

Plant a Seed

So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are coworkers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building. (1 Corinthians 3: 7-9)

Prolife work can be hard. Some days, it starts to feel a little helpless, a little hopeless, and a little discouraging. The only way to keep at it day after day is to humbly acknowledge that we are not doing this work to glorify our own human vanity, but because we believe that there is an eternal law written on the hearts of man since the creation and fundamental to that law is that: 1) we are made in the image and likeness of our Creator, 2) unborn children are innocent human life, and 3) it is wrong to take an innocent human life.

Our value does not lie in our utility or our size or our stage of development. It does not rely on our physical beauty or mental acuity. It is not contingent on the degree to which we suffer, feel pain, or may suffer or hurt in the future. Our gender, our race, our parents' incomes or even the circumstances of our conception do not diminish our integral value. Firmly and unabashedly certain of this fundamental distinction between right and wrong, we are a people that has set aside the path of moral relativism and cultural complacency to oppose the evils of abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, embryonic stem cell destruction and other threats against Life. We call ourselves a movement because we know that it is not through our actions that we will see an end to this human travesty, but through unified, humble, and obedient labor in the service of God, and while our true goal is an immediate end to abortion, we do not disdain making incremental changes until that day.

While we humbly profess truths that are not always popular in our culture, our message and our actions are always tempered with Love. Our training classes include the reminder from 1 Corinthians: *If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am become sounding brass, or a clanging cymbal. And if I have the gift of*



prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And if I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profiteth me nothing.

As we face a new year, I would invite you to join the efforts of Greater Columbus Right to Life as we plant a seed in the hearts of our fellow citizens, and I would challenge you to always be guided by Love.

- Beth Vanderkooi
 Executive Director

Upcoming Events

40 Days for Life

Complete Healthcare for Women
 5888 Cleveland Ave
 Columbus, OH 43231
www.40daysforlife.com/columbus
www.gctrl.org/40-days-for-life

Opening Rally

March 2nd 3:00 pm

Vigil Days and Hours

March 5th—April 13th; 7am-7pm

Closing Ceremony

April 18th 11:00 am

Youth Day of Prayer

April 18th (Good Friday)

Sidewalk Counselor Training

Please register online or by phone
www.gctrl.org/sidewalk-counseling

Saturday, March 15

Saturday, May 17th

Saturday July 19th

9:30am-3:00

GCRTL Office

665 E Dublin Granville Rd
 Columbus, OH 43229

Spiritus 2014: Abby Johnson

A Night of Life and Love

www.gctrl.org/spiritus

June 9, 2014

6:30 PM

Villa Milano

1630 Schrock Road

Columbus, OH

(Doors open at 5:45 pm. Program begins promptly at 6:30)

Abortion: Safe? Legal?

Abortion proponents tend to articulate that placing “oppressive” restrictions on abortion practices (like requiring that doctors have hospital admitting privileges, requiring that only licensed physicians perform the procedures, or prohibiting that the physician ‘participate’ via a webcam) will drive women to illegal and unsafe “back-alley” abortions. The reality, however, is that women are already being hurt by so-called “safe and legal” procedures.

Greater Columbus Right to Life has been documenting health inspection violations, OSHA violations, and legal problems at the three area clinics. In our most recent posting, we found that Founder’s has been cited for failing to have medical personnel administer painkillers and iv sedation, failure to keep the appropriate safety records, and failure to notify patients that at least one physician does not have the required malpractice insurance. In addition, there is at least one pending lawsuit for medical malpractice after a woman was improperly told an abortion was performed, despite not the fact that her pregnancy was ectopic (not uterine). Her fallopian tubes ruptured, and she is now sterile for life. Abortion would not be okay if it were performed in safe and clean environment, but women deserve the truth about so called “safe and legal” clinics.

Read more at www.gcrtl.org/columbus-clinics.



Standing room only at this year’s central Ohio Roe event.

Roe Remembrance

This year, plummeting temperatures made it dangerous to hold our annual Roe Remembrance event outside. Fortunately, we were able to work with Statehouse officials to move the event inside. It was a busy session day in the Ohio Capitol building, so the nearly 300 individuals, many of whom were students, gathered to commemorate the more than 56 million lives that have been lost to abortion since the US Supreme Court decided *Roe v Wade* and *Doe v Bolton* in 1973 made quite an impact.

This year’s speaker lineup included Father Thomas Blau, Representative Cheryl Grossman, Don Brey, Beth Vanderkooi, GCRTL President Mike Keebaugh, and Ashlee Jackson, Women’s Minister at Hope City House of Prayer. Special musical guest Mary Helen Colleli performed her original work “Let Me Live” and led the crowd in singing “Let there be Peace on Earth.”

Abortion in Our Community

Ohio abortion statistics are reported either by the county where the abortion occurred or the zip code and county of the mother’s residence. Each of the three central Ohio abortion clinics is located in Franklin County, and 22% of all abortions statewide are occurring in Franklin County. Abortions are significantly higher among unmarried women (83%) and African-American women (45%).

In 2012, the number of abortions occurring in Franklin County increased by 58 abortions to 5,698. That’s about 110 per week.

Abortion By Mother’s Residence

Franklin County: 3,771
Licking County: 188
Fairfield County: 163
Delaware County: 155
Pickaway County: 54
Union County: 45
Madison County: 40
Morrow County: 26

African American women make up 18.5% of the population of Franklin County, but they make up 45% of the abortions.

Source: Franklin Co Dept of Public Health, Ohio Abortion Statistics report



Spiritus 2014

A Night of Life and Love



Abby Johnson has become a household name in the prolife community. Her amazing journey from director of a Texas Planned Parenthood abortion clinic to a tireless defender of Life is a story that you do not want to miss. Today, she works to expose Planned Parenthood and help other abortion clinic workers leave the industry. She also recently announced efforts to grow sidewalk counseling programs and start pregnancy resource centers in Texas. Abby is the author of a bestselling book, *unPLANNED*, which chronicles her experiences within Planned Parenthood and her dramatic exit. She will be joining Greater Columbus Right to Life as special guest and keynote speaker for *Spiritus* 2014.

Please plan to join us this year for our *Spiritus* banquet. The work of Greater Columbus Right to Life relies 100% on the charitable gifts of our supporters, and *Spiritus* is our largest fundraising event of the year. Reserve your ticket today, or commit to filling a table of ten with friends, family, colleagues, members of your church, or anyone who you think might be inspired by Abby's story. Seats will go quickly, so reserve yours today! Sponsorships still available!

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Spiritus
Vie מִיָּה Vita Życie Life

Why *Spiritus*?

If you've ever wondered why we call our banquet *Spiritus*, it is because *Spiritus* is Latin for *Life*. The *Spiritus* logo shares the word "Life" in

several different languages, emphasizing that we are a people united in protection of human life.

Monday, June 9, 2014

6:30 - 8:30 pm

**Doors open at 5:45pm. Meal promptly at 6:30*

**Villa Milano
1630 Schrock Rd., Columbus**

Registration complimentary, made possible through our sponsors. There will be an opportunity to make a gift to support the work of Greater Columbus Right to Life following dinner.

Registration open online at www.gcrtl.org/spiritus or via the enclosed form

Spring 40 Days for Life

The Spring 40 Days for Life kicks off March 2nd with a prayer service across the street from Complete Healthcare for Women (Cleveland Avenue). The international campaign will run from Ash Wednesday through Palm Sunday and provide more than 1000 hours of prayer to end abortion. GCRTL has organized the local campaign since 2008.

It is easy to participate in 40 Days. You can bring a friend and pray on your own via the hourly vigil, or you can go with an organized group from your church to adopt a day. For more info or to sign up, visit our website or call our office today! Can you spare one hour to pray with us to make this our most effective campaign yet?

Show *unPlanned* at Your Church!

Abby Johnson's bestselling book, *unPLANNED*, chronicles her journey deep into Planned Parenthood - first as a volunteer and a post-abortive woman, then as an employee and Clinic Director. Pro-life volunteers had a dramatic impact on Abby in the weeks and months leading up to her change of heart, a change of heart that was cemented the day that she was asked to assist with an ultrasound guided abortion and watched an unborn child struggle for its life. Abby tells of her journey back to her family and faith, her work helping other abortion clinic workers leave the industry, and Planned Parenthood's efforts to silence her.

This dramatic story has been captured in a 42 minute documentary, also called *unPLANNED*. Greater Columbus Right to Life has licensed copies of *unPLANNED* to show at your church, next club meeting, or anywhere in your community. Contact us today to learn how to bring this exciting opportunity to your group! Speakers available for discussion after the showing.

In Memory

We are grateful to the family and friends who made a memorial contribution to Greater Columbus Right to Life in honor of a loved one who is no longer with us. Our prayers are with you.

**Maureen Garabis
Mary & Jack Mandaback
Joseph Backewicz**

In Honor

We are humbled by those who have chosen to make a donation to Greater Columbus Right to Life in lieu of a gift. You are in our prayers for your continued health and blessings.

Maureen Backewicz
Happy Birthday

If you would like more information on making an "In Memory" or an "In Honor" gift to Greater Columbus Right to Life, please contact our office for information and opportunities.

First Sidewalk Counselor Class of 2014

The first sidewalk counselor (SWC) class of 2014 braved nearly seven inches of snow the last Saturday in January. Many of the participants were from host church, Hope City House of Prayer, whose prolife ministry "Bound for Life" has become a frequent sight at Founder's clinic on Saturday mornings.

A few people have had questions about our sidewalk counseling classes, what they cover, and why they are helpful. The class is open to anyone who would like the training, even if that person is not sure that SWC is his or her calling. Participants are walked through foundational information, basics of prenatal development, abortion procedures, and Ohio laws. We then cover strategies in talking to abortion minded women and their support partners, discuss our approach, share basic prolife arguments on the so-called "difficult" cases, and offer participants an opportunity to practice what they've learned.

We are the most successful when we set aside theological and political differences in order to lovingly reach out to women entering the clinics. On the sidewalk, we meet a woman where she is in her life and her faith walk. Sometimes that means being the face of Christ without saying a word about religion, not because we lack confidence in our beliefs, but because we trust in God when He tells us that our job is to plant the seed and let Him do the work.



Will You Stand With Us?

Greater Columbus Right to Life is sustained through the generous contributions of the community, and as a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit, gifts to GCRTL are considered tax deductible donations. Like many organizations, we have struggled in the current economic environment; uncertainty and instability have caused many to reduce their charitable support of local organizations. We currently mail to about 2400 households within the Greater Columbus community (our community consists of the central Ohio metropolitan statistical area: Franklin, Delaware, Morrow, Union, Madison, Licking, Pickaway, and Fairfield Counties). Our trainings reached nearly 500 individuals in 2013, our online e-news is enjoyed by several thousand, and our programming has reached about fifty church and community groups. We have coordinated thousands of hours of prayer time by hundreds of volunteers, and we've helped countless women choose life for their babies. We are thankful every day to have been given the opportunity to do this work. It is our goal to serve the prolife community in central Ohio without regard to financial circumstances and to offer our programs and our trainings at no cost to the community or the participant. However, our current budget has been squeezed to the point that we may need to reduce communications and programming going forward for those who are not active supporters and volunteers.

If each family on our mailing list were to support our organization with a gift of just \$40 each year, we would meet our 2014 goal and rebuild our reserve funds. If just ten percent were to pledge a monthly gift of \$10, we would meet our 2014 budget needs. Finally, if just one percent were able to make a more generous gift of \$250 or more this year, we would be able to train and support an additional 125 sidewalk counselors, implement a volunteer-friendly mobile app, and double our youth programs.

We humbly ask that you prayerfully consider the work that we are doing and how you can ensure that you are our partner in this critical work going forward. Enclosed is an envelope so that you can make your one-time or ongoing gift to Greater Columbus Right to Life for 2014. We are doing our part, and we believe that 2014 has the opportunity to be our best year yet. We are standing for Life; we just need you to stand with us.

Thank You!

We'd like to take a few moments to thank two donors whose in-kind contributions have helped GCRTL in the last year. Please consider thanking them through your patronage.

Dee Printing has generously printed our newsletters for several years. Dee specializes in church and school printing.

Dee Printing, Inc.

4999 Transamerica Dr.
Columbus, OH 43228
614.777.8700

www.deeprinting.com

Jon Yerian is a Certified Public Accountant who handles our tax preparation and charitable registration filings.

Jon Yerian, CPA

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