

*The mission of Greater Columbus Right to Life is to promote a culture that protects innocent human life from conception until natural death.*

## HOW CAN THE DREAM SURVIVE IF WE MURDER THE CHILDREN?



On April 8 and 9, Greater Columbus Right to Life welcomed Dr. Alveda C. King, daughter of slain civil rights activist A. D. King and niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Otterbein Students for Life, a group of pro life student leaders at Otterbein College, applied for and received a grant from GCRTL to host Dr. King to speak on the college campus. During her speech, Dr. King, referring to her uncle's famous speech, asked the questions, "How can the dream survive if we murder the children?" Dr. King challenged the audience of more than 200 students and members of the community, to understand the effects of abortion on the African-

American community and to recognize the pro-life movement is a continuation of the civil rights movement.

African-Americans comprise 12.33% of our country's population, but more than 35% of abortions are committed on African-American women and their pre-born children. African-American women are more than three times as likely to have an abortion as white women – one half of African-American pregnancies are terminated by abortion. From 1995 to 2008, the U.S. population grew by 14.93%, while the African-American population has grown by only 10.74%. The overall effect of this difference: African-Americans are the only minority in the U.S. that is in decline – a decline of 0.47% in that 13-year span.

The following morning, GCRTL Executive Director Ruth Yorston hosted a breakfast at the King Arts Complex for Dr. King to meet with leaders from Greater Columbus' African-American community. In attendance were civic leaders who represented business, education, government, social service agencies, and churches. Dr. King shared her concern over the disproportionate number of African-American children lost to abortion every year and challenged them to work even more diligently to educate the Greater Columbus African-American community. This highly-engaged audience took that challenge to heart and several of those in attendance are working with GCRTL to developing an outreach program community.



*Dr. Alveda C. King speaking at Otterbein College.*



*Executive Director Ruth Yorston with Dr. Alveda C. King and members of Otterbein Students for Life.*

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 2

- Letter from the President
- Tailgate for Life

Page 3

- The Long Struggle
- GCRTL Annual Meeting

Page 4

- The Power of One:

Page 5

- 2010 Membership

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Advocacy Training: Influencing Your Personal Network

June 19, 9:00 a.m.  
PDHC Conference Room  
665 E. Dublin-Granville Rd.  
Columbus, OH 43229

### GCRTL Annual Meeting

July 12, 7:00 p.m.  
PDHC Conference Room  
665 E. Dublin-Granville Road,  
Columbus, OH 43229

### Tailgate for Life

September 26, 6:00 p.m.  
Grove City Church of the Nazarene  
4770 Hoover Road, Grove City

**Do you know  
someone who is  
pregnant and needs  
help?**

**Call the 24-hour  
Option Line**

**1.800.395.HELP  
1.800.395.4257**

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## ***THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER***

*Beth Vanderkooi*

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*Dear Friends and Supporters,*

Everyone in the pro-life movement has a story to tell. Some stories are dramatic – the abortion survivor, the former abortion advocate, the new parent, or the individual with a loved one who faces terminal illness and its emotional complexities. Others do not have one specific “eureka” moment regarding abortion, embryonic stem cell research, human cloning or euthanasia. Perhaps you were raised pro-life or you gradually came to discern that all life is precious.

While not every one of us had that “eureka” moment, everyone who is engaged in the movement shares two specific experiences. Together these have transformed quiet, private beliefs into active involvement in organizations like GCRTL.

The first of these is internal. Something happened and you said, “This is wrong. Someone should change this. Maybe I should get involved.” It could have been a political election, a Court nomination or a legislative enactment. Perhaps it was personal – hearing a baby’s heartbeat, meeting an abortion survivor, or simply feeling that quiet tugging at your conscience grow stronger. If you are reading this letter, you have had this internal experience.

My goal is to inspire each of you to take that second step – externalize that internal experience. Today is your chance to say, “This is wrong, and I will work to change it.”

***Ultimately, something happened; I realized that I could not wait for someone else to make a difference. That day, I became active in GCRTL.***

I am humbled to be the President of Greater Columbus Right to Life, although I do not have a dramatic introduction to my story. I was born in a community where human life is respected. For a long time I did not even know that abortion or euthanasia really existed. Eventually, I scrutinized my beliefs, and I am proud to say that today I can hold up my pro-life values coherently without betraying my faith, education, knowledge of science, or empathy with a woman in crisis. I was proud of this, and yet, for many years, I did nothing.

Ultimately, something happened; I realized that I could not wait for someone else to make a difference. That day, I became active in GCRTL.

Over the next months, I look forward to sharing more of my story with you. More eagerly, I look forward to hearing your stories and helping you become involved as we work to cultivate a society that protects innocent human life from conception until natural death. We can do this, but we need your help. Starting today.

Always for Life,

Beth Vanderkooi  
President, Board of Trustees

## **Save the Date!**

Greater Columbus Right to Life's 2nd Annual

## **Tailgate for Life**

**Sunday, September 26, 2010, 6 pm**

Grove City Church of the Nazarene

4770 Hoover Road

Grove City, OH 43123

***With Rebecca Kiessling  
Conceived in Rape: A Story of Hope***



Sponsored in part by:



Also:

2010 Defender of Life Award

2010 President's Award

## THE LONG STRUGGLE

Fr. Kenneth Tanner

It's been twenty years--wow--since I led rescues at abortion mills in Los Angeles and in the OC; when, over a period of a year, we spent a few days (all told) as prisoners on behalf of the unborn.



Today, Caitlin – who was born in 1995 – led fellow students at her middle school in a demonstration that involved placing over their mouths small sections of red duct tape with the word "LIFE" inscribed on them. It's a nationwide Day of Silent Solidarity with unborn persons.

Though there were concerns that she and the students she'd recruited might get detentions or write-ups, how could I refuse her active conviction, this chance to silently shout on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves?

Two thoughts: It hits the sweet spot of the soul when your children embrace truth with the same conviction you felt at their age, however countercultural and relatively risky that stand might prove to be (nothing, of course, like what faces Christians living in China or the Southern Sudan, or India).

Also, the struggle for justice and mercy is intergenerational; it takes patience, persistence, and faith. I'm reminded of a (for me) life-foundational quote by Prof. Niebuhr:

*"Nothing worth doing is completed in our lifetime; therefore, we are saved by hope. Nothing true or beautiful or good*

*makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore, we are saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore, we are saved by love. No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as from our own; therefore, we are saved by the final form of love, which is forgiveness." — Reinhold Niebuhr*

Caitlin, Cassidy, Bri and their friends are magnificent and noble. They give me hope for motherhood's future. I'm grateful for these girls even though the school made them take off the tape because it constituted a "health hazard."

Not as hazardous as a mother's womb for an unborn child, these days, but I get it; I get what the administrators want to avoid. The red duct tape says it all: don't talk about it and don't do anything to "talk" about not talking about it. The girls instead fashioned some "LIFE" bracelets (see the photo).

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, and save your Creation, and your smallest ones, from violence.

Fr. Kenneth Tanner is a pastor and writer ordained in the Charismatic Episcopal Church. He is the rector of Church of the Holy Redeemer in Rochester Hills, MI. Fr. Tanner, along with his parents, Archbishop Randy and Mrs. Betty Adler, spent several days in a southern California prison for their work with Operation Rescue in the 1980s. He and his wife, Debbie, have seven children. In his own words, "Being a father (to seven children and the faithful at Holy Redeemer) is what I do and what I love." Fr. Tanner writes this article about his daughter, Caitlin.



## Greater Columbus Right to Life Annual Meeting

Monday, July 12, 2010

7:00 p.m.

Pregnancy Decision Health Care Conference Room

665 E. Dublin-Granville Road

Columbus, OH 43229



*GCRTL Executive Director  
Ruth Yorston, and her husband,  
Fr. Ian Yorston*

## **THE POWER OF ONE: *How One Person Helped Me Travel the Distance to the Opposite Side of the Sidewalk.***

In 1985 I worked at an abortion mill. I was the receptionist, the “kind young women” who welcomed frightened, nervous clients to our facility in order to help them make their “little problem” go away. Every Wednesday when I went to work I had to pass between two rows of people – one on each side of the sidewalk in front of our building. To my left was the wall of escorts – the volunteers who helped our clients get past those “horrible anti-choice” people to my right. It was the most uncomfortable part of my day and I dreaded that walk between the two rows of people on opposing sides of the sidewalk. I couldn’t wait to get to safety behind the wall of escorts.

There’s a lot to my story to explain how I got there, but today I want to tell you about how I made that monumental leap – the three-foot leap to the opposite side of the sidewalk.

Not long after I started working at Women’s Health Organization, I also started dating a young man named Andy. At first Andy didn’t know what I did for my part time job – it wasn’t something I talked about openly or shared with many people. Eventually, as we got to know each other and I began to trust him, I told Andy how I spent my Wednesday mornings. I don’t remember him having any reaction to my announcement. I don’t think we even talking about it. I just told him what I did and that was it. . . or so I thought.

Andy was shocked, but he never showed it. He went home and quickly determined that as much as he liked me, he just couldn’t continue to date someone who worked at an abortion mill. But instead of just walking away, disgusted by my views and actions, he chose to offer me the gift of the truth wrapped in grace and mercy. The next time Andy came to visit, he stayed for just a few minutes. We sat in my parents’ living room and he handed me a small book on the development of the pre-born human. He said he didn’t want to talk about the book right then, but asked that I read it and we could talk about it later. Then he left.

I did read that little book. It only took me about 20 minutes, but those 20 minutes changed my life. As I looked at those pictures and read that simple primer about human development, my eyes were opened. Suddenly, I realized that abortion takes the life of a pre-born child, and I couldn’t have anything more to do with it. I quit my job at the Women’s Health Organization and joined those “horrible anti-choice” people on the opposite side of the sidewalk.

Andy and I parted ways some time later. Since then I’ve been blessed to meet and marry a wonderful man – the man of my dreams to whom I’ve been married for 19 years. But I will always be grateful to the one who took a chance that I might reject him and his ideals and shared the truth in love. Andy provided for me a safe place to land. The width of a sidewalk is quite narrow, but for the person who looks at life through pro-choice-colored glasses, it is a monumental leap – a leap from cliff-edge to cliff-edge with a chasm in between.

I am grateful to be given the opportunity to lead Greater Columbus Right to Life. I pray that I will never forget the grace and mercy that was extended to me in the love and care of someone who took a chance on me, and I pledge to extend that same grace and mercy to those who do not yet know the truth concerning life-related issues. I pledge to be that safe landing place for people who do not yet share our pro-life values and outlook. It’s a scary jump and one that is not likely to be made alone. Think of Abby Johnson, the former director of Planned Parenthood in Bryan, TX. When her eyes were opened and she walked out of that Planned Parenthood facility, where did she go? She ran into the arms of the people who had been praying in front of that facility – into the arms of people who showed love, peace, patience, kindness, and gentleness (and if that lists looks familiar, check out the entire list in Galatians 5).

While we will do many things at Greater Columbus Right to Life to further our mission of promoting a culture that protects innocent human life from the moment of conception through natural death, it will always be my goal that we do them with grace and mercy, that we will grow and live in the Fruit of the Spirit and that those fruit will be evident to all those around us – to people on both sides of the sidewalk.

I invite you to join us in this journey of grace and mercy. We need you. The pre-born children need you. The frail, the elderly, the physically and the mentally challenged – all of those vulnerable to the philosophy of the culture of death need you. For their sake, please do not be the one who watches from the sidelines – join us on the journey.

Always for Life

Ruth Yorston  
Executive Director  
Greater Columbus Right to Life

*Would you like to better  
influence the people in your life?  
Attend our next advocacy  
training – **Influencing Your  
Personal Network** – and join  
the conversation. Check out the  
front page for date and location.*



# 2010 Membership

Count me in! On behalf of all of those who are vulnerable to the philosophy of the culture of death I will join Greater Columbus Right to Life on a journey of promoting a culture that respects innocent human life from the moment of conception through natural death.

Please include me in the membership of Greater Columbus Right to Life! I understand that my membership dues are not tax deductible, but any amount over my dues is tax deductible.

Individual - \$30       Couple - \$60       Family - \$100

I'd like to do more. In addition to my membership dues, here is my additional

monthly    one-time donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name (*please print*) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed      Please charge my:  Visa    MasterCard    Discover

Name as it appears on card \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer. Please contact me about the following program(s):

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 40 Days for Life | <input type="checkbox"/> Signature Ad        | <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Fund Raiser      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office help      | <input type="checkbox"/> Mailing preparation | <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Statehouse Rally |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Chain       |  |  |

Mail to: Greater Columbus Right to Life, P.O. Box 6357, Columbus, OH 43206-0357

For more information, visit us on the Web at [www.gctrl.org](http://www.gctrl.org) or call us at 614.445.8508



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[gctrlife@gmail.com](mailto:gctrlife@gmail.com)

## *Volunteer Opportunities*

Are you ready to get more involved in Greater Columbus Right to Life? There are a number of volunteer opportunities. Here are two:

**Signature Ad Coordinator.** Seeking volunteer signature ad coordinator for annual January ad. Coordination, organization skills, and computer familiarity required. Must be available to devote flexible hours in the fall to communication and planning. Must meet early January deadline with the assistance and cooperation of the church coordinators (some hours required during Christmas)

**Life Ambassadors.** GCRTL needs someone within area churches to be our ambassador to your church family. Our Life Ambassadors are the first to receive information about GCRTL events and programs and are a very important communication channel to the people in their churches. The time commitment is minimal, but the impact is powerful.

For more information on these and other volunteer opportunities, please contact Ruth Yorston at 614.445.8508 or [GCRTLlife@gmail.com](mailto:GCRTLlife@gmail.com).



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