

**Ashtabula County
Friends for Life**



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Issue 1

President's Note:

Praise God – There is a President that is doing what he said he would do – and more babies will be born as a result! Defunding Planned Parenthood is a wonderful start. Mya Women's Center is having amazing results. There is a lot coming up, so read on to get the latest in Pro-Life news. Please get involved – donate, pray, or volunteer.

Your FFL Board President,

Crystal Latimer (440) 466-7441

Coming Events

(Reg. meetings are at Gateway Church, Austinburg Rd.)

Tuesday, April 18 – Regular FFL meeting 7PM

April 26 & 27 – Mya Banquets – choose one!

Tuesday, May 2 – Election Day – please vote!

Tuesday, June 20 – Celebrate Life - 7PM

August 8-13 – Ashtabula County Fair - visit us

Tuesday, August 15 – Regular FFL meeting 7PM

Tuesday, Oct. 17 – Regular FFL meeting 7PM

Thursday, November 16 – Dinner with Friends

Annual Membership Renewal

On the back of this newsletter you will find a tear-off section to fill in and send back with your membership fee. Like many non-profit organizations, Friends for Life struggles to make ends meet. One way to help out is to choose your level of membership, bronze, silver or gold, and know that you are helping to make a difference. There were 108 tiny Ashtabula County citizens aborted in 2015 and we aim to make that figure shrink until it is zero. So we invite you to become a member and make a difference!

Celebrate Life

Celebrate Life will be held Tuesday, June 20, at Gateway Church, 2300 Austinburg Road at 6:30 pm. Executive Director of Ohio Right to Life, Devin Scribner will share the latest news at the state level. PLUS come to hear about Mya Women's Center – the greatest thing to hit Ashtabula County!

Membership Level

Check one **Bronze (\$10)**
 Silver (\$25)
 Gold (\$50)

Make check payable to Friends for Life and mail to PO Box 242, Geneva, 44041
Include your email address if you would like to receive newsletters electronically.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Mya Women's Center

Great things have been happening at Mya Women's Center. Nine babies have been saved since their opening at the end of last September. Parenting classes are being held weekly to educate women that are expecting. The banquets have been booked for Wednesday, April 26, and Thursday, April 27, at Geneva Lodge. Two banquets are planned as so many are expected. If you are interested in attending one of them, please call 440-466-7441 to reserve your spot. The banquet is free to attend but since this is a fundraiser, donations are requested to help fund Mya for the coming year. Would your church like to find out more about Mya? Someone is available to come out to speak either at your Sunday service or your group. Tours upon request.



Candlelight Vigil

Lexi and her mom attended the 11th Annual Candlelight Vigil on Sunday, January 22, 2017. Approximately 60 folks came out in remembrance of the loss of babies to abortion. Pastor Neroy Carter gave the message and Emma Forlu and Octavia Yates blessed us with song. Afterward, everyone was invited across the street to tour Mya Women's Center and enjoy refreshments.



Erie Prayer Breakfast

The Erie People for Life Prayer Breakfast was held on January 14 at the Bayfront Convention Center. There was a great crowd of over 600 attendees including 15 from Ashtabula County Friends for Life. The speakers were Billy Graham's daughter and granddaughter, Ruth Graham and Windsor Bauders.

2017 March for Life, Wash DC

Pro-life marchers showed up in good numbers at this year's March for Life in Washington DC. FFL board member Roger Williams went on the bus from Ashtabula's Lighthouse Baptist Church. Vice President Mike Pence and Kellyanne Conway spoke to the marchers. Please continue to pray for pro-life policies to be put in place to make our country great again.

Safe Haven Law

It has been 16 years since Ohio's Safe Haven Law was put into place. It bears repeating, since today's young women may not be aware of it. The following information was taken from the Ohio State Bar Association website. –

Ohio Law Provides Alternative to Newborn Abandonment

According to information provided by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services in December 2008, 63 babies had been safely surrendered to authorities since Ohio's Safe Havens for Newborns law was enacted in April 2001.

Q: Does this mean that the law allows a birth parent to leave a newborn baby at a "safe haven"?

A: Yes. Not all women who get pregnant are ready or in a position to raise a child and sometimes a mother feels she has no option but to abandon her baby. Ohio's Safe Havens for Newborns law allows a birth parent to leave a newborn infant (30 days old or younger) at a "safe haven" with:

- a) a medical worker at a hospital;
- b) a medical worker at a fire department or other emergency service organization; or
- c) a peace officer at a law enforcement agency.

Q: Can a parent get into legal trouble for taking advantage of these laws?

A: No. The parent will face no legal consequences for making this choice, as long as the infant is not more than 30 days old, has not been abused, and is left with a qualified person at one of the above-mentioned places. The purpose of the law is to save newborns from injury or death by providing a safe, private alternative to abandonment in difficult situations.

Q: Who may take a newborn to a safe haven?

A: Either the birth mother or the birth father may take the newborn to a safe haven. Only the child's birth parents, however, are protected from prosecution under the law.

Q: Will the birth parent have to give any info in order to leave a newborn at a safe haven?

A: The law states that the parent has the right to remain anonymous, as long as he or she voluntarily gives the newborn to the appropriate authorities, and the newborn has not been abused or

neglected. The law provides that no one can force the parent to keep the infant or to provide medical information about the baby. Also, no one can pursue or follow the parent after the parent leaves the safe haven. If, however, the parent voluntarily decides to provide basic health information in order to benefit the baby, the parent should be offered a form to guide him or her in providing whatever health information is known.

Q: What will happen to the baby who is left at a safe haven?

A: The professional staff person at the safe haven will try to determine if the infant needs medical attention. If so, a medical professional will perform any authorized medical service necessary to protect the child's physical health or safety. The county's children services agency will then be contacted, no questions asked, and the infant will be placed in the agency's custody until an adoptive family is located.

Q: What if a birth parent should change his or her mind about leaving the infant?

A: Once in the custody of the county's children services agency, the infant is considered by Ohio law to be a deserted child. If one (or both) of the birth parents wishes to reclaim the child, the parent must tell the agency or to the court that he or she is the child's parent and wishes to be reunited with the child. In order to verify the parent's identity as mother or father of the child, the court that determined the child to be deserted will require that parent, at his or her expense, to submit to a DNA test.

Q: Where can birth parents get help if they can't decide whether to leave an infant at a safe haven

A: An adoption social worker can provide information about available options and services for birth parents and their babies.

Q: Where can I find more information about Ohio's Safe Havens for Newborns law?

A: In order to make the public aware of the Safe Havens for Newborns law, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has created a website (www.jfs.ohio.gov/safehavens/). The department has also distributed information to public service organizations, hospitals, emergency medical services, fire stations, police stations, schools and media outlets across Ohio.

Bringing America Back to Life

Cleveland Right to Life held their premier annual pro-life conference on March 10 & 11 in Independence, OH. Representatives from Ashtabula County Friends for Life attended both days, hearing nationally known speakers Abby Johnson (former Planned Parenthood employee) and Bobby Schindler (Terri Schiavo's brother).

Cecile Richards: It's "Obscene and Insulting" to Suggest We Stop Killing Babies in Abortions

President Donald Trump recently exposed the Planned Parenthood abortion business for exactly what it is — an abortion business.

The nation's largest abortion company recently refused his offer to continue receiving half a billion dollars in taxpayer funds in exchange for not killing unborn babies in abortions. Planned Parenthood put its abortion agenda ahead of providing women's healthcare.

Now the CEO of the abortion company is complaining that Trump dared to suggest that it stop abortion little baby boys and girls. Cecile Richards made the complaints in a new fundraising email to Planned Parenthood supporters. As she always does, she wrapped up the complaints and language about women's health and only mentioned abortion once. Richards wrote: I want you to hear something directly from me: Planned Parenthood doesn't respond to bullying.

President Trump's offer to not "defund" Planned Parenthood health centers if we turn our backs on people seeking abortion is obscene and insulting. It's also a sign that he knows just how unpopular it would be to block millions of people on Medicaid from getting the care they need from the providers they choose and trust.

Planned Parenthood health centers don't turn patients away because of what they look like, where they're from, who they love, or what kind of care they need. And we don't make "deals" when people's health and rights are at stake. In this moment, our inclusive mission — care, no matter what — is more important than it's ever been. And we need you to help deliver on that promise.

The bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act and cut Planned Parenthood patients off from care is a disaster.

During the presidential campaign, President Donald Trump said that the nation's largest abortion company could continue receiving taxpayer dollars as long as it stopped doing abortions. He repeated that offer to the New York Times:

"As I said throughout the campaign, I am pro-life and I am deeply committed to investing in women's health and plan to significantly increase federal funding in support of nonabortion services such as cancer screenings," he said. "Polling shows the majority of Americans oppose public funding for abortion, even those who identify as pro-choice. There is an opportunity for organizations to continue the important work they do in support of women's health, while not providing abortion services." A representative of the abortion corporation said no.

The Planned Parenthood abortion company official wrapped up the language in terms of not abandoning "patients" even though it abandons women who are victims of botched abortions and abandons the babies who die in abortions.

Dawn Laguens, the executive vice president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America said "Offering money to Planned Parenthood to abandon our patients and our values is not a deal that we will ever accept. Providing critical health care services for millions of American women is nonnegotiable." The abortion giant could even receive more money for legitimate women's health care, but it said no. In private discussions with people close to Planned Parenthood, White House officials have at times suggested that there could even be an increase in federal earmarks if the work related to abortion ends.

As a result of the refusal to stop doing abortions, leading pro-life advocates in Congress will continue pushing legislation defunding the abortion company.

A recent survey found that community health centers not only provide more comprehensive health care than Planned Parenthood, excluding abortions, they also outnumber the abortion group's facilities by 20 to one.

President Donald Trump promised to sign a bill that would defund the Planned Parenthood abortion business.

Recent polls also indicate Americans support the defunding efforts. New polling found 56 percent of Americans in battleground states want Planned Parenthood defunded.