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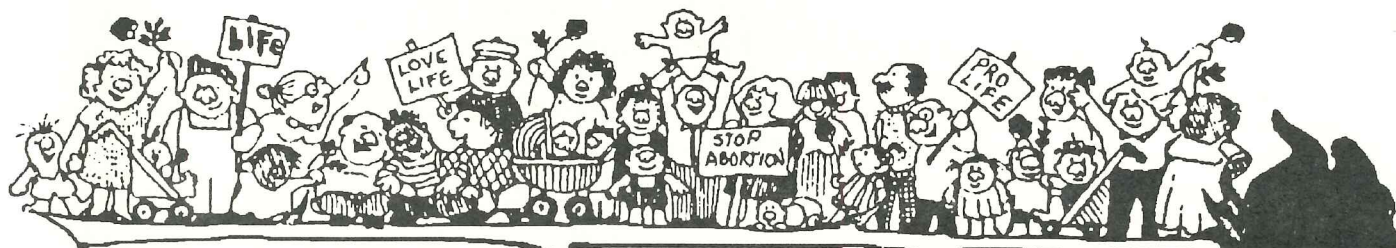
Essay Contest Winners
p. 3

Lifespan *news*

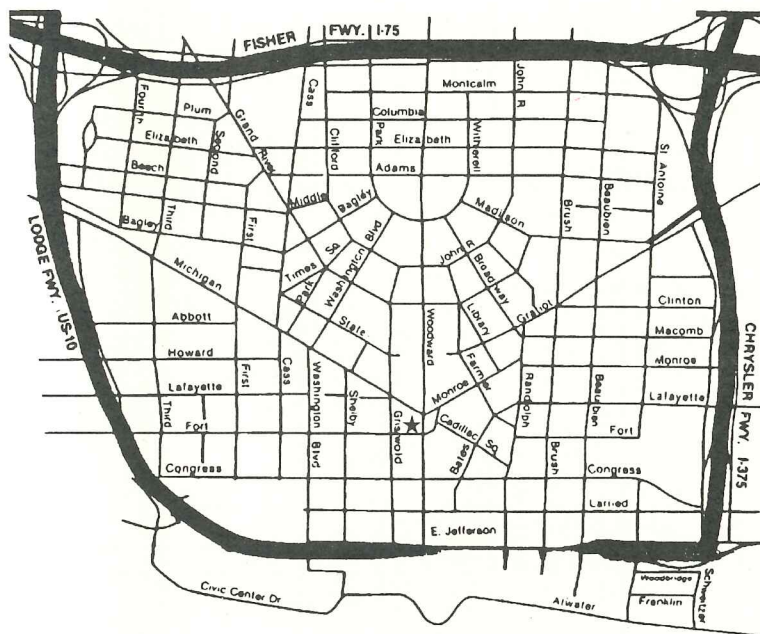
Volume 26 Number 1

Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

January 1997



© 1991 Life Greetings



RALLY for LIFE

*24th Anniversary
of Roe v. Wade*

**Sunday, January 19, 1997
(snow or shine)**

**Kennedy Square, Detroit
(at the intersection of
Michigan and Woodward)**

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

More information, p. 2

January 22nd Activities

Detroit Rally for Life

Lifespan needs you, your family, your friends, your church and your organizations to come to Kennedy Square and help us send a powerful message to the people of metro Detroit...No, after 24 years, we are NOT discouraged, we will NOT give up on our pro-life struggle until all of our citizens are guaranteed the Right to Life which is stated in our Constitution.

Join us at Kennedy Square on January 19, 1997 from 2:00 until 3:00 p.m. Guest speakers will include Oakland County Prosecutor Richard Thompson and pro-life activist Regina Williams.

It will only take an hour of your time and you may just help save a life. Dress warmly, but you will definitely go away with a warm glow in your heart.

This Rally is sponsored by the Detroit Chapter of Right to Life - Lifespan. Call (313) 874-0432 or (313) 533-9090.

Memorial candles

Pro-life homes across the metro area will remember the millions of aborted babies by burning candles on the eve of January 22.

Right to Life - Lifespan chapter offices have candles for your use; contact your local office for information and/or to obtain the luminaries for yourself or members of your church.

Memorial service

A memorial service will be held at Bethel Christian Church, 13200 Eleven Mile Rd., Warren, Sun., Jan. 19, 7:00 p.m. Call (810) 751-0945 for more details.

March for Life

On Tuesday, January 21, the March for Life Education and Defense Fund will hold a convention at the Hyatt-Regency Capitol Hill Hotel, Washington, D.C. Rates at the Hotel are \$99 for up to 4 persons per room; call the hotel directly for reservations (202) 737-1234, by Jan. 7.

Pro-lifers by the thousands, from all over the U.S., will gather for the annual March for Life on Wednesday, January 22, beginning at noon, with a Rally in the Ellipse, just south of the White House. The March proceeds along Constitution Avenue to the Capitol and Supreme Court. Marchers are then urged to lobby their legislators. A Rose Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m.

For more information about the Convention, March or Rose Dinner, please call (313) 533-9090 or (202) 543-8202.

Bus transportation is being planned for this Washington trip. If you are interested, please call (810) 615-4180.

Say it with roses!

In conjunction with March for Life activities, live red roses will be delivered to each Member of Congress, the Supreme Court, the President and Vice President, along with an individualized letter to educate them about the humanity of each unborn child. If you too would like to "say it with roses," send your name, address, city, state, zip and phone, along with a tax-deductible contribution (\$3.00 per rose is suggested), to MARCH FOR LIFE, Box 90300, Washington, D. C. 20090.

Calendar of Events

Jan. 8Registration for Pro-Life Renewal, Deadline, p. 4
Jan. 10Entertainment Book Sale Ends
Jan. 16, 18 "DidYou Know," p. 11
Jan. 18Pro-Life Renewal, p. 4
Jan. 19Rally for Life, Detroit, pp. 1, 2
Jan. 21Display Luminaries, p. 5
Jan. 21, 22March for Life/Convention Washington, D.C., p. 2
Jan. 26Sanctity of Life Sunday
Feb. 27General Meeting, p. 5
March 8 ..Assisted Suicide Seminar, p. 11
March 9Baby Shower, p. 9
April 21997 Mother of the Year Nomination Deadline, p. 6
April 7Dinner Reservation Discount Deadline, p. 7
April 7Resource Book Ad Deadline, p. 7
May 6Mother's Day Dinner, p. 7
May 10 ...Nurses for Life Seminar

Help wanted

Right to Life - Lifespan is looking for a pro-life administrative assistant to work part-time in Lifespan's Main Office in Livonia. Duties, in this hourly position, will include coordinating special projects.

Lifespan is also seeking a pro-life legislative liaison for a part-time position which will include traveling to Lansing to attend hearings and meet with legislators. Must have excellent communication skills and an aptitude for legislative activity.

Send letter or resume with references to Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia, MI 48152.

No phone calls, please.

Kennedy Square Rally • Sunday, January 19 • 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Please complete this form and return it as soon as possible to Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia, 48152 or FAX (313) 533-3556.

_____ Yes, my church/organization is interested in attending the Rally for Life!

_____ Yes, please list my church/organization as a co-sponsor of the Rally!

Your Name

Your Phone

Pastor's/Director's Signature (only if co-sponsoring)

Church/Organization Name



Lifespan News

January 1997 Vol. 26, No. 1

Published eight times a year, irregularly

President & Editor - Ann R. Sands

Layout/Design - Marge Bradley

Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit

is a non-profit organization, and is funded entirely by membership dues, private donations and fundraisers. Donations are not tax-deductible.

MAIN OFFICE
28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127
Livonia, MI 48152-3736
(313) 533-9090



Pro-Life Student Essay Contest

Three metro Detroit teens won savings bonds in Lifespan's Pro-Life Student Essay Contest on Abortion, Infanticide or Euthanasia. The first place prize of a \$500 savings bond will be awarded to Anna Maria Marandici, a sophomore at Cranbrook Kingswood High School in Bloomfield Hills. Anna Maria is the daughter of Constantin and Olivia Marandici of Sterling Heights. The second place prize of a \$200 savings bond will be presented to Wendy Wiesend, 16, who is a senior at Aquinas High School in Southgate. Her parents are Richard and Lucy Wiesend of Taylor. Our third place winner, Meghan Gurgol, a senior at Troy Athens High School, won a \$100 bond. Meghan's parents are Thomas and Virginia Gurgol of Troy. The savings bonds will be awarded at the Detroit Rally in Kennedy Square on January 19.

We want to thank the judges who had such a difficult job choosing the winners from so many excellent entries. Jay McNally is director of public affairs for The Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty and is a free-lance journalist. He was a reporter and editor at daily and weekly newspapers in Michigan for 20 years. Ed Starrett, Ed.D., is a retired elementary school teacher, published author of children's books and pro-life activist. Mary Lou Temple, RN, has a master's degree in gerontological care and is a clinical instructor at Madonna University in the nursing department. Printed below are the winning essays.

The Silent Struggle

First Place Essay

All over the world, doctors recite the Hippocratic Oath when they begin their lives as healers of mankind.

They vow to "...abstain from harming or wronging any man..." with their God-given power. But unfortunately, doctors seem to be forgetting one very important part of the Oath: "I will not give a fatal draught to anyone if I am asked, nor will I suggest any such thing. Neither will I give a woman means to procure an abortion."

In America, we as human beings are given the right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." These rights are also applicable to the most innocent, most vulnerable and helpless human beings—the unborn. At eight weeks, unborn babies that continue to develop are blessed with complete fingers and toes, a beating heart, and brainwaves—a clearly human appearance.

But what they do lack is a voice. This is why someone must take on the responsibility of protecting them from the vile, nefarious, and murderous act of abortion. More blameless human lives have been massacred by abortion than by any war that has ever taken place. But the war between what is morally and logically sane and insane is a silent battle. The cries of the unborn soldiers, stifled and suppressed by the thick walls of ignorance, immorality, and lack of

respect for human life, are unheard. But nevertheless, these cries do exist. Those who are adamant pro-choice believers and affirm that, "...it's just a fetus; it feels no pain," are too ignorant to face scientifically proven facts. This is a

government, nor by any other human. Those who argue that life begins after birth are sadly misguided. In the words of Dr. McCarthy de Mere, medical doctor and law professor, University of Tennessee: "The exact moment of the

*Anna Maria Marandici, 15, is
a sophomore at
Cranbrook Kingswood High School
in Bloomfield Hills*



fallacy that can be easily refuted: eight to thirteen weeks after conception, the unborn child experiences organic pain. The child's mouth, hands, face, arms, and legs become sensitive to touch by the thirteenth week inside the womb. In other words, that baby, when agonized under such barbaric methods as D&X, saline, and hysterotomy abortions, feels every inch of excruciating pain. The "surgeon" partially removes the baby from the womb, makes an incision into the skull, and proceeds to suck the brain out of the head. Or, in the case of saline abortions, the child is poisoned with a caustic salt solution and drowns. This method takes hours for a little baby to die. What human, let alone a faultless, pre-born baby, deserves to be murdered in such a heinous manner.

The gift of Life is presented to each and every one of us by God, not by

beginning of personhood and of the human body is at the moment of conception." The Supreme Court ruling, *Roe vs. Wade*, states: "To deny a truth [about when life begins] should not be made a basis for legalizing abortion."

The pro-life/pro-choice abortion issue is not "just another political issue" dealing with "choice" or "government intervention." Abortion deals with life and death. Since abortion has been legalized, thirty-four million "legal" abortions have been executed. That means at least thirty-four million babies have been slaughtered. No one ever asked them if they agreed or if they had anything to say.

Various kinds of propaganda about endangered species and the like are often heard. One is put in jail for killing a rat, for example, or an endangered

continued on page 8



Chapter

Office hours

MW 10-2; TThF Closed
Carol Smith, Chairman
Mary Cascos, Ofc. Mgr.

Thanks, church reps

To those who worked so hard to sell our Christmas cards and gave so generously of their time and to all of you who purchased our cards, we extend our most heartfelt thanks. Special thanks to our card coordinator, Betty Queen. We couldn't have done it without you! May the New Year bring to all of you the best of health and happiness. God Bless.

Write letters

It's so important that we write letters to our newspapers when we see the bias of the media against pro-life

issues. Madeline Satwicz, R.N., B.S.N., is a very active volunteer for the Detroit Chapter. Here is an example of one of her letters. Thanks, Madeline.

Dear Editor [Detroit Free Press]:

We should all be very grateful to Jack Kevorkian and his lawyers for exposing what to expect if legal assisted suicide should ever be the Law of the Land...Dead bodies dropped off at emergency rooms with no explanation except from those involved in the killing. People quietly dying at home and no one dare question the cause. Any intervention in a suspected suicide labeled "harassment." Ridicule of any laws that restrict "choice." Widespread acceptance of a devalued view of the disabled lives as worthless and burdensome. Suicide accepted as a noble, selfless act rather than the ultimate of violence to self. Doctors given the power to decide who would be better off dead.

Women beware! Two-thirds of

Kevorkian's victims are women! Does this reflect society's devalued view of women who can no longer be the caregiver?

There are 30,000 licensed medical doctors in Michigan alone. Legal assisted suicide would give each one a license to kill. Why restrict this power to MDs? There are more than two million registered nurses in the U.S. Killing is much easier and cheaper than caring and takes very little skill.

Wake up America! We are not on the slippery slope. We are in a free fall!

—Madeline Satwicz, R.N.

*Appeared, with editing, in the
Detroit Free Press, November 18, 1996*

Celebrate Life Rally
Kennedy Square, Detroit
Sunday, January 19
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Detroit Chapter
5930 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202-3516
(313) 874-0432

Office hours

MTTh 9-6; WF 9-2:45
Diane Fagelman, Chairman
Diane Trombley, Ofc. Mgr.
Mary Small, Secretary
Clare Schneider, Nwsltr. Coor.

Pro-life present

Auxiliary Bishop Allen Vigneron is offering a special gift to all pro-life workers. A morning of renewal has been set aside for Saturday, January 18.

Those of us who promote the pro-life effort can sometimes grow quite disheartened at the slowness of our progress. This special morning will provide a few hours of quiet centering and an opportunity to "recharge" our pro-life beliefs. The day

will begin with coffee and donuts at 9 a.m. at Sacred Heart Seminary, 2701 Chicago Blvd., Detroit, to be followed by remarks by Bishop Vigneron and will conclude with the celebration of the Roman Catholic Mass.

This opportunity is open to pro-life people of all faith beliefs and is surely a special way to begin the new year. The cost of the morning is \$5.00. Reserve your place by sending a check to Right to Life - Lifespan, Oakland/Macomb office (address below) by Jan. 8. Call (810) 816-1546 for more information.

New year news

Many of Oakland/Macomb activities in '97 will be our traditional events such as carnations, candy bars, showers and membership drives, but we do have a really exciting new event planned.

A golf outing! What's that you say—you don't golf? Well, don't worry about

that, because this is not going to be a typical golf outing. For some of us, our bowling score and our golf scores are just a few digits apart, and even we will be able to enjoy this event. The details are not set yet, but plan for a fun day in June and look for more details in the newsletter.

Activities advertising

If your son or daughter participates in an extra-curricular activity for which they are encouraged to gather advertisers for a program or booklet, don't forget to call us. If the ad cost falls within our budget, we would be happy to take an ad.

Oakland/Macomb Chapter
Coventry Place
1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G
Troy, MI 48084-3540
(810) 816-1546

News

Office hours

M-Th 10-4; F Closed
Patricia Holscher, Chairman
Linda Kournoian, Ofc. Mgr.

General meeting

Make plans now to hear Lt. Don Leach of the Ann Arbor Police Dept. who works the 911 number for his area. He will bring his experience and knowledge to the subject, "The Truth About Rape and Incest," as Lifespan's guest speaker at our next general meeting.

"The Truth About Rape and Incest"

Lt. Don Leach
Ann Arbor Police Dept.
Thursday, February 27
7:30 p.m.

Livonia Civic Center
Library Auditorium
Five Mile Road
(east of Farmington Rd.)
No admission charge

In appreciation!

To everyone who participated in our '96 Christmas card sales—pastors, church reps, distributors, buyers and sellers, we thank you for a job well done! This takes a great amount of time and effort on everyone's part to make this annual project successful. Because of you, approximately 59,200 homes will receive the pro-life message that God is the Creator of all Life.

Thanks...

Our thanks to Paula and Bob Ervin of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church for hosting a bake sale for

Lifespan. Their many helpers, including set-up and tear-down crews, deserve a round of applause.

Willing bakers from the parish, including Barb Graham who donated two specialty cakes, and volunteers from our chapter, baked their favorite recipes to share with happy buyers.

As the many items quickly disappeared from the tables, the cash box sum rose to \$770.65. Fifteen '97 Entertainment books were also sold. Thank you, Good Counsel—our educational projects get a big boost from such a great fundraiser!

Candles

Candle kits are now available in our office. Luminaries are to be lit the evening of January 21, the eve of the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, as a reminder that a preborn baby is killed every forty seconds of every minute, of every hour, of every day, legally by abortionists.

Kits include a candle, bag and instructions. Put sand, kitty litter, rock salt, baking soda, etc. in the bag to weigh it down; then place candle in center and place outdoors.

Call to order kits with instructions for yourself/your church. Donations are gladly accepted, but are not tax-deductible.

Rally for Life

Talk up the Rally for Life with your families, friends and church members (see front cover and page 2). Join other pro-lifers as we publicly give witness to the 34 million babies who have died from abortion on demand. Dress warmly. It's usually cold, but your heart will be warmed by the genuine love for the unborn that you will share with other participants. Call for information about carpools or buses.

Wayne West/Downriver Chapter
27578 Schoolcraft
Livonia, MI 48150-2203
(313) 422-6230

From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

My grandchild died last month. This would have been the third bundle of joy for our family. We were anticipating a June 1st birthday—the same birthday as my "baby" brother who is now 41. His or her name had been chosen. And the baby's big sister, 19-month-old Kelly, was already jealous of the competition.

I thought Jennifer's heart would surely break when she called with the news from the doctor's office. She had gone to her appointment expecting to hear the baby's heartbeat—instead there was only silence.

Further tests a week later proved that the baby had inexplicably died. My daughter, Jennifer, and her husband, Gary, were devastated.

I had a long talk with God. I was angry and incredulous—why take our baby, so loved and cherished, when thousands a day are being killed by abortion. I didn't get an answer, at least not one I was happy with.

Fetal development pictures have taken on a new meaning, and it is difficult to look at a "precious feet" lapel pin without crying.

I have never had to deal with this tremendous feeling of loss of a baby before, and I hope I never have to again. Our little one is gone, but will never be forgotten.

The 24th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* is January 22nd. It is almost impossible to imagine the 34 million babies who have died since that infamous day in 1973. We can't allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by the numbers. We must always remember how precious each and every life is.



ABORTION...

the ultimate child abuse



Right to Life - Lifespan 313-533-9090

(Actual size 14' x 48')

If We Don't

This past December, we board—ABORTION...the picture of an empty cradle, phone number, at the east Avenue and Normandy (13-1/2 Mile Road) in Royal Oak.

This is the first of six different metro Detroit highways where our message will appear throughout the year. The other tentative locations are as follows:

East I-94 and Masonic, south side, west facing
Woodward and Nine Mile, east side, north facing
North I-75, north of McNichols, west side, north facing
Lodge Freeway and Lesure, west side, south facing
South I-75 and Sire, east side, south facing

Many of you, your churches and organizations have adopted this billboard for a day for only \$100 or a week for \$700. There have been donations for a dollar and some for a thousand. Each and every contribution has helped to make this vital educational project a reality.

We would like to thank those who have recently adopted the billboard with a gift of \$100 or more: Council of Catholic Women, Mrs. Daniel Gaule, Our Lady of Good Counsel Church-Our Lady's Guild, Eugene Bego, Elizabeth Graham, Mr. and Mrs. John McNerney, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Czarnecki, Janeann Lupo, Helen Kleinbrook, Gerald J. Cormier and Madeleine Michls, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Winiarski, Mr. and Mrs. Doug Bradley.

For over 26 years, Right to Life - Lifespan has provided the metro Detroit area with pro-life educational programs and projects. If you have not already done so, will you please help us continue this important work by writing a check for this billboard campaign? Advertising is expensive, but if we don't tell the truth about abortion, who will? Please fill out the form below and send it with your donation to: Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Road, Suite 127, Livonia, MI 48152. For additional information, call (313) 533-9090. Sorry, donations are not tax-deductible.

Enclosed is my/our donation to Lifespan's Billboard Campaign!

"Adopt for a Day" (\$100) _____ "Adopt for a Week" (\$700) _____ Other _____

Name(s) _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Who Will?

unveiled our long-awaited bill-ultimate child abuse—with the along with Lifespan's name and corner (south facing) of Woodward

Seeking the Mother of the Year 1997

In conjunction with our Mother's Day Dinner, on Tuesday, May 6, 1997, we will be honoring a "Mother of the Year."

We are looking for nominations from among our members or others for this seventh annual award. The nominee must be a resident of Wayne, Oakland or Macomb County and able to attend the award dinner on May 6 at Vladimir's in Farmington Hills.

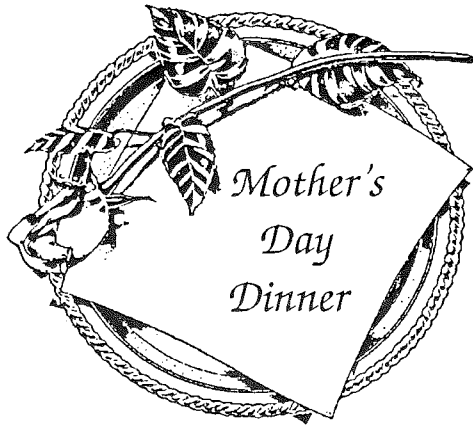
Nominations must be submitted in writing explaining why you feel this person qualifies for "Mother of the Year." Nominations must be received no later than noon, **Wednesday, April 2.** No nominations by, or for, Right to Life - Lifespan board members will be considered.

Our "Mother of the Year" will be an honored guest at the dinner on May 6. She will be awarded a plaque, a dozen long-stemmed roses and a \$100 gift certificate to J.C. Penney's.

If your nominee is chosen, you will also receive a free ticket to the dinner. If the "Mother of the Year" is nominated by two or more individuals, the first one received will be eligible for the free ticket.

Our 1996 "Mother of the Year" was Mary O'Brien Callaghan, of Beverly Hills. She was nominated by her son-in-law, Patrick Lynch. Mrs. Callaghan is the mother of 18 children. She is also an accomplished musician and singer and has performed with the Birmingham Musicale for many years. Mary is a pillar of her community, having donated hundreds of hours to the aged in local nursing homes.

In nominating the 1997 Mother of the Year, please include your name, address and phone number and also the name, address and phone number of your nominee. Mail or deliver your nomination for "Mother of the Year" to Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia 48152 for receipt no later than noon on **Wednesday, April 2.** For more information, please call (313) 533-9090.



Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit

INVITES YOU TO ITS

Mother's Day Dinner

Tuesday, May 6, 1997

Doors open - 6:30 p.m. • Dinner - 7:00 p.m.

**Kaye Lani Rae Rafko, Former Miss America
Guest Speaker**

Vladimir's

28125 Grand River, Farmington Hills

Dinner Reservations: \$30 per person/\$250 per table of 10 (one check only, please) received by April 7

\$35 per person/\$300 per table of 10 (one check only, please) received after April 7

Number of dinner reservations _____ Amount enclosed _____. Advance reservations required by May 1.
(Please list names of all those for whom reservations are made on a separate sheet of paper.)

Seat with _____. (We will try to accommodate your seating request.)

1997 RESOURCE BOOK

This book will contain informational material that will be used throughout the year. Your ad represents support for Lifespan's educational efforts. Names of Patrons will be listed. Just fill out the form below and send it to us with your remittance included. **Deadline for submission is April 7, 1997.**

☐ **Gold Patron \$100**

☐ **Silver Patron \$50**

☐ **Bronze Patron \$10**

Please print name (s) exactly as you wish it to appear.

Patron Name _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Advertising Contract: I wish to publish _____ page ad for the sum of \$ _____

<p>Full page (7.5 x 10) \$175</p> <p>Back cover (inside) \$250</p> <p>Back cover (outside) \$350</p>	1/4 page (3.75 x 5) \$60	1/8 page (3.75 x 2.5) \$35
	Half page (7.5 x 5) \$100	

Please attach copy-ready advertising slick, business card, business letterhead, or typed copy of ad. Black and white is preferred. All advertisers will receive a copy of book. Lifespan reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems unsuitable. **Deadline for submission is April 7, 1997. Remittance must accompany contract.**

IMPORTANT: A complimentary dinner ticket will be given to any individual for every \$200 worth of new ads obtained for the Resource Book. The ad seller's signature must appear on the contract below when the ad and remittance is received by Right to Life - Lifespan.

Signature _____ Date _____

Business Name (if applicable) _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Ad Seller's Signature _____ Phone _____

☐ Yes, I want to help, but cannot attend. Please accept my donation of \$ _____.

Make checks payable, and mail to: Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia MI 48152

For further information, call (313) 533-9090 (Dinners, personal ads and donations are not tax-deductible)

First-Place Essay The Silent Struggle

continued from page 3

species. But, it angers me that we never hear about the human endangered species; more specifically, the "unwanted baby" endangered species.

An issue that pro-choice supporters often bring up is "the reproductive rights of a woman." The pro-choicers fail to recognize what "reproductive rights" are. Reproductive rights are those rights pertaining to the bearing of children; the rights to reproduce, not to kill. These rights do not entail the "right" for anyone, especially the mother, to consent to the murder of her own flesh and blood. Another argument is that a woman has the right to do whatever she wants with her own body. This is true. Everyone has the liberty to do whatever they want with their own body. Notice the words "own body." The pre-born child is not just another part of the mother's body. It is God's creation—a separate being that is nurtured inside the womb and depends on the mother for nine months, but nevertheless is another person.

It is said that the majority of abortions result from unwanted pregnancies. There is a lot of talk concerning the "decision" of whether to have an abortion or not. The real decision lies before conception—the contemplation of the responsibility of bearing a child and the consequences of teenage pregnancies.

There appeared a cartoon in a newspaper: A man asked God why He had not given the world a genius to cure cancer, AIDS, and other deadly diseases that plague mankind. The Lord responded: "I did. But you aborted them..."

These few words have a great deal of meaning and should trigger some sort of thought. When will the world reawaken and realize that abortion is not a feasible answer? It is up to those of us who have been given the right to live to speak for those who have not. ■

Second-Place Essay The Life or Death Decision

My cousin Kim helps fill my life with love and understanding. She has helped guide me through tough teenage years and has helped me be me. I am so thankful that the life given to Kim has been preserved despite the tragedy! I don't know what I would ever do without her.

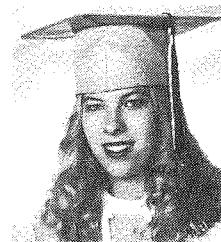
Kim graduated from high school in 1987. She went to Natalie's graduation party and had a great time. Natalie was her best friend. She couldn't wait for her own graduation party which would take place the next week. She had planned for this party for months and

talked to all their friends. They talked to all their business associates.

They also read up about the Right to Life movement and euthanasia. They found out that euthanasia is the practice of ending a life so as to release an individual from an incurable disease or intolerable suffering. They found out that there are two types of euthanasia—passive and active. Passive euthanasia involves not doing something to prevent death or allowing someone to die and active euthanasia involves taking deliberate action to cause a death.

If they would go to court to take away Kim's feedings, they would be participating in active euthanasia. They finally decided not to go to court. They could not take away the life of their precious child; even if she would never awake. They could not take away the

*Wendy Wiesend, 16, is
a senior at
Aquinas High School
in Southgate*



everything was going to be perfect. On the way home from Natalie's party she was hit by a drunk driver. Her head hit the windshield in the impact and shattered it. She was brought to the hospital in a coma.

The doctors said she had suffered massive head injuries. They didn't know if she would make it out of the coma. They said it was just a waiting game. My aunt and uncle went to the hospital every day.

The days went by and then weeks and then months and Kim still lay in a coma. My aunt and uncle had not gotten sufficient sleep in months and their jobs were in jeopardy. They were then faced with probably the hardest decision they ever had to make. Should they keep Kim alive in the coma not knowing if she would ever wake up or if she did would ever be normal again? Or should they go to court to get the right to withhold the intravenous feedings that were keeping her alive.

They went to church and prayed. They talked to all their relatives. They

life of their precious child; even if they suspected that she would be brain-damaged if she ever awoke. They could not take away the life of their precious child; they could only pray and hope for a miracle.

A year and a half went by. Kim did not awake from the coma. They visited her often at the nursing home where she lay. Then my Aunt Diane was awakened with a phone call from the home.

Kim had wakened and was asking for them! My aunt and uncle rushed to the home. After extensive rehabilitation, Kim would be fine. If Aunt Diane and Uncle Danny had taken the "easy" way out, giving up on Kim, they would have lost the precious child they gave birth to and I would have lost my best friend. She would have never become a part of my life. When Kim finally got home, my aunt and uncle threw a huge graduation party for her. It may have been more than two years late, but it was the best graduation party anyone in the Class of 1987 had! ■

Third-Place Essay Assisted Suicide: More Than a Moral Issue

Personal rights. Morality. The debate over legalizing euthanasia continues with no end in sight. Any morally conscious American must condemn euthanasia as murder and a blatant defiance of divine authority. However, the American government proudly embraces separation of church and state; arguments based on religious or Biblical values alone cannot affect a law. Fortunately, for the elderly and the infirm, the potential sociological implications of legalized euthanasia merit an immediate constitutional ban.

The legalization of euthanasia presents the overwhelming issue of limits. To demonstrate the potential of legalized eutha-

their physicians—without proper consent. If a patient knew that the option of a legal death existed, might he feel compelled to die only to relieve his family of the financial burden? If a patient chose to live, might he face opposition from his family or be tormented with feelings of selfishness? This choice tears families into factions when they need to support each other the most. Insurance companies and health care professionals will likely be tempted to manipulate the lives of patients for profit. Insurance companies could cut cost by eliminating costly patients. Doctors and hospitals could drop unprofitable cases for more lucrative ones. In the Netherlands, a breast-cancer patient was given one week to live. Her life was terminated—without her consent or the approval of her doctor—to free her hospital bed for another patient. These implications of legalized euthanasia do

Meghan Gurgol, 17, is a senior at Troy Athens High School



anasia, we need only to extend the argument in its favor. First, the government would have to regulate the practice. A new government agency would be forced to define exactly how much suffering is "inhumane." Given the individual differences in pain tolerance and the subjectivity of feeling, such a definition is obviously ludicrous. Next, the agency would have to determine if emotional, social or spiritual suffering would merit euthanasia. The question of "anticipated suffering" would arise. If a patient will inevitably suffer, would not a euthanasia supporter wish to avoid even the earliest stages of suffering? Furthermore, do not some individuals cause the whole of society to suffer? Following this faulty logic, should not all criminals, all social burdens be eliminated? Hence, legalized euthanasia would plausibly mirror the socio-political attitudes of some nations prior to World War II.

In its present form, the "choice" of euthanasia actually restricts the options of patients and families. In the Netherlands last year, 1000 patients were killed by

not give the patient an opportunity to choose. Rather, they give others an opportunity to further economic interests—at the expense of the patient.

Proponents of euthanasia present the practice as an alternative to lonely, painful, and financially draining final years. In this sense, euthanasia only deals with the symptoms of a deeper social illness. Legalized euthanasia would condone a healthcare system focused on financial gain rather than patient welfare. It enables the current practice of institutionalizing the elderly to perpetuate itself by providing an "alternative." Euthanasia reflects a current trend toward instant and easy solutions. It enables society to avoid problems. This avoidance weakens society as a whole.

The legalization of euthanasia threatens to radically alter our society. It restricts the options of patients. It tempts the healthcare industry into unethical practices. It deepens social shortcomings and opens an easy escape route. It violates the will of God. ■



Do you remember the first time you held your baby in your arms? The overwhelming

love that you felt almost hurt, it was so intense. Do you remember gazing into their eyes as their tiny fist wrapped around your finger and you vowed at that very moment to always keep them safe and warm and fed and surrounded by love?

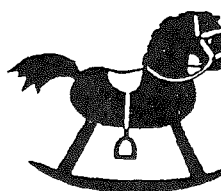
Can you imagine how frightening it must be to hold your newborn and know in your heart that you can't make those promises? The mother's love is just as deep, but how heart-wrenching it must be not to have the tiny clothes and the soft, little blankets to keep them warm and the formula, if needed, to keep them fed.

These are the gifts that you provide our mothers—the material gifts that they so desperately need, the gifts of hope and love—knowing that others care about them and their babies, and the gift that they too can cradle their precious baby next to their heart and promise to always love and provide for them.

Just as a baby's birth should bring so much joy, happiness, love and endless possibilities—may your New Year be blessed with these same gifts!

—Karen Patrosso, Director
Wee Care (313) 533-2727

A Program of Right to Life - Lifespan



Baby showers

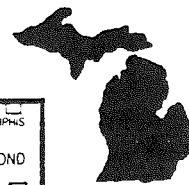
Continuing the tradition of caring for mothers and their babies, born and

yet to be born, Lifespan is planning its eighth annual Baby Shower for crisis pregnancy centers.

On Sunday, March 9, 1997, Lifespan will host approximately 30 baby showers simultaneously at different locations throughout the metro area.

Showers are usually held from 2:00-3:30 p.m., but may also be held after church services or simply as a gift drop-off shower.

If you or your church are interested in co-hosting a baby shower, please call our Main Office at (313) 533-9090.



Donations have been made In loving memory of:

Tom Wilhelm

Given by: Ed and Lucy Wilhelm
Anonymous Donor

Edith Russell

Given by: Norv and Diane Trombley

Ursula O'Toole

Given by: Helen Kleinbrook

Gertrude Kosinski

Penny Szajnecki

Catin Riollano

Susan Plewka

Mr. and Mrs. C. Kangas

Angela and Anthony Spitzig

George Day Family

Mr. and Mrs. John McParlane

George Jann

Barb Schmid

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Jan Polomski

Monica Kramer

Deacon Bob and Mary DeWitt

Sue and Roy Aho

Marian Carbury

Helen Bien

Eileen Noble

Dorothy Suzio

Carmen and Joe Mosquera

Mr. and Mrs. J. Chastney

Congratulations on the arrival of:

Tashia Autumn

Given by: Jackie and Ben Blackwood

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 spe-

cial, 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 of Metro Detroit will be used to save the lives of many through our efforts.

Donations may be sent to your local Lifespan office.

Project Rachel

Post-Abortion Syndrome is also referred to as "Post-Abortion Aftermath." Symptoms include the following: a sense of loss, a feeling of guilt, loneliness/alienation, anxiety, depression, sleep disturbances, separation from God, self and family. The symptoms each have an underlying cause: Society's refusal to allow women to grieve the loss of their babies. Others affected can include the fathers, grandparents, friends, family members and medical personnel.

Call Project Rachel's new hotline number 1-888-RACHEL5 for confidential counseling.

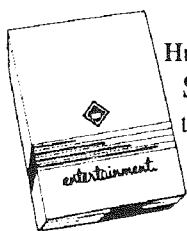
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East, West, North - \$40

Downriver - \$30

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Save 50% on dining, theatre, sports events, hotels, travel, car washes and more! A perfect gift idea! Help us in this



fundraiser, and sell entertainment '97 to your friends, neighbors, relatives, co-workers.

Available at Lifespan offices NOW!

Detroit Chapter (313) 874-0432

Oakland/Macomb Chapter (810) 816-1546

Wayne West/Downriver Chapter

(313) 422-6230



Educational Center for Life

On November 19, the Educational Center for Life board attended a program titled "End of Life Issues—Reframing the Debate" at Wayne State University. The issue of assisted suicide was the primary focus of the panel of experts; it was most informative and challenging to all of us.

ECL will be sponsoring a similar program at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Pontiac, on March 8, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Please save the date—details will follow.

Our "Did You Know Series" will begin in January at the ECL office. We will be starting on the third Thursday evening, January 16, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, January 18, at 9 a.m. with coffee and donuts for one hour. Our latest videos and materials will be shown with discussion. All are welcome. Please call us for directions.

We extend our sympathy to Marge Detloff on the death of her father, Percy Rose. Memorial donations have been made to the Educational Center for Life in his name. Marge has given her artistic talents to the center in our Mother Teresa note cards.

Educational Center for Life

Coventry Place

1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G

Troy, MI 48084-3540

(810) 816-8489

Office space request

If you have any information about inexpensive, available office space on the west side, please call our Main Office at (313) 533-9090.

Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit 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 \$ 15.00

_____ Student/Senior Member \$ 7.00

_____ Monthly pledge \$ _____

_____ Other \$ _____

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____

Please detach at the dotted line and return to: Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia, MI 48152-3736.

Donations are not tax-deductible.

The internet has certainly opened an amazing new avenue of communication. Many pro-life organizations are using this new high-tech tool to help reach out to others to educate them, to help mothers with problem pregnancies and to contact elected officials with the right to life message.

The following list offers several opportunities for you to find more information and to become further involved via e-mail and/or web sites on the internet in the most important cause of our time.

LISTSERVS

(E-mail mailing lists)

The Pro-Life Infonet (infonet-list)

Infonet is a mailing list that distributes news releases, educational materials and other timely and important information.

To subscribe, send the message

"subscribe" to:

infonet-list-request@prolife.org

For more information, send an e-mail to: infonet-info@prolife.org

Citizen Action

Subscribers of the Citizen Action mailing list will be presented with up-to-date information about hot issues, and e-mail addresses of important news agencies to contact.

To subscribe, send an e-mail to:

ertelt@netcentral.net

For more information, e-mail:

ertelt@netcentral.net

Pro-Life Web Sites

Abortion: Questions & Answers

<http://www.infinet.com/~life/qa/qatoc.htm>

On the Internet

American Life League

<http://www.ahoynet.com/~all/index.html>

CPCs Online

<http://www.prolife.org/cpcs-online/>

Feminists for Life

<http://www.serve.com/fem4life>

or:

<http://members.aol.com/prolifefem/prolifefem.htm>

Human Life International

<http://www.hli.org>

LifeNet

<http://www.awinc.com/partners/bc/compass/lifenet/lifenet.htm>

National Right to Life

<http://www.nrlc.org/nrlc>

ProLife News

ProLife News was a newsletter distributed until recently on the internet. Its wealth of information is still available in archives at:

<http://hebron.ee.gannon.edu/%7Efrezza/AboutPLN.html>

Right to Life - Lifespan

c/o Ring Online

<http://www.ring.com/nprofit/lifespan/main.htm>

St. Antoninus Institute

<http://www.ewtn.com/antonin/antonin.htm>

Teachers Saving Children

<http://www.infinet.com:80/~life/people/tsc.htm>

The Ultimate Pro-Life Resource List

<http://www.prolife.org/ultimate>

The following URL sites provide free access to a table of contents and often to abstracts of articles from major medical journals which may be useful to students:

American Journal of Nursing

<http://www.ajn.org.ajn/page1.html>

Annals of Internal Medicine

[http://www.acponline.org\(news only\)](http://www.acponline.org(news only))

Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)

<http://www.ama-assn.org/register.welcome.htm>

Lancet

<http://www.thelancet.com>

New England Journal of Medicine

<http://www.nejm.org>

Scientific American

<http://www.sciam.com>

Many, many more pro-life web sites are available. By accessing any one of these, you can be linked to others.

If you have any questions, please call the Main Office at (313) 533-9090.

Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit

Wayne West/Downriver Chapter

27578 Schoolcraft Road

Livonia, MI 48150-2203



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