

SUMMER 2020

# Lifelines

There's always a reason to choose life.



# Donald J. Trump

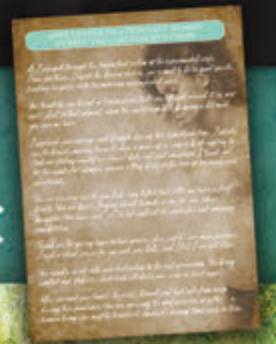
## Our Most Pro-Life President Ever!

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**KEN MATTHEWS** to Keynote  
2020 Celebrate Life! Banquet



PAGE 7 AN OPEN LETTER TO  
**PREGNANT WOMEN**  
DURING THE PANDEMIC





**PRESIDENT TRUMP IS FIRST SITTING PRESIDENT TO SPEAK IN PERSON AT THE MARCH FOR LIFE IN WASHINGTON D.C.**

History was made this past January when the first sitting U.S. President spoke in person at the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. President Donald J. Trump delivered an impassioned speech that riveted and inspired a record-breaking crowd that consisted of a high percentage of young people. Proclaiming that “Together, we are the voice for the voiceless,” the President detailed his administration’s many efforts “to support America’s families and to protect the unborn.” For more on President Trump’s Pro-Life accomplishments, see page 5.

story of love and redemption that illumines the unique bond between mother and child. We invite everyone to read along with us and look for our video book review to be posted online later this summer.

**Unprecedented Times**

As we prepare articles for this edition of *LifeLines*, Pennsylvania remains under some level of restrictions due to the Coronavirus. This has been a difficult time for many.

*We want to assure you that our life-saving work at the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation continues without interruption.*

*Our website and social media are updated frequently. Legislative alerts on important bills are sent out. Voter guides are prepared and distributed.*

And much more is happening behind the scenes to protect vulnerable life.

We greatly appreciate all our donors who have continued to support us in any way during these difficult times as we simply could not advance our mission without you. **Thank you!**

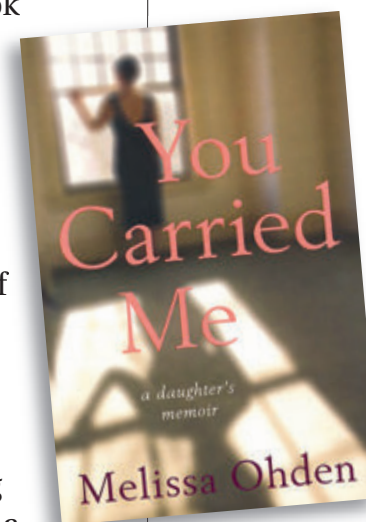


**Our Popular Pro-Life Town Halls**

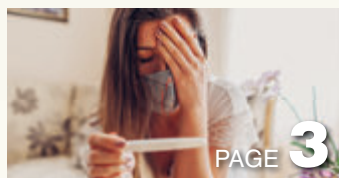
In this **critically important election year**, the PA Pro-Life Federation is preparing for a state-wide tour this fall and would like to come to your area to present the latest information on a variety of pro-life topics and legislation. If you’d like to participate in this opportunity to strengthen and educate the pro-life community where you are, please contact our Executive Director, **Michael Ciccocioppo** at **717-541-0034** or **ciccocioppo@paprolife.org**.

**Lit for Life!**

Join us in reading our Summer 2020 book recommendation, *You Carried Me, a Daughter’s Memoir* by Melissa Ohden. At age 14, the author learned that she is the survivor of a botched abortion, leading her on an emotional search for her biological parents. Compelling and intimate, this is a



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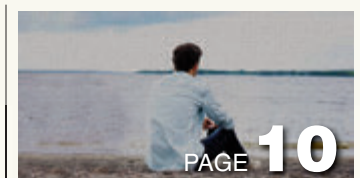
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# Fighting for the **Right to Life** During A...

# PANDEMIC

By Maria V. Gallagher,  
Legislative Director  
[gallagher@paprolife.org](mailto:gallagher@paprolife.org)

**A**s the catastrophic Coronavirus pandemic swept through Pennsylvania, Planned Parenthood **shifted its abortion operation into high gear.**

A number of state lawmakers in Pennsylvania became incensed that Planned Parenthood continued to perform abortions in the Commonwealth in the midst of the campaign to stop the spread of the potent virus.

They called on Governor Tom Wolf to enforce his own order, which allowed ambulatory health care services to continue, but banned elective surgical procedures during the pandemic.

**Fifty-five members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives signed a letter,** demanding that the Governor put a stop to abortions during the viral outbreak.

They were especially outraged that Planned

Parenthood was **hoarding masks and other medical goods** at a time when such supplies were so desperately needed by doctors and nurses trying to save COVID-19 patients.

State Senator Douglas Mastriano (R) also sent a letter to the Governor, calling on him to ensure that Planned Parenthood Keystone came into immediate compliance with the elective surgery ban.

In addition, in an overwhelming showing of solidarity, people throughout the Commonwealth **signed our petition to Governor Wolf,** demanding a halt to abortions at this time.

But Planned Parenthood Keystone went as far as possible in the opposite direction: it became a 100 percent abortion operation. It announced on its website that its locations were open **only to do abortions.**

Governors throughout the nation ordered that elective abortions cease as medical professionals scrambled to deal with the fallout from the Coronavirus. But Governor Wolf — a former Planned Parenthood



clinic escort — continued to defend abortions as **“essential services.”**

Abortion centers in Pennsylvania are regulated as ambulatory surgical facilities under a 2011 law. The statute resulted from the tragic **Kermit Gosnell** case. The West Philadelphia abortionist Gosnell was convicted of murdering three newborn babies and of involuntary manslaughter in connection with the death of patient **Karnamaya Mongar.** As a result of that trailblazing law, as many as nine abortion facilities have shut their doors because they could not or would not meet basic health and safety standards.

The pandemic also produced a panic about **medical rationing,** a fear that hospitals would issue mandatory do-not-resuscitate orders to patients without their express

permission. Pro-life advocates led the way in lobbying for the prevention of this lethal practice. The intense efforts paid off, with the federal government ensuring that Coronavirus patients would not be euthanized.

During this incredibly difficult time, the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation has been diligently working to protect the most vulnerable—from the baby nestled in her mother’s womb to the frail elderly. We have been your voice on the airwaves and in cyberspace, laboring to ensure that the right to life is not compromised.

**Miracles can happen** — even in the midst of a pandemic. It is through your unfailing commitment that such incredible breakthroughs can occur. We are striving to save not only this generation—but the many generations to come... generations that can be safeguarded from all matter of social ills through your amazing generosity.

Join us for the 2020 Celebrate Life Banquet

# Radio Host **Ken Matthews** will Headline the **Pro-Life Event of the Year**

By **Michael Ciccocioppo**  
Executive Director  
ciccocioppo@paprolife.org

**“Success isn’t final. Failure isn’t fatal. It’s the courage to continue that really counts.”**  
— **Ken Matthews**

When asked about the ups and downs in his career in broadcasting, veteran talk show host **Ken Matthews** told 69News WFMZ-TV that he believes, “Success isn’t final. Failure isn’t fatal. **It’s the courage to continue that really counts.**”

Don’t you believe that those who have been active in the pro-life movement for some period of time could say the same thing? How many times have our **hard-won victories been dashed** by a new political regime hostile to LIFE or an activist judge who tries to legislate from the bench?

It is true that when our initiatives and hard work fail, **we can learn valuable lessons that help us win future victories.** Tragically though, in the pro-life movement, when we fail pre-born babies and vulnerable people can lose their lives to abortion, infanticide and euthanasia.

Win or lose, it is the **courage that inspires us and others to never give up.** It makes us relentless in pursuing our vision of a Pennsylvania and a nation where abortion, infanticide and euthanasia are unthinkable. **It is this courage that will overwhelm everyone who joins us for the Pennsylvania Pro-Life event of the year!**



**Matthews** will bring his tenacity and courage to be a voice for the voiceless to **the 2020 Celebrate Life Banquet** to benefit the life-saving work of the **Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Education Fund** on **October 6, 2020** at the **Radisson Harrisburg Hotel** in Camp Hill.

**Matthews** was recently named **one of the 100 most important Talk Radio Show Hosts in America** by the editors of the radio-industry *Talkers Magazine*. People across Pennsylvania and the nation know him as a **guest host on *The Rush Limbaugh Show***. *Talkers Magazine* estimates that **Limbaugh’s show** attracts a cumulative **weekly audience of 15.5 million** listeners, making it the **most-listened-to radio show in the United States.**

Since September 3, 2013, people in central Pennsylvania have been listening to him on *The Ken Matthews Show*



President Donald Trump

weekdays from 3 – 6 p.m. on **WHP580 radio in Harrisburg.** His show is also available on the **iHeartRadio App.**

Anyone who listens to **Matthews** regularly notes that he never misses the opportunity to **speak passionately in defense of the right to life** of unborn babies when their lives are threatened

by an abortion industry that preys on their mothers for the sake of increasing profits!

**Plan now to join us for the 2020 Celebrate Life Banquet** to be inspired by the frank, fearless and funny **Ken Matthews** as he speaks up for the right to life.

But maybe even more importantly, by coming to this event **you will be a witness to Ken Matthews** of the strength and dedication of the

pro-life movement. This will **bolster his confidence to go back on the airwaves with even greater zeal to be a voice for the voiceless** knowing that we all stand behind him!

## **Pennsylvania Pro-Life Awards**

Another reason to attend the banquet is that you will be present for the touching moments when **special awards will be given to two people** who have worked hard to defend the right to life.

**Susan Rogacs**, president of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation will

present the **2020 Pennsylvania Pro-Life Leadership Award** to the **President of the United States of America, Donald J. Trump.** If the president is unable to receive the award in per-

son, we hope that he will send a representative to accept on his behalf. President Trump is widely recognized in the pro-life movement as the most pro-life president the nation has ever had. For more information on his pro-life accomplishments, see page 5.

**Rogacs** will also present the **2020 Pennsylvania Pro-Life Lifetime Achievement Award** to **Martha Short**, immediate past



Martha Short

**Executive Director of Pennsylvanians for Human Life Educational Services of West Chester, Pennsylvania.** Short’s tenure at PHL Ed Services spanned more than two decades and led to many thousands of school children receiving age-appropriate information about the development of human babies in their mothers’ wombs.

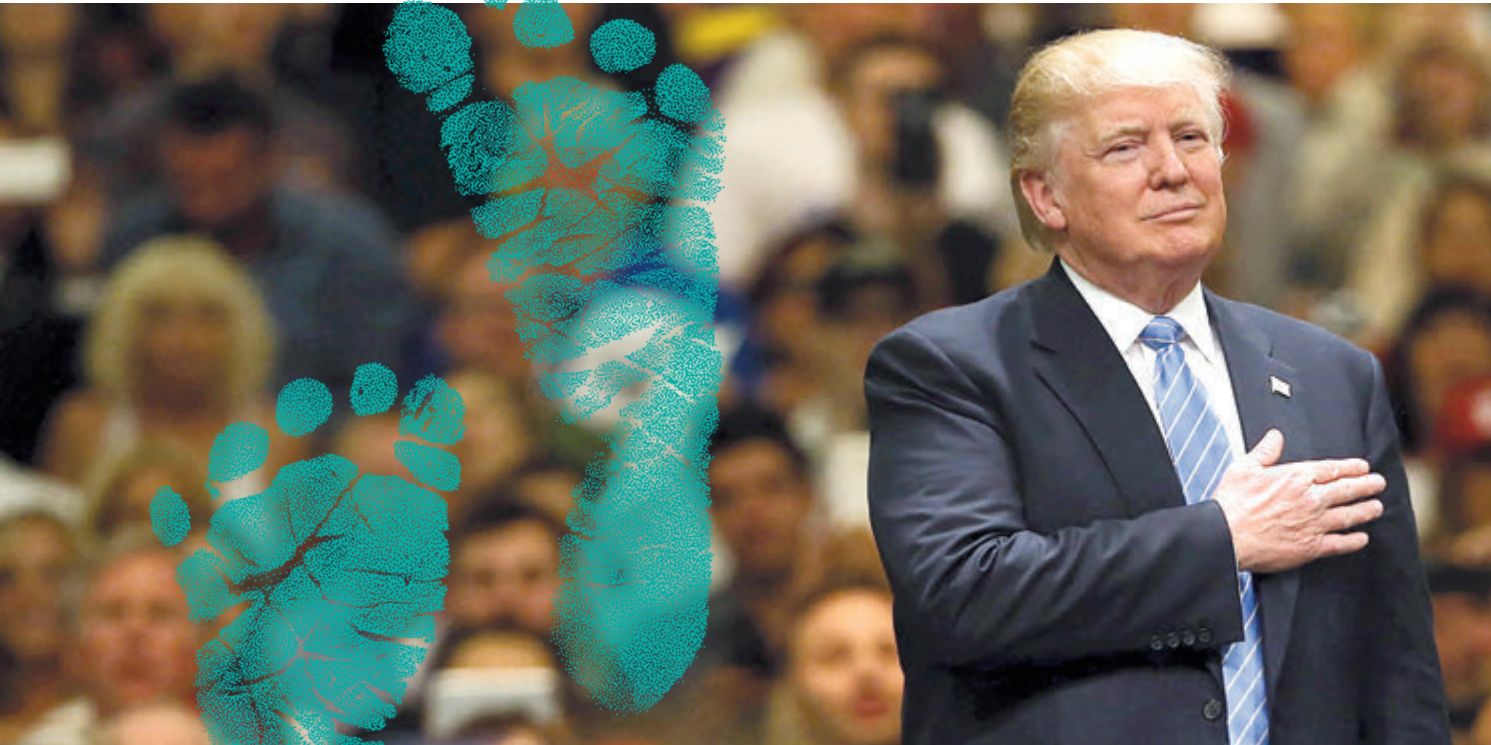
## **Be a Sponsor or Reserve Your Seats Now**

**The best way to participate is to be a sponsor** and bring your family and friends to the 2020 Celebrate Life Banquet. But if you cannot be a sponsor you should certainly reserve a seat or two for yourself and your guest! Visit [www.paprolife.org/state-events](http://www.paprolife.org/state-events) online for a variety of ways to sign up. Or feel free to call us at **717-541-0034** to register by phone with your credit card, or to request that a registration form be mailed to you. But don’t put it off. Please act NOW!

**WHAT: 2020 CELEBRATE LIFE BANQUET**  
**WHEN: Tuesday, October 6, 2020, 6:00 p.m.**  
**WHERE: Radisson Hotel Harrisburg**  
1150 Camp Hill Bypass, Camp Hill, PA 17011  
**DONATION: \$60 per person**  
**SPONSORSHIPS: from \$500 to \$10,000**  
Includes table seats. *Portion tax-deductible.*  
**WAYS TO BE A SPONSOR OR TO RESERVE SEATS:**  
Visit us online at: [www.paprolife.org/state-events](http://www.paprolife.org/state-events)  
Write or call us at: **PA Pro-Life Federation**  
4800 Jonestown Rd Suite 102  
Harrisburg PA 17109-1741  
Phone: 717-541-0034  
FAX: 717-541-0073

**IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE EVENT WITH A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION**

# WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVES SPEAK TO THE *Sanctity of Human Life*



*By Maria V. Gallagher*  
Legislative/PAC Director  
gallagher@paprolife.org

**I**n a dramatic turn-around from the Obama Administration, President Trump and his Cabinet have initiated an agenda which **makes pro-life policies a top priority.**

From filling the Administration with pro-life personnel to directing funding away from Planned Parenthood, the Trump Administration has pursued a **consistent and unwavering dedication** to ensuring the protection of preborn children and their mothers.

As National Right to Life has noted, President Trump has appointed pro-life advocates throughout the federal government, from Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to Housing and Urban Development

Secretary Ben Carson. Both Pompeo and Carson have been strong voices for the sanctity of innocent human life, lending a pro-life pedigree to the Administration.

In a direct reversal of course from the Obama years, President Trump restored the legendary “Mexico City Policy,” which bars taxpayer funds from being awarded to groups that perform or promote abortions overseas. The policy, initiated by the late President Ronald Reagan, is considered a **hallmark of pro-life Administrations.**

President Trump enthusiastically supports the **No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act**, which would ban the use of tax dollars for abortion in any federal program. He also backs re-directing federal monies away from Planned Parenthood, the nation’s largest abortion operation.

In a State of the Union speech in 2019, the President urged Congress to

pass legislation protecting preborn children from the especially heinous tragedy of late-term abortion. He has also promised to “veto any legislation that weakens current pro-life federal policies and laws, or that encourages the destruction of innocent human life at any stage.”

The Trump Administration issued rules in 2018 to ensure that federal Title X funding does not finance facilities performing or counseling for abortion. The Trump team also stopped funding to a United Nations Fund because of its role in China’s monstrous forced abortion project.

But it is in his judicial appointments that the **President has built a lasting legacy.** He vowed early on in his tenure to appoint only strict constructionists to the federal courts—in other words, judges who would interpret the law and the Constitution as written, rather than acting as a pseudo-legislative body,

creating pro-abortion laws from the bench.

Despite a firestorm of pro-abortion-led opposition, the President appointed Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court. The two jurists believe in having federal courts interpret the Constitution based on text and not as a “living” document, subject to the whims of individual judges.

President Trump has also embraced the pro-life movement and its leaders, honoring them for their vision and vitality.

As the President stated earlier this year, “The life movement is led by strong women, amazing faith leaders, and brave students who carry on the legacy of pioneers before us who fought to raise the conscience of our nation and uphold the rights of our citizens. You embrace mothers with care and compassion. You are powered by prayer, and **motivated by pure, unselfish love.**”

He further noted, “When we see the image of a baby in the womb, we glimpse the majesty of God’s creation. When we hold a newborn in our arms, we know the endless love that each child brings to a family. When we watch a child grow, we see the splendor that radiates from each human soul. **One life changes the world.**”

PENNSYLVANIA  
**PRO-LIFE**  
FEDERATION

*There's always a reason to choose life.™*

# A Tough Marine Gone Tender: A Pro-Life Legacy



Elmer Rolla

## My dad was... a Marine.

That alone tells you something about my childhood. We woke on first call, ate what we put on our plate, and attempted perfect corners when making beds.

Although my father spent just three years in the Marines, his service would have a lifelong impact on him and the family he would make. The military gave my dad, whose own father died when he was just eight, structure, discipline, and pride in a job well done. These qualities would influence how he and we would live.



BY BONNIE FINNERTY  
Education Director  
lifelines@paprolife.org



My dad also played ball with us, made our tea every morning, and without so many words, showed us he loved us. He endured the loss of his 16-year-old daughter as well as his oldest grandchild, and due to an injury sustained during his military service, retired on disability earlier than he

would have liked. Life's trials toughened but never defeated him. At times, he seemed indomitable.

When I was 19, I saw a different side to my dad, one that surprisingly emerged after having my first child.

Suddenly the man I was afraid to ask for the car, the dad who stayed awake until everyone was home in bed, the meticulous Marine who trained us to put everything where it belonged, was magically transformed into a big, soft teddy bear of a Papa. All because of a little baby girl who came into our lives at a most unexpected time.

I won't lie. He was not happy when my now-husband and I told him we were pregnant. But it didn't take long for him to model the resilience he'd demonstrated his whole life. He and my mom would support us

under one condition: I went back to school to finish my degree.

Growing up poor and without a dad, he'd never had a chance at an education. And he wasn't going to let mine slip by.

He would care for our baby when I was in class. As the youngest of five, I had a hard time picturing this because I had never seen my father even hold a baby, much less care for one.

Then she arrived. Suddenly, the strong disciplinarian who raised me was now held captive by a newborn weighing not even seven pounds.

With her, he was gentle, attentive, nurturing, and even silly. My invincible and sometimes rigid father transformed into a doting and whimsical grandfather, and for the first time revealed a vulnerability I had never before seen.

## The miracle and power of new life!

When we had our son three years later, my father helped watch both kids while I completed my Master's Degree. He thrived on being a caretaker to them, and they thrived under his care. A special bond was formed with them, and subsequently, with all 16 of his grandchildren. "Papa" was his new vocation and he

embraced it with the same enthusiasm he had embraced military life.

So it was especially hard for all of us to watch our family patriarch, the soldier-caretaker, enter into his final battle combatting Stage 4 Mesothelioma. Given just a few months to live, he defied the prognosis by actively living for a full year.

Eventually, though, hospice care did become necessary. Remaining true to self, he offered gentle instruction to the home health aide on how to properly make a bed. Once a Marine...

He ultimately lost the battle. He entered into eternal rest on May 1 after bidding us all good night and



gently dismissing us from his room...*Always a Marine.*

A man of deep faith, he leaves a rich pro-life legacy that the gift of self, whether to country or to family or even to the stranger we encounter, is the noblest of callings. A lesson deeply ingrained in us by his example.

**Semper Fi, dad. Good night!**

# Honoring Pregnant Women Who Stand Tall in the Midst of Crisis

By Maria V. Gallagher  
Legislative Director  
gallagher@paprolife.org

The unexpected announcement came on a day that had been filled with dire developments flooding social media news streams.

This particular news bulletin came across the electronic transom in the most inauspicious of ways — a two-line email response. The message was short, but exceedingly sweet: **a pregnant woman who had been contemplating abortion had changed her mind — and, as a result, changed the world surrounding her.**

That single, beautiful life that had been saved brought joy to a number of hearts that were so hungry for good news. No, the announcement would not be delivered on cable news, but **that one woman's decision for life was of immense importance** — for herself, her family and friends, and her community.

One woman's courageous "yes" to life can have a tremendous ripple effect, encouraging other women to boldly and enthusiastically embrace the babies hidden within them.

One woman's valiant decision to protect her child from the culture of despair can bring hope to countless others.

One woman's empowering choice can have lasting, life-affirming effects for generations to come.

The amazing, incredible, and love-filled truth is that our nation is strengthened by each solitary decision in defense of the life in the womb. Each baby saved from the scourge of abortion is **a human being of breathtaking possibility.**

Every "yes" to life is a "yes" to true freedom, to human dignity, to the hope that does not disappoint. It is a captivating serenade amidst a din of noise and negativity. Each "yes" is an

antidote to fear amidst trying circumstances.

And in that "yes," **new dreams are born.**

In this time of great uncertainty, I would like to pay tribute to all the preg-

nant women who are demonstrating their immense courage and conviction by standing tall for life. What follows is a letter that I wrote to one such woman.

## OPEN LETTER TO A PREGNANT WOMAN DURING THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

*As I voyaged through the frozen food section of the supermarket aisle, I saw you there. Despite the barren shelves, you seemed to be in good spirits, trading laughter with the man who accompanied you.*

*You found the one brand of frozen pizza that was left and placed it in your cart. And in that moment, when the world seemed to be going a bit mad, you were my hero.*

*I applaud your courage and strength during this tumultuous time. I salute you for bravely moving forward when so many of us seem to be struggling to find our footing amidst our fears — both real and imagined. I thank you for the wonderful example you are setting of joy in the face of hardship and uncertainty.*

*You are showing love to your baby long before that little one takes a first breath. You are boldly forging ahead to make a way for your son or daughter. You have said "yes" to life and all its wonderful and amazing possibilities.*

*Thank you for giving hope in that grocery store, just by your mere presence. I said a silent prayer for you and your baby, and I feel I was not alone.*

*You ennoble us all with your dedication to the next generation. You bring comfort and stability when such attributes may seem in short supply.*

*May you and your family be richly blessed and kept safe from harm during this pandemic. You are carrying the most priceless of gifts — a human being who must be treasured, especially during times such as these.*

# DEFYING THE CHEMISTRY OF LOVE



**Alyssa Brandstetter**  
1st Place Winner  
Bethlehem Catholic High School



**Abigail Brown**  
2nd Place Winner  
Bethlehem Catholic High School



**Lydia Cidor**  
3rd Place Winner  
Great Commission School

by Alyssa Brandstetter

**I**t has been said that the love a parent has for a child goes completely unmatched in comparison to all other loving relationships. As a parent holds their child for the first time, oxytocin, also known as the love hormone, surges through the body, creating the unwavering feeling of unconditional love. Oxytocin stimulates neural pathways that are responsible for nurturing behavior in mothers and is linked to an increase in paternal behaviors in fathers. The hormone quite literally sets the foundation for an unbreakable bond, one that is built upon loving instincts. However, in defiance of the body's natural secretion of oxytocin, there exists the ability for parents to voluntarily terminate the lives of their newborn children.

The killing of innocent babies up to a year after birth, known as infanticide, continues to be a pressing issue faced by countries all across the globe. Whether it be for population control, gender bias, or a simple lack of interest in caring for a child, parents deviate from their bodies' natural inclination to love. In contrast of what seems to be in the universal genetic code of wanting to protect and care for innocent lives, murder may be just as natural for some. Oxytocin simply is not enough evidence for so called "civilized" nations to believe in the sanctity and beauty that

comes with each and every life. Surely, one may wonder why it is that the human body's love hormone can co-exist with the most brutal form of disregard.

In accordance with a strong patriarchal nature, female infanticide may be considered a customary practice in India and has been for centuries. The birth of boys as opposed to girls is highly desirable for Indian families, with girls stereotypically labeled as financial burdens due to the existence of the dowry system. The ability to have a boy, however, creates the opportunity for the family name to be passed down and for the hard-working tendencies to contribute to a family's financial situation. One of the most popular sayings in India is "Raising a daughter is like watering your neighbors garden" (humanium.org). In short, if Indian families give birth to a girl in certain situations, it is highly likely for infanticide to follow. Even though the discriminatory actions are, in fact, criminalized within India, the laws bear little effect. The infanticide of females is the most under-reported crime and serves as the most unspoken tradition within the culture. With the continual prac-

tices, the steadily decreasing population of females has marked a 107:100 male to female ratio. Furthermore, in a quite staggering study, the United Nations found India to be the most dangerous country for females in the world, mainly due to the commonality found within the many infant murders and abortions.

It should be noted that the greatest tragedy found within India lies in the inability to recognize the equality of males and females as individuals created in God's purest intentions. Genesis 1:27 states, "So God created mankind in His own image, in the image and likeness he created them; male and female he created them." For those who fail to recognize the timeless truth, it is important, as Christians, to be the voice for those facing the incredibly disastrous effects of infanticide across the globe. No country or group of people is exempt from the practice, as a multitude of reasons are used as justification. For even in the United States where population growth and gender bias are not traditional issues, infanticide occurs and is even pushed for legalization from certain lawmakers. The evil

*"So God created mankind in His own image, in the image and likeness he created them; male and female he created them."*

— Genesis 1:27

within the world surely knows no bounds and continues to test the moral boundaries of human beings.

As humans reflecting upon the greatest atrocities in the world today, infanticide quite often fails to be acknowledged. However, it is time to step up and

face the consequences of the world's fallen moral code. Protecting the lives of the innocent from infanticide, despite the underlying reasons or country of origin, should be one of our most prioritized goals today. Perhaps it is finally time for individuals to listen to the chemical properties of the human bodies created in God's image and likeness. After all, the world needs a little more love, and oxytocin might just be that natural supply to change everything.



*There's always a reason to choose life.™*



# ALMOST HUMAN?

by Helena Sicree

**E**veryone knows that animals are not as smart as humans. We have the high intelligence that lets us fly airplanes, build skyscrapers, and create vast cities under the sun. We are the ones who peer through telescopes and microscopes into other worlds. We are the ones who conquered Earth and its wilderness, not animals. Yet then, what does it tell us, the smartest creatures on Earth, when the animals right next door understand the preciousness of life more than us?

This has been shown clearly in a tragic story involving a pod of Pacific Northwest orcas with a female named J35, but nicknamed Tahlequah. After a 17-month pregnancy, she delivered her baby on July 24, 2018, only to watch it die 30 minutes later. The 20-year-old mother was devastated. She carried the deceased baby near the surface, and according to *Daily Mail*, "...the other members of the family knew J35 was pregnant because of their sonar..." and the orca's family stayed by her side, apparently grieving, through it all. The mourning mother carried her dead baby for *seventeen days* and over a *thousand miles* on her head, which *National Geographic* described as a "tour of grief". This truly showed that though Tahlequah had only known her baby for a short time, according to *Daily Mail's* Deborah Giles, "It understands the social bonds that it has with the rest of its family members."

Not only does *that* story show how *mother* animals understand that a baby is part of the family, but so does the heart-rending story about Orky and Corky, two orcas from Marineland, California, in the 1970s. Though the tank, according to Eugene Linden in *The Parrot's Lament*, was perhaps inadequate, Corky was soon pregnant. Orky, as the father, began doing something people had never seen before; and he "would swim up beside Corky and put his forehead against her belly... [presumably] giving Corky a sonogram." Orky



would do this quite often, and everything seemed fine, until one examination. As Orky "gave his mate his own examination...in just the manner a doctor might run sonogram equipment over a pregnant woman's stomach..." Orky detected something wrong and proceeded to injure himself in agitation. He "...went over to the wall and slammed his head against the side of the tank in an outburst of emotion...[and] two hours later, Corky aborted." It was clear that even Orky, as a father, recognized the importance of the unborn baby

whale, and was abjectly upset when he detected the baby dead.

These two stories clearly prove that even animals realize that a baby, and an unborn one at that, is part of the family. They understand that the baby isn't some impediment, or something they can get rid of. They recognize the baby as a *baby*, as someone waiting patiently for months to meet them. If animals from all over the world can understand that an unborn baby is a baby wanting life, then why can't we?

**Sources:**

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 Linden, Eugene. *The Parrot's Lament: And Other True Tales of Animal Intrigue, Intelligence, and Ingenuity*. Penguin Random House, 2000.



**Helena Sicree**  
1st Place Winner  
Our Lady of Victory Catholic School



**Bonner Camryn**  
2nd Place Winner  
St. Andrew Apostle Catholic School



**Emily Alonge**  
3rd Place Winner  
Bethlehem Catholic High School

## YES! I WANT TO HELP PREBORN CHILDREN AND THEIR MOTHERS!

**ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT OF:**

\$15  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$500  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS GIFT IS FOR:**  PA Pro-Life Federation, Inc. (Not tax deductible)  
 PA Pro-Life Federation Educational Fund (Tax deductible)

Payment by:  Check  Amex  Mastercard  VISA  Discover

ACCOUNT #: \_\_\_\_\_

EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SECURITY CODE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

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*Gifts to the general fund are not tax deductible. However, you may make tax-deductible contributions to the PA Pro-Life Federation Educational Fund. Official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within PA, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.*

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GIFT PRESENTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

I will give online by visiting [www.paprolife.org](http://www.paprolife.org) and clicking on the red "Donate" and completing the form with my credit card info. I will enter "Lifelines" in the field that says "Optional Instructions/Questions."

I want to join the **Life Champions Team** by pledging \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per  month  quarter

Please send me the "A Legacy of Life" brochure on charitable bequests for the Federation



Clip and mail with your gift.



# Fatherhood Forsaken: Healing the Pain

By Bonnie Finnerty,  
Education Director  
lifelines@paprolife.org

**I** rarely answer our office phone. Lightly staffed one afternoon, I was happy to pick up the line. Pleasant and conversational, the older gentleman who called had a routine question about donations.

The conversation did not end there. Rather, the pro-life advocate wanted to talk some more.

And so we did. After several minutes discussing his long-time support of the Federation's mission, the discourse deepened. A man I had never met opened his heart to me that day, revealing a deep wound with which he has lived a long time.

Tearfully, he explained that many years ago, when he and his first wife had several small children and he was serving in the Merchant Marines, they discovered she was pregnant again.

With his work schedule requiring long stretches of time away from home and with limited resources, they decided to abort the child.

**After that, everything changed.**

**Their marriage would not survive the painful and permanent sting of their decision. For decades he wrestled with the memory of the child he'd never met.**

His testimony moved me to tears. After we ended our call, I pondered how many other men were in the same situation, silently plagued by the same wound. How many have someone to

confide in, someone to help heal their brokenness?

## Men Matter

There's never been a pregnancy that hasn't involved a father. And the same is true about an abortion.

Some men might not even know about the abortion and some may vehemently protest it. Others may insist upon it. Or often, in an effort to support the mother, some men repress their own desires, going along with whatever decision a woman makes. A man may perceive that he is doing the right thing under the circumstances.

**But whatever role a father has or doesn't have in an abortion, the end result is the same.** A child's life is taken.

The fundamental male instinct to protect and provide is violated. The short-term relief that is felt is often replaced by long-term grief.

Abortion breaches the very essence of who we are as man and woman: co-creators, defenders, and nurturers of human life. It is against our very nature.

According to the website *Silent No More*, both men and women can find themselves in a "psychological prison" of repression and disconnection from the abortion. The only way to self-protect is to rationalize that they made the right decision, for themselves and the child.

But this "prison" isn't exactly a place free from consequences. Over time, the trauma of abortion can manifest in multiple ways.

## Abortion Hurts Men

The Alliance for Post-Abortion Research and Training ([www.standapart.org](http://www.standapart.org)) cites 26 studies that confirm the hefty cost of abortion on men. Among the findings:

*Men may experience symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.*

*Men may have relationship problems following abortion.*

*Men who experience abortion may be more stressed than men who experience unplanned pregnancy and fatherhood.*

*Men's masculine identity may be threatened by abortion and sexual problems may develop.*

*Many men describe abortion as one of the worst experiences of their lives.*

*Men dealing with abortion may need or benefit from counseling.*

A 2007 study by Dr. Catherine Coyle showed that men are more likely to deny their grief and internalize their feelings of loss. Thus, their need for help and healing may go unrecognized by those close to them.

The guilt, helplessness, and anger experienced by post-abortive men may lead to self-medicating, engaging in risk-taking behaviors, and clinical depression.

## Men Can Heal

**THERE IS HOPE.**

Although still emotional when discussing the abortion, the gentleman caller told me he'd found peace and healing through

his relationship with Jesus Christ. He was fortunate to have a pastor who helped him work through his pain and finally find forgiveness.

Faith communities can be a wonderful place to find healing, but they are not the only place.

Dr. Wayne Brauning founded **Men's Abortion ReCOVERY (MARC)** and offers *Healing A Father's Heart: A Post-Abortion Bible Study for Men*. His message to men is to "Grieve my friend, grieve! Don't hold back. The reason for this sorrow is genuine and profound. Don't try to explain it away by analyzing it. Simply let it out."

Known for their life-changing retreats, **Rachel's Vineyard** offers a specific page on their website for men. In addition to the many other resources, the site can pair men up with an email buddy to whom they can reach out for support.

An excellent resource is **Silent No More**, which offers articles, testimonials, and much more on their website and through chapters. Men can locate an Abortion After Care program by entering their zip code on the website.

Another resource that offers Bible study, retreats, and other resources for post-abortive men and women is **PATH (Post-Abortion Treatment and Healing)**.

Some community-based Pregnancy Resource Centers may offer support to post-abortive men or provide information on where such support can be found.

The first step in seeking healing is often the hardest. But the peace that can be found is priceless.



## Post-Abortion Resources

[RachelsVineyard.org](http://RachelsVineyard.org)  
Toll free Hotline:  
**877 HOPE 4 ME**

[SilentNoMoreAwareness.org](http://SilentNoMoreAwareness.org)  
OR [AbortionForgiveness.org](http://AbortionForgiveness.org)

**PATH: 404-717-5557**  
[HealingAfterAbortion.org](http://HealingAfterAbortion.org)



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*There's always a reason to choose life...*

Your Special Gifts of Any Amount Will Memorialize or Honor Those Who Are Very Special to You – While Supporting Life-Saving Efforts to Protect Those Who Are Most Vulnerable Among Us.

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Richard "Rick" Hoover	.....	Joseph & Susan Rogacs
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W. Jeffry Jamouneau	.....	Timothy & Bonnie Finnerty
Essie Karpowich	.....	Francis (Frank) & Jana Drulis
William P. Keener	.....	PA Pro-Life Federation
Anna Kirsch	.....	Ronald & Rachel Baldwin
Urban "Herk" Kline	.....	David & Carolyn Phillips
R. Michael	.....	June T. Robinson
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Dr. Thomas P. Pavick	.....	Charles Nemeth
Dr. Thomas P. Pavick	.....	Michele Oleksak
My Father's Birthday	.....	Joseph A. Riotto
Elmer P. Rolla	.....	Michael & Peggy Ciccocioppo
Elmer P. Rolla	.....	Connie S. Fenice
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Elmer P. Rolla	.....	Cindy Rearick
Elmer P. Rolla	.....	Joseph & Susan Rogacs
Elmer P. Rolla	.....	Dr. Denise T. Wilcox
Elmer P. Rolla	.....	Margaret E. Greathouse
Marcus Santarelli	.....	Grace Berardi
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Julia Tarabrella	.....	Paul C. Tarabrella
Julia Tarabrella	.....	Paul C. Tarabrella
Julie Tarabrella	.....	Paul C. Tarabrella
A baby boy who was aborted	.....	Thomas & Kathleen Jack
Victor C. Garbarini	.....	Sandra G. Zettlemoyer
Al Lizzio	.....	James & Marguerite Hite

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Margaret C. Franks 79th Birthday	.....	Kevin & Marie Franks
Bonnie S. Finnerty's Birthday	.....	Thomas & Theresa Fraticelli
Our Lady of Fatima	.....	Karen A. Donovan
Patrick Quick	.....	Sheila Quick
Our Pro-Life President, Donald J. Trump	.....	Rosemary K. Weber
Piper Jade Yoder's Birthday	.....	John & Rosanne Gingrich
Our Grandson's Birthday	.....	Owen Gingrich

**Given By:**

Please Help Us Help Others Learn About the Life-Giving Alternatives to Abortion, Euthanasia, and Assisted Suicide. *There's Always a Reason to Choose Life!*

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# CHAPTER EVENTS



Ashley Garecht was presented the 1st Annual Helen Gohsler Award by the immediate-past president of the Pennsylvanians for Human Life, Scranton Chapter, Helen Gohsler, at the chapter's annual pro-life prayer breakfast. Ashley demonstrated exceptional valor when she and her daughters were verbally attacked by discredited state representative Brian Sims in Philadelphia in 2019. Ashley shared her story with the 650 attendees. Steve Bannon, former senior advisor to President Donald J. Trump, then spoke on the existential threat to the pro-life movement. Former Pennsylvania Attorney General Ernie Preate served as the toastmaster for the event.



Pro-Life of Mercer County hosted their annual breakfast on February 15, 2020 with keynote speaker, Brenda Pratt Shafer.



Scott Hupko, Christylee Roose and Brian McGee provided the music for the 18th Annual Pro-Life of Mercer County Prayer Breakfast.

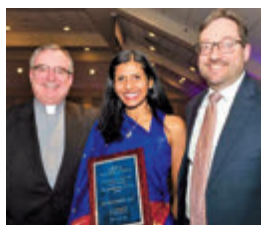
## 32ND ANNUAL CELEBRATE LIFE BANQUET

benefiting Pennsylvanians for Human Life held on Feb 23 at Springfield Country Club,

Carly, John and Anna Taylor with Keynote Speaker, Scott Klusendorf, President of Life Training Institute



Local ob/gyn physician Dr. Monique Ruberu (center) receives the Margaret Way Hoffner Award from Deacon Alvin Clay (left) and Tom Stevens, President and CEO of the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia.



The Susquehanna Valley Pennsylvanians for Human Life led Lycoming County's Life Chain in October.

## Blair County Citizens Concerned for Human Life 2020 ORATORY CONTEST Participants



Rachel Pascual placed first in the Varsity Division and John Sicree placed first in the Junior Varsity. Above, from left to right: Holly Guise, Lydia Cidor, Rachel Pascual, and Alyssa Stonebraker Right, from left to right: John and James Sicree



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Call toll free for free, confidential assistance from compassionate counselors who understand what you're going through and can help you find the best alternative for you and your family.

Pennsylvania's Real Alternatives hotline:

# 1-888-LIFE-AID

### NATIONWIDE PREGNANCY HELP HOTLINES:

CARENET: 1-800-395-HELP

Bethany Christian Services:  
1-800-BETHANY

Birtheright: 1-800-550-4900

For the help center nearest you, you may also see your local Yellow Pages under "Abortion Alternatives" or call the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation at 717-541-0034.