

Dear Friends,

What a year it has been. I am so excited by the work that we have done in 2016. Just yesterday, one of our volunteers outside the clinic spoke to a woman who had just chosen life for her unborn child. Our volunteer asked the mom, who looked unsettled, if she was ok. The mom's response? "I'm good now that I've left that place." That place, in this instance was Founder's abortion clinic. Last week, I received a phone call from a woman who contacted our office in desperation this summer just days before she gave birth. She had struggled to find a home for herself and her baby early in her pregnancy, and with the help of friends and her own determination had found an apartment and a job. She was working 40+ hours a week into her 41st week of pregnancy (yes, beyond her due date), and she realized that the frail stability she had created was in jeopardy and would be depleted quickly to meet the baby's needs and her rent would go unpaid. We stepped up and helped her, and her note reports a happy and healthy little boy celebrating his four-month birthday. We also heard from the very first "turn away baby" we ever met, his mother reporting that she still thanks God every single day for the woman who talked to her and helped her choose life for her child; they forged a relationship that continues to this day—three and a half years later. That precious little boy may have been one of our very first turn-aways, but he is one of hundreds—nearly three hundred—whose mothers have turned away from the abortion clinic after meeting one of our sidewalk counselors, a program we've steadily grown since 2013. He is also one of more than 8,000 babies in central Ohio who has been spared from abortion since 2007, the year that we revamped our sidewalk prayer program, brought 40 Days for Life to Columbus, and have seen dramatic drops in abortion.



Our work is not limited to the earliest stages of life. In August, we were amazed at the unprecedented turnout for our first end-of-life discussion, with person after person saying, "Thank you for offering this training and this hope." The prospect of being able to host low and no cost legal clinics to help people with pro-life medical directives is an opportunity to meet a need in this community that is greater than I ever imagined and can help to dispel some of the tension and confusion that plagues ourselves and our families as we face death.

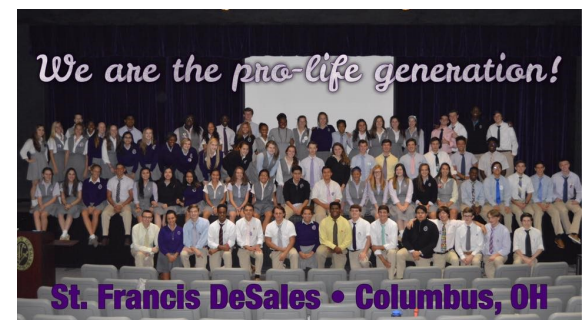
We have been able to bring noted speakers to central Ohio, such as Matt Walsh in June and more recently Obianuju "Uju" Ekeocha, founder and president of Culture of Life Africa. If you did not have the opportunity to hear Uju speak, you missed hearing from someone who is working to keep one of the last remaining places on earth that is not abortion-saturated from caving to the abortion-obsessed west. Listening to Uju speak about the women of her country and how they cherish each human life lifted my heart. I was so glad that we had the opportunity to help facilitate her trip and support the work that she does at Culture of Life Africa. To learn more about Uju's trip and our efforts to bring her back to Columbus, visit our website, at [www.gcrtl.org/meet-uju](http://www.gcrtl.org/meet-uju).

Of course, do not forget the individuals with whom we work each day, each growing in their faith and forming the bedrock of a community of people that is actively changing a culture to defend and protect every single human life.

I am excited to share our fall 2016 newsletter with you, but I do ask that you take a few moments to read the letter that I have enclosed. It is part of an urgent campaign to keep our work going. In it, I outline some of the challenges that we have faced this year—from outright fraud to unexpected and necessary expenses. As a result, we are facing a serious budget shortfall. If we do not make up this shortfall, we will have to reconsider maintaining a permanent office and full time staff. We are confident that God will provide and grateful that your stewardship will help us continue to be His hands and feet here in Columbus. May God bless us all this Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and into the New Year.

Always for Life,

*Beth*



*St. Francis DeSales students meet with Uju.*



## CITY ORDINANCE 1458

*City Council attempts to outlaw pro-life free speech*

Just days prior to our biggest fundraising event of the year, Greater Columbus Right to Life learned that the Columbus City Council was poised to enact a change to city law that would make it illegal to do anything that would “annoy or inconvenience” an abortion clinic owner, employee, patient, or other person within fifteen feet of the clinic property line, effectively excluding peaceful and prayerful pro-life individuals from standing outside of the clinic for prayer, protest, or sidewalk counseling.

GCRTL immediately mobilized against the effort, showing city leaders that the proposed law was redundant, unnecessary, and unconstitutional. Within ten days, our efforts resulted in more than 10,000 post cards, emails, and letters of opposition from central Ohio. The proposal was so egregiously unfair that even notoriously abortion-friendly groups like the ACLU stepped in to join our opposition. As a result, city-council accepted a last-minute amendment that revised the proposed penalties to simply state that anyone who intentionally engaged in activities such as assault or disturbing the peace (already illegal) at an abortion clinic would get a higher penalty. The move was clearly a “face-saving” effort by city council and its abortion-industry friends, and it is our opinion that the law will not in any way impact the work being done by GCRTL volunteers. We have provided extensive analysis, available on our website at [www.gcrtl.org/city-council](http://www.gcrtl.org/city-council).

The effort was costly, time-consuming, and exhausting for our team of staff and volunteers, but in the end it was worth it. It is very clear that the abortion industry in Columbus continues to fear the work that we are doing—not only the sidewalk counseling and prayer, where we have seen nearly 300 women turn away from their abortions in the past year, but also our investigative research into the practices at the clinic. Just weeks ago, GCRTL was able to identify nearly \$1,000,000 that Founder’s abortion clinic owes to local, state, and federal tax entities, information that we have shared with authorities and would-be customers. Learn more at [www.thisclinichurtswomen.com](http://www.thisclinichurtswomen.com).

*I would like to make a gift for Life*

Recipient information on reverse

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ check ☐ credit ☐ cash

CCV: \_\_\_\_\_ (3-4 digit security code on back)

\_\_\_\_\_ville Rd, St 115, Columbus OH 43229

Please return this card to GCRTL and provide gift card number.



Many of us work hard to find the perfect gifts for loved ones at Christmas, celebrating the gift of Life through the birth of a Savior. Increasingly, we are hearing that people are weary of the consumerism and commercialism that has taken over the holiday seasons, but they do not want to forgo the tradition altogether. If this sounds like you, or if you would like to do something more meaningful than a sweater or more personal than a gift basket, consider making a donation to Greater Columbus Right to Life in honor of a friend or loved one this year. We are making it easy and adorable with our precious Gift of Life Gift Cards! You can request your cards online at [www.gcrtl.org/Christmas](http://www.gcrtl.org/Christmas) or by requesting one from our office. It makes an especially thoughtful gift for that person who is downsizing, the stalwart prolife volunteer, or your pastor or priest. You can even give a gift in honor of the abortion clinic worker who you have especially been praying has a change of heart.

*Love the idea? We also have charitable gift card options for birthdays, retirements, anniversaries, and other special occasions. We can also work with you or your loved ones for memorial designations.*





Dear Friends,

On behalf of our board and volunteers, thank you for your support and friendship over the years.

Election years tend to be lean for nonprofits, a challenge which we were prepared to meet. This year, however, has been a year of spiritual, political, and financial attack against Greater Columbus Right to Life far beyond what we could have anticipated. From today through the end of the year, I need to raise at least \$20,000, if we are to continue our work in 2017.

I can't solve this problem on my own. So, I'm praying and asking for your help. My request is simple. **We are fighting a culture of death. It attacks the dignity of the human person from the womb by abortion. It takes advantage of those at the end of their lives via assisted suicide and euthanasia. It robs us of compassion for our fellow man at every stage of life and seeks to erode our consciences by attacking religious freedom and the family. If you want to stand up to this culture of death, and if you believe that integral to that effort is a community dedicated to prayer, education, and local advocacy working to change our culture, save our unborn, and protect our grandparents and the medically vulnerable, then I humbly ask that you help us, right now.**

There are a few reasons behind this struggle. Several individuals who have been able to provide larger gifts in the past have been forced to make significantly smaller gifts in 2016. Many have focused on electing pro-life candidates and judges. We are also reaching more churches, meeting more women at the abortion clinics, and offering more resources to a community that is bogged down with addiction, homelessness, hunger, and hopelessness. There are costs associated with each of these vital services, and we must continue to meet that demand.

Our banquet this year was very challenging. A last-minute need to change venue, a large number of no-shows, and other problems completely outside of our control – including a power outage at our banquet that impacted ONLY our building, meant that we did not meet our banquet fundraising goals. With nearly 200 no-shows at our banquet, it appears that a large number of individuals registered entire tables and provided false addresses, something that we can only attribute to an effort to derail our work.

You may have also heard of this summer's attempt by Columbus City Council to enact a local law that would ***make it illegal to do anything that annoys or inconveniences an abortion clinic*** employee, owner, or patient within fifteen feet of the clinic property lines. While we are grateful for the thousands who stepped up to help us stand up to City Council and we are thankful that our efforts were ultimately successful, the reality is that this effort cost us thousands of dollars beyond our budget.



Even today, the challenges continue. This fall, I was forced to file a complaint with the Ohio Attorney General after learning someone not affiliated with Greater Columbus Right to Life has approached churches and individuals, without our knowledge or consent, claiming to represent GCRTL for fundraising purposes.

It does not look like relief is forthcoming, either. Federal labor law amendments have an exception so narrow for small nonprofits that very few are likely to qualify; compliance will cost us thousands, a burden in addition to skyrocketing out of pocket healthcare costs. This and a hundred other things unmentioned all add up. It is unrelenting. If our board, our volunteers, or I were less committed, we would have already given up, but we are people of Hope, and we know that we are making an amazing difference in our community with a shoestring budget, a heart for life, and the commitment of our people.

I mentioned earlier that we are starting an urgent campaign to raise \$20,000. This amount will not only see us through to the end of the year, but it will allow us to pay deposits on contracts for spring and summer 2017 events, events which we are so excited to bring to Columbus. In addition to our normal programming, we look forward to the "Soles for Souls" memorial, hosting a pro-life legal clinic so that no one is prevented from having life-affirming medical directives by their finances, and fighting back against proposed laws to enact assisted suicide in our state.

I would like to focus entirely on the critical work of Greater Columbus Right to Life, but I cannot do that until we have the funds to keep helping the most vulnerable in our community. Please, if you value the work that we are doing, do not rely on another person or another time to help us meet this need. In the last month, I have worked double-time to raise almost half of the initial shortage that we faced. Now, we only need to raise \$10,000 of the shortage and \$10,000 of our normal year-end fundraising - \$20,000.

Please prayerfully consider if you can help us at this end of 2016 with your most generous gift, or opt to give the gift of life by arranging for one of our charitable and memorial gifts described in this newsletter. If that is not possible, pledging as little as \$10 a month will help us with a consistent and stable source of funds. You can donate directly to us with the enclosed envelope, you can give securely online at [www.gcrtl.org](http://www.gcrtl.org), or you can call me about a business or event sponsorship of one of our events. Donations to GCRTL are generally considered tax-deductible.

God Bless you. Please pray for us and the unborn.

Always for Life,



Beth Vanderkooi  
Executive Director  
Greater Columbus Right to Life

## END OF LIFE

In just a few months, we will be memorializing the 43rd year of nationalized abortion on demand under *Roe v Wade*. We have seen some moderate gains in state legislatures, many of them prompted by the Court's decision in *Planned Parenthood v Casey*, when the court acknowledged that the state has an interest in the life of the unborn child and can enact laws to protect its status once the unborn child has reached the point of viability—when it can live outside the womb. Some of this progress was turned back with the current Supreme Court's decision in the *Whole Health v Texas* decision, where the Supreme Court threw out health and safety regulations applied to abortion clinics if the consequence of the regulations had the effect of limiting access to abortion. The legal battles continue in courtrooms, in legislatures, and in conversations around the country. One thing is for certain: if today's pro-life community could go back to fight abortion beginning with the very first states where it was adopted, we would do so in a heartbeat. It is always easier to defend a just law than it is to defeat a bad one.

We have that opportunity today with respect to the lives of the elderly, infirm, aged, and otherwise vulnerable. It is a sad truth that after more than two generations of telling parents that they have the right to choose if their children live or die, it is children who are advocating for their parents, spouses, and selves a right to death. Six states (Oregon, Montana, California, Colorado, Vermont, and Washington), along with Washington DC have legal assisted suicide laws. Colorado proponents raised nearly \$5 million for the ballot issue adopted in November of 2016, which won by a 2-1 margin. Even as European proponents reconsider their support for the laws, the US continues to push forward and expand assisted suicide. Every indication is that Ohio is next. An Ohio-based "death with dignity" organization secured its nonprofit designation with the IRS in just one week last April; the group has organized speaking tours, media "educational" seminars; it is hosting events with major medical facilities; and it has identified lawmakers to introduce legislation in early 2017.

We need to stop this movement, keep it out of our state, and do everything we can to ensure that the courts will not force doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and hospitals to participate in this dangerous and deadly law. Here is what we are doing at GCRTL.

- We are increasing our educational efforts in the community and in churches. This fall, we've held two educational programs, with two more planned in early spring.
- We have available a great documentary produced by the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition which details the lessons learned from Europe and is easily paired with a short discussion for a one-hour program for your church or organization.
- We are actively preparing to respond to legislation, an effort that is extremely curtailed by a lack of funding. Please consider giving generously to our appeal for funds so that we can respond to this statewide effort as strongly and effectively as we did in our city council protest. You can learn more or Visit our webpage at [www.gcrtl.org/stop-ohio-euthanasia-law](http://www.gcrtl.org/stop-ohio-euthanasia-law).
- We are working closely with local pro-life attorneys in our Lawyers for Life initiative (see below).
- Each month, we are equipping our e-news recipients with up-to-date information, news, and programming. If you are not receiving this resource, consider returning the enclosed envelope with your email address, or visiting us online ([www.gcrtl.org](http://www.gcrtl.org)) to sign up.

It is also true that the threat to the dignity of human life at its end stages is not limited to assisted suicide and euthanasia. We are also working very diligently to ensure that the pro-life faithful of central Ohio have the opportunity to learn more about pro-life medical directives and be able to have them adopted properly by an attorney at no or low cost. One of our goals with this effort is to host a pro-life legal clinic that can assist folks with medical directives that respect their faith and their pro-life values. While we may not be able to turn back the clock on abortion, we have the opportunity to fight for the dignity of human life at its end stages, and we need to do it faithfully with dignity and love.

## LAWYERS FOR LIFE

Anyone wishing to have a pro-life medical directive like a healthcare power of attorney or other legal document should consult an attorney for assistance. We are working to build a coalition of "Lawyers for Life" who are willing

to take legal referrals as self-identified pro-life attorneys, who are otherwise willing to assist GCRTL within their specialty, or who are willing to assist us with an upcoming legal clinic to allow individuals to execute advanced directives at low or no cost. If you are interested in the referral list, volunteering at a legal clinic, or just learning a little more about what we are up to, please connect with us at [www.gcrtl.org/end-of-life](http://www.gcrtl.org/end-of-life).



## SOLES FOR SOULS

Now through January 15th, GCRTL is working to collect 4715 pairs of baby shoes and booties, from newborn to 9 months. Once successful, the shoes will be used for a traveling memorial to illustrate the impact of abortion in our community. To host a collection site, visit: [www.gcrtl.org/soles](http://www.gcrtl.org/soles).

## DEFENDER OF LIFE

Congratulations to the 2016 Defender of Life Award recipient, Lorraine Vance. Lorraine and her family are local pro-life stalwarts, active at both St. John Neumann and St. Patrick Churches. Lorraine, shown to the right, received the award at the GCRTL annual volunteer appreciation and family fun day at Blendon Woods



## CENTRAL OHIO ABORTIONS

Last year, the number of abortions statewide continued to drop, albeit by a smaller margin than in recent years. More non-Ohio resident women also had abortions here. Here in Central Ohio, we saw the number of abortions performed increase slightly, to 4715. This still represents a significant decline from the 2012 numbers and continues a cycle that we have seen going back to at least 2000 with two years of decline followed by a year of increase. Within the counties that GCRTL represents, we have seen some hopeful and some concerning statistics. For example, the number of abortions performed on Franklin County women decreased for the third consecutive year, down to 3,333. While the number of abortions performed on white residents declined by about ten percent, the number of abortions performed on black and other minority women sharply increased by about ten percent. The number of abortions also declined for women living in Pickaway county. They increased for women living in Morrow, Delaware, Madison, Fairfield, Licking and Union Counties. The increase was the most significant in Union County, where the number of abortions doubled from 27 to 53.

Statistics, by their very nature, are a way of measuring what can be measured. We can gain much insight but limited knowledge by looking at them. For example, we can see the number of women who had an abortion, but not the number who chose life based on the work that was done in the community, the prayers, and the contributions of our sidewalk counselors. We also cannot see the number of women who proceeded with their abortions and then were connected to post-abortion counseling. We also had some expectation that the number of abortions would increase in 2015. First and foremost, abortions performed in central Ohio have tended to be cyclical in nature - two years in decline and one with an increase, for the past decade and a half. We also saw that both the clinics operating in Columbus in 2015 had an increase in days. For much of 2015, Founder's was open six days a week and had daily clinic escorts- employees and staff whose job was to get women from their cars and into the clinic without talking to GCRTL volunteers. In 2015, the Planned Parenthood on East Main became an abortion-only facility, which also suggested an increase in demand.

We know that when we have consistent prayer partners and sidewalk counselors, women choose life in greater numbers. If you can spare just two hours once a month, you could make the difference in the life of a woman and her unborn child. **Join us at: [www.gcrtl.org/pray](http://www.gcrtl.org/pray).**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Carols at the Clinic

Saturday, December 10, 2016  
10:00 am  
Founder's; 1243 E Broad Street

### 2017 Roe Remembrance

Monday, January 23, 2017, noon  
Ohio Statehouse, Atrium  
[www.gcrtl.org/roe](http://www.gcrtl.org/roe)

### Sidewalk Counselor Training

Registration Required  
Saturday, January 14th  
Saturday, March 18th  
9:30-3:00  
GCRTL office  
[www.gcrtl.org/sidewalk-counseling](http://www.gcrtl.org/sidewalk-counseling)

### Banquet Volunteer Meeting

Monday, Feb 6th, 7pm  
GCRTL Office  
665 E Dublin Granville Rd  
Columbus, OH 43229

**Beginning in 2017,  
we will be changing  
our newsletter  
process, so that we  
only mail to active  
supporters. Give  
today to stay in the  
pro-life loop!**