If they stay together, it's never the same. If they get pregnant again, it usually brings back bad memories of the abortion. So the answer to the question is that not having an abortion would create goodwill and better friendships since more relationships would stay together.

The next question asked is—is it fair to everyone? Well, the lives of prisoners and soldiers who went through an abortion are tough. The crime rates of men with abortions also go up drastically. 90% of men in jail have gone through an abortion decision of some kind. Even men in the military who dealt with an abortion suffered severe effects. Soldiers who have dealt with an abortion could put their fellow soldiers in danger. Sadly, because of poor communication and constant moves, deployed soldiers commonly deal with abortions. So, I would say that no abortions would be fair to all who are concerned. The mothers and fathers would go through less psychological damage and fewer fathers would go down the bad road that leads to jail.

The final question asked is—will it be beneficial to all concerned? The recovery of men who have gone through an abortion is also a tough one. Many men, a couple of years after an abortion, have come to Christianity to help them recover. Several groups have been founded in order to help men in neglected recovery through abortion. Two of these

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