**What is 40 Days for Life?**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.

**Prayer** – for an end to abortion, for God's guidance for those involved in prayer vigils and pro-life action around the country, etc.

**Fasting** - please consider fasting. It simply involves renouncing an activity that can put a barrier between you and God. It could be television, the internet, chocolate, coffee, etc. You really can do without it! Take the time you usually spend in those activities and give it back to God.

**Peaceful vigil** – we stand witness and maintain a peaceful and educational presence outside the Cleveland Ave. abortion clinic. Your presence sends a powerful message to the community about the tragic reality of abortion. It also serves as a call to repentance for those who work at the abortion center and those who patronize the facility.

The mission of the campaign is to bring together the body of Christ in a spirit of unity during a focused 40 day campaign seeking God’s favor to turn hearts and minds from a culture of death to a culture of life, thus bringing an end to abortion.

**When does the next campaign start?**The next campaign runs from September 28-Nov 6, 2016

**Where will the vigil be held?**
The vigil is held outside of Founder’s Women’s Health (1243 E Broad Street – one mile east of the Ohio Statehouse).

**Where do we park?**Parking is on Broad Street and on side streets (watch times for parking restrictions during rush hour).

**What are the hours of the vigil?**
7am-7pm!

**Is this a protest?**No. We bring the source of all peace, the source of all comfort, Jesus Christ, to the sidewalks. We get out of His way so that He can work miracles and miracles are not a protest. 40 Days for Life is a peaceful prayer vigil.

**Who can participate?**
Anyone! This is a cross-denominational effort, a call to bring the body of Christ together. Typically churches or organization will participate as a whole. On top of participating as a whole church, groups within the church may choose to adopt their own day. Youth groups, Bible studies, choir groups, young adults, Knights of Columbus groups etc. You may be just getting started and not have a group so you may participate as an individual. Or you may choose to form your own group that adopts a full or partial day.
**Can I bring my children?**
Absolutely! There have been many youth and smaller children out to pray with us. Some people like to come as a family and bring a wagon, snacks and coloring books for the smaller ones. Just be sure to keep them on the sidewalk and not in the grass.

**How often can I come out to the clinic?**
As often as you want! Typically a church or organization will “adopt-a-day” (or days) and take sign-ups to cover the hours from 7am – 7pm. This is very flexible – come on your church’s day and then know that for the entire 40 days there will be people out there and you are welcome to just show up. There will always be gaps that need filled and some days that don’t get adopted at all - so we can use all the volunteers we can get. **This year, we are having a special effort to get trained GCRTL Sidewalk Counselors at the clinic during abortion and prayer hours, so please let us know when you plan to be there).**
**What do we do while we are there?**
**Pray!** By doing this we cover many needs. All of which have a tremendous impact! Even just being physically present makes a huge impact - so imagine the possibilities when you add the prayers to God!

You may pray out loud or silently, you may pray as a group or individually, you may stand or kneel. Any type of prayer will work - most people use formal and informal prayers together while they are at the clinic. You may face the traffic or the clinic while praying and others like to walk up and down the sidewalk as they pray.

**Sing!** There are some who like to sing quietly to themselves or in groups.

**Read Scripture!** As with the others read it aloud or silently.

We strive to maintain a prayerful atmosphere while at the clinic. Kindly move a ways down the sidewalk to hold personal conversations in order to allow others a peaceful prayer space.

(Please see the statement of peace for more on appropriate conduct at the clinic)

**Where do we stand?**
It’s important that you only stand on the sidewalk in front of the clinic and not in their grass or their parking lot. Please do not block the driveway in the rear. The street and sidewalk are public areas. We certainly do not encourage you to stand in the street but if you need to walk on it for some reason, it’s not illegal.

**How long do we stay?**
We ask that each prayer volunteer commit to at least one hour. You are welcome to stay as long as you want and chances are you will be helping to fill gaps if you do. Some prayer volunteers travel a long distance so choose to stay for a few hours. There are also days you may want to come but don’t have an hour, come anyway!

**What about signs?**We encourage you to bring signs if you wish. We especially encourage positive signs during the hours that the clinic is open. Our trained sidewalk counselors are frequently trying to invite women who are abortion minded to come speak with them, and our team reports better results when life-affirming signs are used. A good place to find pro-life signs is Heritage House. They have a website and a catalogue and they carry 40 Days for Life signs. We may also have limited signs available in our office. In general, the purpose of this effort is to pray, so signs are not necessary.

**What about the weather?**Rain, snow, sleet or hail we’ll be there!

**Will there be any opposition while I am out there?**The opposition you most likely face is very mild. Prayer volunteers have found that there is much more support than opposition. If you face the road you will occasionally notice certain finger gestures and maybe the occasional “Go home!” You will mostly hear honks from supporters and thumbs ups! There are a few people that use the sidewalk where you will be standing. It is always best to politely move for them to pass. If a passerby wants to have a dialogue just remember to keep it peaceful. And if you do not want to have a dialogue politely tell them that you are praying. Again the likelihood of this is rare. If there are “escorts” – pro-abortion volunteers who serve to get women in the doors without talking to us, we encourage you to simply ignore them.

**Will I have any interaction with the women going into the clinic?**Mostly likely you will not. The way the area is designed, patients park and enter in the back of the building. They may see us standing out on the sidewalk but they will be quite a distance from us. Some prayer volunteers may wish to hold signs that offer help which will increase the chances of interaction. Otherwise it is very unlikely. There is a prolife pregnancy center (Women’s Care Center) located a few blocks west of the abortion clinic, if a woman wishes to leave the clinic or get a second opinion.

**Will I have any interaction with the employees going into the clinic?**

**Possibly. Because our prayer and sidewalk counseling has been incredibly effective, the clinic has started utilizing volunteer clinic escorts. We recommend that if you are there at a time that they are there, you continue to focus on prayer. For those who would like to be a little more comfortable speaking to abortion-minded women, clinic staff, or clinic volunteers we recommend taking our sidewalk counseling class (**[www.gcrtl.org/sidewalk-counseling](http://www.gcrtl.org/sidewalk-counseling)**) or our 1-hour bootcamp training (posted on our events and SWC Page).**

**What if a patient does come to me for help or to talk?**
There is a Women’s Care Center just a few blocks west of the abortion clinic. The hours vary, but they are generally open during regular business hours and all abortion hours. You can also refer them to PDHC’s 24-hour hotline (444-4411). If you would like information on talking to women at the clinic, consider our SWC training class. Please contact us for more in depth information.

**What about the laws?**The Supreme Court has repeatedly ruled that peaceful communication–such as spoken words, display of signs and leafleting–are all protected forms of free speech, especially in public places like sidewalks and parks. The Supreme Court has consistently ruled that speech cannot be censored simply because the speaker's message irritates or offends a listener. This was reaffirmed in the recent “bubble law” case. Recently, the City of Columbus did enact a new law increasing penalties for already criminal behavior when it happens adjacent to an abortion clinic. You can read information on the law and our analysis [here](http://www.gcrtl.org/uploads/4/7/1/2/4712557/guidance_on_1458-2016.pdf).

40 Days for Life has a very good relationship with the Columbus Police department! They have expressed a respectful interest in helping to insure our campaign is safe and have recommended that each church coordinator call the dispatcher at 614-645-4545 at 6:30 AM (sharp!) the morning of their day to let them know you will be outside the clinic. Ask them to include you in their routine patrols and they will drive by every so often to ensure everything is going smoothly!

**Who sponsors 40 Days for Life locally?**
Greater Columbus Right to Life (GCRTL) – [www.gcrtl.org](http://www.gcrtl.org) sponsors Columbus’ 40 Days for Life.

**I have never prayed outside an abortion clinic and I'm nervous. What should I do?**Go with a group or with someone that has been before. You may contact us and we will provide you with a day and time that a group is scheduled to be out so you may join them. Once you have been out the first time your hesitations will go away.