Greater Columbus Right to Life
Growing a Community of Life

4900 Reed Rd, Suite 200; Columbus, OH 43220
www.gcrtl.org | 614-445-8508

Fall 2025

Dear Community of Life,

Happy Fall! For those of us who recognize it, happy Respect Life Month.

If we have not met, I'm Olivia, and I am currently serving as Interim Executive Director at Greater Columbus Right to Life. My husband and I moved back to Columbus, where I was born and raised, in 2023, from Jackson, Mississippi. While in Jackson, I worked full time at the pregnancy center located across the street from the Abortion Clinic involved in the *Dobbs* case that went on to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. After moving back, we were blessed with a beautiful baby boy. At only 7 months old, he is already advocating for the unborn by attending events and hanging out at the office.

Don't worry, though – Beth is still here. She's irreplaceable and we know it. With limited hours, (which aren't often very limited in reality) Beth is still serving as our president. We are collaborating and working closely, while also beginning our search for a new Executive Director. Please pray that we can find the right person to offer leadership in a new era of pro-life work and please share our job posting with your friends and family.

During this season of transition, we are working incredibly hard to put out valuable information to **anchor our community in truth,** and to show up and reach out in big and small ways to **anchor our community in hope.**

The 2024 Ohio Abortion Statistics Report was recently released. At GCRTL, we quickly published our condensed report, giving you the most important information. These numbers, reflective of the first full year of reporting since the passage of Issue 1, are heartbreaking. In Franklin County, 12 abortions took place every day, up from 10 in 2023. **It's a critical call to action and presents not just an opportunity, but an obligation to be more present on the sidewalk.**

In response, our Board is investing in a part-time position of Outreach Coordinator, and we are increasing our efforts to partner with local churches and parishes, offering valuable resources and programs.

We are focused on equipping our volunteers and members of the pro-life faithful. Over the Summer we hosted a Pro-life Faithful Summer Social – a volunteer enrichment event highlighting local pregnancy help resources, and we are planning to host similar events in the near future, including pregnancy center tours and abortion pill reversal education. During our Fall 40DFL campaign, we have offered new levels of tangible support to our coordinators who adopted time on the sidewalk with their church or group. With nearly 20 days adopted in some capacity, we hope to continue this momentum after the campaign concludes by hosting several upcoming Sidewalk Ministry Trainings.

More than reinvesting, we are striving to grow and engage our community. Tabling at events like the Ohio March for Life and the Columbus Catholic Young Adult Conference allows us to meet new individuals who are passionate about the dignity of life and ready to take a stand.

On the End of Life front, we hosted a first-time fall fundraiser for Faithful at the End of Life: A Night at the Museum with Fr. Tad. Both fun and informative, the event was a success, and we have our sights set on a second edition of FATEL as well as more speaking engagements for our End-of-Life program, as well as our other programs spanning a plethora of pro-life topics. We are now scheduling speaking engagements for Winter/Spring 2025/2026.

You may notice that in all that we are doing right now, there is one consistent thread: community. At Greater Columbus Right to Life, we believe that the answer to the abortion crisis in Ohio is this: a community of individuals, families, and churches dedicated to the cause of life and anchored in truth and hope. So, we are rebuilding to effectively grow, revitalize, and anchor our community.

Though our combined capacity and time in this season may be limited, our plans are not. Now, more than ever, we need your support. Please prayerfully consider how you can stand for life, today. All that we are able to accomplish is thanks to support of volunteers and donors like you. If you have not yet made a donation this year, now is a great time. About 1/3 of all donations happen during year-end

Please enjoy this snapshot of highlights from the past few months and stay connected to see our plans come to *life.*

For Abundant Life,

Olivia

Olivia Hornsby
Interim Executive Director

Ohio Abortion Statistics Report

An Opportunity and an Obligation

Each year, the Ohio Department of Health releases the year prior's abortion numbers, compiled with various statistics. We review the numbers and share them in our abortion statistics report. A full copy of the report and related information, is available on our website at gcrtl.org/abortion-report.

The information is a snapshot; it gives us some, but not all the story, and for every bit of information the statistics tell, we know there is more unsaid.

Quick Facts

- ⇒ 12 abortions **every day** in Columbus, 60 Statewide
- ⇒ 72% of local abortions used the abortion pill (vs. 46% statewide)
- ⇒ Only 0.4% were reported as "medically necessary"
- ⇒ Reported complications quadrupled (41 → 186)
- ⇒ Nearly 3,000 women traveled to Ohio for abortions

At least 21,892 women had abortions in Ohio last year, a slight decline from the year prior. We do not know the number of women whose abortions were never reported – especially those who obtained pills by mail – likely never seeing a doctor. We also know the number of women coming from out of state for abortions increased – traveling to Ohio from states with laws that are more protective of mother and baby.

About 1 in 5, or 4264 of these abortions were performed in central Ohio. That is about 12 each day – up from ten each day in 2023.

We know the (reported) use of the abortion pill was about 46% statewide, but closer to 72% locally, and that only four out of every thousand Ohio abortions were from what doctors described as "medical necessity."

	2021	2022	2023	2024	1-Year Change
Delaware	166	152	177	178	1
Fairfield	152	144	159	178	19
Franklin	3399	2739	3055	3117	62
Licking	185	145	131	182	51
Madison	30	43	37	24	-13
Morrow	18	12	20	17	-3
Pickaway	50	36	40	47	7
Union	29	35	48	50	2

**Note: calculations done by GCRTL based on ODH data*

The rise in abortions locally can partially be attributed to women traveling in from out of state, but it also reflects an increase in the number of local women seeking abortions, and this should be interpreted as not only an opportunity, but also an obligation for us to take action.

We will continue to review the numbers and use them as a tool to help us 1) best deploy our resources to respond to the crisis, 2) expand our education and advocacy efforts, and 3) collaborate with our partners.

We know that the real response to abortion won't be found in data or apps. It's found in relationship—with each other and with Jesus Christ. We know that means we need more coordinated and effective sidewalk counseling and advocacy programs. In recent years, that effort has gotten a little diluted, and the numbers show it. So our Board has announced we will be investing in a Outreach Coordinator—someone who will work directly with out sidewalk and outreach teams. We're also implementing our largest ever Church and Pastor outreach, where we will be connecting with every one of our partner churches to show them the impact of abortion in their community and inviting them to join us.To accomplish these things—we need your help. We need more trained advocates on the sidewalk (so consider joining an upcoming training or call us to host one at your Church), we need more people to step up, and we need your continued financial support.

New Tools & Information Available

Historically, abortion statistics were available on an annual basis. Moving forward, limited information will be reported by the Ohio Department of Health on a monthly basis. This information will reflect abortion information reported in the month prior—notably it is not a guarantee of all that were performed in the month, as reporting information will lag. This is a requirement of the recently adopted State Budget Bill. In September, there were 2030 abortions reported Statewide. Just over 73% were performed on Ohio women. 24 were performed on girls under the age of 16. 333 were performed in Franklin, and about 73% of them were committed via the abortion pill. This is a new report, and we will continue to monitor the monthly AND annual numbers. If you are looking for the latest information, consider subscribing to our e-news.

Pro-Life Summer Social

In August, over 40 of our dedicated volunteers joined us in the beautiful, peaceful setting of the Bridgettine Sisters' retreat house for a time of enrichment. Pregnancy Decision Health Centers, Her Plan, and Mommies Matter tabled at the event, helping to equip and educate our sidewalk ministry members. During lunch, Beth gave an inspiring talk about healing the 4th Wound of Abortion – the wound inflicted on those of us dedicated to the pro-life cause that is often overlooked in the fight to save lives but can feel so heavy and lead to deep discouragement.

At Greater Columbus Right to Life, with our eyes set on a vision to end abortion by 2033, we are committed to being an anchor of hope for our community of life – those who are weathering the stormy abortion landscape in Ohio alongside us by praying and offering compassionate help on the sidewalk, volunteering in our office and at our events, and so much more. In the coming months and year, we plan to host even more events that anchor our community in hope and truth.

40 Days for Life Fall

With nearly 20 full or partial days adopted and hundreds of individuals who have boldly signed up to pray for an hour, our Fall 40 Days for Life Campaign is off to a strong start. This year, we are dedicated to offering new levels of support and encouragement to our coordinators and have introduced our Coordinator of Hope Packet including customizable promotional templates, flyers, abortion pill reversal cards, informational sheets, t-shirt or hat, and40DFL swag like buttons and bracelets, and signs.

We are here to empower churches, groups, and individuals to join us in peaceful, powerful prayer on the sidewalk, and we want to equip them every step of the way. It takes faith and courage to stand on the sidewalk and face the evil of abortion, praying and pleading for the unborn, mothers, and families, but we also know that our God is a God of life, not death. He's on our side, and our Christlike witness on the sidewalk reaches further than we know.

2025 Ohio March for Life

From Mass to the March, the Ohio March for Life was an encouraging event as thousands of Ohioans gathered to stand for life. Like so many events throughout the year, we displayed our Memorial of the Unborn at our table, a box filled with baby booties, socks, and shoes – a striking visual representation of the many lives lost to abortion every day, statewide and locally, in 2024.

As high-school groups and families attending the March gathered around our table to sign-up for our giveaway, grab a sign for the march, or take a bag with information about our programs – they were struck with this somber reminder about the reality of abortion. We pray that it inspires each individual to continue standing for life long after the March.

Speaking of the March for Life—we are working on some changes for our local events around the annual D.C. March for Life. If you are interested in being part of this new (and we hope exciting) event—get in touch. We need a little help to make big things happen!

The September abortion report indicates that there were just over 1500 abortions performed prior to 9 weeks, 330 from 9-12 weeks, 150 from 13-18 weeks, 27 from 19-20 weeks, and 7 that were 21 or more weeks gestation. Nearly 68% of the women having abortions were single, never married, and 184 were married (the remainder were divorced, widowed, or not reported).

A Night at the Museum With Fr. Tad

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the Ohio History Center and Museum for "A Night at the Museum with Fr. Tad."

Because of you, we were able to celebrate five years of Faithful at the End of Life in a way that was fun and informative.

Our speaker was Fr. Tad Pacholczyk, a bioethicist who is internationally acclaimed as an expert on end-of-life issues. Fr. Tad spoke on "The Gift of Dying Well," touching on some of the basic issues related to end of life bioethics.

In addition, there are complexities in the laws which vary from state-to-state. Fr. Tad and GCRTL President Beth Vanderkooi noted that one important distinction in Ohio law is that, contrary to frequent opinion, a Living Will in Ohio is not a document that guides family members as they navigate questions related to life support, but distinct instructions to healthcare professionals that can pre-empt family members from carrying out the spirit of their loved-ones' wishes.

Helping families to navigate the ethical and legal aspects of end of life care while honoring their faith and spiritual needs has been the purpose of Faithful at the End of Life since day one. For that reason, we were honored when Fr. Tad said that that he had reviewed it and found it to be to be "very well done."

We plan to grow FATEL, including a second expanded edition, a Spanish-language translation, and partnerships with organizations such as the Catholic Foundation, who recently included FATEL in their program, "Your Catholic Retirement." Please consider inviting us to your church to speak on either the "Catholic" or "General" edition.

Save the Date

Fall 40 Days for Life
Sept 25th– Nov 3rd
Planned Parenthood East
gcrtl.org/40-days-for-life

Advocacy Training
Thursday, Nov 13th, 9AM-12PM
Saturday, Nov 15th, 9AM-12PM
Registration Required
gcrtl.org/sidewalk-counseling

Christmas Open House:
Giving Tuesday
December 2nd, 4PM-7PM
gcrtl.org/events

A Carols at the Clinic
Sat, December 13th
Planned Parenthood East
gcrtl.org/events

Join our Team

Passionate about the pro-life cause? Know someone who is?

Outgoing? Strong organizational skills? Apply to be a part-time Outreach Coordinator!

Ready to help lead GCRTL into a new era of pro-life work? Apply to be a our next Executive Director!

For more information, please visit our website at gcrtl.org/about.

Schedule a Speaker

Did you know we have a **free** pro-life Speaker's Bureau?

Check out our current resource guide ➡

We are now scheduling talks for Winter/Spring 2025/2026.

After you look at some of our topics, talk to your pastor/priest, or ministry leader and visit our scheduling page to start the ⬅ process.

We'll help every step of the way—including helping you to promote your event!

Give Life

The answer to the ever-growing abortion crisis in Ohio is an ever-growing community of supporters and volunteers. Our team is giving it our all, but we need your continued partnership. Our programs are seeing more use and more need than ever before.

This is our last newsletter of the year, so we would invite you to prayerfully consider how you can partner with the work that we are doing as we anchor the pro-life movement in hope and truth with a vision to end abortion by 2033. Please prayerfully consider responding with the enclosed envelope—whether to volunteer, enquire about a program, or make a financial gift. ♥

If you are finding this information helpful, consider connecting with us on our website (gcrtl.org) or social media (facebook.com/gcrtl and instagram.com/gcrtl). Also—if you don't currently get our e-news (1-2 times per month, plus occasional breaking news), you are missing out.. Sign up on our website, or return the enclosed envelope with your email and any volunteer interests (a donation completely optional. If you've received our email in the past but are no longer getting it, you may have accidentally unsubscribed. Give us a call and we'll get you resubscribed.