Greater Columbus Right to Life
Growing a Community of Life

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Summer 2026

Dear Friends,

Over the past three weeks, I have had the privilege of stepping into the role of Executive Director of Greater Columbus Right to Life, and I can honestly say that I am both humbled and excited about the work ahead.

Many of you welcomed me so warmly at our Annual Banquet, by phone, or via email, and I am grateful for every conversation, handshake, and word of encouragement. It was immediately clear that this organization is built by faithful people who have quietly invested years of prayer, sacrifice, and service to protect the most vulnerable among us. Please continue to keep me and our whole team in prayer.

These first weeks have been filled with opportunities to listen and learn. I have enjoyed meeting with pro-life leaders throughout our community, hearing the stories of our volunteers, and discovering the many ways God is already at work through this ministry. Every conversation has reminded me that while the challenges before us are significant, we are blessed with a community of people who are deeply committed to building a culture that welcomes and protects every human life.

One experience, however, will likely stay with me more than any other, and that was when I joined our volunteers in prayer outside an abortion facility. Standing peacefully on the sidewalk was both sobering and profoundly moving. It transformed abortion from something discussed in news headlines and legislation into a heartbreaking reality affecting mothers, fathers, families, and children just beyond the doors. It also reminded me why prayer and faithful witness remain at the heart of everything we do.

I hope you'll take a few moments to look through this newsletter and prayerfully consider where God may be inviting you to become involved. Whether it's joining us for our Open House on Wednesday, July 16 from 4-7 to meet me and learn more about the organization, attending one of our upcoming events, participating in our Summer Social, or adopting an hour during this Fall's 40 Days for Life campaign, there is a place for everyone to make a difference. No contribution of time or talent is too small when it is offered with love.

Finally, thank you to all who have supported us financially so fair this year, and if you have not yet, I would ask you to consider supporting this work financially. My professional background includes a lot of work in managing budgets—from helping families with their financial affairs to serving as the Deputy Tax Commissioner for the State of Ohio. You could say that I know how critical it is to have the money we need to carry out the mission and to spend it wisely and prudently in a way that honors every single gift we receive.

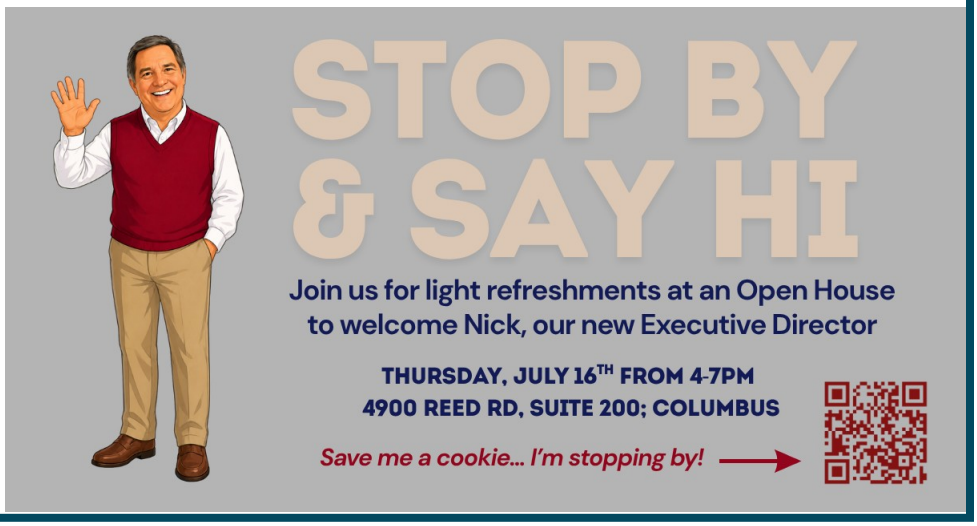
Every educational program, volunteer training, sidewalk outreach, and advocacy effort described in these pages is made possible because faithful friends like you choose to invest in defending human life. Your generosity enables us to continue speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Thank you for the warm welcome you have already extended to me. I look forward to meeting many more of you in the weeks ahead and serving alongside you as we continue this important mission together.

For Life,

Nick

Nicholas J. Cipiti
Executive Director



Responding to the Crisis

The legal and political landscape surrounding the abortion pill continues to change rapidly. California's Attorney General continues to pursue litigation harassing Heartbeat International over Abortion Pill reversal, while the U.S. Supreme Court is once again considering whether the abortion pill may continue to be prescribed via telemedicine and mailed nationwide. They had temporarily blocked a lower court ruling that restored in-person dispensing requirements while the litigation progressed. As of print time, the dispensing had begun again. In the meanwhile, members of the Ohio General Assembly continue to consider legislation that would restore some regulation on the abortion pill after they were decimated by passage of Ohio's abortion amendment.

Here in central Ohio, utilization of the abortion pill continues to expand. **At least four** providers now distribute the abortion pill in Franklin County, and numbers suggest additional providers are popping up in the surrounding counties. Until this spring, Aria Medical and Jenson Family Health (abortion pill providers) operated alongside the Just Center – a self-described "pregnancy help center" that refers to and helps facilitate funding for abortions. Their slogan, "We want to help you, not save you," is an unmistakable jab at faith-based pregnancy resource centers that have faithfully served women for decades. In May, Aria and the Just Center relocated to an office building near the corner of North Broadway and High Street, which has long been the home to several respected organizations and health care providers, including the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio – a group that has done so much to help families and adults navigating and living with Down Syndrome. We should all be mindful of the vulnerability of children and families when there is a diagnosis of Down's – a discussion brought back into national attention when a social media influencer couple made an elaborate announcement that they chose abortion rather than have a child with a disability. It was a tragic reminder that prenatal disability continues to place countless children at risk of abortion and it is a warning that overwhelmed parents seeking help for their pregnancies could be steered toward abortion.

These developments reinforce that if Big Abortion is going to bring abortion to every mailbox, sidewalk, and school, then we must bring pro-life advocacy and abortion pill reversal there too. And we continue to expand opportunities for you to get involved to do just that. We are continuing to recruit and re-invite sidewalk counselors and prayer volunteers to maintain a peaceful, compassionate witness wherever abortions are taking place. If you are interested in becoming a more effective advocate – on the sidewalk or anywhere, consider attending one of our Advocacy Training classes on July 16th or July 18th. If your church, school, or community group would like to host the training –let us know.

Finally, we are so excited to launch new Abortion Pill Education and Reversal program jointly with PDHC at the Summer Social. Participants will learn how the abortion pill works, the science behind reversal, practical advocacy and apologetics and how to respond if God places someone in their path who regrets taking the first does. We will also be adding this program to our Speaker's Bureau and making it available free of charge to schedule at your church, school, or group meeting.

The laws may constantly change, but we are staying true to our mission. More than ever, protecting life depends on informed, compassionate, and faithful people who are prepared to meet women wherever the abortion industry seeks to reach them.

Advocacy Training

At least seven out of every ten babies who die by abortion are victims of the abortion pill, and hundreds of serious adverse impacts are being reported by the abortion providers themselves. At GCRTL, we are urgently calling you to stand up and respond to the crisis with truth and love as one of our year-round life advocates.

Our advocacy training will prepare you to respond anywhere and everywhere – whether that means becoming a sidewalk ministry member, prayer partner, or simply educating yourself so are ready to more meaningfully respond in your everyday life.

Register NOW for our next training: gcrtl.org/sidewalk-counseling.

Assisted Suicide Legislation Introduced

There are three primary threats facing the dignity of life at its end: understanding the key elements of end of life decision making (bioethics), understanding and adopting life-affirming advance directives, and efforts to advance assisted suicide and euthanasia. For several years, we have been working to strengthen our programming on all three, the flagship of which has been Faithful at the End of Life, which addresses the first two.

While we had limited educational programming related to the third issue—efforts to advance assisted suicide and euthanasia, we have recently increased that in light of legislation, HB 835, which has been introduced in the Ohio General Assembly. HB 835 seeks to legalize "Oregon-style" assisted suicide.

While the proposal is unlikely to gain traction in the current legislature, its backers have launched an aggressive public relations campaign to build support, with favorable coverage appearing in Ohio newspapers.

Thousands have benefitted from Faithful at the End of Life. Now, we are adding additional resources under the title of "Compassion Requires Care, Not Killing" to our programming, including an all new documentary showing the effects of assisted suicide in Canada. We have also put together an analysis and basic conversation points to respond to the legislation and related arguments. These programs are all available to your church, school, or organization at no cost. **You can find all this and more at gcrtl.org/compassion.**

"Let's Call Abortion What it is…Evil"

Hundreds of the friends and supporters of Greater Columbus Right to Life gathered in June to hear, in his own words, what Mark Houck, a Philadelphia sidewalk counselor, went through, when he was targeted by the United States Department of Justice for defending his minor son from an aggressive and pushy sidewalk counselor in Philadelphia. If you did not make it, you missed a testimony that will live in many of our hearts for years to come.

Many of us came expecting to hear the details of the lawfare that Mark and his family experienced—the unprecedented harassment from the Justice Department, the unanimous decision of the jury to find him not guilty, and even the victory handed down in his counter-suit against the DOJ just weeks before the GCRTL Banquet. In many ways, his story is one of extraordinary courage and faith shown in circumstances that stretch us beyond what we can imagine as a worst-case scenario. But in so many ways, his actual path was that of an ordinary man, walking in faith, and humbly describing not the victory but the stumbles and the falls he experienced along the way.

Mark's wife, Ryan-Marie and daughter, Ita. Mark recalled that when he was ready to give up, Ryan-Marie told him he did not dare, "Come home victorious, or do not come home," he half-joked.

Mark likened his journey to a path walking the Stations of the Cross. It is a prayer and meditation often thought of as a "Catholic" devotion, although in recent years it has attracted participants across faith traditions as a way of praying the last hours of Jesus - from His Condemnation to His burial. As such, it is often associated with Lent or Easter (but can be prayed anytime). Many of us work to frame our personal suffering as participation in the Crucifixion (Think of the quote often attributed to Mother Theresa about suffering so deeply we could kiss the face of Christ). But Mark evoked the humiliation and temptation he experienced, the heaviness of the burden he carried (including the decision not to accept a plea deal), the suffering and trauma of his family, and the complete surrender he gave of his life to God's will. As I (Beth) have been contemplating this story, I've asked myself two questions. The first is, "What would I do if I were in that position?" Would I surrender my will to God's? Would I take the plea? The second question I've pondered is how many, like me, were walking into the dinner expecting to hear a story of great faith and a good political victory? Certainly, to a degree, justice in this situation called for a reprimand to the overreach of lawfare. Yet, the victory was not political. The victory was that the suffering which we all

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Join us: Pro-Life Summer Social

Are you already passionate and involved in the pro-life cause here in the greater Columbus Area?

We are inviting all pro-life volunteers, respect life leaders, and anyone who is looking to connect with other pro-life voices and learn more about available programs and resources to our **Pro-Life Summer Social.**

Taking place on Saturday, August 22nd, from 9:30AM-1:00PM, at the Bridgettine Sister's Retreat House, the event will include a social hour to network with friends and connect with representatives from local pro-life groups, a preview of our new abortion pill and abortion pill reversal program with PDHC, and a luncheon accompanied by remarks from our new Executive Director.

Registration is limited. Grab your spot today by scanning the QR Code.

Annual Banquet story, continued, from page 3.

endure is not the final word. That mercy and justice are real, and that when we have a platform to speak about them we can—and must, do so courageously and without fear.

That is what we are working to do here at Greater Columbus Right to Life. Not only are we giving voice to those who have none, but we are working to give every pro-life citizen the ability to speak about mercy, life, and love with courage and fear. It also goes without saying that this was a fundraiser. We cannot thank Mark enough for coming to share his story, but also we appreciate the sponsors, volunteers, and staff who made this event happen and the donors who came to support our mission. Thank you. *If you were not able to make the banquet this year, it isn't too late. Just return your gift in the included envelope.*

We are also profoundly thankful for our photographer, Larry Pishitelli. Visit our Facebook page to see all of the amazing photos that Larry took!

Save the Date

Advocacy Training
Thursday, July 16th 12PM-3PM
Saturday, July 18th 9AM-12PM
gcrtl.org/sidewalk-counseling

Open House: Meet Nick
Thursday, July 16th 4PM-7PM
gcrtl.org/welcome

Summer Social
Saturday, August 22nd 9:30AM-1:00PM
Bridgettine Sister's Retreat House
gcrtl.org/summer-social

40 Days for Life
Wed. Sept 23-Sun Nov 1: 7am-7pm
gcrtl.org/40-days-for-life

Ohio March for Life
Friday, October 2, 2026
Ohio Statehouse

480 Hours, 480 Babies: 40 Days Fall

Based on the most recent numbers, about 12 unborn babies are expected to die by abortion every day this Fall. We are asking you to join us in shifting how we look at the 40 Days Fall campaign to reflect that horrific reality.

From Sept. 23 through Nov. 1, we will maintain a peaceful prayer presence outside Planned Parenthood, 3255 E. Main Street in Columbus, and we are asking individuals, families, churches, schools, and community groups to adopt one hour, a partial day, or an entire day of the schedule. Our goal is to fill all 480 hours of the campaign with faithful prayer.

Think of it this way: **adopt one hour, and intentionally pray for one baby who may be scheduled to die during that day.** You may never know that child's name or the outcome of your prayers, but you can be certain that, during your hour, a vulnerable child and his or her parents need someone to stand in the gap. **Please help us cover every one of those 480 hours,** and trust that God can use your hour of faithfulness to accomplish what may seem impossible.

If you are finding this information helpful, consider connecting with us on our website (gcrtl.org) or social media (facebook.com/gcrtl and instagram.com/gcrtl). Also—if you don't currently get our e-news (1-2 times per month, plus occasional breaking news), you are missing out.. Sign up on our website, or return the enclosed envelope with your email and any volunteer interests (a donation completely optional.) If you've received our email in the past but are no longer getting it, you may have accidentally unsubscribed. Give us a call and we'll get you resubscribed.