

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It has been a privilege and an honor to meet and work with many of you during my first several months here at Greater Columbus Right to Life. Whether I met you on the sidewalk outside of Planned Parenthood, at our Roe Remembrance in January, at one of our sidewalk trainings, or at another event in the community, thank you all for your warm welcome to the Buckeye State. Every time I have the opportunity to meet with our supporters and volunteers, I am grateful that people like you are here in Ohio. It is people like you that can and will make a difference for life.

Last month, we discovered some sobering news. Planned Parenthood has expanded its abortion businesses to the Athens location, and Jensen Family Health in Lewis Center has also started providing abortions. Additionally, we have gleaned data indicating that the number of abortions reported by Ohio's regulated clinics is likely to be 30,000 or more in 2024, nearly doubling from 2022.

While this is horrific, we do not need to despair. We must invest all our efforts to build a culture that protects these innocent human lives. We are not giving up and we need everyone, including you, to stand with us for life. Whatever role God is calling you to, now is your time.

We are in the midst of our 40 Days for Life campaign; this is a time when we make a special effort to invite people to pray on the sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood. The act of being present as a sign of hope on the sidewalk outside an abortion facility is a powerful way to invite our community to protect life and mothers to choose life for their children. In fact, on our first day of 40 Days for Life we learned of a possible turn-away. She is still undecided and needs your prayers, but she chose not to have an abortion on that day. Our prayers have already seen fruit here in Columbus including the closure of multiple abortion locations. I invite you to be that sign of hope for the next mother and join us on the sidewalk during our 40 Days for Life campaign and beyond.

Greater Columbus Right to Life is entering our 50th year. Many times anniversaries are a time to celebrate and remember the blessings of the years, such as my parents who are celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary this month. However, with an organization dedicated to ending a grave injustice like abortion, these celebrations and fond memories may also be mixed with a sense of loss that abortions are still happening in our community. While it is our prayer that these assaults on life would end and our work was no longer necessary, we must take this time to be thankful for the victories we have seen and resolve to continue until our mission is accomplished.

I am also excited to announce our banquet speaker: Jason Shanks! Jason has a long history of faithful leadership. Among his many accomplishments is being the President of Greater Columbus Right to Life where he brought 40 Days for Life to Columbus and expanded our presence in the community. You could say that he made Columbus Right to Life even Greater. His vision has helped save over 30,000 lives in central Ohio. The more I find out about Jason, the more excited I am to have him at our banquet; I hope you can come to the banquet in June and be inspired by his testimony.

As you read the rest of this newsletter, I invite you to prayerfully consider your role and how you are being called. I challenge you to be courageous in your response to defend life, and I look forward to meeting you soon!

God Bless,



Paul Borchard  
Executive Director  
Greater Columbus Right to Life

# 40 DAYS FOR LIFE IN FULL SWING

*Prayerful, Peaceful, Powerful*



Scan this QR code with your phone to sign up!

We are in the midst of our Spring 40 Days for Life Campaign, but it's not too late to join. Many people feel intimidated by standing out in front of Planned Parenthood. They may feel overwhelmed by gravity of what happens, where life and death are everyday realities or fear the stares of those driving past. This sense of fear and reluctance is natural; the late Msgr. Reilly, a pioneer of compassionate sidewalk counseling, put it this way: It will always be awkward to persuade a mother not to kill her own child. However, when we overcome our reservations and show up out of love for mothers and babies, we are making a difference in the lives of those we encounter. Our mere presence is a message of life and a sign of hope to those coming to Planned Parenthood and those traveling past. Additionally, the majority of those who overcome their hesitations and join the prayer vigil on the sidewalk find that it really is not as difficult as they originally imagined.

While we may not always immediately see the impact of our prayerful efforts, your presence makes a difference, and combined with everyone's efforts, the impact is measurable. In fact, we have already learned that on the first day of this year's 40 Days for Life campaign a young mother decided to skip her appointment. At the time of printing, she had not yet decided what she was going to do, but for that one day—she turned away from abortion and toward life. We are praying with and for her.

The 40 Days for Life model is based on the timeframe of 40 days, seen in scripture many times as a period of testing and transformation. The three components of 40 Days for Life are prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil outside an abortion business, and community outreach.

You can join the 40 Days for Life vigil in Columbus anytime from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day through April 13th on the sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood at 3255 E. Main St., on Columbus' east side.

Sign up for an hour of prayer or more at [gctrl.org/40-days-for-life](https://gctrl.org/40-days-for-life). Community outreach involves inviting others to join 40 Days for Life. A great way to do this is to adopt a time at the vigil with a group. This could be your church, your school, or any group such as a Bible study group, a Knights of Columbus council, a political club, or a family.

Organizing a group is a terrific way to help others overcome their initial hesitations to being on the sidewalk. Groups and individuals can join the vigil anywhere from one hour to a whole day and can come once, weekly, or daily. If you are interested in signing up, learning more, or need help getting involved, visit [gctrl.org/40-days-for-life](https://gctrl.org/40-days-for-life) or reach out to us at [paul@gctrl.org](mailto:paul@gctrl.org) or 614-445-8508. Whether you are still nervous about coming for the first time or are a stalwart on the sidewalk, I challenge you to come to the vigil and invite others to join you.

## ROE REMEMBRANCE 2025

*Millions have died, because of a lie*

This year's Roe Remembrance didn't just mark the 52nd year since the U.S. Supreme Court unleashed the deadly Roe vs. Wade court decision. It was our third since the Dobbs decision brought some relief, and the second since Ohio voters approved adding Article 1, Section 22 to Ohio's Constitution.

We are thankful for those who joined, especially Senator Andrew Brenner, Fr. Bob Penhallurick, and Cindy—a local woman who many years ago had an abortion and now works to help others heal from their experience(s).

All of our speakers shared a common theme—that abortion is founded on a lie about the dignity of the human person. Both the Roe decision and the Issue 1 campaign relied heavily on fear, manipulation, and lies. Millions have died, and the bloodshed is not over; if anything it is about to get much worse. Early figures suggest that abortions in Ohio will exceed 30,000—nearly double that of 2022. Ohio Planned Parenthood affiliates have expanded by two abortion centers—one in Athens and one in Dayton, and Jenson Family Health in Lewis Center now sells the abortion pill.

We are going to continue to respond, but time and time again, we know that the most effective thing that we can do is have volunteers and staff who are prayerful, peaceful, and present at the clinics. Please make this your sign to get involved—whether it is signing up for an hour or leading a small group at this year's 40 Days campaign, attending (or hosting) a training (abortion is now everywhere—we need to be too), or making a financial gift to support the work that we are doing in the field, we can and must grow a community of truth and life.



# AN EVENING WITH JASON SHANKS MONDAY, JUNE 9TH, 2025

DOORS OPEN AT 5:45 | PROGRAM AT 6:15

VILLA MILANO: 1630 SCHROCK RD | COLUMBUS, OH

Greater Columbus  
**Right to Life**  
Growing a Community of Life



***Welcome home a nationally recognized transformational leader  
whose 2020 Vision to end abortion has reduced them by 60%,  
sparing nearly 30,000 lives.***

## BIOGRAPHY

Jason Shanks is a well-known name to many in Central Ohio. In fact, you could say that it was his vision for local organizational unity and faith-based community action that has seen the number of abortions performed locally decrease by nearly 60% – sparing more than 30,000 babies from the horrors of abortion. As we enter into this new era, with abortion enshrined in our state constitution, we are welcoming him back to share his story and reignite our vision.

By 2007, Jason was serving as the President of Columbus Right to Life. In his time as President, he stabilized operations, reduced costs, expanded partnerships, began 40 Days for Life, announced a 2020 Vision plan to end abortion in Columbus, and added “Greater” to the name – broadening our mission to surrounding areas.

Jason’s vision and local impact is not limited to Greater Columbus Right to Life. He was a co-founder of Catholic Youth Summer Camp, now known as Damascus. Since leaving the Columbus area, he has served as Secretariat Leader of Evangelization and Parish Life for the Diocese of Toledo and Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, where he successfully combined and reorganized five separate county-based social service agencies into one regional service agency. In 2014, Crain’s Detroit Business recognized him with their 40 Under 40 Award. Following his work in Detroit, he became President of the Our Sunday Visitor Institute, where he built a platform for entrepreneurs to share and fund their innovative ideas with the Church.

Jason has also served as a consultant on the Committee of Religious Liberty for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, on the Executive Committee for the National Eucharistic Revival since 2021, and as the founding treasurer of the National Eucharistic Congress from its beginnings. He was recently named President of the National Eucharistic Congress.

Jason’s life is a testament to extraordinary leadership, a commitment to the sanctity of human life, and the ability of one person to make an impact upon generations. In 2020, he was intubated due to Covid19 and nearly died. Through the prayers of many, he experienced a truly miraculous healing. It is no surprise that he has twice been named as National Catholic Man of the Year. We are excited to welcome him back for our 50th Anniversary.

Jason resides in Northern Indiana with his wife, Melissa, and their five children.

# AN EVENING WITH JASON SHANKS

One man's vision for our community has helped save more than 30,000 babies

**MONDAY, JUNE 9TH, 2025**

**DOORS OPEN AT 5:45 | PROGRAM AT 6:15**  
**VILLA MILANO: 1630 SCHROCK RD | COLUMBUS, OH**



Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, we are again able to provide complimentary seating at our banquet. This ensures that every dollar raised the night of the banquet supports our life-saving work. On average, each sponsor dollar given allows us to raise an additional \$3-\$5 during the event. To sponsor, please select your sponsorship level, fill out the form below, and return it to our office. A member of our team will follow up with you regarding any program artwork and to help you and your guests register.

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### Dobbs Donor: \$10,000

Our Dobbs Donors will receive special recognition at our banquet, premiere seating, a full-page listing in our program & marketing materials, and 20 tickets to the VIP reception..

### Speaker's Circle: \$5,000-\$7,499

Our Speaker's Circle will receive special recognition at the banquet, premiere seating, program recognition, and 10 tickets to our VIP reception.

### Life Sponsor: \$500-\$999

Our Life Sponsors will be recognized in our program, receive program recognition, preferred seating, and two tickets to our VIP reception.

### Presenting Sponsor: \$7,500-\$9,999

Our Presenting Sponsors will receive special recognition at our banquet, premiere seating, a prominent listing in our program & marketing materials, and 10 tickets to the VIP reception.

### President's Circle: \$1,000-\$4,999

Our President's Circle will receive special recognition at the banquet, premiere seating, program recognition, and four tickets to our VIP reception.

### Flame Sponsor: \$250-\$499

Our Flame Sponsors will be recognized in our program and receive preferred seating.



**SPONSOR AGREEMENT**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business or Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I would prefer my sponsorship be listed as anonymous

Sponsor Level: \_\_\_\_\_ VIP tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Check  Cash  Credit Card  Call to discuss other options

If donating by credit card:

Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CSC#: \_\_\_\_\_

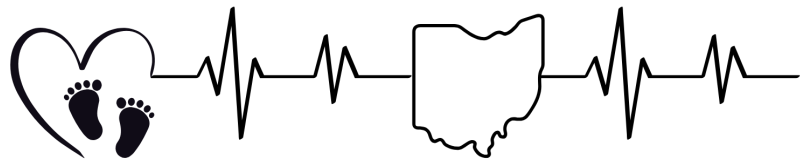
Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Greater Columbus Right to Life | 4900 Reed Rd, Suite 200 | Columbus, OH 43220



# GCRTL POLICY PULSE

*From the Statehouse to your house*



The 136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly is in full swing, with all eyes on the Ohio budget. The as-introduced version (meaning as recommended by the Governor) is more than 4,000 pages long, with matters like transportation, workers' compensation, and capital projects having distinct bills. The bill sets out more than \$100 billion in each of fiscal years 2026 and 2027, which includes GRF (tax dollars) and other funds (fees, federal dollars, etc). While the bill is only in its earliest stages, pro-life advocates are applauding a few provisions, including increases in dollars to support maternal mortality, infant health, and the work of life-affirming programs. \$7M in 2026 and \$10M in 2027 are earmarked for grants to organizations that provide direct assistance to pregnant and parenting families but do not counsel or refer to abortion. Alongside with investments in adoption grants and maternal health initiatives, it is clear that even with the passage of Issue 1, most of our leadership is investing in helping mothers and babies to thrive.

However, several lawmakers, including Columbus-area Representative Anita Somani (D) have introduced legislation that they claim will provide the basis for implementation for their vision of the abortion portions of Issue 1. HB 128 is not likely to pick up much momentum, but you should be aware that the first proposal of the bill is to provide general protection from civil damages, criminal prosecution, or professional disciplinary action for "injury, death, or loss to person or property that allegedly arises from any act or omission" in providing reproductive health care. The bill also wipes out a large amount of reporting and basic health and safety requirements, adds abortion and contraception use to the protected class for employment status, and more.

Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Rules – over the summer, Greater Columbus Right to Life participated in a workgroup that reviewed Ohio's rules and policy for DNR orders. Those rule and form changes have begun the public policy process, and we will continue to monitor them to ensure that Ohio's DNR policies continue to advocate that patients and healthcare professionals alike have reasonable standards and forms that continue to keep patients at the forefront of making healthcare decisions. A quick reminder – we often hear from pro-life voices who think that a DNR order is against their pro-life beliefs. This is not accurate, but DNR orders should be used at the right time and in accordance with patient rights and wishes. To understand this issue a little better, you can request one of our "Faithful at the End of Life" programs at your church or organization. Contact our office at 614-445-8508 for more information.

Finally, while there are lots of things to watch, we will be especially mindful of oral arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court in April. The Court is hearing a case that asks if South Carolina (and other states) can remove entities like Planned Parenthood from continuing to get taxpayer funds. Be sure to keep an eye out for updates and more information via our e-news or social media accounts. If you do not get our e-news, just give us a call or return the enclosed envelope with your updated information.

## AN EVENING WITH JASON SHANKS

*Welcoming back a familiar face for our 50th*

This year, Greater Columbus Right to Life is celebrating our 50th Anniversary. We are the first to acknowledge that we had hoped it would be a very different year. Issue 1's passage in Ohio has certainly changed a lot of things, and after more than two decades of seeing abortion figures dramatically decline, we are aware of the weight of the abortion crisis that is re-igniting in Ohio. Indeed, there are many uncertainties right now, but one thing that there is no question about—the work that Greater Columbus Right to Life is doing is more important than ever, and we need your help now more than ever.

There have been so many leaders at Greater Columbus Right to Life over these past five decades, and we could honestly fill the stage and the room just recognizing them. Some of our past leaders have gone on to become household names and heroes in the community—people like Peggy Hartshorn and Rachel Muha. Many have left our world and its sorrows behind—Jim and Betty Strapp, Jerry Freewalt, and others. Still more have continued to be our advocates and supporters but also taken on roles in their family and churches—people like Diane C., Phyllis L, Tom C., Mike D., the Smiths, and so many more who I am not listing (or worse—do not know to list). We also have tremendous current leaders—and we can't wait to meet the leaders of the future. We hope this year, and especially our banquet, is a big reunion. It is also a year that is going to require vision, innovation, and reinvigoration. Which is why we've asked Jason Shanks to return to Columbus as our keynote speaker. *(continued "Speaker", page 4)*



One man's vision for our community has helped saved more than 30,000 babies

# SAVE THE DATE

## Faithful at the End of Life

Sun, March 30th: 2:00 PM  
Tiffin Right to Life  
gcrtl.org/fatel-tiffin

Sat, April 5th: 9:00 am  
Zion Lutheran  
gcrtl.org/fatel-zionlutheran

## 40 Days for Life

March 5th-April 9  
gcrtl.org/40-days-for-life

## Sidewalk Training

Fri. March 28: 9:30AM-1PM  
Tue. April 1: 6-9PM  
Mon. April 7: 2-5PM  
gcrtl.org/sidewalk-counseling

## Annual Banquet

An Evening with Jason Shanks  
Mon, June 9, 2025  
gcrtl.org/banquet

Find more events:



# RESOURCES

## Pregnancy Help Hotline

optionline.org  
1-800-712-4357

## Abortion Pill Reversal

abortionpillreversal.com  
1-877-558-0333



# SPEAKER

(continued from pg. 3)

When it comes to vision, innovation, and reinvigoration, we could think of no person better to invite as a speaker than Jason Shanks.

Jason's vision for our organization was to stabilize operations, reduce costs, expand partnerships, and invest in programs like 40 Days for Life. His 2020 Vision plan called for a vision to end abortion in our community, add "Greater" to the name and expand our reach and our outreach. Since then, we've seen more than 30,000 fewer abortions in our central Ohio.

If you don't know him, you can read more about him in the special insert of this newsletter, which also outlines some of the sponsorship opportunities associated with our banquet. Official invitations will follow in a few weeks, and registration will open in early to mid April. You can "pre-register" on our website, as we anticipate that tickets (which as always will be complimentary) will go quickly.

I hope to see you at our banquet on June 9th, and I would ask you to prayerfully consider if you can help us as a sponsor of the banquet. Whether that is you personally, your church or organization, or your business, we need your help. Each dollar that we can use for underwriting helps us to raise an average of \$3 to \$5 the night of the banquet. Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization, but your support also fuels the movement and the mission. If you have any questions, give me (Beth) a call at 614-445-8508.

I am excited to welcome Jason back to Columbus for many reasons, and I think his message is one that will inspire us to reenvision our mission, and invigorate us to the work ahead. I also want to show him the work that we have done and thank him for recruiting me as a volunteer way back in 2007. It is going to be an amazing night, and I hope we see you there!

# CATHOLIC MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CONFERENCES

In two days, we were able to meet with thousands at the Catholic Men's and Women's Conferences. With hundreds signing up to volunteer and thousands of pieces of literature and information distributed. It was also a great time to meet our newest team members—Paul and Olivia. Paul, as you now know is our new Executive Director. You may not yet have met Olivia, the newest face to our team. She will be helping in the office and with communications work. She is replacing Cinda who a few months ago had an opportunity that allows her to spend more time with her family.

Speaking of family, when we hired Olivia, we didn't just grow our team by one part-time staff member. In early March, Olivia and her husband welcomed the newest member of team GCRTL: baby Augustine. Olivia will be out of the office for a little while on maternity leave, so thank you for your patience if we are a little slow to respond! With her out, Paul still learning the ropes, and Beth serving in a consulting role, we are so very thankful for those who are giving their time to assist us. Whether it is an hour that you spend praying at the clinic and sharing with us what you say, helping to fold and stuff envelopes and invitations, assisting with data input in the office (we have so much data to input with our clinic accountability project), or just helping us to focus more on community outreach—thank you so much to our volunteers!

One of the best ways that we can introduce our work to the larger community is to be out in the community—so thank you to the conference organizers for inviting us to participate. We are always looking for new opportunities, too! So if your church or school has an event or activity fair—give us a call.