

CITIZENS
CONCERNED



BLAIR COUNTY
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Citizens Concerned for Human Life

Blair County Life News

Volume 15 Number 4

Presenting the Pro-Life Message to Blair County, Pennsylvania

Fall 2023



Help PREGNANT WOMEN

THOUSANDS OF PREGNANT WOMEN IN PENNSYLVANIA COULD LOSE VITAL SERVICES, IF THE GOVERNOR CANCELS PA'S CONTRACT WITH REAL ALTERNATIVES. REAL ALTERNATIVES RUNS THE PROGRAM WHICH FUNDS PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTERS, MATERNITY HOMES, AND ADOPTION AGENCIES ACROSS PA.

PLEASE CALL GOVERNOR SHAPIRO AT 717-787-2500 AND SAY YOU STAND WITH PREGNANT WOMEN AND WANT REAL ALTERNATIVES' CONTRACT RENEWED.

THEN, GO TO WWW.PAPROLIFE.ORG AND SEND A MESSAGE TO YOUR STATE LAWMAKERS, ASKING THEM TO SAVE THE PROGRAM!

—Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation

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Legislative Update



*Susan Rogacs, Chairwoman
Citizens Concerned for Human Life
President, Board of Directors
PA Pro-Life Federation*

We are indeed thankful *Roe v. Wade* has been overturned in the *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision, returning the abortion issue to the states. Little has changed with PA abortion law, as a pro-abortion majority has taken control of the PA House of Representatives, and a pro-life majority retained control of the PA Senate in the last election.

Regarding the 15-week abortion "consensus" limits being bantered about recently; this is NOT pro-life because 95% of abortions are committed before 15 weeks gestation. We support saving as many babies as possible without any self-imposed limits.

PA LEGISLATION: The pro-abortion left has introduced legislation to allow abortions up to birth! We must have pro-life leaders, legislators and judges to stop them and return a culture of LIFE to our state and country.

REAL ALTERNATIVES: Pro-abortion Governor Shapiro, in a shocking decision, announced that he intends to allow PA's contract with Real Alternatives to expire soon, an agency which administers PA's Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services program, funding pregnancy centers, maternity homes, and adoption agencies throughout PA. See www.paprolife.org to contact your state representatives to urge them to take action to stop defunding of Real Alternatives.

GENERAL ELECTION: We urge you to vote early by mail or in person for the November 7 election. Well-intentioned voters may unexpectedly miss voting on election day, allowing a pro-abortion majority to win urgent statewide judicial races, as well as county and local municipal races. www.vote.pa.gov provides voter information and information about new ways to cast your vote. October 23 is the last day to register to vote.

**PENNSYLVANIA
MARCH FOR LIFE**

**OCTOBER 16, 2023
State Capitol, Harrisburg
March begins at 12:00 pm**

Parking will be available at the North Parking Lot on City Island. Additional parking is available at various parking garages. For more information on parking, marchers can go to www.parkharrisburg.com

Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation
4800 Jonestown Road, Ste. 102 • Harrisburg, PA 17109 • 717-541-0034 • www.paprolife.org

Warren Buffet Has Spent \$5.3 Billion Promoting Abortions Enough to Kill 10 Million Babies

Hayden Ludwig

He's been called the "Wizard of Omaha," America's most revered investor and famous penny pincher. But that conceals Warren Buffett's dark side: Untold billions of dollars for abortion-on-demand in the U.S. and experiments on poor Africans, and that's just the tip of the iceberg. In this groundbreaking report, *Restoration News* exposes this massive money pipeline—including its favorite outlet, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation—and reveals Buffett's global depopulation agenda.

The biggest funder of abortion in human history poses as America's most celebrated philanthropist.

He's the sixth-wealthiest man in the world, with a net worth exceeding \$117 billion. You know him as the "Oracle," "Sage," or "Wizard" of Omaha, Nebraska, for his magic ability to predict market trends, a skill he began honing at age 11. And he's perhaps the country's most frugal billionaire, living in the same house he bought in 1958 for \$31,500, driving a modest car, and breakfasting on McDonalds (sometimes with coupons).

When asked about his great success, Warren Buffett's answer is poignant:

My wealth has come from a combination of living in America, some lucky genes, and compound interest.

Although his father, Howard, was a Republican congressman representing Omaha in the 1940s, Buffett isn't especially vocal about his political views. He describes himself as something short of a "card-carrying Democrat"—though he's called for higher taxes on the wealthy and sympathizes with socialist Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Leftists regularly chide him for not being "progressive" enough in the boardroom of Berkshire Hathaway, the \$381 billion company he's run since 1965.

Yet this unassuming investment giant deserves another title: the secret patron of Abortion Inc.

Since 2000, Buffett has funneled an incredible \$5.3 billion into abortion providers as well as the vast array of activist, lobbying, and policy groups insulating the abortion industry in Washington—and that's a conservative figure.

It's enough to pay for nearly 10 million abortions at \$550 a pop, according to estimates from the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute. That's equivalent to the entire population of Portugal or Greece; or the combined populations of New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island, Montana, Delaware, North and South Dakota, Alaska, Wyoming, and Vermont; or better yet, enough to abort all the people living in Buffett's home state, Nebraska, five times over.

You'd think this stunning fact would warrant more media attention. Yet Buffett's support for pro-death groups has flown under the radar because it's masked as "philanthropy."

Since 2002, Buffett has poured a stunning \$41 billion into four foundations, each of which bankrolls groups expanding abortion-on-demand policies nationwide or even sustain the United Nations' population control campaign in impoverished countries. Three of these little-known foundations are controlled by Buffett's close family members. The fourth is anything but obscure—the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, one of the biggest grantmaking institutions in the world and a mainstay of the Left.

At least part of this largesse stems from the Giving Pledge, a campaign Buffett and his close friend Bill Gates launched in 2010 to commit the ultra-wealthy to give away a majority of their wealth (in their case, 99 percent of it). While not necessarily political, many of the pledgers routinely funnel their millions into "progressive" activism, including Facebook co-founders Mark Zuckerberg and Dustin Moskovitz, and Pierre Omidyar and Jeff Skoll of eBay. In 2011, then-President Barack Obama even hosted Buffett in the White House for an "update" on the Giving Pledge's progress.

For Buffett, that means donating nearly all of his Berkshire Hathaway shares—routing billions of dollars to these four politically active foundations and making Buffett one of the Left's top mega-donors and, in *CNBC's* words, America's "most charitable billionaire."

In this report, *Restoration News* digs deep into the Buffett machine to reveal his far-reaching influence across America's political landscape, including his support for the world's top "dark money" network. We make no secret of our goal: Rebranding Warren Buffett as the next George Soros and restoring genuine philanthropy to its original purpose, the Christian love of one's neighbor.

The Devil You Don't Know

To most, it's unheard of, but Buffett's funding for abortion advocacy and contraception has made him a hero in leftist circles. "Have an IUD? Thank Warren Buffett," the *Washington Post* wrote in 2015, referencing his support for intrauterine device development in the early 2000s.



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Warren Buffet

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“You mean you didn’t know Warren Buffett’s foundation has been funding abortion rights organizations?” *NPR* wrote in 2006. “Well, that’s just the way the Buffetts wanted it.”

“Warren Buffett has never spoken publicly about his views on abortion,” the *New York Times* observed in 2010.

“But in the 1990s [his foundation] helped finance the research and development of the [mifepristone] pills that induce abortion . . . [and] helped finance a lawsuit to overturn the ban on so-called partial-birth abortion in Nebraska.”

Even far-left *Vox* dropped its usual “eat-the-rich” dogma in 2019 to praise the Omaha billionaire:

If you could snap your fingers and rid the world of billionaire philanthropists instantly, hundreds of millions of women worldwide would lose access to contraception, and Buffett is the leading provider of abortion access for poor women in the U.S. [emphasis added].

Buffett’s late ex-wife, Susan Thompson, arguably revealed more about his pro-abortion views than did the Omaha investor. “Warren feels that women all over the world get shortchanged,” she told Charlie Rose in a 2004 TV interview.

“That’s why he’s so pro-choice.”

“For Warren, it’s economic,” an ex-Buffett Foundation program director told *Bloomberg* four years later (though the interview wasn’t revealed until 2015).

He thinks that unless women can control their fertility—and that it’s basically their right to control their fertility—that you are sort of wasting more than half of the brainpower in the United States. Well, not just the United States. Worldwide.

That’s a feminist spin on an uglier belief in looming overpopulation. For decades, Buffett’s committed a fortune to what his biographer calls his “Malthusian dread” (named for 19th century British demographer Thomas Malthus) that humans will reproduce ourselves into oblivion, endangering global supplies of “food, housing, and even human survival.”

“[Population control] was what my father has always believed was the biggest and most important issue,” Susie Buffett told the *Chronicle of Philanthropy* in 1997, “so that will be the [foundation’s] focus.”

Long before the Supreme Court discovered constitutional abortion “rights” in *Roe v. Wade* (1973), Buffett and key business partner Charlie Munger, a liberal Republican, organized what Munger called an “underground railroad” for arranging abortions in states where the procedure was legal:

Warren and I were revolutionaries. We created a church that was used as an underground railroad. We supported the Clergy Counseling Service [a group of liberal ministers who arranged abortions for women outside the U.S.]. The

minister running it was cashiered by his own church for helping women get abortions.

First I tried to persuade the church to let him continue. That failed. I called Warren and asked him to help me establish our own church. That we did. For years this minister ran the thing. That was our contribution, trying to help so that society didn’t force women to give birth—to be held in a system [ecologist and overpopulation alarmist] Garrett Hardin called ‘mandatory motherhood’ [emphasis added].

It’s worth pointing out that Munger exhorts Berkshire shareholders to read Hardin’s 1993 book, *Living Within Limits*, and embrace its cynical message of reducing population via subsidized contraception. From the book: “We fail to mandate economic sanity because our brains are addled by . . . compassion.” “It is far cheaper to prevent the birth of an unwanted child than it is to take care of it later.”

Even after *Roe* made their work obsolete, Munger continued to serve



as chief financial officer for Planned Parenthood Los Angeles, eventually folding the faux-church into the chapter to get in on the abortion business. “We were way ahead of the national office of Planned Parenthood in arranging abortions,” Munger later crowed. That included paying the legal bills of Leon Belous, a California doctor convicted in 1967 of administering an illegal abortion. Belous’ appeal was later used by the state supreme court to legalize abortion statewide in 1969 and by the U.S. Supreme Court to justify *Roe*.

The Buffett-Munger support for population control supposedly came to an end in 2003, when Buffett announced he would cease donating Berkshire Hathaway shares to pro-abortion groups in a resounding victory for the pro-life activists who boycotted the company into cutting off Planned Parenthood and its allies.

But victory proved a ruse.

The Butcher of Omaha

Far from suspending it, Buffett’s support for anti-life groups was redirected into his family foundations—and skyrocketed.

Restoration News analyzed thousands of grants paid over the past two decades by the Illinois-based Howard G. Buffett Foundation, named for and led by Warren’s eldest son; the New York-based NoVo Foundation, chaired by second son Peter; and the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation, named for Warren’s late ex-wife and headed by daughter Susie and her ex-husband, Allen Greenberg.

Between them, these philanthropies posted \$15.5 billion in revenues between 2002 and 2022, 81 percent of which came from Warren as cash or Berkshire Hathaway stock. (A portion of that sum came from Susan, who separated from Warren in 1977 but never divorced, and left her Berkshire shares to the foundation upon her death in 2004.)

Among the recipients seemingly cut off in 2003 was Family

Planned Parenthood & affiliates	\$849,438,849
Marie Stopes International (MSI)	\$536,304,486
Population Services International	\$491,352,993
National Abortion Federation	\$436,826,239
DKT International	\$267,423,774
Guttmacher Institute	\$156,851,958
New Morning Foundation	\$118,216,186
EngenderHealth	\$101,779,885
Society of Family Planning	\$96,232,205
Pathfinder International	\$58,847,054
Center for Reproductive Rights	\$55,469,601
Population Council	\$48,907,723
NARAL Pro-Choice America & affiliates	\$46,424,282
National Network of Abortion Funds	\$46,398,462
National Women’s Law Center	\$37,056,592
Gynuity Health Projects	\$36,411,962
Advocates for Youth	\$28,591,209
Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health	\$28,039,588
Catholics for Choice	\$22,606,010
Population Reference Bureau	\$14,211,389
National Partnership for Women and Families	\$11,486,051

All data from 2000 to 2021 or 2022.

Health International (FHI), which used the funds to distribute the chemical quinacrine hydrochloride—illegal in the U.S.—used to sterilize women by burning their fallopian tubes. One of FHI’s aims is to lower global population in part to combat global warming. After 2003, FHI received another \$7 million from the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation.

Another is Ipas, which invented and markets manual vacuum aspiration technology—literally sucking out embryos and fetuses from the womb—in more than 100 countries. Since 2003, Ipas has received over \$422 million from Buffett family foundations—so much for cutting it off.

[Shown above are] the top pro-abortion groups funded by Buffett family foundations. While groups like NARAL and Planned Parenthood are infamous, many of these groups are hardly known on the Right.

Marie Stopes International (MSI) is Britain’s equivalent to Planned Parenthood and a top provider of (often illegal) abortions overseas. In 2021, MSI’s Australian branch admitted that 1 in 20 women retain fragments of the baby and/or placenta in their uterus following an MSI abortion. A 2016 British government inquiry found that MSI doctors reportedly pressured patients as young as 16—some with learning disabilities—to undergo abortions, often ignoring or bulk-signing the pre-consent forms required by U.K. law to ensure that women understand the consequences of aborting their babies. A year later, authorities discovered that MSI staff were “encouraged” to suggest patients undergo abortions because it was “linked to their performance bonuses,” which inspectors labeled its “cattle market culture.” (They also found that female staff were paid 45 percent less than their male counterparts.)

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Warren Buffett

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The head of MSI's South African chapter boasted in 2007 before a British audience that "we do illegal abortions all over the world." It got so bad that Zambia kicked MSI out of the country in 2012 for carrying out 490 illegal abortions. A former MSI staffer admitted that the group performed illegal abortions in Uganda under cover of providing birth control services. Pro-life activists report similar evils in Tanzania.

Kenya, whose constitution stipulates that "the life of a person begins at conception," has barred MSI from offering abortions in-country. In 2020, however, Kenyan police caught MSI pitching the decomposing corpses of 10 babies illegally aborted by unregistered MSI practitioners into a Nairobi dumpster. The men were arrested and the facility shut down.

It's likely that most, if not all, of the \$536 million paid to MSI's U.S. arm by Buffett family foundations went to fund countless abortions in the U.K. and Africa. And you're paying for it, too—USAID, our government's foreign aid arm, has distributed at least \$187 million to MSI and its African affiliates since 2010. It's also raked in \$455 million from the British government since 2009.

Another under-the-radar group is Pathfinder International, which used its funding to overturn the Trump administration's Mexico City Policy—a ban on federal funding of groups that perform abortions overseas created by Ronald Reagan and overturned by every Democratic president and reinstated by every Republican president since then.

In the past decade, Pathfinder used close to \$1 billion from USAID to abort Africans, Asians, and Latin Americans and push looser abortion policies in poor countries. Pathfinder was seeded in the 1950s by Clarence Gamble, heir to the Procter & Gamble soap fortune, himself a committed eugenicist and ally of Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger who sat on the group's board. Many are familiar with Sanger's "Negro Project of the South" to expand birth control and abortion to southern blacks; few realize she got the idea from Clarence Gamble, the project's funder.

EngenderHealth is a little-known group that provides abortions in poor countries. Even less well-known is its original name: The Sterilization League of New Jersey, one of a crop of sterilization advocacy groups created by eugenicists in the 1930s (more on that later).

Then there's Gynuity Health Projects, a New York nonprofit that conducts horrifying experiments on women in Burkina Faso, a destitute West African country (GDP per person: \$715). Gynuity provides mail-order abortifacients in the U.S. designed to induce a miscarriage in the first trimester; the drugs tested in Africa would extend that to the second trimester (28 weeks). Excessive bleeding is a common side effect, requiring large quantities of blood bags to avoid lethal hemorrhaging. The Susan Thompson Buffett and Gates Foundations are Gynuity's top identified donors.

Advocates for Youth is one of the lead transgender groups grooming schoolchildren for gay sex, pedophilia, and HIV—thanks to \$29 million from Buffett. We've recorded its vision for sex education in classrooms, which includes teaching second-graders about sexual consent, fifth-graders about "trusted adults" whom they "can talk to about relationships" (invariably sexual), and tenth-graders about the latest medical breakthroughs that make living with HIV tolerable.

Buffett family foundations are also top donors to Arabella Advisors' \$1.6 billion "dark money" network, the most powerful leftist lobbying force in the country. We've traced \$215 million to Arabella's New Venture Fund and Hopewell Fund from Buffett family foundations. In fact, the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation may be the largest single donor to the Hopewell Fund. It's likely that much of that money was passed through to activist groups such as Planned Parenthood and MSI, but a big portion funded Arabella's own in-house "pop-up" abortion fronts.

What's amazing is how much the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation downplays its support for these causes. The simple website (BuffettScholarships.org) advertises grants for Nebraska college students, nothing more; visitors are sternly told that "other inquiries" will be ignored. That includes the left-leaning media such as *Inside Philanthropy*, which noted in 2020 that the Buffett Foundation often includes a "funding stipulation" against grantees talking with the media.

Yet it's believed that the 91-year-old Warren may leave as much as \$100 billion to his family foundations to bankroll abortion groups after he dies—grimly satisfying his Giving Pledge to support "philanthropy."

Aborting the Third World

Amazingly, the billions Warren Buffett has shelled out to his family foundations pales in comparison to the nearly \$33 billion he's funneled into the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation since 2006, accounting for 39 percent of its total revenues. Those days may be at an end since Bill and Melinda's divorce, however, which prompted Buffett to resign from the board.

The Gates Foundation is famous for funding numerous public health campaigns, including development and dissemination of the COVID-19 mRNA vaccine. It also deserves notoriety as one of the world's top funders of global population control measures in developing countries.

We've traced \$107 million from the Gates Foundation to Planned Parenthood; \$112 million to Marie Stopes International; \$17 million to the Guttmacher Institute; and \$22 million to Ipas.

But that's nothing compared to the \$5.5 billion paid by the foundation to the World Health Organization, which considers abortion access essential to a woman's "state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being." In fact, pro-abortion groups routinely lobby for federal laws to enshrine abortion rights in the U.S. Constitution and preempt state restrictions "in accordance with the 2022 World Health Organization Abortion Care guidelines."

We've also traced \$862 million from Gates to a spat of organizations that support global depopulation, in part through abortion, sterilization, and mass contraception: the Population Council, Population Reference Bureau, Population Services International, Population Foundation of India, Population Action International, and the United Nations Population Fund.

The last of these is closely aligned with the UN's Family Planning 2020 campaign, whose top private donor is the Gates Foundation. (Sadly, you're also paying for it through USAID.)

The campaign's objective was extending "reproductive health and rights" to 120 million people in poor countries by the end of 2020, in part by loosening local abortion laws. Planned Parenthood, Marie Stopes International, and other pro-abortion groups are members. When the campaign failed to meet its goal, it simply readjusted—meet Family Planning 2030, which has expanded its scope to include altering "gender norms" (read: gay marriage), "inclusivity of all genders," and promoting local "feminist movements."

Hayden Ludwig is the Director of Policy Research at Restoration of America, where this column originally appeared.

—LifeNews.com, August 29, 2023

CITIZENS CONCERNED FOR
HUMAN LIFE
CAMBRIA-SOMERSET CHAPTER

2023 ANNUAL PRO-LIFE PRAYER BREAKFAST



with key note speaker **AL LINDSAY**

Al has been an advocate for the defenseless unborn since Roe v. Wade removed legal protection for our most vulnerable citizens in 1973.

SATURDAY

**OCT
28**

9:00 AM



NEW GERMANY GROVE HALL

1635 NEW GERMANY RD, SUMMERHILL, PA



DONATION REQUESTED: **\$15/TICKET**



For reservations and ticket information, contact

Ann Poole at 814-472-8584 or Steve Dillon at 814-241-2772
(CALL OR TEXT)

LEARN MORE AT PROLIFECAMBRIASOMERSET.ORG



*All who are genuinely committed to the advancement of women
can and must offer a woman or a girl who is pregnant, frightened, and alone
a better alternative than the destruction of her own unborn child.*

~ Mary Ann Glendon, 4th World Conference on Women, Beijing, September 5, 1995 ~

The time is now to stand up for pregnant women and for Real Alternatives

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

Nearly 350,000. That's how many Pennsylvania women have been served through the groundbreaking program administered by Real Alternatives, Inc.

Imagine if those women—enough to populate a city—had gone without the vital services provided by PA's Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services program. At a most vulnerable time in their lives they would have been left without a caring, compassionate counselor to walk with them through their pregnancy journey.

I know personally of a woman served by the program who was kicked out of her family home because of her pregnancy. Scared and alone, she turned to a Real Alternatives center. She was able to locate temporary housing, graduate to a permanent home, and give birth to a handsome baby boy.

Other women have escaped a domestic violence situation...while still others have earned GEDs and college degrees as a result of the support provided by the program. Real Alternatives provided them with a bridge to prenatal care, child immunizations, and well baby care.

Imagine if all of that assistance were wiped out.

That is what would be the effect of Governor Josh Shapiro's plan to rescind Real Alternatives' contract with the Commonwealth. Innocent women and their families would be punished under this proposal.

The time is now to stand up for pregnant women and for Real Alternatives. Please take action to safeguard these most vulnerable Pennsylvanians.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Please call Governor Shapiro's office and ask that he reverse his decision to cancel Real Alternatives' contract. The number to call is: 717-787-2500.

2. Please email and call your state representative and state senator and urge them to take action to stop Real Alternatives' contract from being cancelled.

—Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, August 9, 2023



Thank you, for your pro-life witness!



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

Fall 2023; Vol. 15, No. 4
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

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: rachelsvineyard.org/

Family Life

Diocese of Altoona/Johnstown
Pastoral Guidance
814-886-5551; familylife@dioceseaj.org

2023 Celebrate Life Banquet

Our Very Special Guest

Raymond Arroyo

FOX News Contributor

Co-Host, FOX Nation's *Laura & Raymond*

EWTN News *Founding News Director & Lead Anchor*

PENNSYLVANIA
PRO-LIFE
FEDERATION

There's always a reason to choose life.™



Check-in begins 4:30 p.m. Doors open 5:00 p.m. Banquet begins 5:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28 - Hershey Lodge & Convention Center
REGISTER TODAY at www.paprolife.org/banquet



Seats & Sponsorships Available Today! Hurry...This Promises to Be A Sell-Out Event!

• TO BENEFIT THE LIFESAVING WORK OF THE PA PRO-LIFE FEDERATION EDUCATION FUND •
NOTE LOCATION: HERSHEY LODGE & CONVENTION CENTER • 325 UNIVERSITY DRIVE, HERSHEY, PA 17033

2023 Oratory Contest Winners

Printed below are the entries of Third and Fourth-Place Senior Varsity and Third-Place Junior Varsity winners, Helena Sicree, Bridgette Miller and Adrianna Levri, respectively. First and Second-Place winning presentations were highlighted in the Spring and Summer 2023 issues of *Blair Life News*. **Helena Sicree** is currently a senior who is homeschooled; she is the daughter of Andrew and Rebecca Sicree of Boalsburg. Helena was awarded \$125. **Bridgette Miller**, of Altoona, is a senior at Great Commission Schools. She is the daughter of Naomibell Miller and was awarded \$100. **Adrianna Levri**, also of Altoona, is a sophomore who is homeschooled. Her parents are Ed and Maureen Levri. Adrianna was awarded \$75 for her Third-Place Junior Varsity entry. Well done, students!

You're Not Alone

By Helena Sicree, Third-Place Senior Varsity Winner



The hypocrisy is hilarious, in a morbid sort of way. Those for abortion claim that they're pro-woman, with how they support and empower women without judgement or condemnation. Frankly, they do no such thing. On the other hand, people look at the pro-life side and accuse pro-lifers of only caring about the unborn baby, and condemning women for getting pregnant, especially if it's out of wedlock. That...isn't true either. Contrary to popular belief, it is the pro-life side which is there for expecting women. The pro-lifers are the ones helping women, reassuring them that they are not alone, even if the women have had an abortion.

For instance, the Life Choices Women's Clinic in Arizona is a pro-life clinic that gives expecting mothers the medical care and pregnancy support they need, regardless of whether they can pay or not. One woman, who did not give her name, told of how she was on her way to get an abortion at Planned Parenthood, since she was alone and afraid and wanted her pregnancy over with, but then she was stopped along the way by a sidewalk counsellor. To be honest, she thought the counsellor, Lynn, was going to say she was a horrible person, and so she was pleasantly surprised when the lady spoke kindly instead. Lynn asked her to reconsider her abortion, and after hearing what mess the expecting mother was going through, she encouraged the distraught woman to come with her to the Life Choices Women's Clinic.

At the clinic, the mother met the ultrasound technician, Cassandra, who, according to her, was, "...so positive and filled with joy that I started feeling better and felt that I could trust these people." As she was getting the ultrasound, she saw her son wave to her; a moment that Cassandra captured in a priceless photo for the mother. After that, the woman went through with her pregnancy, and though it was difficult since she was sick with COVID, among other complications, her son was born and things got much better. In retrospect, the woman says that she was very happy to be brought to the pro-life clinic, stating that, "...I would have had a struggle providing [my son] with all the things a baby needs, but the clinic has helped me with everything. I am no longer afraid because I am no longer alone. I have made friends that I will treasure forever and last a lifetime." Sad to say, even though this woman got the love and support she needed during her pregnancy, thanks to a pro-life women's clinic, there are many mothers out there who do not receive this treatment and thus feel isolated, turning to abortion because they know of no other option.

Take Noelle. After being tricked by her boyfriend into prostitution, abused by him when she tried looking for a different job, Noelle found herself pregnant a year into their "relationship." She was...excited despite everything. A little scared to be a mother at a young age, but nevertheless, she was looking forward to it. Unfortunately, her boyfriend did not think likewise. One night, she felt unwell, so she stayed home, only for her boyfriend to take the opportunity to have a "serious discussion" with her, something which usually resulted in physical abuse. He told her that he'd decided that she was to get an abortion, and when she disagreed, he began pushing, hitting, and kicking her. As Noelle tells it, "He let me know he was going to beat the baby out of me unless I agreed to the abortion. I was so weak. I wish I'd had the strength to leave." Noelle...had an abortion. She simply says, "I took my baby's life...I would have a beautiful child of God whom I had helped create, if only I'd had someone to talk to, someone who would listen—someone to tell me that 15 years later, I would still be crying for my sweet baby..."

This is a tragedy. There is no other way to put it. That a woman, pressured by the people around her, believing that she has no one to turn to for help, would make such a grave decision. Fortunately, there are many organizations and systems that pro-lifers have set up to help pregnant women, which is something that those who support abortion, supposedly supporting women, have not done. There are hundreds of resources available across the country, in-person, online, and only a phone call away. Abortion pill reversals are available, as well as pregnancy centers such as Heartbeat International or the Sisters of Life in New York. Adoption help centers, housing and financial help organizations, and websites providing free aid to single and teenage mothers have spread all across America.

Especially with the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, and how abortion legality has been passed down to the states, it is more important than ever to spread awareness that there are people who want to fight for expecting women, who want to help women, every step of the way. This is how we can help. This is how we can prevent tragedies. We must extend a hand to all, proudly declaring, "*You are not alone.*" ♦

Abortion is Not as Good as Some Think

By Bridgette Miller, Fourth-Place Senior Varsity Winner



Have you ever had a piece of fruit just sitting on your counter? At first it's not so bad, it's not the greatest color but it doesn't really affect you yet. However, as the days progress, it becomes a darker and moldier color, it may start to smell or attract bugs. The obvious thing to do would be to just throw it out.

Take a few extra seconds out of your day, pick it up, maybe with some gloves and get rid of it. It's a problem and what do people do with problems? They get rid of them. They get rid of them with the solution that they think is the fastest, cheapest and that will use the least amount of energy.

That's kind of what abortions are like, but instead of an old banana rotting into a brown mass, it's a human life forming in the mother's womb. However, to some ladies this may be a problem. What do we do with problems? We get rid of them. To them an abortion may seem like the only option. They may be a sixteen-year-old girl who got into the wrong situation with a boyfriend or a wife who simply doesn't want another responsibility. Abortion may seem like the fastest, cheapest and lowest-energy solution, but in reality, it's the slowest, most expensive and energy draining thing they will ever do.

Abby Johnson wrote the book *Unplanned*, which is an account of her working in the abortion industry and finding the truth in an unsuspecting way. Not only did she counsel women before they had abortions, but she also had two herself. As a 20-year-old, she had her first abortion after making some poor decisions with her boyfriend who was eight years older and conveniently knew exactly the place to get an abortion. Her boyfriend, Mark, told her that after one appointment, the problem would be solved. This whole situation is filled with lies. It is not the truth. That was lie number one. That it would be fast. One appointment and this "problem" would be gone forever. No aftermath, no consequences, no emotional heartbreaks. That was not the case. Lie number two—it's cheap. Abby had to apply for her first credit card to pay the 500 dollar abortion fee. One time Abby's boss announced to the company that they would be doubling the number of abortions given for the next year. Abby exclaimed, "But we are a nonprofit," and her boss replied, "Abby, nonprofit is a tax status, not a business status." She was then instructed to get her priorities straight and get revenue up. Lie number three, it's easy and takes little to no effort, in the moment and the future. During the procedure, they are lightly sedated and laying in an uncomfortable hospital bed. After the procedure to get rid of this problem they are put in a room with hard chairs. She said there were girls in their rocking, adjusting trying to find a comfortable position,

while crying from emotional or physical pain. It was not pain free as advertised. After this abortion, she locked this experience in a box and locked it inside of herself to never be opened again.

She had another abortion before she was about to divorce Mark, the father of the previously aborted baby. This time she took a pill. She took one at the clinic where that pill separates the pregnancy from the lining of the uterus. They also gave her an antibiotic and a painkiller. She was told that she would pass the fetus within 6-8 hours and it would all be gone within 48 hours. It was not. It took 8 miserable weeks to complete the process. She had excruciating cramping, a high fever, and was essentially bleeding out. It did not stop for eight weeks. She laid in bed miserable and determined to not call the doctor in the midst of shame and guilt. This process took everything out of her and was not cheap, fast, or easy. After Abby had the abortion she had thoughts that crept into her mind such as there was already a baby inside of her. Not some clump of cells or tissue to get rid of. Not some illness that needed "cured." Medical procedures can get rid of things. Abortions get rid of lives.

Not only are the staff at abortion clinics blinded from the reality of what human life is, so are the women who come in seeking refuge. Abby was a counselor for a clinic in Bryan, Texas and she heard many questions like Can it feel pain? Does it feel pain? Is it alive? The counselors are instructed on speaking lies to these women. Not the truth. Are abortions fair to all concerned? No, they are not. The parents are dealt with emotional pain and guilt for the rest of their lives. Their child is dead. Is that fair to them? Did they ever get a choice? Will this build goodwill and better friendships? Absolutely not—this tears down relationships. The parents may disagree about whether an abortion is right or not, the parents of the couple may disagree and not talk to them anymore. They will never have a friendship with that child. This will not be beneficial to all concerned. How will the baby be benefited if he's dead? How will the parents and their family members be benefited from this? Everyone will be affected by this.

You have the decision to throw away that rotting banana. Throwing away that clump of cells is not as easy as some may say it is. Instead of throwing away that bad banana, use it as an advantage, make banana bread. Instead of "getting rid" of that baby, use the opportunity to benefit another family. You can always give him/her to a loving family to adopt. ♦

◆◆◆
Thank you, Lord,
for this sweet life.
Give me eyes to see
the sheer beauty,
the magnificence,
of creation...

~ Louis Lotz ~

Pro-Life, Pro-People

By *Adrianna Levari, Third-Place Junior Varsity Winner*



Gianna Beretta's life began in a town called Magenta in Italy on October 4th, 1922. She was a Christian from a very young age and later in life chose a medical profession and earned degrees in medicine and surgery. She was very experienced in the field and specialized in giving care to mothers, children and the elderly. In 1955 at

the age of 33 she became the happy wife to a man named Pietro Molla and they had three kids.

While pregnant with her fourth child, a fibroma developed on her uterus. She knew that a surgery to take care of it would put her child in danger, so she refused to have the operation until the baby was delivered. In the last months of her pregnancy, she continued to devote herself to her work as a doctor and mother. She prayed often to God that the baby would not be born in pain. Days before the due date, she was ready to give her life for her baby. She said, "If you must choose between me and the child, do not hesitate; save the child. I insist on it." On April 21st, 1962, she gave birth to Gianna Emanuela. One week later she died in great pain due to the fibroma.

Now, while writing this, I've learned that Gianna is my new favorite saint. Plus, the town she was born in just so happens to be my favorite color. God put her in the exact places she needed to be, in order to understand her situation enough to take the actions she did.

For one, she went to medical school, so she knew when life starts and what would hurt her baby, so she could avoid it. No one can argue that she didn't know what she was doing when she sacrificed her safety for that of her daughter's. Two, she had three kids prior to Gianna Emanuela, she knew the value of life. Three, she worked around other mothers, and someone as kind as she was doesn't work with people without swapping some stories of things they have in common. She must've heard plenty of things concerning young children and other people's opinions on if having kids was worth it or not.

So, what I'm trying to get across is that she really did know exactly what she was doing. She was given the option to abort the baby and refused all throughout her pregnancy. Again, she told the doctor to save the baby's life over hers if it came down to it. Wow! Even today, her daughter is telling her story to the world, and recently announced the making of a pilgrimage center in the U.S.

She is one of many babies whose lives were threatened by abortion, survived, and later turned out to be totally amazing people. Fun fact, it was recommended to Mr. and Mrs. Wojtyla to abort their baby in 1920. They refused. And that baby grew to become the man we now know as Saint Pope John Paul II. On a similar note, in 1931 it was suggested in a Catholic hospital, to my Catholic great-grandparents

to abort my grandfather. Thank God they didn't. He grew into a wonderful man with eight children, one of whom I now know as Mom.

Moving to a new topic, I once read the following pro-choice argument: you're in a building that is on fire. You don't have much time before the flames consume the room. You run down the hallway to the exit. You then hear a child screaming in another room, you throw open the door to find a 5-year-old kid screaming for help. The kid is in one corner of the room, in the other corner is a frozen container labeled "1000 viable human embryos." As in, preborn babies. The smoke is rising, and you only have time to save one before you die, and no one is saved.

Do you A) save the child, or B) save the embryos? The person making the argument said they never got a straight A or B answer because quote, "They will never answer honestly because we all instinctively understand the right answer is 'A.' A human child is worth more than a thousand embryos, even a million, because they're not the same." End quote. And I don't have a straight A or B answer, but I do have a counter argument.

In this fictional scene, it is choosing between a five-year-old and a whole lot of embryos, but in real life is it really an either-or situation? Why can't we save the embryos as well as the kid? We're not here to debate which is worth more. Both are alive and human, and both are worth protecting. And both are worth more than many sparrows. Neither should be killed for someone else's convenience.

Would Jesus leave the 99 for an embryo? Allow me to bring a fictional character into the picture. Let's call him Jimmy. God loves Jimmy just as much as he loves the rest of the world, he would certainly leave the 99 for him. And Jimmy was once an embryo. So, if we stick to the truth that his value in God's eyes never goes up or down, than yes, Jesus would absolutely go on Cavalry all over again for an unborn Jimmy. To quote Jeremiah 1:5, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart." God has had a plan for every single person since he created the world. And he thought the earth would not be complete without any one of us, including the unborn.

This threat to life is a very real thing, and it's taken tens of millions of lives since being legalized. Those lives can never be replaced, but let's hope we can keep more babies from being murdered. People are wondering why there's an epidemic of loneliness in our country. Maybe it's because there should be more people here that were never born. About 65 million, to be exact. ♦



**I'm sorry you won't have
a first day of school
or a Christmas morning...
I'm sorry you never
got a chance...**

#Abort73



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Celebrate the birth of Our Lord and the Giver of Life, and at the same time, help our fundraising efforts. Your purchase supports the pro-life work of the Blair County Chapter of Citizens Concerned for Human Life. To place an order or for more information, call **Pat 814-946-0681** or **Marge 814-505-5025**.



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Verse: *So holy His moment of birth
So wondrous this Gift of Life
When Love was born on earth.
May the Lord of Life
bless you this Christmas
and throughout the coming year.*

Light of the World

This card portrays the Nativity scene in silhouette against a night-time Bethlehem backdrop. Borders and text are in gold foil on brilliant shades of red and blue. White envelopes are included.

Actual size: 6^{3/4}" x 4^{7/8}" - \$9.00 per pkg. of 11

Verse: *Wishing you the blessings and joys
of Christmas and a New Year
filled with peace and happiness.*



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Physician Assisted Suicide is a Danger to Everyone

By Karl Benzio, MD, Psychiatrist

As a psychiatrist for 33 years, I've successfully cared for thousands of patients, many critically or terminally ill. I've also been blessed to help those experiencing severe trauma in Kenya, Uganda, and Iraq, as well as Ukrainian refugees in Poland. I see desperate people with unimaginable physical, psychological, and / or spiritual pain and realize that contemplating suicide is complex, never occurring lightly.

Nevertheless, allowing anyone, particularly a physician, to help kill a person is dangerous to patients, dangerous to doctors, dangerous to the healthcare system, and dangerous to society. Especially because better and safer options exist. The real solution needs to combine proper expertise with true compassion.

We don't have to kill the patient to kill the suffering

The most immediate danger of Physician Assisted Suicide (PAS) is obviously to patients. Suicidal people have impaired thinking and distorted judgment leading to compromised decision-making. This contradicts the PAS backers' claim that suicide can be "rational." All my training has been to equip me to help stop suicide. In fact, every state compassionately implements laws to detain suicidal people against their will, ensuring life-saving protection, then treatment until suicidal intent is gone.

Suicidal people experience significant psychological and spiritual pain. They desire shortcuts to numb it. Callous, insensitive, or unaware people reduce a suicidal patient's value to that of a suffering pet and propose "mercy" killing them. But people with real compassion, recognizing the suicidal person's humanity and value, come alongside to bear their burden with them. They provide protection, love, hope, connection, affirmation, forgiveness, value, and purpose coupled with sound psychiatric evaluation and treatment by trained, ethical professionals.

Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem. Suicidality is very treatable, but severe cases require a truly holistic spirit-mind-body approach. PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), depression, and hopelessness from underlying PsychoSpiritual struggles precipitate suicide intent. We don't have to kill the patient to kill the suffering; we just need to provide real compassion and expert treatment.

Our impatient and all-knowing society selfishly imposes premature finish lines. We often leave at halftime and miss the great comeback, or at intermission and miss the show's awesome turnaround climax. All life's seasons are valuable, especially the last one. Great relational, spiritual, and psychological richness to the individual and loved ones comes from our last days. We've all seen people persevere past hospice predictions, be outright cured, or reconciled with an estranged family member. I have treated many suicidal patients, who, after their attempt, or being stopped from killing themselves, then appropriately treated, were grateful for the prolonged and now enjoyable life they were blessed to live. Don't rob people by imposing a premature and permanent finish line.

PAS – an abyss of catastrophe

If a person really wants to kill himself or herself, I can't stop them. But, if suicide is truly honorable and the goal of PAS legislation is true autonomy, a suicidal person should not need to involve anyone else, especially a physician—a trained healer vowed in their Hippocratic Oath to not give anyone "poison" (a.k.a. "a deadly drug") to kill themselves. Bringing in another person reveals ambivalence and fear about their tragic decision. PAS ignores the patient's ambivalence. It also critically endangers the doctor-patient relationship by undermining the bedrock trust patients and society need to have in their doctors, into whose hands they entrust their lives and whose voices protect the voiceless.

Many other dangers exist in PAS. For instance, in Oregon there has been a dramatic increase in suicides since PAS was legalized there in 1997. In several countries, people are euthanized without their consent, even children without parents' consent. PAS laws do not require vital documentation of death. Instead, they actually mandate falsifying the death certificate in order to not reveal suicide as the cause of death. Sadly, PAS has been expanded to allow its implementation for even non-terminal conditions. The PAS slippery slope ends in an abyss of catastrophe and destruction.

Lastly, when laws allow people to kill other people, why are we surprised that all types of violence have dramatically increased in the last 12 years. Make a stand for what's right. Protect the lives of others as you may need protection someday.

Please think about this. Which kind of society would you like to live in? The society that comes alongside, extending compassion, hope, possibility, connection, and love—demonstrating, especially to our youth, that we value every person's life? Or the society that is cold, callous, and sci-fi like; treating people like commodities; terminating them quickly, cheaply, and quietly without documentation, conscience, or accountability? Wisdom should lead us to decide on the side of caution and morality, to protect life when evaluating policies with deadly and long-reaching tentacles.

—Kbenzio@gmail.com

The Halo Voice, A Voice for the Medically Vulnerable; Helpline: 888-221-4256; www.halovoice.org
HALO (Healthcare Advocacy and Leadership Organization)—"Defending the lives and safety of persons facing the grave consequences of healthcare rationing and unethical practices, especially those at risk of euthanasia and assisted suicide."



Without God, what am I but a guide to my own destruction. ~ St. Augustine

From the President's Desk

A Visit From a Two-Year-Old

This past week, my daughter Mary's husband had a business trip to Texas. Mary decided it would be a good time to return home for a few days with her two-year-old son and newborn baby.

What an education we got from the visit with Joseph and baby Pia. Joseph had boundless energy from 6:30 a.m. until after lunch when he took a nap and then again until 7:30 p.m. when he got his bath and had a bedtime story read to him.

His six-week-old sister was much calmer, alternating between feedings, tummy time, Grammy or Aunt Marita-time and sleep.

Joseph had an interesting agenda. He is fascinated by construction equipment. Luckily, his PapPap had bought a wooden truck, trailer with an excavator attached. Joe was in his glory.

In the spring, Joe helped his mother and grandmother plant petunias with a begonia in the middle of our planter. Fortunately for us, the begonia died leaving a bare spot between the petunias. Joe discovered this spot, found a shovel to go along with his toy excavator where he could dig, dig, dig or use his excavator to move dirt. This went on for hours each day. However, Joe did not want to dig alone, he needed PapPap, ReRe or Grammy to dig with him using tools he discovered in the garage. The digging was Joe's main occupation for the week, always accompanied by an assistant.

Joe's pronunciation of words was not perfect, but a good listener could generally make out what he was saying with clues from his mother.



Joe's love for life and people is contagious. His mother and constant companion for two years often stated, "if only people knew how much fun a small child can be."

Joe and Pia gave their grandparents and aunt a new outlook on life. I wonder how many grandparents and aunts have been robbed of that love and joy by the financial contributions of Warren Buffett and his friends.

We should say a prayer that some of their millions could be used to allow more grandparents to feel the love and

joy that only a child can bring to their lives.

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

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On National LIFE CHAIN Sunday, hundreds of thousands of participants silently stand in peaceful, prayerful witness to their commitment to love and protect the unborn and their mothers. LIFE CHAIN challenges the community to be aware and to care. The signs we hold deliver the messages that **Abortion Kills Children • Adoption is the Loving Option • Abortion Hurts Women • Pray to End Abortion • Lord, Forgive Us and Our Nation • Life—The First Inalienable Right • Jesus Forgives & Heals**. This peaceful, prayerful event provides a visual statement of pro-life unity to passersby. Signs will be provided. Please join us! For more information, call **814-946-0681**.

