



Ashtabula County Friends for Life



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Issue 2

Editor: Crystal Latimer

President's Note:

It is hard to believe that summer is over half gone already. We are gearing up to spend a week at the fair to bring the life issue to the forefront. Do you have an extra four hours during the week of Aug. 11-16? Working the fair booth is very rewarding. Call Karen at 563-4632 if you are interested in helping out this year.

Also, the Grape Jamboree parade is right around the corner. Friends for Life will once again be walking in Saturday's parade. So mark Sept. 26 on your calendar and plan to be blessed. Call me after the first week in Sept. to find out where we will be lining up.

Last but not least, come to Celebrate Life which is always a good time. And, as always, don't forget to be a voice for the voiceless - as many of our youth are - see articles throughout.

Your FFL Board President,

Crystal Latimer (440) 466-7441

Mark your calendars

- August 11-16** – Ashtabula County Fair
- August 18** – Reg. Monthly FFL meeting, 7 PM
- September 15** – Reg. Monthly FFL meeting, 7 PM
- September 26** – Grape Jamboree Parade
- October 20** – Reg. Monthly FFL meeting, 7 PM
- December 1** – Celebrate Life Party
- January 17** – Candlelight Vigil, 6 PM
- January 19** – Reg. Monthly FFL meeting, 7 PM

National Pro-Life T-Shirt Day

FFL ordered over 50 t-shirts this year. The few left will be available for purchase for \$5 at the fair. The message is "Person, Inside and Out" showing a pregnant woman and a woman holding a baby.

Annual Bake Sale at Wal-Mart

This year's bake sale brought in over \$500 including non-sale donations. Many thanks to all who baked and contributed.



Friends for Life Oratory Contest Winner takes Second Place at State!

Crystal Watson, who will be a senior this fall at South Ridge Christian Academy, took first place at our 1st Annual Pro-Life Oratory Contest, held on Saturday, March 14. As a result, she won \$100, and traveled to Columbus on April 25 where she competed against other county winners at the state level. Crystal came in second place with her speech on euthanasia. Congratulations, Crystal!

Fresh Start and Birthcare News

We received a thank you certificate from *Fresh Start* recently at their special "tea" to honor supporters. *Birthcare* received donations to keep the crisis pregnancy center open. They are currently working on getting a steady, part time director to replace Jennifer Leonard who stepped down to work directly for Catholic Charities, but will remain an active FFL member.

Website Update

Thank you to Ted Quick for training Crystal, Phil and Cathie on making changes to the website.



Photo: More youth in action: At last year's **Grape Jamboree Parade**, Doug Clugh and Damara Rodriguez had chosen a sign and were all set to be a witness for the unborn.

Blankets of Love Program

Do you like to knit, crochet or quilt? Please consider donating your blankets to FFL for the Blankets of Love program. We provide baby blankets for *Birthcare, Fresh Start, GRADS, and WIC*. We have created a little card shaped like a diaper to attach to each blanket donated, indicating to each recipient God's love and that the blanket was handmade by a Friends for Life volunteer.

FFL President Asked to Speak

Crystal Latimer gave a short but eye-opening pro-life speech on local abortion statistics, stem cell research, Planned Parenthood, etc. and introduced the Oratory Contest winner Crystal Watson who read her speech at a recent Ashtabula "Tea Party".

PLEASE CONSIDER SOMETHING

The question is not, "Am I 'pro-life'?" This is not really about you or me, because we are not the ones being killed. The question should be, "What are my PRIORITIES as a free citizen of a nation that kills an estimated 1.2 million of its own offspring every year and guarantees this 'freedom of choice' as a constitutional right?"

Tim Broderick, People for Life, Erie 1/4/09

I Cant' Come Back by Supporter Lacy Cole

Think of me what I could have been
If you'd not done this grievous sin
Peace to this world I might have brought
Had it not been for this onslaught

An orphanage I could have made
A school foundation I could have laid
You rejected truth to believe a lie
The truth is life and you let me die

What must I do to make you think
Of others like me who are at death's brink
I suffered pain you could not feel
My silent screams were very real

I'm a glob of flesh in your view
My life is gone because of you
You did not want the responsibility
That would have come with having me

Whether inconvenience or birth defect
The job is done, my life reject
You can weep, your grief be black
But it's too late, I can't come back

S.B. 304, Safe Havens Bill

On December 23, 2008, Ohio Governor Ted Strickland signed a bill that greatly expands the timeframe for taking a newborn baby to a "safe haven" as an alternative to unsafe abandonment. S.B. 304, which was sponsored by pro-life Senator Gary Cates, increases the timeframe that a parent could voluntarily deliver a newborn to a safe location from 72 hours to 30 days after birth. The bill also requires the state to develop a plan to educate "at-risk populations" about the Safe Havens law. Ohio Right to Life promoted and testified in support of the bill. Ohio's Safe Havens Law provides immunity from criminal prosecution for parental abandonment of a newborn, who has not been abused, to a peace officer, a hospital worker, or an emergency medical service worker. "Safe Havens" laws, which have been adopted in all 50 states, are intended to reduce infanticide and unsafe newborn abandonment. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services reports that, between April 2001, when Ohio's Safe Havens law went into effect, and June 30, 2007, 54 babies have been safely surrendered under the law. The National Council for Adoption reports that over 1,000 newborns have been surrendered under such laws in the U.S. The majority of state Safe Havens laws have timeframes longer than 72 hours. The new law was effective on March 24, 2009.

Columbus, OH (LifeNews.com) June 3, 2009

The Ohio legislature took a step to help promote adult stem cell research on Wednesday when it approved a bill concerning umbilical cord blood. The Ohio state House, by a vote of 97 to 0, approved H.B. 102 to have the state government promote the ethical research alternative. Sponsored by Rep. Todd Book, the bill would have the Ohio Department of Health to place printable materials on its web site with information on umbilical cord blood banking and donation. The Department of Health would encourage health care professionals to provide the materials to pregnant women. Mike Gonidakis, the director of Ohio Right to Life, says the bill is a good idea because umbilical cord blood is an excellent and ethical source of stem cells that can be obtained with no risk to the mother or child. "We are pleased that the Ohio House has seen the wisdom of this life-saving legislation," he told LifeNews.com after the vote. By increasing public awareness of cord blood donation, this bill should increase the number and diversity of cord blood donations and thus increase the number of patients who can obtain the match they need." Stem cells derived from umbilical cord blood have been used to successfully treat over 100 diseases and medical conditions including sickle cell anemia, leukemia, and lymphoma. However, most umbilical cord blood is currently being discarded after birth. Cord blood is often matched by racial and ethnic background and many patients who are most in need of a transplant cannot find a suitable match, Gonidakis said. A March 2007 Detroit News article indicated that, at that time, about 50% of whites found the cord blood matches they needed, while only 18% of African-Americans did. Although banking cord blood for personal or family use with a private bank can involve significant expense, donations to public cord blood banks involve no expense for the donor. The bill now goes to the Ohio Senate and would then go on to the governor if approved.

Ohio Bill Would Include Father's Right's in Abortion Decision-Making Process 7/17/09

Columbus, OH (LifeNews.com) -- An Ohio lawmaker has re-introduced legislation that would include a father's rights in the abortion decision-making process. Under *Roe v. Wade*, fathers are left out of the equation when a woman considers whether or not to have an abortion that would end the life of their child. Rep. John Adams, a Republican from Sidney, wants to change that and the legislation he introduced today, House Bill 252, would require the biological father's consent before an abortion can be done. The bill would apply to any abortion and would require written consent before it can be done. Adams told the Daily Reporter newspaper that abortion centers would "need to get consent from the biological father" before the abortion can proceed and he called the measure a "father's right bill" to protect the interest of fathers who are given no say in the abortion process. He also said the bill provides for criminal penalties for women seeking abortions who do

not obtain consent properly. "Providing a false biological father would be a first-degree misdemeanor the first time, which means not more than six months and jail, and a maximum \$1,000 fine," Adams said. "And on the second occasion, providing false information would be considered a fifth-degree felony."

Health Care Reform?

Washington, DC (Friday, July 10, 2009) The two central "health care reform" bills currently moving in Congress - - the Kennedy bill and the House Democratic leadership bill -- each contain provisions that would, if enacted, represent the greatest expansion of abortion since the Supreme Court handed down its *Roe v. Wade* ruling legalizing abortion in 1973. These bills contain multiple provisions that would result in federally mandated insurance coverage of abortion on demand, massive federal subsidies for abortion, mandated creation of many new abortion clinics, and nullification of at least some state limitations on abortion. Next week, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee is expected to consider a number of NRLC-supported amendments offered by Republican senators that would remove the pro-abortion mandates and subsidies from the Kennedy bill. House committees will consider similar amendments during markups of the House Democratic leadership bill, which is also planned for next week. On July 9, Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ), co-chairman of the House Pro-Life Caucus, distributed to his colleagues a letter and a collection of statements by Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, and five pro-abortion organizations, confirming their intent to greatly expand access to abortion on demand, using "health care reform" as a vehicle. Download the PDF image of the letter from:

<http://www.nrlc.org/AHC/2009July9SmithDearColleague.pdf>
If President Obama, the congressional Democratic leaders, and the pro-abortion advocacy groups were to succeed in mandating vast expansions of access to abortion, with federal funding, the predictable result would be a great increase in the number of abortions performed -- this, from a president who assured the American people that he would pursue policies to reduce abortions. People for Life & National Right to Life 7/14/09

Quote

"The promises of our Declaration of Independence are not just for the strong, the independent, or the healthy. They are for everyone -- including unborn children. We are a society with enough compassion and wealth and love to care for both mothers and their children, to see the promise and potential in every human life.

President George W. Bush

Now open the other attachment and read the quote by President Obama.