

Spiritus 2013 – You are now a witness

More than 200 people attended the 2013 *Spiritus* banquet to support the work and mission of Greater Columbus Right to Life and to hear the Reverend Walter Hoye's story: from his introduction to sidewalk prayer to his growing ministry of helping women outside a California abortion clinic and his ultimate arrest and jail sentence. His crime? Holding a sign that said "Jesus Luvs U and Ur baby." Today, Walter is a powerful speaker who has helped to unite Americans, regardless of race or religion, in the defense of the unborn.

Walter shared his steadfast determination: when clinic workers tried to block him and his sign, they drew more attention to his efforts to help women and increased the number of prolife volunteers who went out. In response, the clinic persuaded the city to enact a law in an effort to stop him and others from sharing their message outside the clinic. *Walter shared his persistence:* Convinced that the law was unjust, he continued to lovingly minister to women outside the clinic. He was subsequently arrested, convicted, and jailed for 18 days before being released and taking his message to the world. *Walter also shared his two-fold message:* Sidewalk Counseling is desperately needed in our community, and we need to be especially committed to ending violence in the womb – especially the genocide that is happening in the African American community. Abortion continues to disproportionately impact the African American community. For example, in Franklin County, only 21% of the total population is black, but more than 40% of the abortions are performed on black women.

Walter's unique message was especially meaningful as GCRTL's Sidewalk Counseling program enters its second year. As we are seeing our program grow, we are seeing women walk away from their abortions in unprecedented numbers – 70 so far this year! In fact, we were especially delighted to have some special guests at *Spiritus 2013*: a mom we met outside of Founder's, her older daughter, and her two-month old son who was born because his mother was empowered to leave the clinic that cold winter Saturday. We thank God that our volunteers were able to be there for this woman, that we were able to walk with her to a pregnancy resource center, and that we have been able to help connect her to resources in the prolife movement as she gets back on her feet.



Photo: Brien Vincent
 Visit us online to see more photos
 from *Spiritus 2013: Jailed for Life*



Mark Wolf 2013 Defender of Life
 Photo: Brien Vincent

Defender of Life and President's Award

Each year, GCRTL recognizes a volunteer in the central Ohio prolife movement who has gone above and beyond in his or her dedication to the defense of Life. The community is invited to nominate an individual, who can be active with any local organization. This year, Mark Wolf was awarded the Defender of Life. Mark is a GCRTL Sidewalk Counselor who has traveled the country volunteering with various prolife groups such as the Center for Bioethical Reform. He was described as the "Papa Bear" of the sidewalk counselors, a strong man of faith, and a tremendous mentor who is equally passionate about spreading the Gospel, protecting the unborn, and caring for the elderly and the ill in his nominations. Congratulations, Mark!

Greater Columbus Right to Life President Mike Keebaugh also recognized Tim Welsh, President and CEO of Pregnancy Decision Health Centers with the President's Award. Tim has been a great friend to Greater Columbus Right to Life, but he is better known for his efforts to unify the prolife community, his imaginative and innovative leadership, and his steadfast love for the "dear souls" served by PDHC – one of our local pregnancy resource centers. Thank you, Tim.

Spiritus is Greater Columbus Right to Life's major fundraiser for the year and we are grateful to the many people who helped make it a success. A special thank you to our major underwriters: Kurtz, Bros., Michael and Elaine Melliere, Columbus Equipment and Guadalupe Publishing. We also appreciate the volunteers who arrived early and stayed late to make sure everything ran smoothly: Cathi Ebling, Elaine Kent, Diane Vincent, Kim McGrothers, Bob Geisken, and his fellow Knights of Columbus, Wayne King, Bob Brehm, Joe Yondai and Mark Tranoyitch. As always, the staff at Villa Milano provided exemplary service and a lovely atmosphere. Last, but not least, we sincerely appreciate our guests who contributed to keeping the work of GCRTL going. *Spiritus* is our main source of funds to keep our projects and programs running.



Tim and Jo Welsh
 Photo: Brien Vincent

***If you were not able to join us at Spiritus, it is not too late.
 Make your tax-deductable donation via the enclosed envelope today and become a part of our 2020 Vision***

Celebration of Sidewalk Counseling

In the Spring of 2013, Greater Columbus Right to Life reached the milestone of training 100 Sidewalk Counselors to be a peaceful, loving presence at the three Central Ohio abortion Clinics in an effort to turn women away from the clinic and to a life-affirming pregnancy resource center.

As part of an effort to recognize, motivate, and inspire our dedicated team of Sidewalk Counselors, Greater Columbus Right to Life organized our first ever celebration of Sidewalk Counseling pinning ceremony and dessert reception, sponsored by Mangos Place, The Flag Lady, and Berwick Manor. Our sincere appreciation to the family and friends who came out to support our team of Sidewalk Counselors. To date, our program has trained 150 sidewalk counselors in central Ohio. Through the efforts of this phenomenal team of volunteers and a dedicated group of prayer partners, we are there for more clinic hours and days than ever before, and our efforts are having an impact. **From January 1 to September 30th of this year we have seen 70 women turn away from their abortions.** The vast majority of these women have walked away from the clinic and into one of the nearby pregnancy resource centers.



The GCRTL Sidewalk Counseling team join Walter and Lori Hoye at Spiritus. Pictured: Fr Klee, Mike Keebaugh, Paul Reif, Mark Wolf, Walter Hoye, Tina Bowie, Kim McGrothers, Angie Robbins, Edd Chinnock, Alycia Hartley, Diane Vincent, Tamra Reif, Lori Hoye, Tracy & Les King
Photo: Brien Vincent



Members of St. Michael's Parish kick off the 2013 Fall 40 Days campaign at Founders. They were joined by a woman who our SWC team helped to turn away from an abortion earlier this year, and her son. THANK YOU to everyone who has joined us this campaign. Photo: Kim McGrothers

40 Days for Life

The 40 Days for Life campaign started this year in a new place, with a new vision, and with some very special guests. For the first time since we started hosting 40 Days, we took our vigil to Founder's Women's clinic. Located downtown, Founder's was the first abortion clinic to open in Ohio. As we continue to pray for an end to abortion and actively turn women away from the clinic, we believe that with God's help and your service, it can be the next to close. We were also overjoyed to welcome the North American Director of Outreach for 40 Days for Life Campaign, Steve Karlen, to Columbus. Steve spoke to our volunteers and participants about the real difference that 40 Days is making in communities throughout America. Our thanks to St. Mary German Village and its Respect Life Committee who helped to sponsor Mr. Karlen's speech and refreshments!

40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life campaign with a vision to access God's power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil to end abortion. The mission of the campaign is to bring together the body of Christ in a spirit of unity during a focused 40 day campaign of prayer, fasting, and peaceful activism, with the purpose of repentance, to seek God's favor to turn hearts and minds from a culture of death to a culture of life, thus bringing an end to abortion.

Fall 2013 is the 11th campaign we've organized since 2007. More than 25 churches and groups help provide prayer coverage for the vigil by "adopting" a day and recruiting people to pray at the vigil site, and dozens of others participate through individual hourly vigils, but more people are needed! **Please join us as we pray for an end to abortion in Columbus.** The vigil is now through Nov 3rd. Learn more online at www.gcrtl.org.



Members of the OSU Prolife club join Martin, a local 40 Days participant who has committed to one hour every day through the campaign.

GCRTL Develops "PRAYERS" Sidewalk Prayer Model

We are frequently asked for guidelines and suggestions for someone who wants to start a small group or individual prayer time at an abortion clinic or other public place. In response, we have developed a summary of our prayer and counseling program called the PRAYERS model. It provides a quick, easy, and memorable way to help introduce people to prayer at the clinics or give them a "refresher" between trainings. We've combined the PRAYERS model with suggested topics of prayer and Bible passages for contemplation in a newly-available handout. To request copies of the PRAYERS model flyer, contact our office today or visit our website under the "resources" tab.



Voices for the Voiceless Prolife Youth Training



About 165 students and parents attended the Voices for the Voiceless prolife youth training conference hosted by Greater Columbus Right to Life, Crusaders for Life, The Brian Muha Memorial Foundation, and the Run the Race Club on September 29th. The event, which was the first of its kind in Central Ohio, was geared toward middle and high school students and their families. Thanks to the generous support of many in our community, we were able to offer the program at no charge. The youth participating were encouraged to bring diapers, wipes, and donations to support the work of local pregnancy resource centers (several of whom report shortages of diapers to give to the families they serve).

Youth in attendance heard from women and men who had been touched by an unplanned pregnancy or an abortion, each of whom shared a deeply personal story about parenthood, adoption, and the process of post-abortion healing and recovery. Between sessions, participants were able to visit booths staffed by many of the prolife organizations in Columbus, grab lunch and snacks, or simply hang out with others who shared their passion for protecting innocent human life. Participants were able to pick from five training sessions: Sidewalk Prayer and Counseling, Prolife Apologetics, Using Social Media to Share Your Message, Starting a ProLife Club at Your Church/School, and a special Parents' Roundtable discussion. Thanks to financial support from St. John Neumann and the St. John Neumann Youth Group, Bryan Kemper, head of Stand True Ministries was able to inspire the audience with his story – from rock and roll to prolife evangelist.

One 11th grader who participated in the Sidewalk breakout said his favorite part of the event was: "Listening to the speakers, because I love learning from people who are passionate about ending abortion." Another high school participant noted, "(My favorite part was)... the speakers. It doesn't matter which one, they were all phenomenal. I suppose I learned the effect abortion has not only to children and women, but the entire world. They spoke with fire; what they believed in. It gave me a deeper desire to fight, and I could tell that everyone in the room felt the same way... I survived Roe v Wade, but it will **not** survive me!" Our young people are passionate for life and determined to change the world; with our help they will!



Participants in the Sidewalk Prayer and Counseling breakout session are all-ears for Tina and Mark, two GCRTL Sidewalk Counselors

Sign our Petition: No Abortionists on Staff, No Abortion ASF Referrals at Mt. Carmel

Not a week goes by that we are not asked one of two questions: "Why is Mt. Carmel affiliated with certain abortion doctors?" and "Where can I go to ensure that I am not directly or indirectly supporting anyone in the abortion industry?"

Central Ohio is very fortunate to have some of the best medical care available to our community. Generally, between self-imposed restrictions (for example Mt. Carmel hospital systems with their identity as a Catholic entity) and state laws prohibiting most elective abortion procedures at state-affiliated hospitals (such as the Ohio State University), individuals who choose not to directly or indirectly support the abortion industry have been able to choose medical care in our community that aligns with their values. Furthermore, while some physicians affiliated with the Ohio State network have, separate from those practices, been involved with and outspoken in support of the local Planned Parenthood, this concern has traditionally been less of an issue with Mt. Carmel hospitals.

Recently, however, Mt. Carmel has not only granted privileges to several local abortion doctors, but appear to have placed those physicians on staff or openly refers patients to doctors who own and operate ambulatory surgical facilities performing abortions or who practice out of an office where abortions are performed. Greater Columbus Right to Life will be sending a respectful letter requesting that, in keeping with its prolife ethic, Mt. Carmel discontinue its affiliation with any physician who is an abortion provider and discontinue referring any patients to a facility where abortions are taking place. To learn more or join in this effort, visit our website at www.gcrtl.org/petition.

Enjoy this newsletter? Visit www.gcrtl.org to sign up for our e-news. About twice monthly, we send you relevant content, upcoming events and prayer requests from the field. You can also like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter and Pinterest!

Our thanks to Dee Printing, who generously prints this newsletter



This photo was taken at the 1986 Roe Rally at the Ohio Statehouse, recognizing the 19,000,000 babies who were lost to abortion. Almost 28 years later, that figure exceeds 57,000,000.

GCRTL History Project

In just a few months, Greater Columbus Right to Life will celebrate our 40th Anniversary! Through the efforts of some very special volunteers, we have been compiling highlights of the organization's leadership, accomplishments, and projects since our founding in 1975. If you have any photos, programs, materials, or memories that you'd like to contribute to our history project, we would love to get our hands on them (or a good quality copy of them)! Please send them to us via the US Mail, email them to Mary, our historian, at Mary@gcrtl.org, or give us a call to arrange pickup!

If this sounds like a fun project and you'd like to get involved, we are always excited to welcome new volunteers!

Meeting the Need

On October 1, the Ohio Department of Health released the 2012 abortion statistics. Much to our disappointment, both statewide and local abortion figures increased from 2011. We continue to be thankful that the total number of abortions in Ohio is at the second lowest since 1976, when record keeping began. Moreover, while central Ohio also saw a small increase in the number of abortions performed (an increase of 58), it was a strong reduction in the rate of growth that we've seen in recent years. Unfortunately, this still means that on average, 110 unborn babies are lost to abortion each and every week in our community. The report itself paints a picture of the women of Ohio and their unborn children, from which we can learn a few things about the women seeking abortions. We know that unmarried women are the most likely to have an abortion (83%), and half or more of women who seek abortion have one or more in their past (62%), this is especially true after the age of 25. We know that women who have abortions are likely to have one or more children living (62%). We know they are likely to have a high school degree or less (56%) or some college but not a degree (22%). We also know that *per capita* African American women are far more likely to have abortions. These statistics support the personal stories that we hear from women entering the clinics – many of them have chosen abortion because they feel alone, they feel unprepared, and they feel pressure from partners, family, and their circumstance to have the procedure. If the word “choice” implies “the ability to freely decide to perform one of several possible acts or to avoid action entirely,” the abortion industry is selling a false product.

There is a great need in our community. We need to continue working together in defense of innocent human life from the moment of conception until the moment of natural death. Greater Columbus Right to Life is steadfastly focused on our mission, and our efforts to teach this generation and the next to stand up in defense of life with a spirit of love. We need to train more sidewalk counselors to help empower women to walk away from their abortions. We need to organize more prayer vigils to bring about a transformation of our society – to turn it back to Life. We need to reach out to abortion workers and supporters in a way that speaks the truth but never forgets to be grounded in love. We need to join together in a way that welcomes individuals of all ages, races, faith backgrounds, and genders to join us in showing every woman in central Ohio that abortion is not her best or only choice, and that there are many here who love her and her baby and want to help them both.

Greater Columbus Right to Life is ready to help meet these needs, but we need your help. If you have not yet had the opportunity to join our supporters in 2013, please consider helping us to make our Membership 2013 goal or consider jump-starting our end-of-year appeal efforts with your tax-deductible gift.

Upcoming Events

40 Days for Life

Now through November 3

Founder's Women's Health Center
1243 E Broad Street
Columbus, 43205

www.40daysforlife.com/columbus

Sidewalk Counselor Training

Please register online or by phone

www.gcrtl.org/sidewalk-counseling

Saturday, November 2nd

GCRTL Training Center
665 E Dublin Granville Road
Columbus, OH 43229

Saturday, January 25th

Location To Be Announced

Roe Remembrance

41st Anniversary of Roe v Wade

Ohio Statehouse, West Plaza
January 22, 2013

12:00 PM

* Note: Bishop Campbell will celebrate the annual *Roe v Wade* Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral at 10:30 am.

Spiritus 2014

June 9, 2014

Villa Milano
1630 Schrock Road