



Ashtabula County Friends for Life



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Issue 3

Editor: Crystal Latimer

President's Note:

So the fair and the Grape Jamboree are past. But don't worry, there are still plenty of opportunities to work for the unborn. Come to Celebrate Life in December and the Candlelight Vigil in January. There is also the 2010 Pro-Life Breakfast in Erie. I hope everyone can attend one of these events. Sanctity of Life bulletins will be available for churches in January. We are also gearing up for the Second Annual Pro-Life Oratory Contest for High School Juniors & Seniors. Read more about all of these events below. And, as always, don't forget to be a voice for the voiceless. God bless.
Your FFL Board President,
Crystal Latimer (440) 466-7441

Mark your calendars

- December 1** – Celebrate Life Party, 6:00 PM
- January is Sanctity of Life Month**
- January 4** – Reg. Monthly FFL meeting, 7 PM
- January 16** – Erie Pro-Life Breakfast
- January 17** – Candlelight Vigil, 6 PM
- January 22** – Annual March for Life, DC
- February 1** – Reg. Monthly FFL meeting, 7 PM
- March 1** – Reg. Monthly FFL meeting, 7 PM
- March 13** – Pro-Life Oratory Contest

Please Note – Meeting Day Change!

Our regular monthly meetings will no longer be held on the third Tuesday of the month. Starting in January, we will meet on the first Monday of each month. Please note on your calendars.

Annual Erie Pro-Life Breakfast

The upcoming Pro-Life Breakfast in Erie will once again be held at the Ambassador Banquet & Conference Center in Erie, just north of Route 90 on Peach Street. This year's speaker is Serrin Foster, the leader of Feminists for Life. Earlier this year, 18 of us carpoled and made the trip to Erie. This event is always a great morning out – come and check it out for yourself.

Warning – Warning!

We must regrettably report some trouble that we have come up against this year. It's the post office! Three times this year when supporters have tried to mail in donations, each time using our self-addressed envelopes, they were returned to sender with a sticker on the envelope stating our post office box was closed! Please don't believe it. Our box rent has been paid and the box has been continuously open all year. Fortunately, these faithful friends didn't believe it, and got their donations to us by other means. So if you mail a donation to us and it is returned by the post office, PLEASE resend it along with the envelope to Crystal Latimer, 176 Walnut Street, Apt. 1B, Geneva, OH 44041. We are working with the post office to try to figure out why this is happening. Thank you for your persistence.



FFL at the Longest Day of Play

FFL volunteers help out at the table set up for the Longest Day of Play in August. Pro-Life tattoos were given out as "prizes." Thanks to our helpers, the Hanchosky family, Morgan Ruane, and Cathie Schmidt (taking the photo).

Celebrate Life – Tuesday, December 1

Ohio Right to Life Director Mike Gonadakis will be the guest speaker at this year's Celebrate Life event. The Ruane family will provide music. Members are again invited to bring their delicious light refreshments to share. Donations of diapers will be accepted for Birthcare. They are mostly in need of sizes 4, 5, or 6, but any size will be appreciated. All those who bring a donation of diapers or cash for Birthcare will be entered in a door prize drawing. Come and take part in the fun.

4th Annual Candlelight Vigil

The 4th Annual Candlelight Vigil will be held Sunday, January, 17, 2010, at the Zaback-Ducro Funeral Home at 500 West Prospect St. in Ashtabula. It will begin at 6:00PM with Pastor Ed Diehl of Pierpont Presbyterian Church giving the message. The purpose of this event is to memorialize the over 50,000,000 who have lost their lives due to abortion.

Welcome Traci

Welcome to Traci Warren, who was voted as the new Secretary of Friends for Life at October's business meeting. Thank you for your willingness to serve. The other three offices remain the same – President, Crystal Latimer; Vice President, Phil Schmidt; Karen Rose, Treasurer. Virginia Clark is Secretary Substitute and Cathie Schmidt is Publicity Chair.

Fair News

Even though fair week was quite warm, the Friends for Life booth swarmed with visitors. Pro-life information was distributed along with the car magnets, bumper stickers and pins which were sold. Our pro-life t-shirt winner was Kendra Clisby of Jefferson. Congratulations, Kendra. Thanks for being a witness for the unborn whenever you wear your shirt.

Grape Jamboree Parade

On Saturday, September 26th, Friends for Life marched in the Grape Jamboree Parade. We were challenged with less than perfect weather, but had a good turnout in spite of it. Around 35 turned out to walk. Our theme this year was the Declaration of Independence. We carried our new banner that

reads, "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are **LIFE**, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." We handed out cards with this quote for the adults and American flags and candy for the younger set.

March for Life – Washington DC

January 22, 2010 is the date set for next year's march. Numerous buses will be leaving from Erie, South Euclid, etc. Please call 466-7441 for details.

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.

2nd Annual Pro-Life Oratory Contest Saturday, March 14

Now is the time for High School Juniors and Seniors to start thinking about Friends for Life Second Annual Pro-Life Oratory Contest. The date has been set for Saturday, March 14 at 10AM. The location is to be announced. Once again, the 1st Place winner will receive \$100, 2nd Place - \$50, and 3rd Place - \$25. The first place winner will advance to the state competition sponsored by Ohio Right to Life in Columbus in April. The winner of that event will compete at the national level at the National Right to Life Convention in June. The speech must be five to seven minutes long. Topic choices are abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, or stem cell research. So students, pass the word and start to think about what topic you would like to tackle. The speeches must be original and no props are permitted. Notes may be used, but the speech should not be read. The deadline for registration is March 1. Please pass this information out to all Juniors and Seniors and make sure your youth group is aware of this opportunity. Let's get our young people thinking about why they believe the way they do and teach them how to make a difference.

Abortion Practitioner Admits "Yes I Am" Killing Unborn Children During Abortions 11/6/09

Dallas, TX (LifeNews.com) -- The late-term abortion practitioner at the new abortion center in Dallas has admitted in a shocking interview that he kills unborn children during abortions. Curtis Boyd is one of the few abortion practitioners to admit what he is doing, but he has no qualms with his job. Boyd opened the first abortion center in Dallas in 1973 after the Supreme Court handed down the *roe v. Wade* decision allowing virtually unlimited abortions. In an interview with WFAA yesterday after news surfaced that he re-opened his late-term abortion center, Southwestern Women's Surgery Center, in the huge metro area last week after more than a year following the closure of the Aaron's abortion facility, he makes a startling admission. "Am I killing?" Boyd said. "Yes, I am. I know that." He told WFAA that he is a former Baptist ordained minister who is now a part of the pro-abortion Unitarian Universalist church who says he prays often about the abortions he does. "I'll ask that the spirit of this pregnancy be returned to God with love and understanding," he said.

Before the vote on last Saturday.....

President Barack Obama Officially Endorses Abortion-Funding Health Care Bill 11/7/09

Washington, DC LifeNews.com With a new statement released today from the White House, President Barack Obama finally officially put his imprimatur on the House health care bill that contains massive abortion funding. Obama has previously been criticized for saying he wanted no abortion funding but lobbying for the bill. Now, with the new statement from his administration, Obama is officially on record supporting the bill, HR 3962, and its abortion funding components. "The Administration strongly supports House passage of H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act, a bill that represents a critical milestone in the effort to reform our health care system," the administration said in a statement for Obama. "The Administration looks forward to continuing to work with the Congress on this legislation and urges quick action on this landmark bill." The statement said the bill "meets the President's criteria for health insurance reform" but makes no mention of abortion. The statement also says Obama "is pleased that the bill includes a public health insurance option offered in an exchange" -- even though that is one abortion-funding component of the bill. The legislation sets up abortion funding in two ways -- first, it sets up the public option. That is a government-run health care plan that will pay for abortions. Secondly, the bill gives members of the public affordability credits that can be used to pay for abortions.

Supporting a bill with massive abortion funding directly undercuts Obama's pledge in September to craft a health care bill that doesn't do so. During an address to Congress in September, Obama said, "One more misunderstanding I want to clear up -- under our plan, no federal dollars will be used to fund abortions." Leading pro-life organizations say Obama is violating his pledge to Congress and the American people to support health care reform that is abortion neutral.

Pro-Abortion Groups Issue Alerts to Oppose Pro-Life Stupak Health Care Amendment

Washington, DC (LifeNews.com) – 11/8/09 Abortion advocates have reacted angrily to the allowance of a vote today on the Stupak amendment, which would prohibit abortion funding under RH 3962, the health care reform bill. They are calling on lawmakers to reject the amendment and force Americans to fund hundreds of thousands of abortions. Planned Parenthood CEO Cecile Richards sent an email to her members with an "emergency" alert opposing the Stupak amendment. She complains that House Democrats allowed the vote on the amendment after "the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops met with leaders in the House of Representatives in their bid to eliminate" abortion funding. "If the bishops and their anti-choice partners in the House succeed, they'll permanently alter health care in America, even taking away benefits from women that they have today," Richards contends, even though that is not the case. She called the efforts of pro-life advocates, including the Catholic bishops, to secure a vote on the Stupak amendment "a discriminatory, mean-spirited attack on women." Richards calls on abortion advocates to ask their members to vote no on the Stupak measure and to urge abortion advocates through Twitter and Facebook to do the same thing. NARAL president Nancy Keenan also issued an email alert to her members while noting that the vote will ultimately be a close one where the stance of every member of Congress matters.

After the vote.....

From Ohio Right to Life...

I wish to thank you for all your efforts to pass the Stupak-Pitts Amendment to remove abortion funding from the House Health Care Reform Bill. As a result of the thousands of pro-life calls, letters and e-mails to Congress on this issue, not only did 14 of the 18 Ohio Members of the House vote for the Stupak Amendment, but a majority (6) of the 10 Democratic members from Ohio did as well. Below is a report on the vote:

On November 7, the U.S. House passed the Stupak-Pitts Amendment which prevents federal funding for elective abortions in the House Health Care Reform Bill, H.R. 3962. The pro-life amendment passed on a vote of 240 to 194, with one member voting "present". 64 Democrats joined with 176 Republicans in voting for the amendment. Before adoption of the amendment, the bill explicitly authorized a new federal agency health program, the "public option", to pay for elective abortions with federal funds, and also authorized federal subsidies to help purchase other insurance that covered elective abortions.

Ohio Representatives who voted the PRO-LIFE position for the Stupak-Pitts Amendment were: Steve Driehaus; Jean Schmidt; Michael Turner; Jim Jordan; Robert Latta; Charlie Wilson; Steve Austria; John Boehner; Marcy Kaptur; Pat Tiberi; Steve LaTourette; John Boccieri; Tim Ryan; and Zach Space (14).

Ohio Representatives who voted the PRO-ABORTION position against the Stupak-Pitts Amendment were: Dennis Kucinich; Marcia Fudge; Betty Sutton; and Mary Jo Kilroy (4). After adoption of the rule, the House voted 220 to 215 to pass H.R. 3962.

From Family Watch International 11/8/09

On Saturday, November 8, by a substantial 240-194 margin the House adopted the Stupak Amendment to the healthcare bill. The Stupak amendment would prohibit any federal funding of abortion. Shortly after, the entire healthcare bill later passed the House on a close 220-215 vote.

Thank you to all of you who contacted your congressman urging support of the Stupak amendment! Grassroots pressure made a huge difference in this victory.

The Senate will take up its own healthcare bill, probably later this year with a final vote likely in January, 2010. Then, the House and Senate bills will have to be combined into a single compromise bill in a conference committee. That compromise conference bill then goes back to both the House and the Senate for final adoption before being sent to the president.

This means that there are several more critical points in the legislative process where we must be sure that language prohibiting federal abortion funding remains in the legislation.

For example, there were disturbing reports today that the pro-abortion members in the House who objected to including any language specifically prohibiting abortion funding such as the Stupak amendment were being assured by the House leadership that this language would be removed in the conference committee.

We must continue to be vigilant and keep the grassroots pressure on Congress to be certain that the final bill signed into law still contains this critical anti-abortion funding provision.

However, this is a substantial victory in the battle to protect unborn children and the margin of the vote makes it more likely that this language will be in the final bill.

Planned Parenthood Attempting to Silence Ex-Director Who Quit Abortion Business 11/5/09 Bryan, TX (LifeNews.com) --

Planned Parenthood is attempting to silence a former abortion center director who quit working for the abortion business after seeing an ultrasound of an abortion procedure. Officials with the group are pushing a request for a restraining order on Abby Johnson and a pro-life group that helped her conversion. Johnson had been the director of the Planned Parenthood center in this southeast Texas city that is home to Texas A&M University. She turned in her resignation on October 6 after years of a local pro-life group helping her see the problem with abortion. After the ultrasound, she decided to leave. "I just thought I can't do this anymore, and it was just like a flash that hit me and I thought that's it," she said. Now, Planned Parenthood officials have hit both Johnson and the Coalition for Life with restraining orders requiring them not to disclose information about the abortions done at its facility. They don't want Johnson to release any records or confidential information from her eight-year stint at the Planned Parenthood abortion business, even though she has already told media outlets she will not do so.