

Dear Friends,

Trends, measurables, observations, and statistics: each has value to a nonprofit ministry. From gauging our success to identifying ways to improve, reenergizing our volunteers, or asking our donors for their support – we hunger for the fruits of our labors.

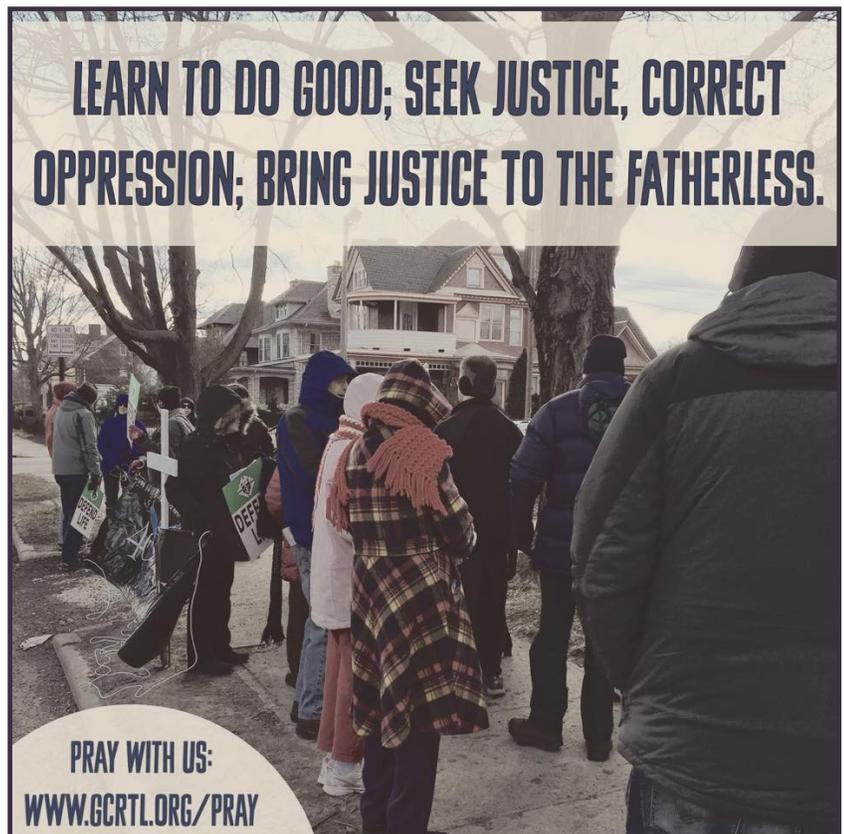
In the past two and a half years, I've shared many of these fruits with you. We know of the 185 (14 and counting in 2015!) women who turned away from their abortions through our sidewalk counselor program. We have observed an apparent increase in African American and Hispanic women at the clinic. We see statistics that suggest a reduction in abortions in the community and the reduction of the clinics in town. We've held the babies alive because of our intervention, and we've cried with the women abandoned following a botched abortion. We even find room for optimism as a local clinic has employed the use of "clinic escorts" – individuals whose goal is to get women inside the clinic without speaking to our volunteers. There is tremendous value in each of these things, and often they bolster our faith and encourage our work when we need it most.

Nonetheless, we are working a bit blindly. We don't know how many women hear us, talk to us, and walk away from the abortion clinic but come back another day. We don't know how many women take our literature, continue in for their consultation, and never follow through. We can identify trends that show a correlation between our efforts and abortion statistics and we can talk to women who joyfully hold the babies they planned to abort, but at the end of the day it takes humility to accept that we may never know our impact and faith to carry on absent absolute proof.

Sometimes our hunger to see the fruits of our work tempts us to forget that our work has value even absent a single measurable outcome. Among the greatest mercies that you can extend to another is prayer, especially at the hour of death. It does not come as an observable, measurable statistic. It may not even reflect the trends or correlate to any change in the abortion rates. As Christians, however, we are called to this great mercy. Aquinas defined love as *willing the good of another*. By this measure, praying for the unborn at the hour of their death when we cannot do anything else is the most loving and merciful thing remaining to do.

Christ calls us to do good, seek justice, correct oppression, bring justice to the orphans and protect the widows. Our work at Greater Columbus Right to Life endeavors to do just that. Your participation in and support of our work helps us to bring that mentality to the sidewalks, churches, and schools of central Ohio and into the hearts of those to whom we minister. Thank you, and may God bless you.

- Beth



It was 19 degrees outside for the closing prayers of 40 Days for Life, but that didn't stop the crowd. Thank you to the hundreds who joined us in this campaign! Join us as we transition to Project365, which is an invitation for church groups, respect life committees, and individuals to continue praying.

WE CAME, WE MARCHED, NOW WHAT?

An estimated 57-58 million unborn children have died in America by induced abortions since 1973, the year that the US Supreme Court decided *Roe v Wade*. Every year since, the ProLife faithful have converged on our nation's Capitol to protest the fundamental injustice of

abortion and to memorialize and mourn its victims. Estimates suggest that at least 600,000 gathered in DC this year, many of them middle school, high school, and college-aged students and their families. Likewise, for those who cannot get to DC, hundreds of smaller events take place regionally, in state capitols, and in local communities. Greater Columbus Right to Life has participated in or organized a *Roe* event at the Ohio Statehouse each year since our founding in 1975. This year, we welcomed nearly 500 to the Ohio Statehouse. The crowds are energetic, youthful, and on-fire to protect human life.

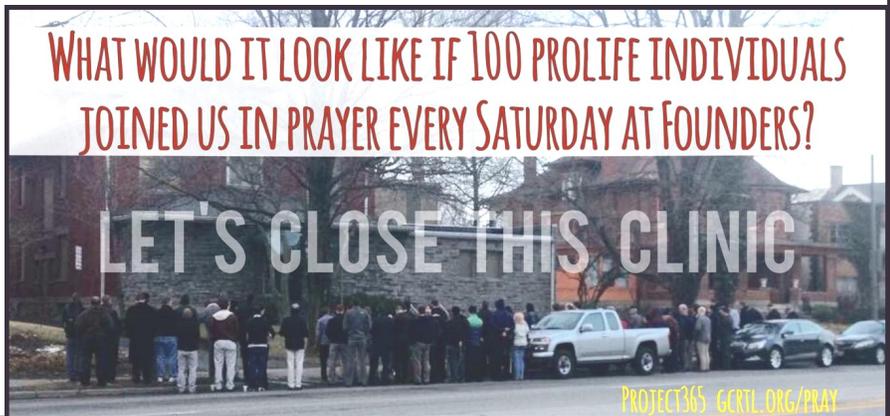
In the days and weeks to come, the inevitable will happen. We'll return to classes and jobs. Our lives will return to their normal patterns. The focused purpose and sense of urgency that accompany the March for Life will fade a bit. Before it fades too much, however, we need to ask ourselves, 'What now?'. How will we use this experience to transform ourselves and our communities?

We need to bring the spirit and the enthusiasm of the March for Life back to our churches, let it reverberate in the halls of our schools and workplaces, and sustain it on the sidewalks and in our pregnancy help and post abortion ministries. Grassroots activism in DC or the Statehouse are only effective to bring about change when they reflect what is happening at home. The women and men who volunteer tirelessly at Greater Columbus Right to Life are a tremendous blessing. They are incredibly committed sidewalk counselors, prayer warriors, office assistants, and envelope stuffers. When I see what God works through them, I am amazed. Pastors, priests and seminarians, religious sisters, respect life committees, faith sharing groups, friends and neighbors – they are tremendous partners in this fight to respect the dignity of all human life. Likewise, we have some of the finest prolife organizations in the country located and headquartered right here in central Ohio. Catholic or Protestant, religious or secular, young or old – the prolife community in central Ohio is diverse and vibrant and engaged, even when it isn't reflected in the media or culture. Would we be if hundreds of volunteers turned out in peaceful witness on a regular basis rather than just once a year?

So far this year, we've been doing just that! Although participation varied throughout the 40 Days for Life campaign, we are seeing larger and larger groups joining us on the weekend and even through the week. Now that 40 Days is over, let's keep the momentum going! If you are willing to join us in prayer on your own, invite a group from your church, bible study, faith-based group or workplace, we'd love to have you. **Join Project365 at www.gertl.org/pray.**

WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE IF 100 PROLIFE INDIVIDUALS JOINED US IN PRAYER EVERY SATURDAY AT FOUNDERS?

LET'S CLOSE THIS CLINIC



GCRTL Launches New Oversight Effort

Abortion clinics are often dirty and unsafe places. Don't get us wrong—they are not bad because they are dirty and unsafe, but we do think that because they are bad places they tend to be dirty and unsafe. Unfortunately, this is not the image portrayed by the media or the abortion industry, and many women do not make the connection until it is too late for them and their babies. For the past two years, we've been sharing this information with women seeking an abortion, and it has been very effective at getting them to reconsider their decision to have an abortion, slow down the process, and help them to think about the humanity of their unborn child. Our efforts were so effective that Founder's started using "clinic escorts" - individuals whose job is to make sure that abortion clients do not rethink their abortion. With that in mind, we are launching a new effort called "This Clinic Hurts Women" as a resource to benefit both women considering abortion and those in the prolife movement. Women can quietly and confidentially check out the landing page and know that we are there to help them if they are ready to talk. Check us out online at www.ThisClinicHurtsWomen.com, and consider helping us promote the website to those who most need to see it.

Thank You!

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

Jason Jones: LIGHTS, CAMERA ...TAKE ACTION



Monday, June 1, 2015

6:00 PM

doors open at 5:45pm

Villa Milano
1630 Schrock Rd
Columbus, Ohio 43229

Registration is complimentary: an invitation to support the work of Greater Columbus Right to Life will be extended following the meal.

Award-winning filmmaker Jason Jones will be the speaker for the 9th annual Greater Columbus Right to Life Banquet! Dr. Michael Parker will be returning as emcee, and there will be a special musical performance by *Outside the Box!*

Jones began his film production career with documentaries promoting human rights around the world. 2006 saw the release of the Toronto International Film Festival People's Choice Award winner, *Bella*. (Previous winners include *Chariots of Fire* and *Life is Beautiful*). Metanoia Films, where Jones is an executive producer, has several films in production. Other film credits include, *Crescendo*, *The 40 Movie*, *Sing A Little Louder*, and *The Stoning of Soraya M*. He is also founder of Movie to Movement. Jones published his first book, *The Race to Save our Century*, in the Fall of 2014.

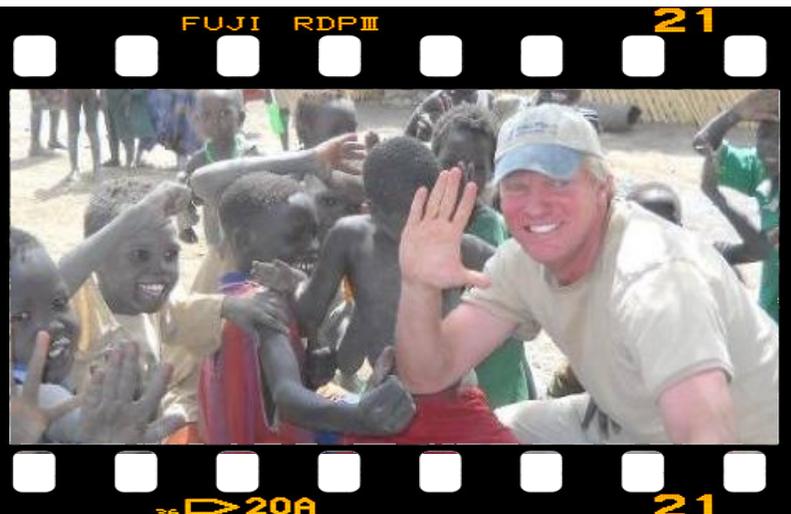
Jason is the founder of HERO (Human-Rights Education and Relief Organization), a non-profit that promotes human dignity in all stages of life through international education and relief programs; the Great Campaign which has pulled together a network of organizations with diverse mission statements to promote the intrinsic dignity of the human person as the foundation for all philanthropic and charitable works; and Bella HERO and *Bella On Campus*, programs aimed at promoting beauty and truth in culture by featuring free screenings of the feature film *Bella* for college students. Jones' most recent work has taken him to Darfur with the Persecution Project in an effort to not only raise awareness of the situation in Darfur but to aid refugees by drilling wells in the region, distributing medicine, and other relief efforts.

It was two days before my seventeenth birthday, ... I could smell breakfast coming from downstairs and somebody was walking up the stairs. I was half asleep. The door opened: it was my girlfriend. After a few long seconds, she looked up at me and said, "I'm pregnant." That woke me up quick. We sat there in my bedroom, two young teenagers. My room was still a boy's place, hung with football posters, sneakers, and baseball gloves strewn across the floor. But there I was, sitting next to my pregnant girlfriend. I knew all of a sudden I'd lost the right to keep on being just a boy. . . .

Register Today

Register online at www.gcrtl.org/banquet or by returning the enclosed registration ticket. One individual registered online or via the enclosed ticket by May 1st, 2015, will be selected for a VIP seating opportunity, an autographed copy of Jones' book: *The Race to Save our Century*, a copy of *Bella* the movie, and more.

*No purchase or donation is required. Winner must be present at the banquet to be selected and will be notified at check in.



BIG DREAMS!

Greater Columbus Right to Life was formed as a community organization in the early 70s (some have suggested as early as 1965, although we are still building the documentation for that!). Although the prolife movement often seems synonymous with *Roe* in 1973, the attacks against the dignity of human life were already widespread in Ohio and across the nation before the Supreme Court decision, and grassroots prolife organizations sprung up in many communities, including here in Central Ohio.

By 1975, Greater Columbus Right to Life had become a significant organization, so our founders applied for nonprofit status and recognition from the Ohio Secretary of State's office.

2015 marks the 40th year since our incorporation. For most, although not all, of our history, Greater Columbus Right to Life has been an all-volunteer organization. Faced with the reality of two-income families and dwindling time to volunteer, by 2007 the leadership of GCRTL knew that the future of our organization was either to grow large enough to sustain a professional staff and permanent office space or to return to unofficial community status. Buoyed by great leadership and a vision to end abortion in Columbus by 2020 (or sooner if we can!), we mounted a capital campaign to raise money for staff, rent, and utility expenses. Every year, our support from the community has grown (THANK YOU!), and as we've grown we have been able to do more—more programs, more trainings, more information into the hands of women who need it the most. In the last two years we've seen more than 180 women turn away from their abortions, and this year we are on track for as many. A big dream became a big plan, and with your help we've been working toward that goal.

Now, we have another big dream. We aren't ready for a big public announcement—yet— but nothing is gained by a lack of faith or a deficit of hope. We have an opportunity to expand to a location next door to one of the remaining Columbus abortion clinics. It isn't going to happen without a plan, and we need your help to make our plan possible. Interested in helping us to dream big? Here is what we need and how you can help:

- **Prayer:** For this to happen, we need prayer that the right people with the right resources step forward at the right time. Can we count on your prayers?
- **Operating funds:** We aren't going to go this direction without meeting our 2015 operating costs. If you haven't made a donation to GCRTL this year, can you commit to a financial gift? You can make a one-time gift or a pledge today, you can register for our annual banquet—our biggest source of funds, or you can do both. Can you help us to raise \$75,000 by June 30th?
- **Major Gift:** If you, or someone you know, are in a position to make a major gift to Greater Columbus Right to Life, we'd love to share our big dream with you. God has placed this on our hearts, if he is placing it on your heart, can we talk?

Big dreams, big plans, and an all-powerful God.



Greater Columbus Right to Life is one of 630 local nonprofits that will be participating in the Columbus Foundation's "Big Give" this year. On May 12th, starting at 10:00 am, through May 13th at 10:00 am, you will have the opportunity to make a donation to Greater Columbus Right to Life through the Columbus Foundation's Power Philanthropy program. Donations of a minimum of \$20 (via credit card), or \$100 (via a Foundation donor advised fund), will be eligible for pro rata bonus pool funds of \$1.3 million. In addition, the Foundation will waive credit card

processing fees that normally apply to online donations. It is a way to make your gift go a little further to help GCRTL.

We'll send an email reminding friends to participate, or you can go online and click on The Big Give banner on May 12th at www.ColumbusFoundation.org.

Upcoming Events

Jason Jones:

Lights, Camera, Take Action!

Monday, June 1st, 2015

Villa Milano

6:00 pm

Register: www.gcrtl.org/banquet

Teen Sidewalk Counselor Training

Location TBD

Saturday April 25, 2015

9:30 am

Register online at

www.gcrtl.org/sidewalk-counseling

Sidewalk Counselor Training

GCRTL Training Room

Saturday, June 20, 2015

9:30 am

Register online at

www.gcrtl.org/sidewalk-counseling

Sidewalk Counseling and Prayer

Partner Drop-in

1243 E Broad Street

Columbus Ohio

9:30-12:00 Saturdays

*we also have teams going most Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays and are looking to form Monday and Friday teams. If you are interested visit www.gcrtl.org/pray



Mark 9:23

All things are possible for one who believes.



Feeling Social? Find us on facebook for the latest in news, prayer requests, and social e-vangelizing tools.
www.facebook.com/gcrtl