

Lifespan *news*

Volume 31 Number 2

Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

Feb./Mar. 2002

Thank You!

Many, many, many thanks to all of you who responded to our 2001 fundraising letter. It was so encouraging to see all the envelopes in our mail and to know that there were so many people willing to help promote the value of human life.

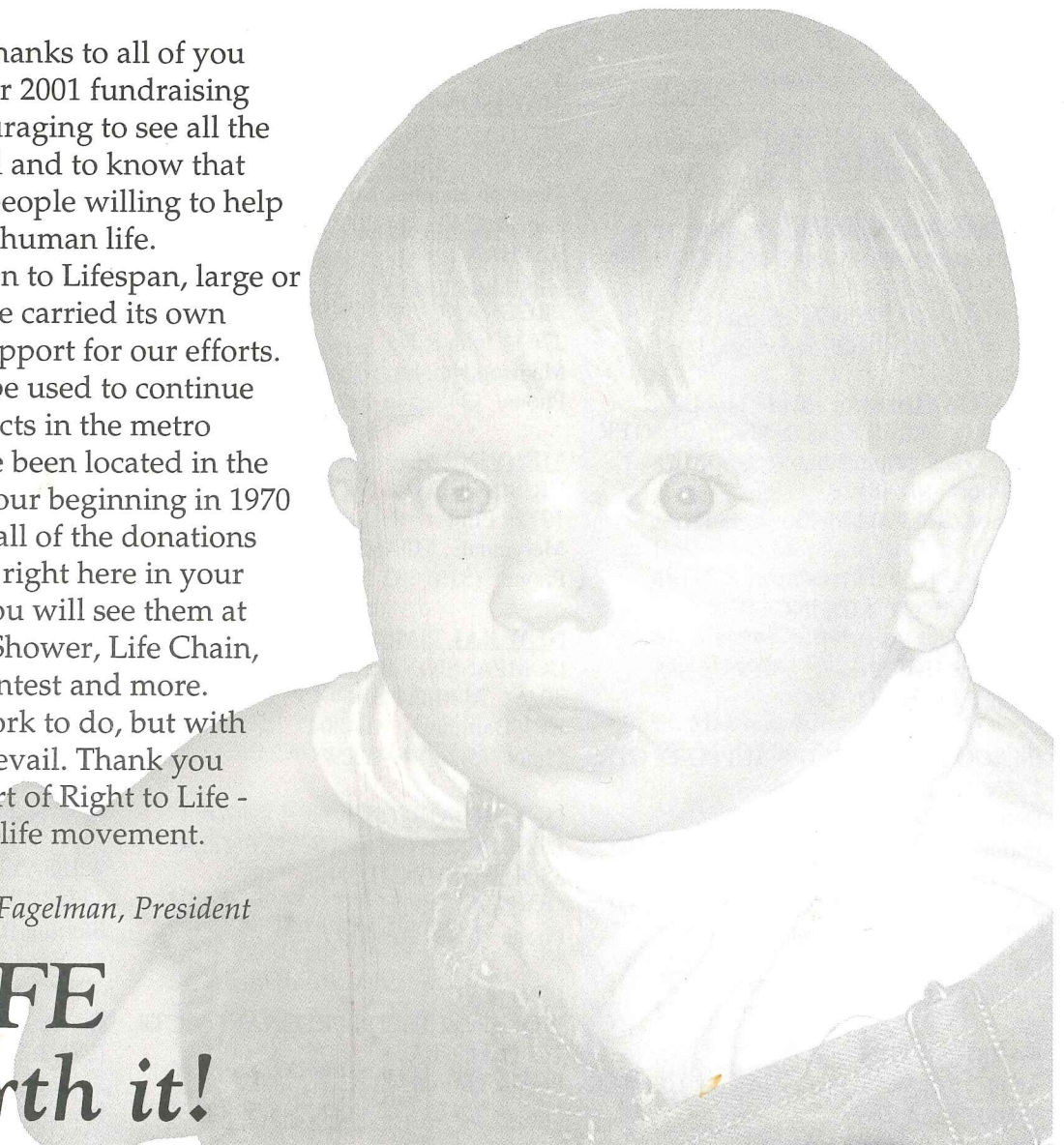
With every donation to Lifespan, large or small— each envelope carried its own special message of support for our efforts. Your donations will be used to continue our educational projects in the metro Detroit area. We have been located in the tri-county area since our beginning in 1970 and, because of that, all of the donations we received will stay right here in your own communities. You will see them at work with our Baby Shower, Life Chain, the Student Essay Contest and more.

We have a lot of work to do, but with your help, we will prevail. Thank you again for your support of Right to Life - Lifespan and the pro-life movement.

God bless you!

—Diane Fagelman, President

LIFE
is worth it!



PREGNANCY HELP CENTERS

(Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties)

ALLEN PARK

CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER
6830 Park Ave.
Allen Park, MI 48101
Phone: (313) 386-4005

AUBURN HILLS

CROSSROADS PREGNANCY CENTER
3205 E. South Blvd.
Auburn Hills, MI 48326
Phone: (248) 293-0070

BERKLEY

CARE NET PREGNANCY INFO CTR.
28913 Woodward Ave.
Berkley, MI 48072
Phone: (248) 545-6411

BLOOMFIELD HILLS

LADIES OF CHARITY
CLOTHES CLOSET
St. Hugo of the Hills Church
2215 Opdyke
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
Phone: (248) 879-9379

CLINTON TOWNSHIP

COMPASSION PREGNANCY CENTER
37540 Gratiot, Suite 100
Clinton Twp., MI 48036
Phone: (586) 783-9620

DEARBORN

METRO CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER
626 N. Telegraph Rd.
Dearborn, MI 48128
Phone: (313) 724-8500

DETROIT

PREGNANCY AID, INC.
18495 Mack Ave.
Detroit, MI 48236
Phone: (313) 882-1000

IMAGO DEI WOMEN'S SUPPORT CTR.

13864 East Eight Mile Rd.
Detroit, MI 48205
Phone: (313) 372-1058

SALVATION ARMY DENBY CENTER

20775 Pembroke Avenue
Detroit, MI 48219
Phone: (313) 537-2130

FARMINGTON

ANOTHER WAY PREGNANCY CENTER
33100 Grand River
Farmington, MI 48336
Phone: (248) 471-5858

LATHRUP VILLAGE

MOTHER & UNBORN BABY CARE
27330 Southfield Rd.
Lathrup Village, MI 48076
Phone: (248) 559-7576

LIVONIA

AAA CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER
27578 Schoolcraft Rd.
Livonia, MI 48150
Phone: (734) 425-8060

PREGNANCY COUNSELING CENTER

27489 W. Six Mile
Livonia, MI 48152
Phone: (734) 522-8484

WEE CARE

28200 Seven Mile Rd., Suite 127
Livonia, MI 48152
Phone: (248) 777-2727

MADISON HEIGHTS

BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES
1435 E. 12 Mile Rd.
Madison Heights, MI 48071
Phone: (248) 414-4080 or 1-800-BETHANY

PREGNANCY COUNSELING CENTER

27631 John R Rd.
Madison Heights, MI 48071
Phone: (248) 546-5225

MELVINDALE

CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER
17729 Flint
Melvindale, MI 48122
Phone: (313) 382-5941

NEW BALTIMORE

COMPASSION PREGNANCY CENTER
30464 23 Mile Rd.
New Baltimore, MI 48047
Phone: (586) 949-2229

OXFORD/ORION

PROBLEM PREGNANCY CENTER
35 N. WASHINGTON
Oxford, MI 48371
Phone: (248) 969-2177

PONTIAC

WOMEN & TEENS PREGNANCY CTR.
263 Oakland Ave.
Pontiac, MI 48343
Phone: (248) 338-4357 (248-338-HELP)

SOUTHFIELD

MARRILAC OUTREACH
ST. VINCENT SARAH FISHER CENTER
22255 Greenfield, Suite 330
Southfield, MI 48075
Phone: (248) 559-2272

TAYLOR

CRISIS PREGNANCY AID CENTER
21649 Goddard, #A140
Taylor, MI 48180
Phone: (734) 374-0520

UTICA

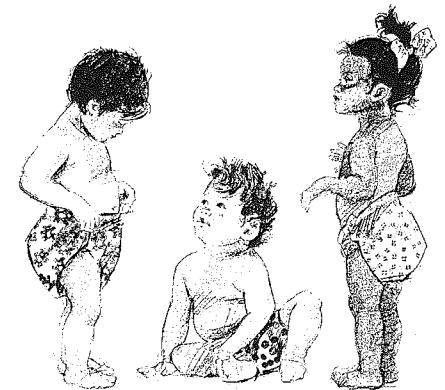
BIRTHRIGHT OF MACOMB COUNTY
7765 Auburn Rd.
Utica, MI 48318
Phone: (586) 254-5930

WARREN

WOMEN & TEENS PREGNANCY CENTER
(By appointment only)
Phone: (586) 939-HELP

WATERFORD

THE PREGNANCY HELP CENTER
5488 Dixie Highway, Suite B
Waterford, MI 48329
Phone: (248) 623-0236



RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS FOR UNWED PREGNANT WOMEN

ABIGAYLE MINISTRIES
12313 19 Mile Rd.
Sterling Heights, MI 48313
Phone: (586) 323-1411

CASA VITAE
P. O. Box 3250
Southfield, MI 48037
Phone: (248) 559-5407

It's a Baby Shower!

Right to Life - Lifespan

continuing the tradition of caring for mothers and their babies
(born and yet to be born)



invites you to its 13th annual Baby Shower
on Sunday, March 10, 2002
to benefit local Pregnancy Help Centers

Baby showers will be held at the following locations.
Bring new or used (but usable) baby or maternity items.

11:30 a.m.

Christ the King Church
Koelzer Hall
16805 Pierson
Detroit

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

St. Valentine Church
Rector Meeting Room
25881 Dow
Redford

2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

St. Mel Church
Church Hall
7506 Inkster Rd.
Dearborn Heights

2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

St. Hugo of the Hills Church
Grade School/Fr. Esper Rm.
Bloomfield Hills
(Hickory Grove & Opdyke)

2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Royal Oak Missionary Church
411 E. 11 Mile Rd., Royal Oak
Hosted by: Christian Home
Educators of Michigan
Senior Graduating Class 2002

Gift Drop-off Only - After Church Services

In alphabetical, city order:

Sacred Heart of the Hills Church
3400 S. Adams Rd., Auburn Hills

Holy Name Church
630 Harmon, Birmingham

Resurrection Church
48755 Warren Rd., Canton

St. John Neumann Church
44800 Warren Rd., Canton

Church of the Divine Child
1055 N. Silvery Lane, Dearborn

St. Alphonsus Church
7455 Calhoun, Dearborn

First Assembly of God Church
5650 S. Telegraph, Dearborn Hts.

St. Anselm Church/Meeting Room
17650 W. Outer Drive, Dearborn Hts.

Assumption Grotto Church
Shrine Lounge
13770 Gratiot, Detroit

Our Lady of Sorrows Church
23615 Power Rd., Farmington

St. Gerald Church
21300 Farmington Rd., Farmington

St. Raphael Church/Resurrection Rm.
5775 Merriman, Garden City

St. Claire of Montefalco Church
Church Basement
1401 Whittier Rd, Grosse Pointe Park

St. Joseph Church
715 N. Lapeer Rd., Lake Orion

St. Edith Church
15089 Newburgh, Livonia

St. Genevieve Church
29015 Jamison, Livonia

St. Maurice Church
32765 Lyndon, Livonia

Our Lady of Refuge Church
Social Hall
3663 Erie Drive, Orchard Lake

Oakwood Community Church
5791 Oakwood Rd., Ortonville

Our Lady of Good Counsel Church
47650 N. Territorial, Plymouth

St. Kenneth Church
14951 Haggerty Rd., Plymouth

Marimont Community Church
424 W. Walton, Pontiac

Hosanna-Tabor Church
9600 Laverne, Redford

St. John Bosco Church/School Hall
12170 Beech Daly Rd., Redford

St. Andrew Church
1400 Inglewood, Rochester

National Shrine of the Little Flower
Coughlin Building
12 Mile & Woodward, Royal Oak

St. Therese of Lisieux Church
Hosted by: Mom and Me Play Group
48115 Schoenherr, Shelby Twp.

St. Kieran Church
53600 Mound Rd., Shelby Twp.

St. Matthias Church
12509 19 Mile Rd., Sterling Heights

St. Rene Goupil Church
35955 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights

St. Thomas More Church
4580 Adams Rd., Troy

St. William Church
531 Common, Walled Lake

Faith Baptist Church
3411 Airport Rd., Waterford





Mother of the Year 2002

**Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit
is seeking nominations for "Mother of the Year 2002"**

Nominate that special person in your life!

All mothers may qualify for this honor, including your mother, grandmother, mother-in-law, daughter, sister, sister-in-law, aunt, niece, neighbor or very dear friend. Nominations must be submitted in writing, in a minimum of 1000 words, explaining why the nominated person qualifies for "Mother of the Year." Nominations must be received no later than noon, Wednesday, March 13, 2002. The "Mother of the Year" must be a resident of Wayne, Oakland or Macomb County and able to attend the award dinner. She will be an honored guest at Lifespan's Mother's Day Dinner on **Tuesday, May 7th, at the San Marino Club in Troy**, where she will be awarded a plaque, a dozen long-stemmed roses and a gift certificate to Marshall-Field'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, and the nomination letter will be printed in Lifespan's Resource Book 2002 dinner program and *Lifespan News*. You will be asked to read your nomination letter at the dinner.

In nominating the Mother of the Year 2002, 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 2002" to be received no later than noon, on Wednesday, March 13th to: Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., Ste. 127, Livonia, MI 48152. For more information, call (248) 777-9090.



Right to Life - Lifespan is a non-partisan, non-sectarian and non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of defenseless human life from conception to natural death. Established in 1970, it is the largest and oldest pro-life organization in southeastern Michigan. Lifespan serves Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties.



Mother's Day Dinner

Tuesday, May 7th • 6:00 p.m.

San Marino Club • 1685 E. Big Beaver Rd., Troy

With Featured Guest Speaker, Jean Garton

Dr. Jean Garton, founder of Lutherans for Life, will be bringing Snoopy and the gang to this year's Mother's Day Dinner! Before he died, Charles Schultz, creator of Snoopy, Charlie, Lucy and Linus, gave Dr. Garton permission to use some of his cartoons in a pro-life presentation. If you never understood exactly why you like Charlie Brown, his friends and his dog, you will after you hear Jean!

She is also the author of a best-seller on the rhetoric of the abortion movement entitled, *Who Broke the Baby?*

She has testified before sub-committees of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives in hearings on the Constitutional Amendment on the Personhood of Unborn Children.

In 1997, Dr. Garton was the Chair of the Declaration Committee for the First World Congress of Families in Prague, the Czech Republic. In 1999, she was the featured speaker at the second World Congress of Families in Geneva, Switzerland. In 2001, she was a member of the Program Planning Committee for the Third World Congress of Families in Dubai and in Mexico City.

She has often been listed among "The Ten Most Influential Lutherans in America." Commentaries by Dr. Garton, called "Speaking of Life," aired daily for five years on radio stations throughout the U.S. She is a frequent guest on television and radio, including "Focus on the Family" with Dr. James Dobson.

Dr. Garton resides with her husband, the Rev. H. W. Garton, in Benton, Arkansas. She is the mother of four grown children and the grandmother of six.



Dinner Reservations: \$50 per person/\$475 per table of 10. Advance reservations required by May 1.

☐ Yes, I (We) plan to attend. Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$_____ for _____ reservations. (Please list names of all those for whom reservations are made on a separate sheet of paper. Tickets will be held at the door.)

Seat with _____

☐ Yes, I (We) plan to sponsor a table of 10. Enclosed please find one check in the amount of \$_____ for _____ tables. (Please list names of all those for whom table reservations are made on a separate sheet of paper. Tickets will be held at the door. Table arrangements will be determined by date of receipt of paid reservation.)

☐ I (We) are not able to attend. Enclosed is a donation of \$_____ to support your pro-life efforts.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone (area code) _____

**For Dinner reservations, please make checks payable and mail to: to Right to Life - Lifespan
Oakland/Macomb Chapter, 1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Ste. G, Troy, MI 48084**

For information, call 248-816-1546

(Dinners, personal ads and donations are not tax-deductible.)



Chapter

Office hours

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

Cold, but successful Rally

We keep asking ourselves, "Why do we continue to hold the Rally for Life outside and in the cold?" We do it because we won't let this infamous decision of *Roe v. Wade* pass without our public outcry!

We didn't pick the date of January 22, the Supreme Court did, but it reminds us yearly of what a cold, lifeless decision this has been for many of our unborn and mothers in distress.

This year's Rally was one of the biggest yet. Thanks to all of you who braved the cold and stood in solidarity for all the "little ones." We only pray that the end to abortion will soon be here, and no unborn child will ever again be threatened in the sanctuary of a mother's womb. For another article and photos of the Rally, see page 13.

Help wanted!

Lifespan needs YOU! Each year, Lifespan publishes a pro-life Resource Book in conjunction with its Mother's Day Dinner. This fundraiser is a vital part of its continuing efforts to educate the public on all pro-life issues. You can help by contacting a business, your church and any other organizations to solicit ads for the book. Call the office at 313-640-8534 to receive ad contract forms, or copy the form on page 9. A complimentary dinner ticket, worth \$50, will be given to anyone who brings in \$200 worth of new ads. Call today and help us continue in our efforts to educate. Deadline for ads is March 13, 2002.

Mother's Day roses coming

If you belong to a pro-life church and your church does not offer roses to "Thank Mom for Life" on the weekend of Mother's Day, please call the office to volunteer to help in one of our most important fundraisers. Call 313-640-8534.

Detroit Office

17336 Harper PMB 293

Detroit, MI 48224-1980

(313) 640-8534

Fax (same as phone)

Office hours

M-F 9-3
Irene Tharp, Director
Diane Trombley, Ofc. Mgr.

Christmas card congratulations

As usual, the folks who sold Christmas cards for us last year did an outstanding job.

The cards were very well received by those who purchased them, and all of our sellers deserve a big round of applause for sharing their time and their talents with us. Finding enough people to help on the days that the cards are sold, lugging the cards from our office to the sale site and recordkeeping can present a few problems, but all the sellers did a super job! We thank you!

Representative responses

We recently sent a survey to all the Oakland/Macomb Lifespan representatives in an effort to determine how we could best help them to help us. If you have not returned your survey yet, please take a moment to send it back to us. We rely on you to get our message out and are so grateful for your help.

Abstinence alert

Just a reminder of the conference being sponsored by the Educational Center for Life and Michigan Nurses for Life (see back page). This year's conference will focus on abstinence and features speakers from the Abstinence Clearing House. For information or registration, call the Educational Center for Life 248-816-8489.

Life and death decisions

The following quote is taken from the forward to a book published in 1968, *The Terrible Choice: The Abortion Dilemma*. This forward was written by

the 1938 Nobel Prize winning author, Pearl S. Buck. Many people do not know that Pearl Buck had a child that was developmentally delayed and lived in a special school, established by Ms. Buck, for special children. With that information in mind, you are sure to find the following words some of the most life-affirming that you will ever read: "I fear the power of choice over life and death at human hands. I see no human being whom I could ever trust with such power—not myself, not any other. Human wisdom, human integrity are not great enough. Since the fetus is a creature already alive and in the process of development, to kill it is to choose death over life...we who are human beings cannot, for our own safety, be allowed to choose death, life being all we know."

Oakland/Macomb Chapter

Coventry Place

1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G

Troy, MI 48084-3540

(248) 816-1546

Fax (248) 816-9066

Email: rtlspan@htdconnect.com

News

Office hours

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

Roses for LIFE

Lifespan has been supplying Mother's Day flowers tagged, "Thanks, Mom, for Life" for twenty-eight years to area churches. We've appreciated their sponsorship and cooperation in the past and trust they will again help us with this annual "Tribute to Mothers."

Some pastors prefer to give freewill offerings to Wayne West/Downriver Lifespan and give the silk-like roses to the mothers in their congregations on Mother's Day. Other pastors allow Lifespan reps to offer the roses to family members for their loved ones after Sunday services with those donations going to Lifespan.

If your church has not been able to participate in the past and you'd like to have this activity promoted, we can help you get started. It's very simple, and there's no risk involved. Tagged flowers can be given on consignment, and the donations and leftover roses are returned to Lifespan. To volunteer to help in your church or to tag flowers (which can be done at home) please call the office.

Mother's Day Dinner/Resource Book Ad

Fundraising is very important especially in non-profit organizations. Contrary to popular belief, Lifespan is

not funded by any foundation or institution and relies entirely on memberships, donations and fundraising to continue its pro-life operations.

Attending the Mother's Day Dinner and taking out an ad in the annual Resource Book are ways of supporting Lifespan's fundraising efforts, and there's an ad category to fit everyone's budget.

Last year, we added a special section for children/family photos; see page 8—what a great way to introduce a new family member! Refer to page 8 also for Gold, Silver, Bronze and Memorial Patron ads. A business ad contract is on page 9. Would you contact your personal beauty/barber shop, bakery, market, cleaners, church, doctor, dentist, etc. for a tax-deductible business ad? Don't be shy in asking, most businesses will be glad to accommodate you.

If you sell \$200 in new ads, you'll receive a free ticket to the dinner, and if you attend the dinner, you'll hear a renowned speaker, meet Lifespan's Mother of the Year, have a great meal and be rewarded with genuine fellowship with other pro-lifers. Ad deadline is Wednesday, March 13, 2002.

Help wanted ad

Wayne West/Downriver Lifespan will celebrate its 20th annual Bowling for Life on a Sunday in July. Chairman needed. Office help provided. No experience necessary. Call 734-422-6230.

Membership renewals

Membership renewals are in the mail. Your prompt response helps us to meet our financial obligations in a timely manner.

Wayne West/Downriver Chapter
27592 Schoolcraft
Livonia, MI 48150-2203
(734) 422-6230
Fax (734) 422-8116

From the President's Desk


Dear Friends,

As we gathered once again for our annual Rally, it struck me how fortunate we are to be able to fight evil without violence and the shedding of human blood.

Since 1974, we have met as peaceful members of a loving organization. We continue to demonstrate against the 1973 Supreme Court decisions, which allow the killing of unborn children up to the day of natural birth.

It is hard to comprehend the blood shed and count the lives lost because of these terrible decisions. So much of the debate then and now involves horrible LIES. LIES that so many people have accepted as truth. Two of the biggest are: the abortionist is getting rid of a problem—nothing else, and women are helped. Not so—abortion kills a human person—any honest, intelligent person knows this, and many women are hurt mentally and physically for life.

As I looked across the crowd at both our old and new members, I was again renewed to continue to do the things necessary both personally and as leader of Lifespan to stop the EVIL. It will take all of us and our individual efforts to win this war. Churches, synagogues, mosques, schools, other pro-life organizations must come together to form a larger group. We must work in our communities and then, for the big projects, we must work together to have more clout and influence. We extend an invitation to all to join us in our fight for life.



Note: Fr. Pavone was not able to keep his commitment to speak at our Mother's Day Dinner this year, so Dr. Garton, who was our confirmed speaker for 2003, agreed to change her schedule and speak at this year's Dinner instead. We are in contact with Fr. Pavone, hoping to schedule him for our 2003 Dinner.

Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit Resource Book 2002

A Testimony for Life—Our Family Album



*Jake and Ben
Grandsons of Pat and Bob Holscher*

Purchase a 1/8-page ad and feature your children, grandchildren or other family members in Right to Life - Lifespan's Resource Book 2002. Fill out the form for photo ads below and send \$60 with a non-professional photo, along with the names of those pictured, or other desired caption. If you would like your pictures returned, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: **Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., Ste. 127, Livonia, MI 48152.** Please no slides or negatives; color or black and white photos only. All picture ads must be received by **March 30, 2002.** If you are interested in a larger size ad or need more information, please contact Lifespan's Main Office, at **248-777-9090.**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Name(s) of people in photo (or other caption) _____

Resource Book Patron Ads:

☐ **Gold Patron \$100** ☐ **Silver Patron \$50** ☐ **Bronze Patron \$10** ☐ **Memorial Patron \$10**

Please PRINT name (s) exactly as you wish it to appear. Names of patrons in each of these categories will be listed on separate pages in the Resource Book 2002. **Deadline for submission is March 30, 2002.**

Patron name(s) _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone (include area code) _____

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

For further information, or for an advertising contract for the Resource Book 2002, call (248) 777-9090.

(Dinners, personal ads and donations are not tax-deductible.)



Right to Life - Lifespan RESOURCE BOOK 2002

Advertising Contract

This book will contain informational material that will be used throughout the year. Your ad represents support for Lifespan's educational efforts. Fill out the form below and send it to us with your remittance included. **Deadline for submission is Wednesday, March 13, 2002.**

Advertising Contract: I wish to publish _____ page ad for the sum of \$ _____
Please run _____ last year's ad
_____ enclosed, new ad

Full page (7 x 10) \$250	1/4 page (3.5 x 5) \$100	1/8 page (3.5 x 2.5) \$50
Back cover (inside) \$300		
Back cover (outside) \$500	Half page (7 x 5) \$150	

Please attach copy-ready advertising slick, business card, business letterhead or typed copy of ad. Black and white is preferred. If you are not able to submit camera-ready art work, we will help you with your ad; call us. Add an additional \$10.00 if a photograph is included in the ad. Payment must accompany ad and contract. Advertisers with ads 1/4-page and larger will automatically receive a copy of the Resource Book; advertisers with ads of 1/8-page will be sent a book upon request. Lifespan reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems unsuitable.

A **complimentary dinner ticket** to the 2002 Mother's Day Dinner on Tuesday, May 7 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.

Contact Person _____	Phone (area code) _____
Name of Advertiser _____	
Address _____	City _____ Zip _____
Ad Seller's Signature _____	Phone (area code) _____

Make checks payable and mail to:
Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., Ste. 127, Livonia, MI 48152
For further information, call (248) 777-9090

Contributions to Right to Life - Lifespan, Inc. are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Income Tax purposes; however, business ads are tax-deductible. Consult your tax advisor with any questions.

Sshhh! Silent Auction!

Once again, the *Educational Center for Life* will sponsor a

Silent Auction

in conjunction with
Right to Life - Lifespan
Mother's Day Dinner on Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Your tax-deductible gift of an auction item
will help make this event a great success!

Auction items can include tickets to special events,



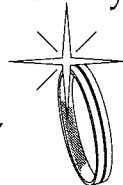
sporting

equipment,



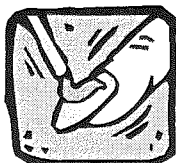
holiday items, gift baskets for babies,

brides, bed and bath, car washes, jewelry,



dinners, condos, hair styling,

manicures




—the list is limited only by your imagination. The cost of all

donated items is tax-deductible. If your imagination is exhausted, cash dona-

tions



to purchase auction items are cheerfully accepted.

Please bring your donated items to Educational Center  for Life

1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Ste. G, Troy, before Friday, April 26, 2002

For more information, call 248-816-8489

France's doctors are held liable for care of the disabled

By Nanette van der Laan
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

PARIS—The first thing doctors asked Willemijn Forest, after she gave birth last year to a boy diagnosed with Down syndrome, was whether she wanted to keep her child.

"After the delivery, they took him away immediately, assuming I did not want to see him anymore," said the Dutch woman who lives in Marseilles, France's second-largest city. "I said, 'Of course I want to keep him.' I was so appalled by their attitude."

These days, Mrs. Forest, like many other parents here who have children diagnosed with mental disabilities, is no longer shocked.

Last month France's highest appeals court ruled that children with Down syndrome have a legal right never to have been born and could sue doctors that attended the pregnancy. For parents such as Mrs. Forest, the ruling demonstrates a view—which she says is widespread in French society—that a disabled life is not worth living.

The judgment, which confirmed a previous ruling in a similar case, has caused a furor in France, sparking a national debate on a host of ethical issues.

In their Nov. 28 ruling, three judges said that a doctor had negligently failed to warn an expectant mother that prenatal scans showed that her baby had the symptoms of Down syndrome. The baby, who was identified only as Lionel, was born in 1995. His mother argued that she would have had an abortion if she had been given a correct prenatal diagnosis.

Although most in France agree that the parents should receive financial aid for Lionel's specialized care, many are offended by the nature of the mother's grievance: That her son had been allowed to be born.

The judges in Lionel's case decided that the doctor was 100 percent liable for the cost of the care needed for the child, because the diagnostic error

meant that the mother was not given the chance to abort. The court already had awarded damages of about \$100,000, five years earlier. The ruling three weeks ago ordered the sum to be substantially increased. The exact amount is to be announced at the end of January.

Parents of mentally disabled children who gathered outside the courthouse to hear the verdict said they were outraged by the ruling.

"Certain judges still believe that it is better to be dead than to be handicapped," said Dr. Xavier Mirabel, spokesman for the Collective Against Handiphobia, a group that fights for rights for the disabled.

Dr. Mirabel said the most worrying aspect is that the ruling confirmed a similar decision by the same court last year. In November 2000, the court ruled that Nicolas Perruche—born severely disabled—should receive damages from his mother's doctor, who had failed to warn her of the dangers of rubella (also called German measles) during pregnancy. That case immediately caused widespread consternation, but many thought the ruling was an exception.

Dr. Mirabel's Collective Against Handiphobia has since brought its own case, charging that the Perruche case amounted to a dysfunction of the justice system.

Though 54 percent of the French consider themselves Catholic, a nationwide poll last year by Sofres, a leading independent polling agency, showed most respondents viewed abortion as justifiable. Legal abortion was introduced in 1975, with termination now allowed up to 12 weeks into the pregnancy—and later, if there is a grave risk to the mother's health or if the fetus is diagnosed as having a condition such as Down syndrome.

Roger Bessis, president of the French College of Echography (ultrasound scanning), said that national statistics, due out shortly, will show that France carries out fewer abortions when genetic abnormalities are detected.

Dr. Bessis said this is because in France, unlike in other countries, there is no strict time limit for abortions.

Dr. Bessis said that in Paris last year, 90 percent of prenatal genetic abnormalities were detected. In those cases, 8 percent of the mothers decided against abortion.

Dr. Mirabel of the Collective Against Handiphobia said he is concerned that the attention to the recent court cases has eclipsed other, more pressing issues.

In northern France, he said, 85 percent of parents with mentally handicapped children are sending them to specialized schools in Belgium, because the French system cannot accommodate them.

The cases also have alarmed doctors, who fear a growing number of lawsuits.

Dr. Bessis said many specialists already have stopped doing prenatal scans, and some are calling for a nationwide strike beginning Jan. 1.

The Roman Catholic Church in France has called the rulings an insult to all families with disabled children.

Archbishop Andre Vingt-Trois of Tours, president of the French episcopate's family committee, said: "I think with great sadness of all families who have welcomed Down syndrome children, who have showered them with love and received great love in return. This ruling amounts to a declaration that such love was worthless."

The day after the appellate court ruling, Health Minister Bernard Kouchner said the case had left him perplexed and ill at ease.

Stressing the "value of every life," he said that a "handicapped life is not a pitiful one."

But he added: "Nobody should question a doctor's medical responsibilities toward a mother, any harm done to her as a result of medical negligence, or challenge her right to have an abortion."

—This article first appeared in *The Christian Science Monitor* on December 7, 2001 and is reproduced with permission.

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Prayers for Kelly

This is a request from Ann Sands, former President of Lifespan on behalf of her granddaughter, Kelly Dziekan:

As we move ahead, we will never forget 2001 and the changes it brought to our country. Now in 2002, our family faces its own struggle.

On January 1st, my six-year-old granddaughter, Kelly, was diagnosed with a type of cancer called Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia or A.L.L., as it's commonly referred to.

Kelly's hospital stay was made easier with all the love and support we received from our family and friends. Her chemotherapy treatments will last for approximately two years and two months.

We are thankful to God for all our blessings and ask for your prayers to God to cure Kelly's cancer.

Marvelous, Indeed

You are a marvel. Each second we live is a new and unique moment of the universe, a moment that will never be again...And what do we teach our children? We teach them that two and two make four, and that Paris is the capital of France. When will we also teach them what they are? We should say to each of them: Do you know what you are? You are a marvel. You are unique. In all the years that have passed, there has never been another child like you. Your legs, your arms, your clever fingers, the way you move. You may become a Shakespeare, a Michelangelo, a Beethoven. You have the capacity for anything. Yes, you are a marvel. And when you grow up, can you then harm another who is, like you, a marvel? You must work—we must all work—to make the world worthy of its children." —Pablo Casals



I started to write a thank you note, and the phone rang—

It was a mom who struggled financially to buy all the necessary things she would need for her baby, but when her precious child was born, he was very, very sick and she called to ask if we had any two-piece outfits that would keep him warm and accommodate the tubes that were going into his tiny stomach.

I started to write a thank you note, and the phone rang—

It was a mom who needed things—any things—we could provide for her newborn son. She had grabbed her five children (and nothing else) to flee an abusive husband. At first, they hid in a shelter for abused women, but now, she had a new place to live and needed everything.

I started to write a thank you note, and the phone rang—

It was a schoolteacher who was trying to help a student who was alone—in every sense of the word. Her family had abandoned her both financially and emotionally and now, at 17, she was about to have her baby.

For these special moms and so many others these past weeks since the holidays—because of YOU—we were able to do so much to help them.

There were darling two-piece outfits, t-shirts instead of onsies and even a snowsuit with buttons instead of a zipper for the first little guy.

There were clothes, warm blankets, bottles and diapers for the two youngest, toys and mittens for the older children, a crib, baby swing, and baby bathtub and the one-of-a-kind gifts we had received at Christmas—a bathroom towel set, packages of older children's socks, toothbrushes—everything I could find—I was able to give to the second family.

There was a beautiful layette filled with tiny clothes, soft blankets and everything a newborn needed for the high school senior's baby. The gift that she loved most was the large stuffed teddy bear—no surprise as she is still a child herself.

For these moms and so many others—you give them gifts, you give them hope and most importantly, you give them and their precious children your love. Please keep them all in your prayers.

PS: I promise—the thank you notes will be in the mail—SOON!

—Karen Patrosso, Director
Wee Care (248) 777-2727

A Program of Right to Life - Lifespan

God bless America

and keep us safe and free—

Safe from all our enemies,
wherever they

may be...

And teach
us to walk
humbly
and closer
in

Thy ways,

And give us faith

and courage

and put purpose in our days,
And make each one of us aware
that each must do his part,

For in the individual
is where peace must have its start—

For a better world to live in
where all are safe and free
Must start with faith and hope

and love

deep in the heart of me.

—Helen Steiner Rice

Calendar of Events

- Mar. 10..... Baby Showers, p. 3
- Mar. 12..... Nurses for Life Mtg.
- Mar. 13 . Resource Book Ads Due, p. 9
- Mar. 13 Mother of the Year
..... Nomination Deadline, p. 4
- Mar. 23 (tentative) Morning of
Reflection (Archdiocese of Detroit)
- Mar. 23... Abstinence Seminar, p. 16
- Mar. 30 Patron /Photo Ads deadline, p. 8
- Apr. 26 Auction donation deadline, p. 10
- May 1 Mother's Day Dinner
..... Reservation Deadline, p. 5
- May 7 Mother's Day Dinner
- May 11, 12 Mother's Day
..... Flower Sale, pp. 6, 7

Rally for Life

On January 22, 1973, a decision to allow abortion on demand was handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court; and on January 20, 2002, peaceful protesters came to Royal Oak to mourn the decision.



For one hour, we stood in the cold to remember all the babies that have been killed by choice. We were met by a display of 223 red, white and blue balloons representing the number of senior high school students from Royal Oak schools who wouldn't be walking down the aisle or throwing their caps in the air at graduation this June because they were aborted in 1984.

Even though the wind was cold on this particular Sunday in January 2002, the sun was shining brightly on the pro-life crowd. The presence of a new generation of activists for the right-to-life cause was taking center stage at the Rally.

I was so proud to emcee the Rally again this year. This January, just like in all 28 years prior, we paid tribute to our country with the singing of "God Bless America," led by Denise Duff and saluted our flag with the Pledge of Allegiance.

I had the privilege of introducing so many wonderful students/speakers who recognize that it's not tissue within the womb; it's a baby, a living human being!

Three girls from Plymouth-Salem High School, Laura Bennett, Mallory Finkenbiner and Alycia Murawski, took the stage after the patriotic salute. The girl's demonstration of knowledge and emotion was refreshing to a cause that has been fighting an up-hill battle for over 30 years. The information they presented was rudimentary; their presence was a rebirth to all the veteran pro-lifers. Their nervousness showed as they spoke to the 300+ crowd, but their excitement radiated as they shared the information that they had gathered and learned through volunteering with Lifespan for a class project.



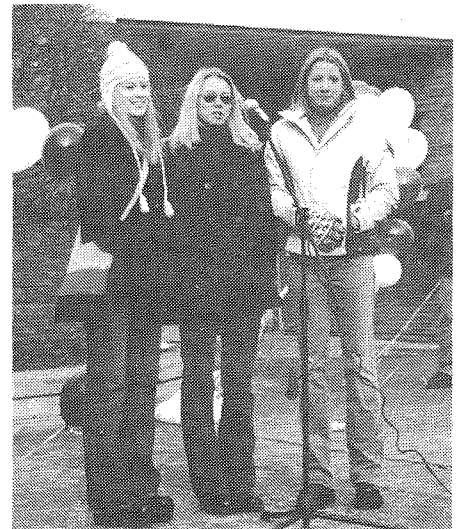
The Rally also brought to the front, Chelsea Babbish from Mercy High School. This Mercy High junior let the spectators know the importance of getting the youth involved in pro-life activities promoting the preciousness of Life. If we are going to continue to back leaders such as President Bush, Wanda Franz and Diane Fagelman, we need to encourage and teach our youth to take over. Chelsea is a perfect example. She discussed briefly the Teen Life group she has started at Mercy High School and her active involvement with Lifespan. She voiced her enthusiasm for more students to take up the reigns and get involved and be active participants.

Right to Life - Lifespan was also proud to announce the winners of the Student Essay Contest and present them with their awards. Precisely and eloquently, Joseph Dugan, a 16-year-old homeschooled Junior from Dearborn, read his first-place winning essay, *Heartbeat of America*, to the crowd. To see him standing on the steps, with the 223 balloons around him, representing 223 aborted students that might have been standing there with him, was such a moving sight.

Just before the participants became too cold, melodies of Elias were performed on a solo acoustic guitar. As the wind picked up with a biting chill, Elias was still singing and playing without coat or gloves.

And just before the Rally ended, and all the announcements were made and the appropriate acknowledgments said, in the silence of the event, the stars and stripes were dismissed from the platform in reverence.

—Leslie Leposky, Lifespan Board Member



Donations have been made In loving memory of:

Charles J. Melvin

Given by: James & Jane Flynn

Maxine Hermes

Given by: Margaret & John Joyce

Maureen Fedeson

Given by: Helen Denis & Family
Margaret & John Joyce
Jerold & Mary Ann Neff

Tim Miller

Given by: Frances Harrigan

Stephanie Lynn Wiggins

Given by: Victor & Kathleen Leo

Bob Forgacs

Given by: Friend of Life

Pauline Milosch

Given by: Lyle & Mary VanHouten
James & Susan Hall
J. A. Ignagni
Donald & Geraldine Milosch

Mary Nugent

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Mary & Robert Morian

Oakland/Macomb Chapter
of Lifespan

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 of Metro Detroit will be used to save the lives of many through our efforts. Please send donations to your local Lifespan office.

Crisis hotline numbers

If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis pregnancy, help is available. Call your Lifespan office listed on pages 6 or 7. Bethany Christian Services also has a 24-hour hot line number **1-800-BETHANY**. Sheltering homes are available to women in crisis pregnancies, call Casa Vitae at (248) 559-5407 or Abigayle Ministries at (586) 326-0459.

For post-abortion counseling, call P.A.C.E. at (734) 455-5255 or Project Rachel at (888) 722-4355.

For people with life-limiting illnesses, call Angela Hospice (734) 464-7810 or Cranbrook Hospice (248) 334-6700 or Hospice of Michigan (888) **HOM-5656**.

Project Life, Archdiocese of Detroit, also offers pastoral guidance to persons considering abortion or assisted suicide. If a relative, friend or even yourself are in need of this counseling assistance, please call **800-281-2102**.

Lifespan News

Feb./Mar. 2002 Vol. 31, No. 2

Published eight times a year

President & Editor - Diane Fagelman

Layout/Design - Marge Bradley

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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.

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



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 \$ 20.00

_____ Monthly pledge \$ _____

_____ Student/Senior Member \$ 7.00

_____ Other \$ _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Please complete this form and return with your donation to: **Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., Suite 127, Livonia, MI 48152-3736**. For more information, call **248-777-9090**. Sorry, donations are not tax-deductible.

SPRING CONFERENCE FOR PARENTS AND TEENS
SPONSORED BY EDUCATIONAL CENTER FOR LIFE

Abstinence: Just do It!

Saturday, March 23, 2002

8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.



Speakers: _____

Dr. John Diggs Jr., M.D.

Medical Advisory Board, Abstinence Clearinghouse
"Abstinence: The Healthy Choice"



Leslee Unruh

Founder and President of
Abstinence Clearinghouse
**"Abstinence Education
in the United States"**



Teresa Tomeo
Media Consultant
**"The Effect of Media
on Sexual Behavior
and Health"**

Please Join Us!



Sponsored by
Michigan Nurses For Life and
Educational Center For Life
To register or for more information
Call: (248) 816-8489
Email: info@mnfl.org or
visit us on the web at www.mnfl.org



Kresge Hall
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36600 Schoolcraft Road
Livonia, MI 48150
MNFL Members - \$40.00
MNFL Non-members - \$45.00
Nurses: 5.0 Contact Hours
applied for through MNA
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\$25.00

Includes:
Continental Breakfast
and Lunch

Please register no later than
March 18, 2002

Registration Form:

Remit coupon with your payment to:

Michigan Nurses For Life
Coventry Place Suite G
1637 W. Big Beaver Road
Troy, Michigan 48084-3540
(248) 816-8489 - Office
(248) 816-9066 - Fax

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Employer: _____

Fee includes:

Continental Breakfast and Lunch
Informational portfolio

____ MNFL Members - \$40.00
____ MNFL Non-members \$45.00
____ Student Nurses - \$10.00
____ General Public - \$25.00

Please register no later than
March 18, 2002.

Amount Enclosed:

\$ _____

Fee must accompany registration form.

Please make check payable to:

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Coventry Place Suite G
1637 W. Big Beaver Road
Troy, Michigan 48084-3540

Visit us on the web at: www.mnfl.org

Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit

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