

Lifespan *news*

Volume 36 Number 4 Presenting the Pro-Life Message in Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

June 2007



Congratulations, Ellen Salter!

Mother of the Year 2007

In conjunction with our Mother's Day Dinner, we are honoring our Mother of the Year 2007, Ellen Salter, of Dearborn. Ellen was nominated by her 13-year-old daughter, Lauren. Printed below is the nomination letter which her daughter wrote.

My name is Lauren Salter. I am 13 years old and the oldest of four children. I am nominating my mom for the 2007 Right to Life – LIFESPAN Mother of the Year award on behalf of myself, my brother, Michael, and my sisters, Shannon and Meghan.

My mom, Ellen Salter, is an amazing mother and deserves the title of "Mother of the Year." Before I tell you *why* she deserves this title, I'd like to tell you how and when my mom and dad met. Their marriage was truly made in heaven. While attending college, they were introduced to each other by a priest while on the way to a retreat! They dated for about a year before getting engaged. They got married on April 24, 1992. My mom and dad quickly answered God's call to have children and I was born in August of 1993—a little over a year after my mom and dad were married. For two years, I had my mom and dad all to myself—until September 1995 when my younger brother, Michael, was born. Then, in August 1998, Shannon was born. We were a very happy family and did everything together, but my mother had more love to share—more love to give.

My mom loved children so much, she prayed for yet another baby. We found out recently that my mom wanted a fourth child so badly that she prayed that if God would grant her another baby, she would fully accept and love a baby that someone else might not want—a baby that might be aborted by someone else. It took four years, but her prayers were finally answered, and beautiful Meghan Marie came into this world on October 16, 2002. The *unconditional love* that my mother shows for Meghan, as well as her pro-life activism, is why I am nominating my amazing mom for the 2007 Right to Life – LIFESPAN Mother of the Year. Let me explain...

Meghan was born completely healthy, but within a few months, she got critically sick. She was getting progressively weaker and weaker. By the time she was four months old, she had stopped breathing and collapsed several different times in my mom's arms. Each time, my dad frantically called 9-1-1, and Meghan was taken by ambulance to the local hospital, then airlifted to U of M Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor. It was very scary since we had no notice when these "collapses" would occur and none of the doctors could tell us why these incidents happened in the first place. Poor Meghan was hospitalized for most of 2003. She went through an enormous amount of testing to find out the cause of her illness, but to this day remains undiagnosed. During this time in the hospital, Meghan was given a tracheotomy and was put on a ventilator to help her breathe. A feeding tube was also placed into her stomach, allowing Meghan to receive the nourishment she needs.

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News & Notes

Catholic politicians duty to oppose abortion

Pope Benedict XVI issued a new document March 13, 2007 saying that Catholic politicians have a "non-negotiable" duty to oppose practices like abortion and euthanasia. The pontiff also reaffirmed the Catholic Church's position that political leaders who endorse these anti-life practices should voluntarily refuse communion. The 140-page booklet that was the result of meetings that took place in the Vatican in 2005 on important church doctrine.

In the "Apostolic Exhortation" the Pope said all Catholics have a duty to uphold the church's pro-life teachings but that the responsibility was "especially incumbent" on those in positions of power. He said elected officials should foster a "respect for human life, its defense from conception to natural death." "Consequently, Catholic politicians and legislators, conscious of their grave responsibility before society, must feel particularly bound, on the basis of a properly formed conscience, to introduce laws inspired by values grounded in human nature," he said. "These values are not negotiable," he said in the new document.

—*LifeNews.com, March 14, 2007*

Hospice group's new position on assisted suicide

by Wesley J. Smith

The American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine has just released a position statement on the issue of physician-assisted suicide, in which it abdicates its core professional responsibility. On the impropriety of permitting doctors to help kill their patients, the association has assumed a position of "studied neutrality." One of the AAHPM's stated missions is to engage in "public policy advocacy" for hospice and palliative care.

Assuming a neutral stance on what may be the most important public policy controversy of our day involving dying people is both a cowardly act and a backdoor repudiation of the long-established philosophy of hospice care, which promises to respect the intrinsic value of each patient's life and to care for dying patients until their natural deaths. In its "Position Statement on Physician Assisted Death" (PAD is the reigning euphemism for physician-assisted suicide, allowing doctors to pretend they are not participating in the intentional killing of patients), the AAHPM approaches the entire topic with willful naiveté. For example, it states: "Excellent medical care, including state-of-the-art palliative care, can control most symptoms and augment patients' psychosocial and spiritual resources to relieve most suffering near the end of life.

On occasion, however, severe suffering persists; in such a circumstance a patient may ask his physician for assistance in ending his life by providing Physician-assisted Death." But Oregon's experiment with state-sanctioned assisted suicide has demonstrated that "severe suffering" is not the cause for most requests for assisted suicide. Rather, patients usually ask for lethal prescriptions due to loss of autonomy, fear over being a burden to their families, losing the ability to engage in enjoyable activities, and losing dignity. These are all

important issues, and it is incumbent upon doctors to help patients overcome them. But they do not reflect the severe physical suffering the AAHPM presumes would cause their patients to request assisted suicide.

—*LifeNews.com, March 12, 2007*

Abortion and child abuse

A new study finds that women who have a history of abortion are more likely to abuse children born from subsequent pregnancies. The study, published in the *Internet Journal of Pediatrics and Neonatology*, confirms previous research which suggests that there is a link between abortion and child abuse. The study is based on an analysis of data on 237 low-income women in Baltimore who had physically mistreated or neglected at least one of their children or allowed someone else to do so. While all the women in the study had some connection with child maltreatment or neglect, the authors found that those who reported a history of abortion reported significantly more frequent acts of physical violence, such as slapping, hitting or beating, directed at their children.

Dr. Priscilla Coleman, a researcher at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, was the lead author of the new report. Coleman explained that there are many possible explanations for the association—including "unresolved bereavement, disruption of mother-child attachment mechanisms, feelings of abortion-related guilt, and/or negative mental health effects of the abortion." "In this particular study we found that the severity of abuse was more pronounced among mothers with a history of abortion compared to those without a history," Coleman said. "This makes sense since we do know that abortion can precipitate difficult to resolve anger issues."

—*LifeNews.com March 13, 2007*

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Mother of the Year 2007

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In August 2003, when she was just nine months old, Meghan had a major seizure that medicine could not control. The doctors used everything that medical science could offer to stop it, but Meghan's seizure was drug resistant and continued for ten days. When they were out of options, a doctor held a meeting with my mom and dad and told them that the ICU team had done everything they could do to stop the seizure. The doctor explained that since they could not stop the seizure, "Meghan wouldn't survive another two weeks." My mom and dad were devastated. Then the doctor asked if my mom and dad wanted to take Meghan off the ventilator to help her die—to *make life easier on them*. "Absolutely not!" they said. "God is the only one who makes that decision, not us!" My mom and dad defended Meghan at her weakest point, and by the grace of God, Meghan has lived almost four years since that meeting and proved that doctor wrong.

This is a perfect example of what the pro-life movement is all about. Meghan has a right to live and no one should have the right to take that away from her. My mom taught us that life is a gift from God and only He makes the decision of when we should take our last breath. My mom knew that speaking out for others who could not speak for themselves, like Meghan, was a calling for her. She had always been a pro-life supporter, but it was becoming clear that God was calling her to speak out on behalf of Meghan and others who cannot defend themselves. I'll tell you more about this later.

During the countless months that Meghan was in the hospital, my mom and dad took turns, one being home with us, the other taking vigil by Meghan's hospital bedside. Although it was very difficult on them, they tried very hard to ensure life was as normal as possible for Michael, Shannon and me. They made sure we got to school on time, played with us, took us to our scheduled activities and helped us with our homework each night. They did all this while one of them remained constantly at Meghan's bedside.

Altogether, Meghan was hospitalized on and off for two years with this unknown illness. To this day, Meghan remains unable to move, eat or breathe on her own. She still has a trach, is still on a ventilator and continues to get her nourishment through a feeding tube. She cannot talk; she can only make some sounds. But, we can tell when she's happy and when she's sad. She is now four years old and lives at home with us. Because Meghan needs to be cared for 24 hours per day, my mom often stays up all night with her when we don't have a nurse. She also stays at home to take care of her every day, although some days a nurse will give her a break to do other things. My mom seems happiest when she is holding her precious Meghan Marie.

Although she requires a lot of attention, Meghan is an equal part of the family. Meghan's bedroom is on the main floor, so she is very involved with our daily lives.



Salter Family

My mom makes sure Meghan always joins us in family time. Meghan loves to be with the family during nightly prayers. Sometimes, Meghan will sit at the table with us, in her stroller, at dinnertime. We take her for walks when the weather is nice. (Mom loves to show Meghan off to all the neighbors!) We include Meghan when we watch a movie together, and we take turns being on her team when we play games.

My mom and dad taught us that Meghan's life is just as important as each of our lives, even though she is unable to do anything for herself. Mom tells us that it is not a sacrifice or burden to take care of Meghan, but pure joy. I have never, never heard my mom complain that she does not have enough time for herself or that Meghan is too much work. Meghan is "God's gift" to us, and it is our responsibility to ensure we care for this heavenly gift every moment of every day. Our lives are more fulfilled with Meghan in it. We love Meghan with all our hearts and thank God for her life daily. Mom always reminds us that we are blessed that God chose our family to care for one of His weakest souls.

This is why my mom has become more involved with the pro-life movement. Before Meghan was born, my mom was a pro-life supporter, handing out roses at church, voting for pro-life candidates, praying for an end to abortion and attending pro-life functions. Now she is an ACTIVE pro-life spokesperson. She recently started a Right to Life

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2007 Pro-Life Student Art Contest Winners

Three teens won savings bonds in Lifespan's 3rd annual Student Art Contest. The theme of this year's contest was "Celebration of Life." A first-place prize of a \$1000 savings bond has been won by Nathan Halabu, 17, of Rochester Hills, a senior, at Notre Dame Preparatory School. Nathan is the son of Shamil and Laura Halabu. The second-place prize of a \$400 savings bond has been won by Elizabeth Ann Stone, 17, of Harrison Twp., a senior at Regina High School. Elizabeth Ann's parents are Tara Andersen and Davin Stone. The third-place winner of a \$200 bond has been won by Deanna Kray, 18, of Dryden., a senior who is homeschooled. Deanna's parents are Richard and Nicolina Kray. The savings bonds were awarded at the Mother's Day Dinner, in Troy, on May 7. Nathan's first-place art work was reproduced on the cover of Lifespan's *Resource Book 2007*. The winning entries are reproduced on the following page.

We want to thank the judges who had a difficult job choosing the winners from so many excellent entries:

Melanie Bruss studied art and painting at Center Line High School, then went on to study dance and choreography at Wayne State University where she earned her degree in Dance. Since graduating, she has performed and choreographed for various musicals, and is currently a dance teacher in residence at Cranbrook Kingswood Schools. She enjoys art in all of its forms and hopes that art will positively impact the culture for the Gospel of Life!

Marjorie Dettloff, after having taken a mail correspondence course in her late teens, has been a self-taught multi-media portrait artist for many years, with a special love of sacred and/or holy subjects, particularly, Mother Teresa and Madonna and Child; all subjects are taken from either famous depictions or live photos. She also does her own framing, copying and note cards from each work to sell, benefitting the work of Right to Life - LIFESPAN and other Catholic charities.

Dave Skurski is a semi-retired accountant, married to his wife, Lori, for 43 years. They live in Hartland on a small serene lake with their very special autistic son, Derek, who is 34 years old. David's family has put Christ in the center of their lives, and they try to live out their faith by keeping the theological virtues of faith, hope and love forever in their minds. Their favorite charity is life because without life, we have nothing at all.

Germaine Sliney-Mack taught art for five years, grades 1-12, in the St. Clair Shores School District. She incorporated her art into all 30 years of her classroom teaching for the Bloomfield Hills School System. Germaine is the mother of four children; her youngest son, Fr. Michael Sliney, is a priest in the Legionnaires of Christ.

Marlene Vincent is the mother of three and grandmother of nine and has been a member of St. Sabina Parish in Dearborn Heights for over 45 years. She has been very active in all areas of pro-life activities for over 25 years, being St. Sabina's pro-life representative for most of that time. She fostered a long-standing appreciation of the arts in her own home. All three of her children have been active in Communication and Theatre Arts; two of them currently coach high school Forensics, and one is actively involved in Music Ministry and the Performing Arts. Marlene is interested in all forms of artistic expression and relates that she was very impressed with the talent shown by the entrants in this year's competition, as evidenced by the exceptional quality and variety of art mediums used to depict the pro-life message.



Nathan Halabu
First-Place Art Contest Winner



Elizabeth Ann Stone
Second-Place Art Contest Winner



Deanna Kray
Third-Place Art Contest Winner



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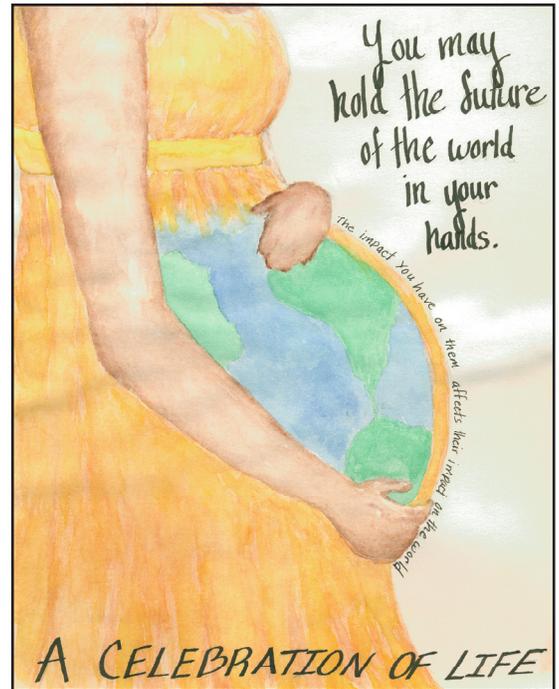
The Master's Love by Nathan Halabu, First Place

My message is that all children have the right to life, and Jesus knows us before we're even born. Through my art, I portray Jesus Christ holding an infant to symbolize His unconditional love for everyone. It reflects our call as Christians to love one another, and all life is precious and shouldn't be taken for granted.

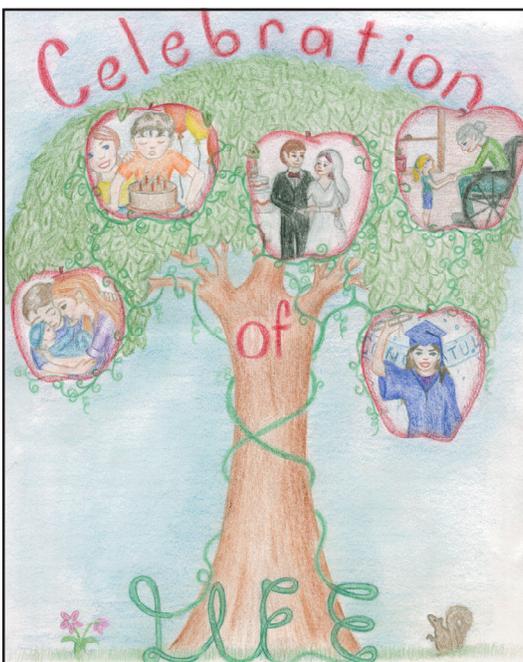
Celebration of Life

by Elizabeth Ann Stone, Second Place

I did my entry on the subject of children. My entry depicts this subject through a picture of a woman's pregnant belly which she holds in a warm embrace. In her belly is the world. The picture is accompanied by a caption that reads: You may hold the future of the world in your hands...the impact you have on them (the baby) affects their impact on the world. I chose this method because one of the major pro-life issues is abortion and a child's right to life; not only that but a child's right to a good, love-filled life. Every child has an unknown future that could affect the world in great ways if only they had the chance to live it...My entry summed up states that a child's life is valuable to not only the mother, but the world, and it is something that should be embraced and celebrated. Having a child is a celebration of life.



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A Fruitful Life by Deanna Kray, Third Place

The pro-life message expressed:
That the decision to choose Life is always fruitful. The pro-life message was imparted by portraying Life as the roots of the vine from which the fruits are produced. This message is important to me because as a Christian, I respect Life in all stages from conception until natural death. Art is a way to express this to people of all ages and faiths.



detroit

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Bouquets of Thanks

Our annual Mother's Day Rose Sale was a great success. We wish to extend our sincere thanks and profound gratitude to all our Detroit church representatives and their helpers. You gave up your precious time on Mother's Day on behalf of future Mothers who will hear our message of life and decide to give birth to their child. For all those who bought a flower, your continued support will help us keep the office open so that we can continue to educate a city that desperately needs to hear the truth about abortion. Thanks and God Bless.

Father's Day Reflection

Let us pray for our own fathers and thank them for playing ball with us or singing songs

to us because they supported their wives and helped give us life. Let us pray for all fathers who will never get a chance to play ball with their sons or sing songs to their daughters because of abortion.

Garage Sales

Summer is a time for garage sales. Are you up to your neck in clutter after spring cleaning? Why not get rid of your junk and turn it into someone else's treasure and at the same time help save lives by donating your proceeds to LIFESPAN. Also remember to think of the little ones while you are out there garage saling. Pick up a few gently used baby items and donate them to your local pregnancy center. God will bless you for your efforts.

Jack Kevorkian released

"When life is reduced to a commodity, when utility measures a person's worth, when the mysteries of life-giving and dying are degraded into exercises in pragmatic calculation...that, it seems reasonable to suggest, is a 'culture of death.' The numbing down of moral sensibilities is one of its causes," writes ethicist George Weigel.

As Dr. Death is released from prison on June 1st, let us pray that all people may once again acknowledge God as the Author of Life and the One who decides when the time is right to die.

livingston

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Phone 810-220-LIFE (5433)
Judy Zabik, Director



Father's Day prayer

By Kirk Loadman-Copeland

Let us praise those fathers who have striven to balance the demands of work, marriage,

and children with an honest awareness of both joy and sacrifice.

Let us praise those fathers who, lacking a good model for a father, have worked to become a good father.

Let us praise those fathers who by their own account were not always there for their children, but who continue to offer those

children, now grown, their love and support.

Let us pray for those fathers who have been wounded by the neglect and hostility of their children.

Let us praise those fathers who, despite divorce, have remained in their children's lives.

Let us praise those fathers whose children are adopted, and whose love and support has offered healing.

Let us praise those fathers who, as stepfathers, freely choose the obligation of fatherhood and earned their stepchildren's love and respect.

Let us praise those fathers who have lost a child to death, and continue to hold the child in their heart.

Let us praise those men who have no children, but cherish the next generation as if they were their own.

Let us praise those men who have "fathered" us in their role as mentors and guides.

Let us praise those men who are about to become fathers; may they openly delight in their children.

And let us praise those fathers who have died, but live on in our memory and whose love continues to nurture us.



oakland/macomb

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The doctor was in!

Our Mother's Day Dinner was great fun, and Dr. Ray provided a wonderfully upbeat and humorous presentation. There are so many people involved in an undertaking such as this—having dinner for 478 of your closest friends!—and each deserves individual recognition, but someone would surely be forgotten if such a list were included here, so let us extend Oakland/Macomb's heartfelt thanks to all the young people who helped, to the Educational Center for Life volunteers and staff who made the auction so much fun, to those who came and helped set up the tables, to our very young helpers who collected the door prize cards, to the staff, cooks and servers from San Marino and to all of you who attended the dinner and told us how much you enjoyed it.

wayne west/downriver

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Happy Father's Day!

Fathers suffer from the abortions of their children. While the pro-abortion movement ignores the rights of fathers, the pro-life movement acknowledges their pain and offers healing, forgiveness and a strong affirmation of the value of fatherhood. For information and help for fathers who are suffering from the loss of a child from abortion, contact *Life Institute, 1712 W. Galbraith Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45239; 513-729-3600; e-mail LifeIssues@aol.com.*

LIFESPAN wishes all fathers and grandfathers a blessed and Happy Father's Day.

In memory of Dorothy Robbins...

Our dear friend Dorothy has died. She was part of our regular mailing crew and came to the office faithfully; she even had her special chair at the table. She was fun to have around and she enjoyed being with other pro-lifers with whom she shared a unique kinship. We will miss her. Heaven's gain is our loss.

Opportunities, projects and plans

There are so many opportunities available to help LIFESPAN continue its work or education—in the coming months you can send your kids and grandkids to the Youth Game Night, buy Candy Bars for Dads, give pro-life Christmas cards, get an Entertainment Book, join in a Walk for Life in Oakland County, come to the office and volunteer or volunteer to staff an educational table at one of the fairs. No one can do everything, but everyone can do something, and the winners are the babies and their moms.

One more Mother's Day thought

*The moment a child is born, the mother is also born.
She never existed before. The woman existed,
but the mother—never. A mother is absolutely new.*

—Rajiesh

This was seen on a grave marker at White Chapel Cemetery.

Fair fun

Believe it or not, it is time to start thinking of summer fairs. Our chapter needs volunteers for three fairs—the 4-H Fair, the State Fair and Troy Daze. All shifts are open right now, so if you would like to help by staffing a table at one of the fairs, please call the office and let us know. The only requirements are a friendly smile and three hours of free time. The benefits include the knowledge that you are helping to spread the pro-life message and getting to eat corn dogs and elephant ears! Give us a call.

Thank you

It was a beautiful sunny Mother's Day, and love and laughter filled the air. Pastors praised motherhood and talked about babies, born and unborn, and our Mother's Day Rose Tribute was a wonderful success. We thank pastors, church reps, volunteers and donors for your time and contributions which allow us to continue our pro-life activities.

Bowling for Life...Bowl 3 games free

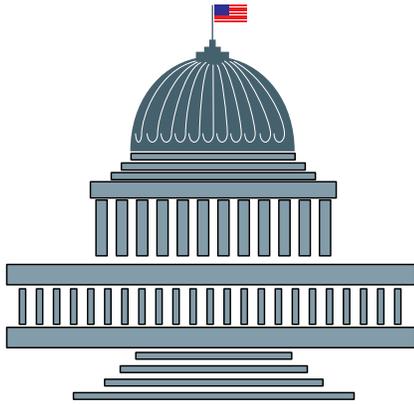
This is the 25th year, a quarter of a century, that we've hosted our "Bowling for Life" Fundraiser, and we're looking forward to seeing both new and old friends. We've made a change in day and time this year in hopes of attracting additional people. It will be on Friday evening from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Come for a great time of fun and fellowship—no one is a stranger in a pro-life crowd. All bowlers receive a gift certificate donated by area merchants. See page 13 for complete details. Call the office for information and/or pledge sheets.

Entertainment Books

When you pre-order a 2008 Entertainment Book, you will receive a FREE 2007 book which can be used until November 1, 2007. Cost is reduced to only \$20. Quantities are limited.

Display available for fairs and festivals

Have educational display appropriate for all occasions.
Call WWDR Chapter for further information.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Contact Information

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U.S. Representatives

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Dear Representative (last name):

Partial-Birth Abortion Ban

On April 18, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that the federal Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003 was constitutional (*Gonzales v. Carhart*, No. 05-380). This case was combined with *Gonzales v. Planned Parenthood*, No. 05-1382. On November 8, 2006, the Court had heard arguments on these two cases arising from the Eighth and Ninth Circuits, respectively.

Justice Kennedy delivered the opinion of the Court, in which Chief Justice Roberts, and Justices Scalia, Thomas and Alito joined. Justice Thomas wrote a concurring opinion, in which Justice Scalia joined. Justice Ginsburg wrote a dissenting opinion, in which Justices Stevens, Souter, and Breyer joined. The Court's decision can be found at: supremecourtus.gov/opinions/06pdf/05-380.pdf.

Cardinal Justin Rigali, Chairman of the USCCB's Committee for Pro-Life Activities, welcomed the decision, observing, "This is the first time in 34 years that the Court has upheld a ban of any type of abortion." The Cardinal stated: The Court's decision does not affect the legal status of the great majority of abortions, and does not reverse past decisions claiming to find a right to abortion in the Constitution. However, it provides reasons for renewed hope and renewed effort on the part of pro-life Americans. The Court is taking a clearer and more unobstructed look at the tragic reality of abortion, and speaking about that reality more candidly, than it has in many years.

The Cardinal concluded his remarks with the hope that "today's decision marks the beginning of a new dialogue on abortion."

President Bush had signed this measure into law on October 28, 2003 (Public Law 108-105). Congress first considered the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act in 1995, the measure being approved by the 104th and 105th Congresses, and each time being vetoed by President Clinton. Efforts to override the vetoes were successful in the House

but not in the Senate. Congress was in the process of passing the measure a third time when, on June 28, 2000, the U.S. Supreme Court in a 5-4 opinion declared the Nebraska partial-birth abortion ban law unconstitutional (*Stenberg v. Carhart*, No. 99-830). In light of the *Stenberg* ruling, Congress revised the federal Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. The revised bill was introduced in 2002 and it was this bill that President Bush signed into law in 2003 and that the U.S. Supreme Court has now declared to be constitutional.

Stem Cell Update

On April 11, 2007 the United States Senate voted to permit federal funding of embryonic stem cell research. The vote was 63-34. Both of our U.S. Senators, Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow voted in favor of federal funding of this research. The language of the measure is similar to that of House Bill H.R. 3 which passed January 11, 2007, 253-174. Implementation of the measure, how much federal money would be available and how it would be administered is yet to be determined.

President Bush has said repeatedly that he would veto any measure that allowed for the destruction of living human embryos for research purposes and has said he will veto this current measure. The votes for these bills are not sufficient to withstand a presidential veto.

Also passed in the Senate on April 11 was S. 30, also known as the Hope Offered through Principled and Ethical Stem Cell Research Act, or the Hope Act. This measure was approved by a vote of 70-28 and its language would encourage federal dollars to be spent on research that DOES NOT take the life of the human embryo.

Michigan legislators' votes were as follows: In the U.S. Senate, voting in favor of destructive human embryonic stem cell research (S. 3) were Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow. In the U.S. House, voting for the same kind of destructive research (H.R. 3) were Representatives Dingell,

Kildee, Kilpatrick, Levin (Sander) and Upton.

Voting against such destructive research on H.R. 3 were Camp, Ehlers, Hoekstra, Knollenberg, McCotter, Miller, Rogers, Stupak and Walberg.

Senators Levin and Stabenow voted NO on the Hope Act through Principled and Ethical Stem Cell Research Act. As noted above, this act would have prohibited federal dollars from being spent on destructive embryonic stem cell research.

Email from Senator Stabenow

April 5, 2007

Mrs. Isabel J., Rochester Hills

Subject: Re: Prevent Taxpayer-Funded Abortions by Opposing H.J. Res. 40

Thank you...for contacting me to express your views on the issue of abortion.

I have enclosed a copy of a statement I have written explaining my position. I will continue to respect and listen to the views of others regarding this issue.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts and concerns with me.

Sincerely, Debbie Stabenow, U.S. Senator

Abortion Position Statement Senator Debbie Stabenow

The issue of abortion is unquestionably the most difficult issue I have had to deal with during my years of service. I have struggled with all sides of the issue to determine not only what I personally believe, but, more important, what I should do as a Legislator representing a diverse state of persons who hold many different religions, morals and personal beliefs.

Abortion is a serious issue that has divided many sincere and honest people. Many believe that abortion is either absolutely right or absolutely wrong, while others feel it is acceptable only under certain limited conditions. Unfortunately, when the issue of abortion is debated in legislatures and in the Congress, representatives are often forced into choosing an absolute pro-abortion or anti-abortion stand. However, the questions I must decide as your Senator are not whether I am for or against abortion, but rather, what is the appropriate role of the government and should government be making decisions about this intensely personal family matter.

Because of the diversity of perspectives and the intense personal nature of the abortion issue, I have taken the position that the choice of abortion is not a decision government should make or deny.

I also feel strongly that although it is not the proper role of government to decide the right or wrong of abortion for individual families, the government does have some critical and important responsibilities as it relates to this issue. As a Senator and a mother, I have a personal and public commitment to those policies that support and sustain children in healthy and loving families.

As a country, we must do everything we can to provide support and encouragement to women who are pregnant and to promote responsible family planning when a woman does not want a child. Support services need to be available for pregnant teenagers and single mothers so they do not feel abortion is their only choice. We also need to provide better pre-natal care, nutrition services, childcare, adoption programs, and economic opportunities for women. I believe that many women would not choose abortion if other help was available.

I know that our country will continue to struggle and debate the abortion issue in the years ahead. As this debate goes on, I will continue to listen to and respect the views of others. I am hopeful that those who are divided by this issue can focus on areas of mutual agreement, because only by working together can we effectively strengthen and improve the lives of children and their families.

Abortion Complications

Rep. Kevin Green, (R-Wyoming), has drafted a proposal to address the under-reporting of abortions in Michigan. "There is a problem of non-compliance with a Michigan law that requires doctors to report complications that occur during or after abortion procedures," he said.

The new bill would allow any person with knowledge of an abortion complication to submit the same report to the Department of Community Health that doctors should.

To prevent people from abusing the proposed legislation, a false report would be a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine. —*Lansing State Journal, May 1, 2007*

Equal Rights Amendment

National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) sent a letter to members of the Senate asking them to oppose a reintroduction of the Equal Rights Amendment because it could be used to promote abortion. NRLC asked senators to not co-sponsor the bill, which pro-abortion Sen. Ted Kennedy put forward. S. J. Res. 10 proposes a federal constitutional amendment that is now referred to by some as the "Women's Equality Amendment," but which has long been known as the "Equal Rights Amendment" (ERA). S. J. Res. 10 would add to the Constitution the following amendment: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article."

This is the same language as in the ERA Congress proposed in 1972 but it contains no deadline for ratification.

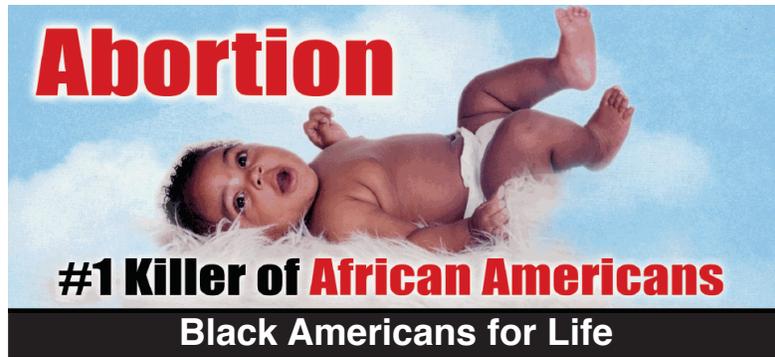
NRLC points out that the pro-abortion nature of the bill is seen in how leading abortion advocacy groups "have strongly urged state courts to construe state ERAs to require tax-funded abortion on demand, and state ERAs have been so construed in New Mexico and Connecticut."

NRLC also warns that the ERA will not only require states to fund abortions, but will overturn pro-life laws they've already approved. "Once a court adopts the legal doctrine that a law targeting abortion is by definition a form of discrimination based on sex, and therefore impermissible under an ERA, the same doctrine would invalidate virtually any limitation on abortion," the letter says.

NRLC asks senators to support an abortion-neutralization amendment that was originally offered during the prior ERA debate and said it would no longer oppose the bill if that amendment was included.

—*Lifenews.com, March 29, 2007*

Lifespan Billboard Campaign



Help share our dream!

We have a goal to see a pro-life message against abortion reach millions of people in the Detroit metro area. At this time, we have a wonderful opportunity to place a billboard similar to the one shown here at various locations during the year, in close proximity to abortion clinics, if possible. It will include a phone number for passersby to call. The billboards will be displayed for four-eight weeks at each location and then move to a new location. The cost of one billboard is approximately \$600. The cost for the entire project is approximately \$8,000.

As in past billboard campaigns, the objective is to powerfully educate, impact and change the hearts of countless women against aborting their unborn children.

We would like to extend a gracious thank you to the Michigan State Council of the Knights of Columbus, strong supporters of the pro-life movement, for their generous donation of \$1,200 toward the first two billboards, slated to be displayed June through August, at these locations:

W. Seven Mile, east of Evergreen, south side, east facing
W. McNichols, east of Snowden, north side, west facing

We need your prayers and support. If you can help, please send your donation to us at **Right to Life - LIFESPAN, 29200 Vassar St., Ste. 545, Livonia, MI 48152**. We invite you to join us and gratefully appreciate your personal donation in any amount. If you have any questions, please call us at **248-478-8878**.



Spring @ Wee Care! More babies! More twins! Many more calls for help! It has been a whirlwind of activity, and it isn't slowing down—so many more families in desperate situations (or is it so many more people are aware of our program?)

It is exhausting—it is exhilarating! Because of your ongoing support of our Wee Care program, we are able to make a difference in so many MORE lives.

I will just tell you about one of our moms. Before she went to the hospital, she was expecting healthy twins and was to move into a new apartment with her fiancé. But all that changed one morning, when she was rushed to the hospital. One of the babies' heartbeats had become erratic and she needed an emergency c-section. The surgery was done and the babies were born, but one was gravely ill. And the fiancé—he was nowhere to be found.

On the day she was to come home, we received a call. Her son was still critical and her daughter very tiny. She had no fiancé, no apartment and nothing for her little girl. All she had in the world was her precious baby and no way to provide for her. She was terrified.

A wonderful social worker found her a place to live and because of YOU, we were able to give her blankets, tiny clothes, onesies, bottles, diapers, formula and so much more. And soon, she will have both her little miracles at home and in her loving arms.

Her love and gratitude for all of you is immeasurable. May God bless you for all you do and all the love you have for our little ones. Your love makes miracles happen every day. —Love, Karen

Karen Patrosso, Director 248-478-8884
Wee Care, A Program of Right to Life - LIFESPAN



Some of the attendees at the Teen Life Link Seminar, Making Abortion Unthinkable

WHAT'S UP WITH THE YOUTH?

Attention: Teens, Parents, Youth Pastors/Ministers, Youth Group Leaders/Coordinators, High School and Middle School Teachers, Principals, and Volunteers

Hey there, everyone! School is out—hurray! That means lots of summer fun is on its way! I would like to take this opportunity to share some comments with you about the “Born to be a Lady” Fashion Show and Tea Buffet for young ladies that was a big success in March! Plans for the 2nd show are underway. Watch for details on the location, date and time of the next show, scheduled for early April 2008.

QUESTION: What did you like about the Fashion Show and Tea Buffet and what did you learn?

“It was a great experience learning about ways to dress modestly in today’s society.”
—Jeanne, senior high student

“I loved watching people model and the food was great. I learned the morals and values of being modest.”
—Sarah, junior high student

“I enjoyed the commentating and all the information and ‘pep talk’ about modest dressing. I enjoyed the dressy outfits, the formal wear, and the wedding dress.”
—Barbara, Mom

“I liked the dresses in the fashion show and I learned that you can still look good without showing a lot of your body.”
—Tiara, grade school student

“I liked the opportunity to be reinforced on what I tell my daughters about living with dignity.”
—Alejandra, Mom

“I am 71 years old and am so heartened and impressed with the emphasis on modest clothing. Very well chosen and executed.”
—Anonymous

“I liked the great ideas. They were very practical. I really enjoyed the show.”
—Victoria, student

“I learned that you’ll get more respect being modest.”
—Caitlyn, junior high student

I also want to share some comments from the students who attended the “Making Abortion Unthinkable” Seminar held at St. Michael’s Media Center in April. It was a great seminar! I will keep you posted as to when and where the next Seminar will be.

QUESTION: What three things did you like most about the Seminar?

“The video ‘Hard Truth’ – it showed what abortion really is; Alvin’s testimony; the students who shared why they were pro-life because they’re our age and show us that it’s our job to do something about abortion.” —Cristina, Marian H.S.

“The organization and information from it; entertaining speakers; meeting new people with same views.”
—James, Baker College

“The new knowledge about abortion; the people; the way it was presented.” —Nathan, Romeo H.S.

“Learning the truth and how to defend it, especially defending and speaking against pro-abortion rhetoric.”
—Adrienne, Andover H.S.

“Chances to practice arguing my point; receiving information that I can take home and use; breakout sessions.”
—Kristen, Ladywood H.S.

“I enjoyed meeting new people who are pro-life; learning about how to defend my position; the people who spoke were interesting.”
—M.J., Divine Child H.S.

“Simple arguments; involving youth as leaders; affordable.”
—Mary, parent

“Interactive groups; meeting fellow pro-lifers; gained confidence in defending stance.”
—Paul, De La Salle H.S.

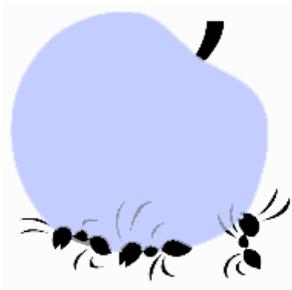
QUESTION: What one point made the most impact in your thinking on the abortion issue?

“I really liked how it was compared to the slavery issue.”
—T.A., student

“Why does anyone have the right to take a human life?”
—Jose, student

“The fact that some of the babies aborted are the same age if not older than babies that are born prematurely...yet, these premature babies live.”
—Mary, student

There are already 13 teens signed up for the Pro-Life Game Show on Saturday, July 28th. Registration is due BY JUNE 28th! If you need a registration form(s), please call as soon as possible, **248-816-1546**. Keep on loving LIFE!
—Lynn Gura, Youth Projects Coordinator



CIDER



Walk!

Join Right to Life – LIFESPAN for its 1st **CIDER Walk** on Sunday, **October 21, 2007** at 1:30 p.m. for a fun time up the beautiful **Paint Creek Trail** in Rochester, Michigan. Collect pledges for the 4.2 mile walk and enjoy a complimentary picnic (with cider and donuts!) and award ceremony afterwards.

Collect the minimum in pledges (\$150 – an average of 12 sponsors) and receive a free CIDER Walk t-shirt! Send in registration forms by Monday, October 1.

The informational flyer and volunteer flyer will soon be posted online. Pledge sponsor forms (“brochures”) will also be posted soon! Keep checking www.rtl-lifespan.org under “events.”

Don't want to walk? Consider these volunteer opportunities: set-up, clean-up, registration table, t-shirt table, making signs, crossing guards, rest-stop volunteers, parking, picking up food from store, serving food. Or, lend your grill or crockpot, walkie-talkies, bullhorn, orange cones (for START) or donate garbage bags and posterboard (for signs).

Pro-life meaning of the acronym “CIDER”?

Do the letters stand for “Children In-Womb Deserve Every Right”? or “Come in Doves to Endorse the Right (to Life)”? Enter our contest with your suggestions. Submit entries by **June 30** to Gayle at Lifespan’s Oakland / Macomb Chapter office: **1637 W. Big Beaver, Suite G, Troy, MI 48084-3540**. Winning entry will receive a *free* CIDER Walk t-shirt and special recognition at the walk! Call Gayle at **248-816-1546** for more information.

Save the Date!!

Mark your calendars for November 10 and be sure to attend Lifespan’s Pro-Life Breakfast and Legislative Update (more details in next issue of Lifespan News)



Cartridges for Kids

Right to Life - LIFESPAN is pleased to announce that we are partnering with the Cartridges for Kids (CFK) recycling program in order to raise funds.

Cartridges for Kids is an environmentally-friendly program that pays cash for recycleable items.

These items include:

- inkjet cartridges
- laser cartridges
- cell phones
- laptops
- PDA (i.e Palm Pilots)
- iPods
- digital cameras
- video games
- video game consoles

Did You Know??

Every year 300 million cartridges end up in landfills worldwide: 822,000 per day!

It takes almost 3.5 quarts of oil to produce one laser cartridge!

On average, Americans purchase a new cell phone every eighteen months!

This is a GREAT opportunity for members of Lifespan to help raise funds from items that we, our families, friends or local businesses would normally throw away!—and, at the same time, we can help protect and preserve our environment. We need your support! Start collecting now and help make this fundraiser a success! Look for more details in the July / August newsletter describing the no-hassle way to send in these recyclable items or call **248-478-8878**.



LIFE CHAIN

Sunday, October 7, 2007

2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

In addition to select designated Lifespan locations, we are offering the possibility of Life Chain locations at all churches and organizations. If you are interested in hosting a Life Chain at your church or organization on Sunday, October 7, please call us.

Watch for a mailing and/or more information in Lifespan’s next newsletter, or call us at **248-478-8878**.

25th ANNUAL "BOWLING FOR LIFE"

New day and time!

SPONSORED BY

RIGHT TO LIFE - LIFESPAN



Friday, July 27, 2007
6:30 - 9:30 p.m.



WOODLAND LANES

33775 Plymouth Road, Livonia

BOWL 3 GAMES FREE!

PRIZES!!!!

GRAND PRIZES FOR MOST MONEY COLLECTED

- 1st Prize \$200 Savings Bond
- 2nd Prize \$100 Savings Bond
- 3rd Prize \$75 Savings Bond
- 4th Prize \$50 Savings Bond

ADDITIONAL PRIZES FOR HIGH SCORES WITH HANDICAPS

- High Game for Men 14 years and older..... \$100 Savings Bond
- High Game for Women 14 years and older..... \$100 Savings Bond
- High Game for Children 7 - 13 years old \$100 Savings Bond
- High Series for Men or Women 14 years and older..... \$100 Savings Bond
- High Series for Children 7 -13 years \$100 Savings Bond

CHILDREN'S BUMPER BOWL...ELIGIBLE FOR GRAND PRIZES

- All bowlers receive a free gift certificate
- Bowlers with \$50 in pledges receive gold-plated pro-life jewelry

**TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PRIZES, AT LEAST \$50 MUST BE IN THE LIFESPAN OFFICE,
27592 SCHOOLCRAFT, LIVONIA, MI 48150, BY MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2007**

For sponsor pledge sheets or information

call Lifespan 734 422-6230

Mother of the Year 2007

continued from page 3

group with some women from our church. She has joined in Life Chains. Last year, my mom and dad started giving speeches to large pro-life groups. My mom has become a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves. This past October, my mom gave an important speech at the Catholic Women's Conference, talking about her love for Meghan, her faith and the dignity of every human person. My dad and I listened to her on the radio while she was speaking in front of 1400 women. We are proud of her because she is helping others realize that Meghan, and others like her, have immeasurable value and have as much right to live as any other person. She is teaching others that it is not good enough to be "quietly pro-life," but that we must all become active participants to put an end to this "culture of death." Since her speech in October, my mom has been booked to speak at several other events because her message needs to be shared with others. Our family supports her in it because we believe strongly in these things too.

I want my mom to win this award because she has proven that she is a shining example of what it means to be a mother and a defender of life. She shows it through her deep faith in God, by her unconditional love for her children, by her words and in her actions. These things are the most important things in her life. She loves each of us equally and taught us to love each other and defend life at all stages. She will continue to be a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves. Now, you see why my amazing mom deserves to be Right to Life – LIFESPAN Mother of the Year! To Michael, Shannon, Meghan and me, she is "Mother of the Year" every year. —*Love, Lauren Salter*

PS: To find out more about Meghan's condition and to see pictures of Meghan and our family, please visit Meghan's website at: www.babymeghan.org.

Crisis hotline numbers

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing a crisis pregnancy, help is available. Call your Lifespan office, pp. 6-7. Bethany Christian Services also has a 24-hour hotline number **800-BETHANY**. Sheltering homes are available to women in crisis pregnancies, call Abigayle Ministries **586-326-0459**. For post-abortion counseling, call Project Rachel **888-722-4355**. For those with life-limiting illnesses, call Angela Hospice **734-464-7810**; Cranbrook Hospice **248-334-6700**, or Hospice of Michigan **888-HOM-5656**. Project Life, Archdiocese of Detroit, offers pastoral guidance to persons considering abortion or assisted suicide; for this counseling assistance, call **800-281-2102**.

Garden Party!!

Crossroads Pregnancy Center, of Auburn Hills, is hosting its Annual Garden Party on July 22, 3:00-6:00 p.m., at the beautiful HGTV-featured home and gardens of Jack Krasula in Bloomfield Hills. The guest speaker will be Norma McCorvey, formally "Jane Roe" of the infamous Supreme Court case, *Roe v. Wade*. Tickets are \$75 per person; call **248-293-0070**.

Mother of the Year Judges

We want to thank the judges who had a difficult task of selecting our Mother of the Year 2007 from among all the worthy nominations we received.

Missy Parker, Mother of the Year 2006, continues to work for St. John Health System as an abstinence facilitator. All of her children are doing well, and she will graduate from Spring Arbor University with a BA in Family Life Education in October of 2007.

Pat Christie is married with two grown children. It was a privilege for her to be chosen to help in the selection of the Mother of the Year.

David Ganss lives in South Lyon and is a husband and proud father of three wonderful children, including an 11-year-old boy and a set of seven-year-old boy-girl twins. In between all the typical family activities, teaching his kids his love of the outdoors and his serious duties as his wife Elizabeth's official taste-tester for her fantastic baked goods, David finds time to be an engineer and Technology Advisor for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Ann Arbor, where he specializes in hybrid electric vehicles. He is also an active parishioner and member of the Parish Council at Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Church in Hamburg, Michigan.

Jennifer Handel is the mother of two children who was blessed when two birth mothers made the selfless choice to make adoption plans for their babies. She has a 12-year-old son, Stephen, and an 11-year-old daughter, Clare. She has been happily married to her husband, Greg, for the past 15 years and has worked part-time for Hospice of Michigan for 16 years. Jennifer has been active with the Right to Life movement since her college years at Michigan State University.

Ann Marie Horvath has been married to Curt for 24 years and is the mother of David, a freshman at Gabriel Richard High School. She has been a member of Right to Life - LIFESPAN for the past ten years, volunteering at the Wayne West Chapter with mailings, bake sales and Mother's Day roses, working in the Wee Care program and currently assisting in Lifespan's Main Office. She also volunteers as a bible study leader for the Women's Catholic Bible Study in Canton.

Calendar of Events

June 16, 17..... Father's Day Pen/Candy Tribute
June 17..... Happy Father's Day!
June 28 Pro-Life Teen Game Show Registration Deadline
July 10-15..... 4H Fair, p. 14
July 27 Bowling for LIFE, p. 13
July 28 Pro-Life Teen Game Show, back page
August 20 Deadline for Bowling for Life pledges
August 22-Sept. 3 Michigan State Fair
September 14-16 Troy Daze Fair, p. 7
October 7 LIFE CHAIN, p. 12
October 21 Cider Walk, p. 12
November 10..... Pro-Life Breakfast and Legislative Update

Donations have been made—

In loving memory of:

Ronald T. Mysliwiec

Given by: Michelle and Blaine Rudy

Dorothy Robbins

Given by: Greg and Lori Marklein
Judy Gralinski and Margaret Felenchak
Karen Bjornstad and POD Rosemary Bjornstad
Patrick McGuire

Donald and Sandra Greene
Andrew Shimko, Jr. and Jillian Shimko
Donna Puccio

Paul and Sherry McGuire
Roger and Carol Ringvelski
The Goodlesky Family
Pat and Bob Holscher

Laurie Masiarak
Wayne West/Downriver Board of Directors
Lifespan Mailing Crew

Raymond Heinrich

Given by: Karen and Stephen Foster
Mr. and Mrs. Russ Monforton
Connie Meyer and Family

Maryann (Sperry) Stanton

Given by: George and Dorian Borovsky

Mary Czekaj

Given by: Frank and Vivian Hutira

In honor of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of:

Sonia and Jack Fischer

Given by: Mary Ellen Servitto

Donations may be made in memory of loved ones who have died; a memorial card will be sent by Lifespan in your name to the family of the deceased. Donations may also be made to honor someone special, and near and dear to you, for a particular occasion, or just because...

You can live on after death by helping those whose lives are threatened by abortion, euthanasia or infanticide. A bequest in your will to Right to Life - LIFESPAN will be used to save the lives of many through our efforts. Send donations to your local Lifespan office.

From the President's Desk

Dear Friends of Life,

Another Mother's Day Dinner has come and gone. If you were not present, you missed a wonderful, moving evening with our speaker Dr. Ray Guarendi.

We are already planning for next year's event. If you have any suggestions for a prospective speaker, please call us. Our Mother's Day Dinner supplies the monies that keep our Main Office open. If you could not attend, a donation is always appreciated!

This Dinner doesn't happen without a lot of hard work by so many behind the scenes. I want to thank the following:

- Dinner Committee: (Oakland/Macomb Chapter) for planning and organizing this event; Irene Tharp, Diane Trombley, Lynn Gura and their co-workers.
- The Auction Committee: (Educational Center for Life) Phyllis Sullivan, Linda Seng, Marilyn Schepansky, MaryBeth Ritter and all those who worked to make the auction possible, including all those who donated items.
- Resource Book Committee: Marge Bradley, who worked so hard to update and produce this great Resource Book, as well as Diane Trombley and Melanie Bruss. Congratulations to Ellen Salter, our Mother of the Year 2007. Also, to all the Mothers who will never have the opportunity to be publicly honored, we thank you for your devotion to your children and the sacrifices you make for them.

Diane

Looking for Book Lovers!



We are thinking of having another used book sale this year and are looking for HELP!

If you are interested in working with us on collecting, sorting, setting up for a used book sale, please call us at 248-478-8878! If your church or organization would be willing to offer space to hold the Book Sale, let us know. Thank you!

Right to Life - LIFESPAN Membership Form

Right to Life - LIFESPAN believes that human life has value in all stages of development from conception until natural death, and is committed to speaking on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves — the unborn, the aged, the incapacitated. Won't you please help in our struggle to preserve respect for human life? A contribution brings you the monthly newsletter as well as educational materials and special mailings.

_____ Annual Membership \$ 25.00 _____ *Angel in the Waters* Special Membership _____ Other
_____ Student/Senior Member \$ 15.00 \$40 or more; (call a Lifespan office for details)

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Please complete this form and return with your donation to: **Right to Life - LIFESPAN, 29200 Vassar, Suite 545, Livonia, MI 48152-2193.** For more information, call 248-478-8878. Sorry, donations are not tax-deductible.

Right to Life - LIFESPAN
Detroit Office
P. O. Box 24774
Brighton, MI 48224-0774

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DATED MATERIAL
Address Service Requested

Pro-Life Teen Game Show!

4TH Annual Pro-Life Teen Game Show
Saturday, July 28, 2007!!!

Auburn Hills Christian Center • 2592 East Walton Boulevard

Entrance Fee: Contestants - \$12.00, Guests - \$6.00

Children 5 years old and under are free

Entrance fee includes pizza, pop, lemonade, snacks, and desserts

Registration: Ends at noon on June 28th

Information Packet: Game Show Rules, Schedule, Map,
Study Materials (ex. Crossword Puzzles, Word Match Games)

The packet will be sent out to all Contestants one month before the Game Show

Pro-Life Categories: Fetal Development, Planned Parenthood, the Abortion Industry,
Abstinence, Effects of Abortion, Laws and Cases, Assisted Suicide and
Euthanasia, Stem Cell Research and Human Cloning,
Bible Quotes and Famous Voices, Movies, Websites and Books

Extras: Pro-Life t-shirts to all Contestants! Gift certificates to all Game winners!
For added fun, a 4-Life Bingo Game will be played at various times throughout the
afternoon and evening. Small prizes will be awarded to BINGO winners.

Have questions? Want to sign up?

Contact Lynn Gura at 248-816-1546 or oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org



Sponsored by Right to Life-LIFESPAN Oakland/Macomb Chapter in cooperation with Educational Center for Life

