

SUMMER 2024

Lifelines



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

We All Need to Become Active **CHAMPIONS for LIFE!**

FOX NEWS' Pete Hegseth to Keynote
2024 Celebrate Life Banquet

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FROM OUR **NEW** DIRECTOR:
Victory Will Be Ours!
Join Us and Celebrate.

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Presidential
Records On Life.
Know the Candidates.



www.paprolife.org

The Event You Won't Want to Miss!

By **Maria V. Gallagher**
Executive Director,
Legislative & PAC Director
gallagher@paprolife.org

In the new book *Love, Mom*, an assortment of women, some celebrities, some not, tell of the triumphs and tear-drenched moments of motherhood.

One of them, Jennifer Hegseth, speaks about how her husband heroically steered their RV, filled with seven children, to safety following a major mechanical breakdown.

That intrepid man, **Pete Hegseth**, will be our featured speaker at the **2024 Celebrate Life Banquet** benefiting the life-saving, life-changing work of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Education Fund. The banquet takes place at the scenic **Hershey Lodge** in breathtaking Hershey, Pennsylvania, on **Saturday, October 12th**. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the banquet begins promptly at 5:30.

A Stellar Speaker

Known to audiences around the world for his reporting and anchoring work, Pete is also a distinguished military veteran and a champion of the right to life. You won't want to miss his dynamic presentation, which will be insightful and noteworthy.

Pete is a co-host of *Fox & Friends Weekend* and a regular contributor to the streaming service *Fox Nation*. He is also an acclaimed author who has distinguished himself with his spot-on prose.

A Memorable Moment

We will also be paying tribute to long-time pro-life leader **Michael Ciccocioppo**, who headed the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation for an incredible 21 years. Michael, a

tireless advocate for life, will be honored with our **Pennsylvania Pro-Life Lifetime Achievement Award**.

During his tenure, Michael spearheaded a program which has now reached more than three quarters of a million teenagers with life-affirming information through the website *TeenBreaks.com*. He also launched our popular Town Hall tour, which crisscrossed the Commonwealth with educational talks in the pre-*Dobbs* era.

With his grace and grit, Michael also helped to prepare Pennsylvania for the overturn of the tragic 1973 U.S. Supreme Court ruling known as *Roe v. Wade*. He was instrumental in the formation of a number of county-based grassroots chapters which continue to this day educating and motivating people to protect and cherish innocent human life.

It will be a memorable moment when Michael receives his award after a period of courageous service to the pro-life cause. If you're a friend of Michael—and who isn't?—you will want to be at the banquet to share this special experience.

Top 5 Reasons to Attend the Celebrate Life Banquet

And, as if that were not enough, here are the top five reasons to attend the 2024 Celebrate Life Banquet:

✓ **You will get the chance to meet other committed pro-lifers from all across PA who share your enthusiasm for defending life.**

✓ **You will enjoy an elegant evening on the town in iconic Hershey.**

✓ **You will be energized and inspired by our not-to-be-missed**

banquet program.

✓ **You will hear a major announcement about the future of the pro-life movement in Pennsylvania.**

✓ **You will be partnering with us to empower mothers, save lives, and renew a culture of life in the Commonwealth.**

You can register for the banquet conveniently online at www.paprolife.org. Or call us at 717-541-0034 to reserve your seat. Churches, businesses, and civic groups are encouraged to sponsor a table. For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Executive Director Maria Gallagher at gallagher@paprolife.org.

Note: This banquet promises to be our best yet—so register early while seats are still available!



FOX News'
Pete Hegseth
Keynote Speaker
2024 Celebrate Life Banquet

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Your voice is essential in the dialogue about life. Learn how you can be more effective and engaged right where you live and work.



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Record on Life Learn where they stand on important life issues so you can VOTE with an informed point of view. **Please Vote for Life in November!**



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It Takes COURAGE to SPEAK UP!

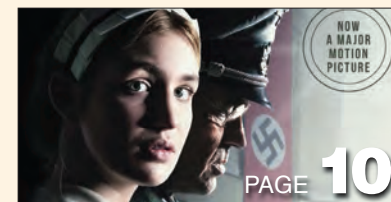
Pro-Life Essay winners speak out with uniquely personal experiences — and why the power of “Choosing Life” outweighs any trial, any circumstance that women may encounter. Powerful!



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Losing A Sibling to Abortion: Healing from Post Abortion Survivor Syndrome (PASS)

Krista Corbello speaks to other survivors during their tragic loss.



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Must-READS and Must-WATCH PRO-LIFE Picks!

Our personal picks for your Summer entertainment which embraces a profoundly pro-life perspective. Be inspired by these great choices.

SPECIAL STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON THE APPOINTMENT OF OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Maria Vitale Gallagher

This is to inform you that the Board of Directors has appointed *Acting Executive Director Maria Gallagher* to the position of *Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation* as of May 5th, 2024.

To maintain continuity this election year, and with some additions and adjustments, Maria will continue as *Legislative Director* and *PAC Director* in addition to these crucial added responsibilities as *Executive Director*.

We are extremely pleased and honored that Maria has accepted our offer. Speaking for our Board and Staff, I extend our best wishes to Maria.

God bless our board, staff and Executive Director.

Susan
Susan Rogacs

President, Board of Directors, Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation

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

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TALKING PRO-LIFE

Engaging in the Pro-Life Conversation



By Remil Teny
Education Director
lifelines@paprolife.org

Has it gotten harder for you to share your pro-life beliefs with others?

Even when a personal and truthful claim is made, there seems to be a need to broach unpopular topics delicately or we risk evoking a strong emotional response and promptly being “cancelled”. A case in point is NFL star Harrison Butker whose inspiring and encouraging commencement address drew fire and brimstone from an audience he wasn’t even addressing!

Unfortunately, these are the times we live in. And being pro-life can get you cancelled in some circles quicker than you expect, which can be a temptation to remain quiet and inconspicuous about our beliefs. But that must not deter us from being bold in proclaiming the gospel of life, especially because lives are at stake here.

So how can we keep the conversation about life going in an increasingly intolerant culture? Dialogue.

While most of us are not given a stage like Harrison was, we are given everyday relationships and situations. Speaking up in either setting takes an immense amount of courage. And some skill, that can be easily acquired.

Dialogue remains a means of exploring the subject of discussion together, educating and informing ourselves and the other, and providing thought-provoking inputs that challenge both parties to stretch their understanding and forbearance for one another.

“I think differently about this and would like to understand where you are coming from.” Conviction and openness – that’s a great place to begin with. When it comes to being pro-life, our convictions are our greatest strength and ally. Combine that with an openness to the experience of others and you have a winning formula to influence others!

Here are some ways we can dialogue better with those who disagree with us:

Posture yourself as a learner:

A conversation about life does not have to be a debate. Whether you’re talking to someone who has taken the middle ground regarding life issues or a zealous pro-abortion activist, there’s always something unique that can be learned. The key is to actively listen. Find out what your audience believes. Ask pertinent questions: Where do they get their information from? What influences them? What common ground can you find? Genuinely get to know the heart and mind of the person you are conversing with. Help them see you care about them, not just what they believe in.

Provide a space to explore difficult thoughts:

One of the hardest parts of dialogue is to unlearn our instinctual

response to the threat we feel from other people’s strong convictions. People generally arrive at conclusions based off of their own experiences and of those in their inner circles. Pro-choicers or pro-abortion folks may have never had an opportunity to explore their beliefs in a conflicting yet safe environment, free from shame or judgment. The pro-life people who have influenced me most are those who aren’t afraid of the big questions, who are willing to be honest about the hard stuff and yet gracefully lead back to the idea that all human life is valuable and that the beauty of life trumps all arguments for death.

Speak into thoughts expressed:

It is important to validate the truth in your opposition’s perspective even if it’s only partial. And once you’re able to do that, you can proceed to fill the gap with the whole truth. Let me illustrate with one of the classic abortion beliefs “a fetus is just a clump of cells.” We can begin by acknowledging that yes, in the earliest stages of human development we are all a small clump of cells. And then, proceed to introduce them with information that they may not have had before: “...but by the sixth week of our formation, we are already distinguishable in our form with a small beating heart and developing head and spine. These are parts of us that you and I will have for the rest of our lives!” You’d be surprised at how uncommon knowledge like this is!

Respond in context:

I have sometimes observed a disconnect between the points our

pro-choice friends are making and the case for the unborn or elderly that we present. Approaches to arguments for and against life can be multi-faceted – political, legal, medical, scientific, philosophical, moral or spiritual. Those who support assisted death in any capacity are usually arguing within one or more of these realms, but not all. The good news is that the case for life stands no matter how you approach it and is always consistent. While it can seem easier to always defend life from one perspective alone (and for most it is either scientific or faith related), it can be insufficient in persuading others into the cause for life. Our job is to stay on topic and clarify our position within the field of discussion.

Of course, there will always be some who are unwilling to engage or remain unconvinced but the goal of dialogue is to present the ideas and keep the line of conversation open. Give them something to think about and then allow them to arrive at their convictions whenever and however they are ready.

Ultimately, the essential element in having effective and fruitful conversations that invite others in is to expand our own convictions for life into all areas, confident that the truth of life is self-evident and established unlike the mental gymnastics that is required to build a case for death. All we need to do is show up in our everyday life armed with this knowledge and speak up when an opportunity presents itself.

**PRESIDENT
DONALD J. TRUMP**
2017 – 2021



“America, when it is at its best, follows a set of rules that have worked since our Founding. One of those rules is that we, as Americans, revere life and have done so since our Founders made it the first, and most important, of our ‘unalienable’ rights.”

— President Donald J. Trump

★ **TRUMP RECORD ON LIFE** ★

▪ **SUPREME COURT:** President Trump appointed Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court. These appointments are consistent with the belief that federal courts should enforce the rights truly based on the text and history of the Constitution, and otherwise leave policy questions in the hands of elected legislators.

▪ **MEXICO CITY POLICY:** President Trump restored the “Mexico City Policy,” which prevents tax funds from being given to organizations that perform abortions or lobby to change the abortion laws of host countries. He later expanded the policy as the “Protecting Life in Global Health Policy” to prevent \$9 billion in foreign aid from being used to fund the global abortion industry.

Please, VOTE FOR MY LIFE.

▪ **ABORTION FUNDING:** In 2017, President Trump issued a statement affirming his strong support for the *No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act*, saying he “would sign the bill.” The bill would permanently prohibit any federal program from funding elective abortion.

▪ **FUNDING ABORTION PROVIDERS:** In 2018, President Trump’s Health and Human Services Department issued regulations to ensure Title X funding did not go to facilities that perform or refer for abortions. In 2017, President Trump signed a resolution into law that overturned an eleventh-hour regulation by the Obama administration that prohibited states from defunding certain abortion facilities in their federally-funded family planning programs.

▪ **PROTECTING PRO-LIFE POLICIES:** President Trump had pledged “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.”

▪ **APPOINTMENTS:** President Trump appointed numerous pro-life advocates in his administration and cabinet including Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, Secretary of Energy Rick Perry, United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben

Carson, and Chief of Staff Reince Priebus.

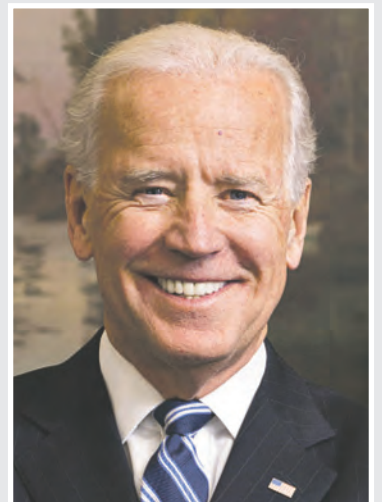
▪ **DEFUNDING PLANNED PARENTHOOD:** President Trump supported directing funding away from Planned Parenthood, the nation’s largest abortion provider. In a September 2016 letter to pro-life leaders, he noted that “I am committed to... defunding Planned Parenthood as long as they continue to perform abortions, and re-allocating their funding to community health centers that provide comprehensive health care for women.”

▪ **INTERNATIONAL ABORTION ADVOCACY:** The Trump Administration cut off funding for the United Nations Population Fund due to that agency’s involvement in China’s forced abortion program. Additionally, President Trump instructed the Secretary of State to apply pro-life conditions to a broad range of health-related U.S. foreign aid.

▪ **PROTECTING THE UNBORN:** President Trump supported the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. This legislation extends protection to unborn children who are at least 20 weeks because by this point in development (and probably earlier), the unborn have the capacity to experience excruciating pain during typical abortion procedures.



**PRESIDENT
JOSEPH R. BIDEN**
2021 – present



“I believe Roe v. Wade was the correct decision as a matter of constitutional law, an application of the fundamental right to privacy and liberty in matters of family and personal autonomy... The only way we can secure a woman’s right to choose and the balance that existed is for Congress to restore the protections of Roe v. Wade as federal law.”

— Joseph R. Biden

★ **BIDEN RECORD ON LIFE** ★■ **MEXICO CITY POLICY:**

In one of his first acts in office, President Biden repealed the Trump-Era “Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance” or “Mexico City Policy,” which prevents tax funds from being given to organizations that perform abortions or lobby to change the abortion laws of host countries.

■ **PROMOTING ABORTION-ON-DEMAND UNTIL BIRTH:**

President Biden strongly supports the radical so-called Women’s Health Protection Act. This legislation would essentially remove all legal protections for unborn children on the federal and state level and prevent future protections for unborn children.

■ **CHEMICAL ABORTION:**

President Biden’s Food and Drug Administration (FDA) suspended protections established for women undergoing chemical abortions, such as seeing the abortionist in person. The in-person requirement ensured that complications, such as an ectopic pregnancy, are ruled out in advance of a woman undergoing a chemical abortion. Mifepristone, the “abortion pill,” has no effect on an ectopic pregnancy and leaves the woman with this life-threatening medical condition. The FDA will also permit pharmacists to dispense chemical abortion drugs, and will permit these dangerous drugs to be sent through the mail.

■ **FUNDING ABORTION PROVIDERS:**

In April 2021, President Biden’s Health and Human Services Department overturned the Trump Administration’s “Protect Life Rule” on Title X family planning funding. The new Biden Rule means that millions in Title X funding will flow to facilities that perform or refer for abortions.

■ **FETAL TISSUE RESEARCH:**

Under President Biden, the National Institutes of Health reversed Trump Administration regulations and announced that it will again fund intramural research and will no longer convene the Human Fetal Tissue Research Ethics Advisory Board for

extramural research.

■ **ABORTION FUNDING:**

Though he long supported the Hyde Amendment in the past, as a presidential candidate, President Biden changed his position in 2019. President Biden is now on record in support of eliminating the Hyde Amendment which prevents the use of federal funds to pay for abortions except in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother.

By Executive Order, President Biden directed his administration to consider actions to advance access to abortion, including an effort to encourage states to apply for Medicaid waivers to pay for abortion travel.

■ **ABORTION FUNDING IN THE MILITARY:**

Biden’s Department of Veterans Affairs has announced they will pay for and provide abortions for “health reasons,” defined broadly as to be for any reason. This has been statutorily prohibited since 1992. Under the Biden Administration, the Department of Defense announced it will pay the travel and transportation costs for military members and dependents to travel to obtain elective abortions.

■ **APPOINTMENTS:** President Biden has surrounded himself with stalwart pro-abortion public officials, including Vice President Kamala Harris. His cabinet appointments include pro-abortion former congressman and former California Attorney General Xavier Becerra to head Health & Human Services, pro-abortion activist Samantha Power to head the U.S. Agency for International Development and Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, who consulted for Planned Parenthood during the 2020 elections, to lead the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

■ **SUPREME COURT:** President Biden promised to only appoint justices who support a right to abortion, nominating Ketanji Brown Jackson to serve on the Supreme Court. Her nomination was strongly backed by Planned Parenthood, NARAL, and other abortion groups.

★ **ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR**★ **“I’m for women’s right to choose.”**

— Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

Interview with CNN’s Peter Bergen, 10/13/23

★ **KENNEDY RECORD ON LIFE** ★■ **Abortion Without Limits:**

“Mr. Kennedy’s position on abortion is that it is always the woman’s right to choose. He does not support legislation banning abortion.” - Kennedy spokesperson (Politico, 8/13/23)

■ **Funding for Abortion Providers:**

Kennedy supports taxpayer funding for abortion providers, including Planned Parenthood, the nation’s largest chain of abortion clinics.

“You can’t tell poor people that, because they don’t have the money, they have to bring a baby to term,” Kennedy argued. (*The American Conservative*, 8/14/23)

■ **Roe v. Wade:** “I am a firm supporter of the principles laid out 50 years ago in *Roe v. Wade*,” Kennedy declared. (*New York Post*, 8/14/23) *Roe* and companion case *Doe v. Bolton* effectively legalized abortion on demand nationwide and rendered unconstitutional meaningful protections for unborn babies.

■ **Dobbs v. Jackson:** The Supreme Court’s ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson* (2022) returned abortion policy to the American people and their elected representatives. Kennedy opposed this ruling. “If the courts do not overturn *Dobbs v.*

Jackson and restore abortion rights, I will support legislation to accomplish the same,” Kennedy told the *New York Post* (8/14/23).

■ **Abortion Drugs:** Chemical abortions account for more than 60% of abortions in the U.S. annually. A Kennedy statement to the *Washington Post* (11/8/23) confirmed, “Kennedy supports the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of the abortion drug mifepristone.”

■ **Late Abortions:** Kennedy does not support legal protections for unborn children at any stage, even late in pregnancy. “I’ve seen late-term abortion pictures and they’re horrifying. So, I understand the people who want them banned, but I also am too skeptical of government to believe that it should be the one that should be dictating bodily decisions,” Kennedy stated in an interview with journalist Peter Bergen (10/13/23).

Kennedy told Reuters he thought every abortion was a “tragedy” but that it should be a woman’s right “throughout the pregnancy.” (*Reuters*, 3/20/24)

■ **Self-Described “Pro-Choice”:** Kennedy labels himself “pro-choice.” At a WMUR townhall, Kennedy articulated that ultimately he did not want to “be in a position where I’m telling a woman she has to bring a child to term that she doesn’t want.” (WMUR-9, 6/23/23)



Remember me and all my unborn friends when you research who is really pro-life and who is not. We would like the chance to be born, too.

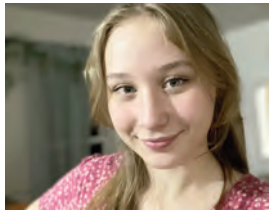
Essay Contest Winners

JUNIOR DIVISION



#1 Faith Sanger

Grade 8,
CBC Homeschool Co-Op
Quakertown, PA



#2 Kyleen R. Stoddard

Grade 9,
CBC Homeschool Co-Op
Quakertown, PA



#3 Grace Morton

Grade 8,
Homeschool
Fleetwood, PA

Dear Mom,

By Faith Sanger

Fifteen years ago, you had a choice. Fifteen years ago, you found out that you were pregnant. You were young and alone because you had no relationship with your biological or adoptive family. You could have taken the easy road, and you could have walked into the abortion clinic and destroyed the evidence. Your choice was difficult: to keep the baby, or to abort the baby. You chose life for that baby. You made that decision for me.

Were you scared? Were you excited?

Fourteen years ago, you also had another choice to make. You were deciding what was best: keeping the baby or putting her up for adoption. You considered placing your baby girl for adoption because you wanted her to have a father and a mother. I know making that decision was really hard, especially since we, together, could have been the family you did not have.

Because you chose life instead of abortion, I got to live. I got, and get, to live in a Christian home, and I get to go to church. I have lots of friends. I had the opportunity this summer to tell a little girl about Jesus. It made me so happy that she got saved – so happy that I was crying happy tears.

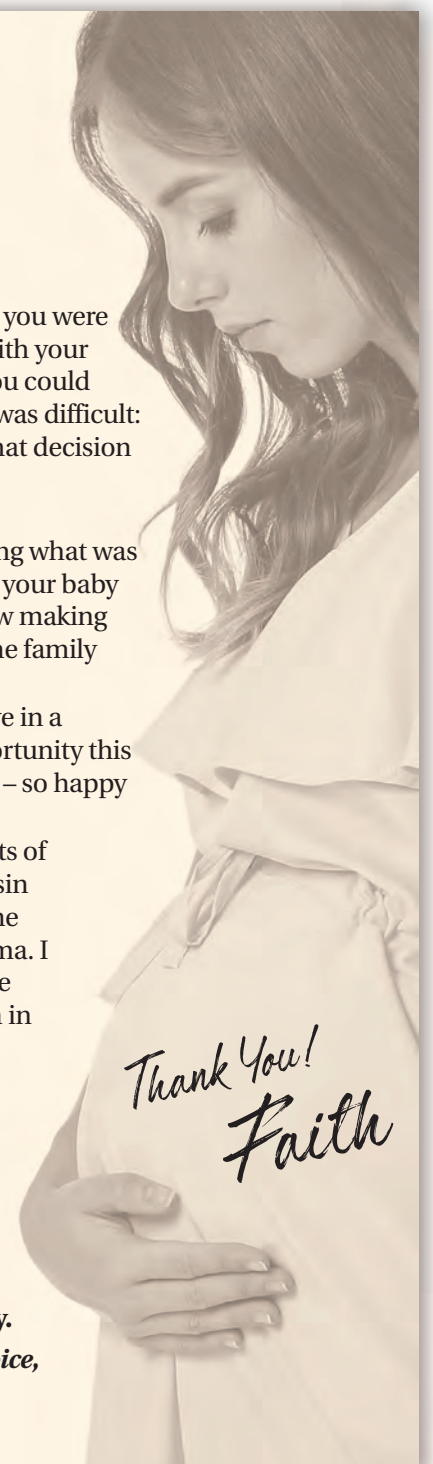
I get to ride my horse, Chapstick (*well, sometimes I fall off*). I get to have lots of adopted brothers and sisters and I have three baby cousins. I even have a cousin named Faith, but we call her “Big Faith” so we don’t get mixed up. I get to do the “peppermint patty cool breeze running through my hair joke” with my grandma. I get to see my half-sister and my PopPop carve pumpkins every year. They have even come to church to see me sing in a girls’ ensemble. I have gotten to swim in the ocean and have even been to Florida and swam with a dolphin.

How many millions of babies were not given the chance to experience life, like I was? What could they have been? The next president? Or the one who would have cured cancer? Or maybe the next to lead revival in our land? Or perhaps a missionary?

I am thankful because you loved me enough to give me life, and I hope one day I will be able to tell you how God worked in my life and how much He loves you too.

Thank you, Mom, for choosing adoption for me. I know that was not easy.

But most of all, thank you for not choosing abortion. Because of your choice, I get to live. I thank God for you and your choice of life for me. I love you, and I know that you love me too.



It Takes Courage To Speak Up!

In a stirring display of eloquence and conviction, students from across Pennsylvania participated in **Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation’s Oratory Contest**, showcasing the power of advocacy for the sanctity of life. Amidst a backdrop of ongoing debates and discussions surrounding life issues, the Pro-Life Oratory Contest serves as a beacon of hope, providing a platform for young voices that advocate for the rights of the most vulnerable in our societies.

This year’s contestants have not only demonstrated exceptional oratory skills but have also articulated compelling arguments rooted in compassion, empathy, and a profound respect for life. *We are proud to announce the winners!*

In the novice category, **Joanna Pouoban**, a freshman from Notre Dame High School in Easton captured first place. The second place was taken by **Mark Caulfield**, a homeschooled sophomore from Waterford, followed by **Rachel Hoover**, a 9th grader from Juniata Christian School who placed third.



Joanna Pouoban



Madeline Johnson

In the senior high division, **Madeline Johnson**, a junior at Titusville Senior High School claimed the coveted first place with her speech

defending the lives of unborn babies with life-limiting diagnoses. Weaving together intelligent arguments and heartfelt convictions, Madeline’s speech illuminated the inherent value of every human life,

compelling listeners to reconsider their perspectives on abortion. Securing the second place was **Avery Donahoe**, a junior from Central Bucks High School East in Doylestown and rounding out the winners was **Sarah Hamilton**, a homeschooled senior from Winder who earned the third place in this year’s contests.

As we celebrate the winners of this year’s Pro-Life Oratory Contest, let us also recognize the importance of continuing to speak out on behalf of the unborn. It is through our collective voices and unwavering dedication that we can create a future where every life is cherished and protected.

Madeline Johnson will be representing Pennsylvania on the national stage at the **National Right To Life Oratory Contest** in June this year. ***We wish her all the best and congratulations to all the winners!***

Everyone Has A Choice:

Choose Life!

By Sarah Hamilton

She walks into the clinic, scared and alone. The receptionist escorts her to a room where she waits for a doctor. Online she saw that the thing inside her was a fetus—some tissue she could choose to remove if she wanted. *What she does with her body is her choice. No one can tell her what to do.* That's what the doctor says as he preps for the simple procedure that won't take long. Her life will be back on track in just a bit. Problem solved.

But on the way into the clinic she saw something she can't forget. A woman held a sign with a Bible verse on it: "...I have set before you life and death... Therefore choose life, that you *and your offspring* may live..." (*The Bible*, Deuteronomy 30:19; emphasis added).

And something clicks in her mind.

She *does* have a choice! She *can* choose life!

The doctor tells her to put her feet in the stirrups, but instead she gets off the table and leaves the room. She has made her choice.

Pregnant mom in distress: know that God gives you a choice. Know too that your choice affects *two* lives: yours, because that simple procedure will change your world forever; and the *tissue's* too, because that clump of cells has a name, a personality, a special laugh, and hopes and dreams. Your decision will affect two people, my friend.

But wait—what about the *tissue's* father? Research shows that

fathers can struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, and other adverse effects when their children are aborted. That's three people, then.

But what about the grandparents? They will live with unending sorrow over the grandchild (or is it the *grandtissue*?) they will never know.

Perhaps a few more than two people are affected.

Like the *tissue's* future spouse, who missed out on their soulmate because their soulmate was aborted. And their future children and grandchildren, who will never exist. What about all the cancer patients whose disease that *tissue* never cured? The people that would have been aided by the foundation the *tissue* will never start? The citizens who will never benefit from the *tissue's* tenure as president of the United States? Or maybe, just maybe, it isn't a tissue at all. It's a baby that never got a chance to live.

All because of the sterilized tweezers that annually take the lives of more people than heart disease does. The tweezers that have murdered enough American *babies* to equal the population of Argentina.

But don't forget! Every mother has a choice!

Hopefully, as they decide, they will remember that their choice means life or death for themselves, the *baby*, dad, grandparents, children, grandchildren, and the world.

Choose life.

However, not everyone is a pregnant

woman faced with a terrifying decision between life and death. Why do *we*—the already pro-life community—need to hear this?

Pregnant mothers aren't the only ones with a choice. You—the average pro-life person—*have a choice*. You can sit back and do nothing, or you can make your *life* count for something!

After all, how will that birth mother know about her option to choose life for her *baby*, if you don't tell her? How will pro-life lawmakers across the country amend state constitutions if you don't elect them? How will those who have been affected by abortion recover if you don't hold them, tell them they are forgiven, and offer them hope in Jesus? Someone chose life so you could sit and read this today. Make that life count. Be ready to tell a scared mother that she can choose life. Get involved with a crisis pregnancy clinic. Pray outside a Planned Parenthood center. Talk to your kids about *why* you are pro-life. Buy baby supplies for someone you know who can't afford them. Join the March for Life, sign petitions, and contact your state representatives to inspire them to protect life. Why? Because your actions, no matter how small, make a difference. Just ask the child of the young woman whose life was changed because someone *chose* to stand outside an abortion clinic carrying a sign to remind people of the truth:

God gives everyone a choice, but there is only one right answer.

Choose life.

Essay Contest Winners

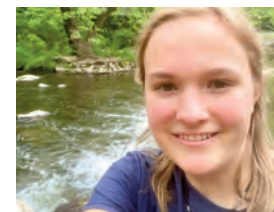
SENIOR DIVISION



#1 Sarah Hamilton
Grade 12,
Homeschool
Windber, PA



#2 Liliana W Shadlow
Grade 10,
Veritas Scholars Academy
Allentown, PA



#3 Keira F. Watters
Grade 11,
Martin Saints
Classical High School,
Oreland, PA

PENNSYLVANIA
PRO-LIFE
FEDERATION

There's always a reason to choose life.™

LOSING A SIBLING TO ABORTION:

“
Sibling
Survivors
can really
feel so
ashamed
that they
are alive,
and I
certainly
did.”

— Krista Corbello



Krista Corbello

Krista Corbello is a very articulate young woman with a heart for life. She exudes joy and an eternal hope that pulses through every word she speaks. There is a depth to her understanding of the effects of abortion on siblings whose parents made that terrible choice. After all, it comes from her own lived experience.

Krista made her entry into the pro-life movement through a Right to Life job through which she was engaged in youth education in the state of Louisiana. She had been giving pro-life presentations long before she uncovered her own story.

Having been raised without her biological father in the picture, Krista always associated the question marks surrounding her life with just not knowing him.

“My story of origin unfolded more over the course of those three and a half years (that I was doing prolife ministry),” she says. She met her biological father for the first time while in college and eventually came to find out about

the abortion her father had with a woman he dated after his relationship with Krista’s mom ended.

“It felt like some parts of my life made sense,” Krista shares. Along with the discovery came what she describes as an “elongated version of PTSD”.

There is a term for this in psychology: **Post Abortion Survivor Syndrome (PASS)**.

Krista’s work now became more painful and personal following the revelation. It was no longer a biological, medical or philosophical matter for education. “It became difficult to talk about the medical abortion methods thinking about the fact that my sibling had died by one of these ways.”

What she was experiencing catapulted her into starting her own ministry **Even This Way** to help other siblings through the process of grieving and healing from the knowledge of losing a sibling to abortion.

“Abortion is often disguised as a good choice,” Corbello continues,

“But this private choice can be detrimental to the mental health and especially the spiritual lives of surviving siblings”

Even This Way began as a capstone project for her Master’s program in Psychology at Divine Mercy University. Delving into research available on sibling loss, Dr. Philip Ney’s study on maternal pregnancy loss became foundational to her work.

Dr. Ney’s 2010 research pointed to a significant difference in what siblings experience when their parents had miscarriages and abortions. He found that sibling survivors of abortion feel unworthiness, doom, lack of meaning in life, existential crisis, survivor’s guilt and a struggle to embrace life fully.

According to Ney, “As a comparison, symptoms of those who lost siblings through



By Remil Teny
Education Director
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Healing from Post Abortion Survivor Syndrome (PASS)

miscarriage are quite different. Interestingly, although they feel angry, they feel life is worth living and they have no trouble with interpersonal relationships."

Ney provides this "inadequate analogy" to illustrate why miscarriage survivors feel glad to be alive while abortion survivors feel they don't deserve to be alive: Picture a family of four on a seaside vacation walking along an unguarded cliff when one of the children trips and falls to her death on the rocks. There is a profound loss of a loved one but after the grieving, the surviving sibling is able to rebound and continue living well.

Now imagine another family not far from them, walking along the cliffs. The parents quietly discuss their intent to never have two children and push one child off the ledge to his death. The surviving sibling may not have witnessed them doing it but intuitively knows that it could have been her, leaving her with distress and guilt over being the one to have survived.

One was an accident, the other was intentional – this plays a crucial role in how sibling survivors perceive their place in the world.

Krista is intimately familiar with the complicated grief that arises from such a loss, ***"Sibling Survivors can really feel so ashamed that they are alive, and I certainly did."***

She speaks of the suffering that she endured feeling rejected and abandoned by her father even from the womb that stemmed not only from his leaving but from his insistence that her mother abort Krista. She calls this her signature wound and yet, her sibling's death impacted her in a deeper way.

"To find out I had a sibling die by abortion, even with all the suffering that I had experienced, I still felt I had a life though, my sibling didn't.

Why me? Why am I here? Why is my sibling not here? Why do I get to laugh? Why do I get to have friends? Why do I get to blow bubbles?," she wonders.

She notes that the five stages of grief framework given by the Kübler-Ross model, one that she references often, was never meant to be linear or sequential. Some siblings experience more of certain stages than others and not always in order.

Krista recommends Therese A. Rando's book ***"How To Go On Living After Someone You Love Dies"*** as a starting point for healing from sibling loss. Among the six 'R' processes in Rando's literature, Krista agrees to some degree with Dr. Ney's observations that 'Reinvesting in life' can be much harder for survivors. But unlike Ney, she believes that it is entirely possible to overcome the trauma of PASS and live a full life. "Because of my faith, I cannot believe that it is impossible to reinvest," she insists, her virtue of hope on full display.

Krista's ministry is an example of that. ***"Showing sibling survivors that it is possible to reinvest in life - Even This Way is that for me. Walking***



with people who have experienced that is part of it for me."

Her faith was an important part of her healing journey. And so was community: *"We're all very communal and social creatures. Having trusted friends who love you and are willing to hold your hand in the darkness, ask you how you are, and see you and your suffering and also see that that's not the end of it for you is so important."*

Krista states that ***Even This Way*** is neither a religious nor a pro-life organization, although her team includes people of various faith backgrounds. They are there to *"acknowledge the experience and help heal sibling survivors of abortion. They are our focus, and we will walk with them on their journey no matter what."*

You can connect with Krista through her website: www.eventhisway.org.



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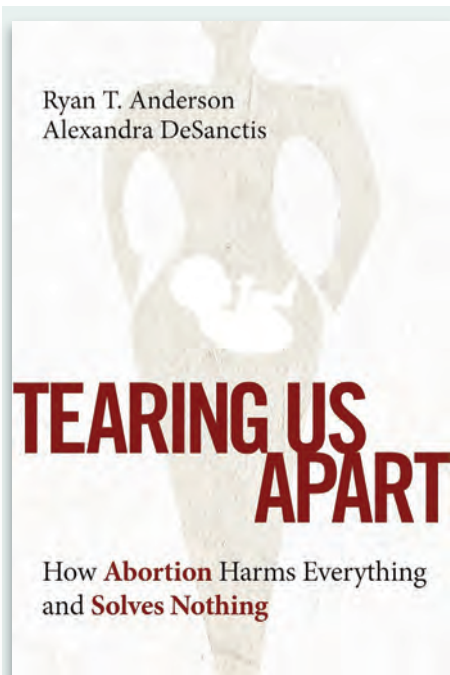
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Must-Reads and Must-Watch **PRO-LIFE** Picks!



Tearing Us Apart:

How Abortion Harms Everything and Solves Nothing

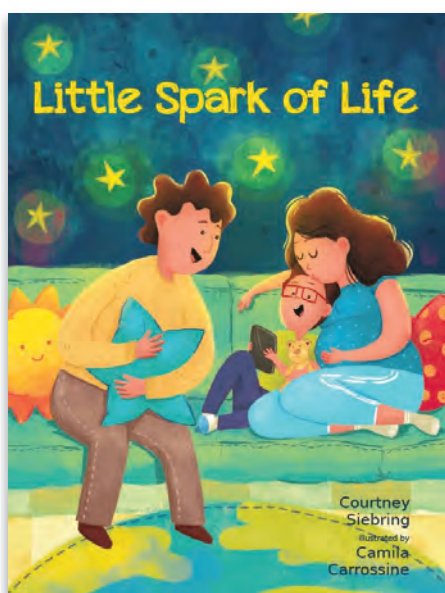
Alexandra DeSanctis & Ryan T. Anderson

If there's one book you read in the post-Roe landscape, let this be it. *Tearing Us Apart* examines abortion from several different angles and it all converges to the same conclusion – abortion has destroyed the fabric of our society. 50 years under Roe has provided us with enough evidence that leaves no doubt about abortion's failure to deliver on any of its promises.

"A riveting, thought-provoking, and well-reasoned analysis of how our nation has permitted the great human-rights abuse of abortion. Any activist, advocate, or concerned American will not only better understand how we got here, but be encouraged that restoring justice is possible if we are willing to pursue it."

—LILA ROSE,
president, Live Action

Where to buy: Barnes And Noble, Amazon



Little Spark of Life:

A Celebration of Born and Preborn Human Life

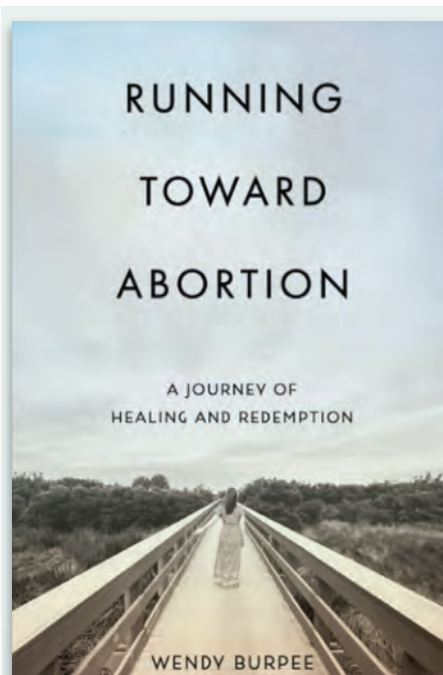
Courtney Siebring

Looking for a book to share the beauty of life with your kids or grandkids who are expecting a little sibling? *Little Spark of Life* makes a perfect gift for curious little minds that wonder about life in the womb. It introduces the truth about the beginning of every human being and "will show you what's hidden from view". It's easy to understand, providing children with simple facts that open them up to the conversation about the worth and value of life from the moment of conception. The book is a visual feast with vibrant illustrations that spark the imagination. Here's what one reader had to say about it:

"With a perfect blend of science and heart, Little Spark of Life is my go-to book to celebrate the uniqueness and distinctiveness of each child and every life. This book teaches children that their life is intentionally created with value, creativity and infinite worth. I want to buy this book for every expecting big brother and big sister I know."

—Esther Fleece,
bestselling author of *No More Faking Fine* and *Your New Name*

Where to buy: Paraclete Press, Amazon



Running Toward Abortion:

A Story of Healing and Redemption

Wendy Burpee

Have you ever been led to believe that abortion is a "free" choice that women make? This book will annihilate all the claims Planned Parenthood makes about "Care. No Matter What". Wendy Burpee's life is a testimony to the "wreckage that abortion causes". Her book invites us to take a long, close look into the circumstances that lead women to make an abortion decision – domestic abuse, lack of support, misinformation, shame and hopelessness. Abortion casts an illusion of safety for women caught up in difficult situations but is it truly freeing? You might have guessed right. Grab a copy of this book to find out about her journey from abuse and abortion to freedom and healing. It's a short but powerful read that will have you impacted for life. Here's a review we found:

"Wendy takes you on her journey of redemption from a life of pain and heartache to a place of healing and restoration. This book is truly uplifting for anyone who has struggled in any aspect of life."

Where to buy: Amazon



Irena's Vow

2024 / R

This gripping tale of resilience and courage of a young nurse working as a German army major's housekeeper during World War II is a must watch for pro-lifers. The movie recounts the true life of Irena Gut who hid a dozen Jews in her employer's house during the Polish invasion by Nazis. Her commitment to preserving life amid the savage and inhumane treatment meted out to a group of people deemed less than is laudable. A scene where abortion is presented as a necessity for safety and Irena's response to it is sure to leave a lasting impression on you.

"Chilling! I was on the edge of my seat the whole time. It is a remarkable film about a truly remarkable, and courageous woman. The inherent goodness of humanity shines through the unbelievable cruelty of the Nazis and their regime. I can't recommend it enough."

Where to watch: Apple TV, Amazon Prime Video



NEVER ALONE by Mary Stchur

Every so often you pick up a biography and realize there's so much a person can do in their lifetime! This book is about one woman's efforts to help mothers and babies in Pennsylvania. Betty Caffrey has been a lifelong advocate for life, building up her community in Wilkes-Barres through education and working to create a village around expectant mothers in difficult circumstances, even at age 95 today! *Never Alone* gives a well detailed account of this legend's life and work, gleaning information from the archives as far back as Mary Stchur could find. **If you're wondering "What can I do for the pro-life cause?" you will find plenty of inspiration here.**

Where to buy: Available soon on Barnes And Noble (or contact mstchur@gmail.com to get a copy)

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You may bequeath a specific amount of your estate using the following language: *"I give, devise, and bequeath to the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Education Fund, a nonprofit corporation located in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the sum of \$ _____, for use in promoting the pro-life message."*

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The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation is a grassroots right-to-life organization with members statewide. As the state affiliate of National Right to Life, PPLF is committed to promoting the dignity and value of human life from conception to natural death and to restoring legal protection for the preborn. Through legislation, political action, education and other legal means, we proclaim the truth about abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia.

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!*

CHAPTER EVENTS

* EVENTS IN FOCUS *

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▲ **The Pennsylvanians for Human Life** N.E. Regional Board Officers held a luncheon / meeting January 13, 2024. Shown in photo, left to right: *1st row:* Suzanne Royales Haile, Rhonda Dougherty (Columbia/Montour County), MaryAnn Lawhon (CEO, The Voice of John), Eileen Matenkoski (Hazleton Chapter), Patrick Williams (Scranton Chapter).

2nd row: Christopher Calore (Wyoming Valley Chapter), Wayne Magnot (Scranton Chapter), Carol Matz (Hazleton Chapter), Dr. Frank Schell (N.E. Region's Chairman), Cynthia Cox (Scranton), Donna Ulsamer-Thomas, Doris Bush (Susquehanna Valley Chapter).



▲ **Erie People For Life** held demonstrations outside their local Walgreens to protest Walgreen's decision to dispense the abortion pill at their pharmacies.



▲ **Maryann Lawhon** (left), the VOICE OF JOHN CEO stands alongside **Geri Featherby** at Misericordia University and Marywood University where they spoke of Geri's journey after abortion and dealing with the "hard cases".



▲ Education Director of PPLF, **Remil Teny** (left) with Senator **Mike Kelly** (middle) and former Executive Director of PPLF **Michael Ciccocioppo** at the **Erie March For life** that was held on May 4th that saw over 200 marchers come out in support and witness of life.



◀ **Bedford County Citizens Concerned for Human Life** hosted their annual **Pro-Life Dinner** on 26th April. The family pictured here was one among several featured local residents who shared their stories and choices made through all stages of pregnancy.

Some 45 men, women and ▶ children participated in the

annual **Mifflin-Juniata CCHL March for Life** in Lewistown, on March 17, 2024. **Remil Teny**, Education Director, PA ProLife Federation, shared the stage with Senator **Judy Ward**, PA Representative **Kerry Benninghoff** and **Tabitha**



Goodling from Crossroads Pregnancy Center at Mifflintown.

www.paprolife.org/chapters



▲ **The Pro-Life of York County Chapter** has been busy promoting life through monthly meetings and table exhibits at several events like Pickle Fest and a Diversity event at Spring Grove High School.

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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**.