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Happy Father's Day!

# Lifespan *news*

Volume 28 Number 4

Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

June 1999

## Congratulations 1999 Mother of the Year *Edna Pietrzyk*

*In conjunction with our Mother's Day Dinner, we are honoring our 1999 Mother of the Year, Edna Pietrzyk. Edna was nominated by her daughter, Therese Janssen. Printed below is Therese's nomination letter.*



how blessed I was to have my healthy children, family, friends, a home, a job and a mother such as mine. I felt a compelling desire to share with you my encounters with this unique woman.

I just left my parents' home and once again, because of my twelve-hour midnight job, I had to leave with them one of the most precious gifts that God has ever given me...my nine-month-old daughter, Mikayla Grace. My eyes filled with tears and a warm rush of thankfulness overcame me. I thought to myself, by the grace of God,

*continued on page 4*

*Henry David Thoreau, from his viewpoint on Walden Pond, wrote, "Most men live lives of quiet desperation." In this era of reckless feminism, and on this Father's Day, Lifespan would remind them, that although we claim to be true feminists (because we care for women), we respect and care for Fathers in a special way.*

*We understand the daily battles between personal ambitions and the skewered values of the workplace, the fun places and sometimes even their own front porch. We understand the desperation and may even try to analyze the way it is expressed.*

*We are told that when Thoreau was dying, someone asked him if he had made his peace with God. And he replied, "We never quarrelled."*

*Today, too many men reject their paternity which makes the faithful ones stand out. May all men who tread the challenging road of Fatherhood know the peace and joy of avoiding quarrels with their God.*

*—Paula Ervin*

# News & Notes

## Cancel my appointment

This from her obituary in the *New York Times*. Several years before she died at age ninety-seven, Paula Kissinger, Henry's mother, fell in the kitchen and was unconscious for several hours. She was put on a life-support system, and later the doctors wanted to remove it, telling Henry that, if she survived, she would not be able to think or speak. Henry replied, "You don't know my mother." Several days later she awoke and asked him, "What day is it?" He told her it was Tuesday, and she said, "Cancel my ten o'clock dentist appointment." Good for her. Good for her son.

—*First Things*, March 1999

## Abortions rise as economy falls

After years of dramatic decline, Russia's high abortion rate is on the rise again as more women resort to abortion because of the country's economic crisis.

Abortion is available free on demand at most hospitals and clinics in the first 12 weeks.

So-called social indicators—cramped living conditions or marriage difficulties—are now all that is required to qualify women for an abortion at any time up to 22 weeks.

—*Metro Right to Life LifeLine*  
March/April 1999

## Infant mortality rate declining

Detroit's infant mortality rate has steadily declined since the inception of the Michigan Catholic Health Systems (MCHS) Infant Mortality Project (IMP). In 1986, the year the Project was initiated, Detroit's infant mortality rate was a staggering 24%. Since that time the infant mortality rate, which is the total number of deaths per 1000 live births, has dropped to 15.1% in 1997.

MCHS Parent-Infant Partner (PIP) program trains volunteers (partners) to mentor high risk, pregnant women and their families up to one year postpartum through home visits.

If you would like to volunteer to be a partner or would like to learn more about this program, please call (313) 868-8420.

## Sex okay for "boys & girls"

This year's session of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women, just concluded in New York City, vigorously promoted "sexual and reproductive rights for young people." This was interpreted by key U.N. agencies to include abortion and contraception. Young people, under their definition, include children as young as ten years old. A delegate speaking for the 14 nations of the European Union pressed for replacing the term "young people" with the term "boys and girls." He made it clear that he wanted the "boys and girls" language to ensure that sexual and reproductive rights would include children younger than ten years old.

—*Right to Life Educational Foundation, Inc.*  
Cincinnati, OH, April 1999

## Billions to curb population

"You have wealthy white men spending hundreds of millions of dollars to contraceptualize, sterilize and abort poor brown, yellow and black women in the developing worlds," said Steven Mosher, president of the Population Research Institute. "That's a scary thought."

Investments include:

- **The Buffett Foundation**, which gave more than \$3 million to family planning and population control in 1994, more than \$4.5 million in 1996 and plans to lavish the majority of its annual \$100 million in grants on population programs after Mr. Buffett dies.
- **The William II Gates Foundation**, which recently received \$2.2 billion in Microsoft stock from Bill Gates, plans to give the majority to Planned Parenthood and other population control agencies, including a \$1.7 million pledge over the next three years to the U.N. Population Fund.
- **Mr. Turner**, who two years ago pledged \$1 billion for U.N. population control efforts and to address health and environmental issues, established the U.N. Foundation to administer it.
- **The David and Lucile Packard Foundation**, with \$9 billion pledged to population control programs, including safe-sex and abortion clinics.

—*The Washington Times*, March 24, 1999

## Dear friends

Thank you for again sponsoring and organizing the baby shower that was hosted by St. Rene Goupil Church for us. Your continuing support of the Crisis Pregnancy Centers in Southeastern Michigan is a blessing beyond words. God has gifted us over and over again through your efforts and support.

The shower at St. Rene's was a success, thanks to Mary Alice Merlo and the wonderful members of St. Rene, we were presented with two van loads of baby needs. Everything was in perfect condition and very clean!!! What a great joy it was to us.

I praise you for the work you do in the pro-life movement and thank you again for your support of our ministry. My prayer is that God will bless your outreach and each of you in the same abundant way you have blessed us.

Susan Gaertner, Executive Director  
Compassion Pregnancy Center  
of Macomb County, Inc.

## Dear Lifespan

The Ladies of Charity St. Hugo Clothes Closet Baby Shower that Lifespan sponsored for us was a great success. We received numerous beautiful and useful items for infants and \$450 in cash donations. This will be a great help for us in assisting with clothing hundreds of babies that are referred to us in a year.

We are very grateful for your caring and interest in our program.

—Miriam Best, Co-chair  
Ladies of Charity of St. Vincent DePaul  
St. Hugo Clothes Closet and Food Pantry

If you would like to host a shower in March 2000, please call (248) 777-9090.

## Lifespan News

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# My Nest is Best patient finds the rewards within his struggle

*(The following story contains excerpts from "Whose life is this, anyway? Choosing to live," a profile on Angela Hospice pediatric patient, Jackie Edwards. Hospice social work intern, Lauri Levin, wrote the article along with Edwards, who hopes that by sharing some of his life experiences he can eliminate some of the misconceptions concerning young people coping with a terminal illness).*

"I am a young man of 22, and the last thing that should be on my mind is my death and what follows. At a time when I should be in the prime of my life, I am stricken by a disease that makes imminent death a very real concern. No, I'm not a quitter nor have I ever been one. I chose long ago to firmly face my destiny, whatever that may be."

"The meaning of the word 'living' is confusing to some. Is it the simple act of breathing or brain activity that constitutes life, or is it happiness, friendship and being with those you love and care for? Those that agree with the latter are more akin to my beliefs. To me, one day of peace and happiness is worth ten years of pain and sorrow."

Twenty-two years ago, Jackie Darrol Edwards, Jr. was born to Jack and Dawn Edwards of Ferndale. At two months old, he was diagnosed with Infantile Progressive Spinal Muscular Atrophy and not expected to live beyond the age of two. The diagnosis was later changed to Intermediate Spinal Muscular Atrophy, and though not as rapid in progression as some types of muscular dystrophy, SMA leads to degeneration of muscle tissue throughout the body. Recorded cases have shown survival rates vary from as young as four to patients living into their thirties.

Jackie is currently under the care of his pediatrician, Dr. Sander Lipman, and the "My Nest is Best" pediatric team from Angela Hospice. The shift from aggressive medical intervention to

hospice care in September, 1997 was difficult for Jackie, his family and his pediatrician.

Jackie's experience with the health care system has been long and extensive. As a child with a chronic illness, he was susceptible to infections and had to endure examinations and treatment traditionally deemed necessary. Annual evaluations of his disease's progression caused him extraordinary pain. Such decisions of how much pain he could withstand were not made by him. Although his mother and grandmother asked him if it was "okay" for treatments to be implemented, it was usually up to the medical team to make final decisions. Throughout all of this, Jackie has become an expert on his own body. He also discovered as he grew older that he had a voice—and a right—to determine what type of care he would receive.

When Jackie began to seriously consider hospice care, he spoke with his family about his need for control over his life. He wanted a new type of care management, one that modeled his needs versus the medical protocol. Then he called Dr. Lipman. Lipman recalls Jackie phoning him to say, "I need to talk with you. Listen, I don't ever want to see the inside of a hospital again." After a lengthy discussion, Lipman couldn't argue with Jackie's reasoning so his next question was, "How can I help?"

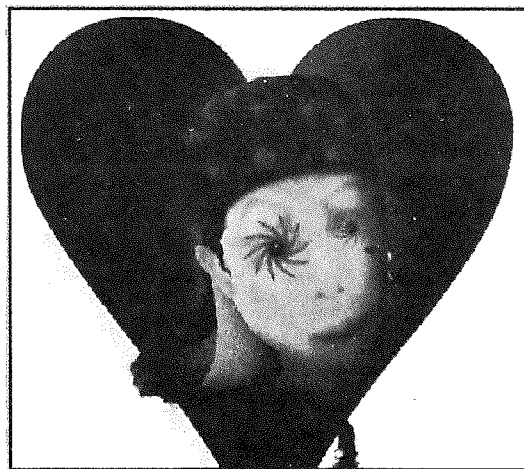
Now, through hospice, the approach to Jackie's care is dramatically changed, and reflects Jackie's wishes. The availability of care is not different with hospice and no comfort therapy is excluded from consideration. But the focus shifts from curing the disease to easing pain and symptoms.

Pediatric social worker, Leslie Feret, says that those in contact with Jackie are deeply touched by his warmth and inspired by his determination. "Jackie has done an amazing job developing and maintaining his autonomy and has

utilized and enhanced his strengths instead of focusing on his liabilities," said Feret. "That is why he is so compelling and inspiring."

As Jackie looks back at his life, he believes that there must be at least one reward, a simple benefit for all this struggle.

"Compare it to how a blind person develops a greater sense of feeling, smell and hearing. The same happens to those with loss of physique. Our minds, imaginations and emotions become enhanced," says Jackie.



*Jackie Edwards's self-portrait shows his artistic abilities, and "the stars in his eyes," says his mom, Dawn.*

Another reward for Jackie has been true self-awareness. "Self-awareness is like a magnet, attracting others to you," said Jackie. "Wonderful and incredible people of all kinds, all gentle and amazed at the energy of a strong and knowing spirit."

Expanding on the value of relationships and communicating with others, Jackie has put his creative abilities to use via his home computer and the Internet.

"I enjoy computers and the Internet greatly," said Jackie. They have afforded me freedom and ability beyond what would normally be possible and also provide a vastly diverse array of artistic methods of

*continued on page 8*

## Mother of the Year

*continued from page 1*

Mom has a passion for giving unconditionally, for loving unselfishly always with a genuinely kind heart. If I had to describe her in one word, it would be "Christ-like." My beautiful mother was not raised under the best of circumstances, but you will never hear that from her. In spite of the unfortunate obstacles and situations she faced growing up, she rose above it all and became a mother to eleven children, grandmother to twenty-three grandchildren, great-grandmother to one and a wife of fifty years.

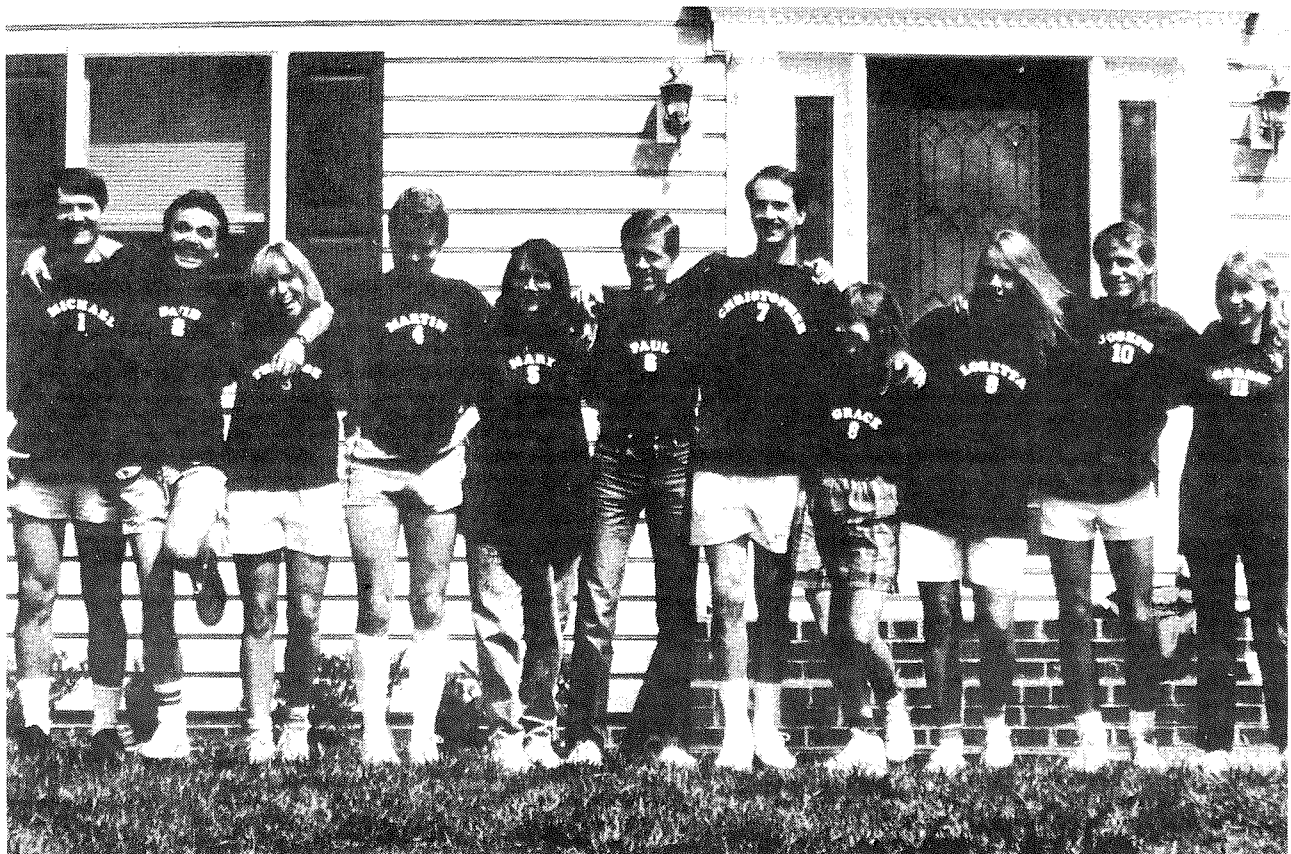
It may seem incomprehensible, but she has "been there" for any member of the family and believe me, with a family this size, it's been a tough time-consuming job! She has shared her many talents of problem solving, motivator, counselor and role model. She has gone beyond the criteria for the ultimate caregiver. She has wiped more noses and behinds than you could ever imagine and she has gotten on the phone and called over one hundred churches asking them to pray for my brother who was diagnosed with cancer. She has traveled out-of-state to lend a helping hand to those who needed her. Mom has helped out financially, leaving herself very little and never expecting anything in return.

She has a wonderful sense of humor and wit. There are times when things looked so difficult and bleak that I felt like crying and giving up, but she would make me smile and laugh and look at things on the brighter side. Her one-liners have a way of putting a new perspective on things. On various occasions and holidays, mom puts on quite a spread of delicious dinners insisting you take some home with you—and you do because she wraps it all up in neat little containers for you. She remembers birthdays and sends individualized cards and gifts to brighten your day. My mom is never afraid to roll up her sleeves and tackle some of the dirtiest jobs inside or outside our homes, putting in long, tedious hours only to transform the situation into a work of art. I also know when I ask her to "pray for me, mom" she does, on her knees, for long periods of time. She does this for the entire family.

I've only touched the surface in telling you about the character of my mother. I only wish you could see the warm and passionate side of her when she is playing with or holding and caring for her grandchildren. We so much respect, cherish and love her. I'm so proud of her as she is an advocate for the unborn, marching on the steps of Washington and never wavering on her views or beliefs on the value of human life. She will always be to me and every member of her family the epitome of a God-send. My six-year-old son, Garrett, says it so well, "I love my sugar grandma."

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to share with you some of the reasons why I feel my mother is to me and my family the "mother of all years."

*—Therese Janssen*



*Children of Edna and Henry Pietrzyk*



## 5



# Chapter

## Office hours

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

## Bouquets of thanks

Our annual Mother's Day Flower Sale was a great success—thanks to all of our dedicated church representatives, their families and volunteer friends. Our sincere and profound gratitude for all you do to help us continue in our efforts to protect all life—born and unborn.

A special thanks to Betty Queen who once again helped coordinate and distribute hundreds of roses for Detroit. May God bless all of you for what you do for His children.

## Father's Day reflection

Occasionally, I get a call into the office from a father who desperately wants the woman he loves to carry their baby to term but because of the law, I have to sadly inform him that he has no legal right to stop the death of his child.

As we celebrate the gift of fathers and the special protective role they play in our lives, the words of a father of an aborted child take on poignant significance: "I felt intense guilt afterwards. I knew the abortion was wrong...There were sleepless nights—nightmares. I cried. Each fall, I think about the child who would have been—he or she would have been a teenager this year. I'll be dealing with the consequences the rest of my life."

Let us pray for all those fathers who were never given the chance to play ball with their sons or walk down the aisle with their daughters on their wedding day.

## Garage sales

Summer is a time for garage sales. Are you up to your neck in clutter after your spring cleaning? Why not use that unwanted junk and turn it into someone else's treasure and at the same time help save lives by donating your proceeds to Lifespan. Get your friends, neighbors and church involved.

And also remember that while you are out there shopping at garage sales, keep in mind your local pregnancy help center and pick up a few "gently used" baby items to donate. Call Wee Care at (248) 777-2727.

## Detroit Office

5930 Woodward Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48202-3516  
(313) 874-0432  
Fax (same as phone)

## Office hours

M-F 9-2:45  
Diane Fagelman, Director  
Diane Trombley, Ofc. Mgr.  
Mary Small, Adm. Assistant

## Mother's Day Dinner

Another Mother's Day has passed as has our yearly Mother's Day Dinner. A wonderful evening was had by all. For nine years—the Tuesday before Mother's Day, we gather to honor a Mother of the Year. The Mother of the year represents all that is good about motherhood—love of children, love of parents and love of family.

My congratulations to Edna Pietrzyk, our Mother of the Year 1999. Her daughter, Therese Janssen, read her nomination letter as her family and friends smiled and applauded their approval. She thanked us modestly for the honor, but Edna did not understand that it was

Lifespan's honor to bestow this award on her.

We also gave a special volunteer award to Margaret Kobernik—although confined to a wheelchair with MS, she lives and works as if unconfined. Margaret spoke out against Proposal B and speaks out wherever she can against the culture of death. Our special prayer for her and her husband, Jerry, for their wonderful work.

This was our first year to work with the Educational Center. Director Phyllis Sullivan, her staff, Judy Ward and MaryBeth Ritter, worked on the auction that brought a lot of added fun for the evening. Thank you for all the success of this added event.

To Kay Browne and her friends who worked so well as our welcoming committee and helped make seating easy.

There were so many people who volunteered their time for this special event, you know who you are, thanks—without you, we could not be as successful as we are.

My final expression of appreciation goes out to all of you who have supported our Dinner through the years. This Dinner

allows us to maintain our Main Office and is the only project during the year that is used solely for this purpose. We have been in the Detroit metro area since 1970. Our money stays here in the local area. These monies support the needed pro-life projects, and allow our pro-life presence; it keeps the movement alive and growing.

Mark your calendar—May 9, 2000 is the date for next year's Dinner. Remember our auction—any articles, tickets to the symphony, hockey games or football, etc., or maybe a condo up north or in Florida would be a great addition to our auction.

Appreciation also to our advertisers for helping to produce our great Resource Book that we give out at our Dinner. We ask you to remember us in the year 2000.

God bless you all—without YOU, we could accomplish nothing!

## Oakland/Macomb Chapter

Coventry Place  
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Troy, MI 48064-3540  
(248) 816-1546  
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# News

## Office hours

M-Th 10-4; F Closed

Patricia Holscher, Director

Linda Kournoian, Ofc. Mgr.

wayne west/downriver

## Right to Life - Lifespan

Wayne West/Downriver Chapter

**Cordially Invites Everyone  
to an Open House**

**Come and See Our New Office Space**

**Sunday, June 27, 1999**

**Two-thirty to Five o'clock**

**27592 Schoolcraft at Inkster Road**

**(in the courtyard between the Bakery and Baskin Robbins)**

**Browse Through Pro-life Materials**

**Meet Other Lifespan Members**

**Enjoy Refreshments**

## Fetal models found

The lost has been found! The fetal models are safely back in the office and ready for your use. We need two nice used suitcases to store them. If you can help, give us a call.

## Thanks a bunch

Pastors, church reps, volunteers and donors are responsible for making our Mother's Day rose tribute a great success and WE THANK YOU!

With your constant support of pro-life activities, we are able to offer free literature, books, videos, fetal models, speakers, etc. to students, schools, churches and the general public.

Please stop in for a visit and become acquainted with us and the free pro-life materials offered. Thanks again!

## Fairs and festivals

If your church, school, group or club is having a meeting, fair or festival, why not invite Lifespan to have a booth. We could even bring the fetal models which are always the "best part" to the children and their families when they visit our educational booths. Help us to help others know the "facts" and dispel the "fiction" about the Life issues which the media reports.

**Wayne West/Downriver Chapter**

**27592 Schoolcraft**

**Livonia, MI 48150-2203**

**(734) 422-6230**

**Fax (734) 422-8116**

## From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

I have been thinking about you all week—thinking about the best way to tell you, "Good-bye."

I've been writing this column for more than nine years. You have read about my joys and sorrows and about my family and friends. I have tried to share with you personal insights that I felt were relevant to the pro-life cause in which we both believe.

For the past 25 years, I have been active in right to life groups here and in Florida. I was naive enough in 1974 to believe that this would be a short-term commitment—not something that would consume half of my lifetime.

Then I had three preschool children, now I have four grown children and four grandchildren. God has truly blessed me, and I have been honored to serve Him.

I have also been privileged to work with you on the Baby Shower and at the State Fair, to shiver with you at the January Rally at Kennedy Square and stand with you in the sunshine on Woodward Ave. during Life Chain in October. I have enjoyed talking with you at the Mother's Day Dinner and the Legislative Breakfast. I have appreciated your support of our Wee Care Program and the billboard and radio ads. Thanks also for your notes and phone calls. You have made my job so much easier.

However, after much prayer and personal reflection, I find it necessary to resign as President of Right to Life - Lifespan.

Thank you for this opportunity to work with you. With God's help, we have made a difference.

Love,



## ABORTION KILLS BABIES 400 a Minute Worldwide

This headline is the slogan distributed by Human Life International at this year's March for Life in Washington, D.C.

The tragic *Roe v. Wade* decision has resulted in the deaths of an incalculable number of babies, and has caused immeasurable grief to those whose lives they touched, however briefly. And while the Supreme Court's action dramatically altered the course of American history, abortion is by no means solely an American tragedy.

In the United States, surgical abortion alone kills a child every 23 seconds. But the American fatalities are a small fraction—about two percent—of the global rate. It is not possible to get accurate statistics for surgical abortion globally; the best one can do is extrapolate and estimate.

But published statistics on the abortion death toll tell only part of the story. They are confined to *surgical* abortions and don't take into account the deaths caused by *non-surgical* abortions, which are caused by contraceptive drugs and devices such as the Pill, Norplant and Depo-Provera, most of which have the potential to cause chemical abortions.

These powerful hormones do several things to a woman's body. Sometimes they do have a contraceptive effect by preventing ovulation or preventing the sperm from reaching the ovum. But other times they work after fertilization—*after a new human life has begun*—by making the lining of the uterus hostile to new life and preventing the tiny human being from implanting in the mother's womb. The baby is expelled without the mother ever knowing she had conceived. This is the abortifacient nature of contraception, a word describing a sequence of events that you just don't hear about in the media.

It is impossible to know how many women are using these potent hormonal preparations, and further, it is hard to know how often these drugs and devices cause silent abortions. But estimates are that non-surgical abortion is three to ten times more common than surgical abortion.

Therefore, a realistic estimate of the number of children killed by abortion throughout the world is astronomical, but it is reasonable to conclude that there are between 150 million and 500 million abortions each year, worldwide. That means there are between 300 and 1,000 abortions per minute. By contrast, there are about 120 million births each year.

—*Human Life International Reports*  
February 1999

### Men and Abortion

Over 35 million pre-born babies have died since the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion throughout pregnancy, for virtually any reason. It's hard to comprehend the toll that this "pro-choice holocaust" has inflicted upon these babies and our nation.

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### *Abortion is a cancer that kills and maims everyone and everything in its path.*

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Tragically, the price paid for this so-called reproductive freedom doesn't end with a dead baby. Abortion is a cancer that kills and maims everyone and everything in its path. The tumultuous wake of an abortion is wide and deep. Not only do the consequences of abortion affect the mother. Fathers hurt too.

The pro-life movement is becoming more aware that fathers of aborted babies are often adversely affected by abortion. They too suffer from a psychological aftermath that must be addressed in the wake of an abortion decision.

A few years ago, Life Issues Institute began to receive letters from men who were suffering as a result of a past abortion. The letters became more frequent and gave way to telephone calls. We knew that something concrete had to be done to help these men in crisis.

Life Issues Institute embarked on its own antidotal research to find out why men suffer after an abortion, what are the symptoms and what we can do as a grass roots pro-life movement to alleviate these symptoms.

The research culminated in a widely read article by Brad Mattes, Executive

Director of Life Issues Institute. It was published in the June 1996 issue of *Life Issues Connector* and is currently available at their website: [www.lifeissues.org](http://www.lifeissues.org). Following that was the publication of a brochure by the same author called *Men Hurt Too* (available from Hayes Publishing).

"Men seem to be wired in a way that causes us to ignore our feelings," said Mr. Mattes. "By the time they call us, they are pretty much at the end of their rope emotionally. The first thing I tell them is that they are not alone and that there is help. I hear this big sigh of relief and detect new hope in their voices as they ask more questions. It's a real joy to be part of the process in their healing journey."

Life Issues Institute has a list of available resources from various organizations for men dealing with the loss and shame that results from abortion. Write: **Life Issues Institute, 1721 W. Galbraith Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45239. Phone (513) 729-3600. E-mail: [lifeissues@aol.com](mailto:lifeissues@aol.com)**

—*Life Issues Connector*, April 1999

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### *My Nest is Best*

*continued from page 3*

expression. I have recently started my own website design and hosting business, Domain GrafX. I'd like absolutely nothing more in this world than to have the freedom to do what I choose in the time I have left and to be able to leave a piece of myself, in Domain GrafX."

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### *"Life is a gift, full of wonderful and beautiful things to experience."*

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"I'm having a lot of fun using what God has given me to make others happy, and I'm finally seeing one of my oldest dreams realized," continued Jackie. "Life is a gift, full of wonderful and beautiful things to experience."

*One of Jackie's goals is to inform other people about hospice care and the hospice philosophy. Jackie enjoys having visitors to his website, and can be reached at: <http://www.domaingrafx.com/>*

—*The Monarch*, Winter 1999  
Reprinted with permission



# Suicide debate is still off course

By Ira Byock

**J**ack Kevorkian has gotten his wish. Having been convicted of murdering Thomas Youk, he is on track to become the first martyr for the right to die. His actions have consistently been calculated to taunt authorities, first by videotaping the lethal injection, then colluding with CBS *60 Minutes* to have it be shown on national television.

In Washington, D.C., earlier this month, prominent assisted-suicide activists held a briefing entitled, "Jack Kevorkian and Physician Assisted Dying: Not One and the Same." Among the participants were doctors, nurses, attorneys and professors—all very prestigious. No one wore revolutionary-era judicial garb, as Kevorkian did at an earlier trial.

Speakers in business suits delivered a carefully crafted message that not everyone who supports physician-assisted suicide is an extremist. In a statement released just after the verdict, they stated: "The conviction of Dr. Kevorkian illustrates just how far outside the mainstream his actions in this case were, but should not be interpreted as rejection of physician-assisted dying."

Despite the finesse of the marketing effort, the message they are selling remains outrageous. Before we bring "medicide" into mainstream medical practice, consider what we know about mainstream practice today. We know that as many as 40 percent of patients needlessly die in pain. We know that people's preferences to avoid unwanted treatment in favor of a natural death are often ignored. We know that most Americans die in hospitals or nursing homes, despite an overwhelming majority wanting to live out their lives at home.

We also know that access to critical health care is limited. Congress determined that every Medicare recipient is entitled to at least six months of expert pain control and the comprehensive, supportive care that hospice represents.

Today, however, barely 20 percent of dying people receive hospice care at all, and most of those for barely two weeks before death. Misplaced regulatory efforts aimed at reducing fraud have made it

nearly impossible for patients dying of emphysema, heart failure or Alzheimer's disease—or living in a nursing home—to receive hospice care.

Furthermore, our health care system routinely pauperizes people for being seriously ill and not dying quickly enough. A national poll found that 79 percent of Americans fear financial devastation of their family as a consequence of terminal illness.

In an era of budget cuts managed care, hospital closures and curtailed health services for the poor, legalizing pre-emptive death feels too much like a way to bury our problems. Note that last year in Oregon, where physician-assisted suicide is legal, the state's budget-strapped health plan decided not to pay for certain pain medications. Yet it decided to pay for the full cost of lethal prescriptions. Is there a message there?

Searching for a middle road on the issue of legalization is probably folly. This fight will continue. But while it rages, opponents and proponents—including those most ardently for and those most vehemently opposed to assisted suicide—have a chance to improve end-of-life care dramatically.

Let's legislate a requirement that doctors must pass a test in pain management

before getting—or renewing—a license to practice. Let's require medical and nursing students to learn as much about end-of-life care as they currently do about obstetrics. When erudite leaders of corporate and academic medicine complain that such laws would violate academic freedom and intrude on the sanctity of medical practice, let's ask whose side they're really on.

We focus the national spotlight on the Kevorkian trial. Perhaps now it's time to put medical school deans on trial for graduating doctors who can't treat people's pain. Why not charge executives of nursing home chains whose patients die in agony and alone? Their tolerance of the situation is tantamount to torture.

Let's try government officials for inflicting on the public a system that denies hospice care to many thousands of dying Americans and their families who desperately need it. If we can't try them in criminal court, the court of public opinion will do.

*Ira Byock, M.D. is author of *Dying Well* (Riverhead/Putnam) and a founding member of Partnership for Caring, a consumer advocacy group working to improve end of life care.*

—Detroit Free Press, April 13, 1999

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## LIFE CHAIN of Metro Detroit

National Life Chain Sunday

October 3, 1999 • 2:00-3:30 p.m.

On Woodward, Gratiot and Middlebelt



Thousands of participants will stand in witness to their commitment to love and protect the unborn and their mothers. LIFE CHAIN challenges the community to be aware and to care. The signs will deliver the messages that **Abortion Kills Children, Adoption is the Loving Option, Abortion Hurts Women and Jesus Heals and Forgives**. Will you invest one afternoon to help save a lifetime? Call (248) 777-9090.

## Legislative News

continued from page 5

floor votes. The Lethal Drug Abuse Prevention Act (H.R. 4006, S. 2151) was criticized by some medical and hospice groups. These groups feared that such new authority may frighten medical professionals into being less aggressive in using drugs for legitimate pain control.

**Draft Legislation.** New legislation is being prepared to clarify the Controlled Substances Act and to address last year's concerns. This legislation will:

1. Affirm and support aggressive pain management as a legitimate purpose for the use of federally controlled drugs—even in cases where such use may unintentionally hasten death as a side-effect ("principle of double effect")—and provide funding for education and training for health professionals in palliative care.

2. Recognize that this policy promoting pain control does not authorize the use of federally regulated drugs for intentional assistance in suicide or euthanasia.

3. Provide that a state law authorizing or permitting assisted suicide or euthanasia does not change the federal government's responsibility to prevent misuse of potentially dangerous drugs. The government's responsibility to prevent such misuse in states that have not legalized assisted suicide is already conceded by the attorney general and would not change.

All members of Congress should be encouraged to support Sen. Don Nickles and Rep. Henry Hyde in their efforts to clarify federal law. The use of controlled substances to control pain should be affirmed and their use to kill patients rejected.

### UNFPA

**Background:** Since its inception in 1979, China's one-child-per-couple population control policy has included coercive abortion and compulsive sterilization, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has been strongly supportive of the program. As a result, from 1985 through 1992, U.S. funding for the UNFPA was cut off. In 1993, President Clinton redefined the law and on that basis resumed UNFPA funding. Since then, efforts to block the flow of federal tax dollars to the UNFPA were not successful

until a prohibition was included in the Fiscal Year 1999 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. Pro-abortion advocates in Congress are now seeking to regain funding for the UNFPA.

On April 14, the House International Relations Committee removed a pro-life provision from the Foreign Relations Authorization Act (H.R. 1211) and voted to renew U.S. funding for the UNFPA. It is especially important that all members of Congress be contacted with the message: No U.S. funds should be given to the UNFPA as long as it continues to support China's coercive population control program."

When H.R. 1211 is brought to the House floor, efforts will be made to restore the pro-life provision. It is anticipated that this issue will also be raised in connection with the annual Foreign Operations Appropriations bill.

### Health Care Reform

Congress is considering health care reform in regard to managed care. Various measures have been introduced in both House and Senate; others are still in development. Some hearings have been held this year. In Democratic proposals, nondirective language raises concerns about requiring performance of abortions and requiring coverage for abortions. In Republican proposals, "gag" clauses raise concerns about requiring health plans to provide abortion counseling and services.

### Federal Ban on Funding Embryo Research

Current law—first passed in 1995—prohibits the use of federal funds for research in which human embryos are harmed or destroyed.

In a January 15 memo, the General Counsel for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) claimed that current law does not apply to research using cells *derived* from human embryos, even though the harvesting of their cells directly kills the embryos. This opinion assumes the derivation of the embryonic cells—and the killing of the embryos—is carried out with private funds. Once the deadly deed is done, the derived cells "are not a human embryo within the statutory definition" and thus, the memo asserts, the funding ban does not apply to their use in research.

On January 19, Dr. Harold Varmus, Director of the National Institutes of Health, announced NIH's intention, after the development of guidelines, to fund research using these pluripotent embryonic stem cells. It was precisely proposals of this kind in 1994 that prompted Congress to pass the current funding ban. Through legal hairsplitting, the Administration seeks to subvert existing law and to fund unethical research that Congress once stopped.

**Urge your Representative and two Senators to do what they can to stop the Administration from funding unethical research that involves the destruction of human embryos.**

### Michigan Partial Birth Abortion Update

On April 27, 1999, Michigan State Senator Joel Gougeon reintroduced the "Infant Protection Act" (S. 546). This bill would make it a felony to cause the death of a "live infant that has begun to emerge from his or her mother's body" except to prevent her death. The bill passed the Senate on April 29 by a vote of 28-8. It has now been assigned to the House Criminal Law and Corrections Committee chaired by Rep. Jennifer Faunce of Warren.

**Key:** Y = In Favor  
N = Opposed  
E = Excused

### Metro Area

#### Michigan State Senators

District	Senator	Vote
1	Young	N
2	Smith	E
3	Murphy	N
4	Vaughn	N
5	Leland	N
6	Hart	Y
7	Dingell	Y
8	Bennett	Y
9	McCotter	Y
10	Miller	Y
11	DeBeaussiaert	Y
12	Jaye	Y
13	Johnson	Y
14	Peters	N
15	Bullard	Y
16	Dunaskiss	Y
28	Cherry	Y

## Donations have been made In loving memory of:

**Ed Tyler**

Given by: Dorothy and Jim McGrath

**Pauline Rakocy**

Given by: St. Joan of Arc Circle #634

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. Send donations to your local Lifespan office.

### A Volunteer's Prayer

*I thank thee, Lord, as a volunteer for the chance to serve again this year; to give of myself in some small way, to those not blessed as I each day. My thanks for health of mind and soul, to aid me ever toward my goal; for eyes to see the good in all, a hand to extend before a fall.*

*For legs to go where the need is great, learning to love, forgetting to hate; for ears to hear, and heart to care, when someone's cross is hard to bear; a smile to show my affection true, with energy a plenty the risk to do; and all I ask, dear Lord, if I may, is to serve you better, day by day.*

## 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 has a 24-hour hotline number **1-800-BETHANY**.

For people with life-limiting illnesses, call Angela Hospice (734) 464-7810 or Cranbrook Hospice (248) 334-6700.

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, do not hesitate to call **1-800-281-2102**.

## Educational Center for Life

On April 28, ECL was an exhibitor at U of D High School for the annual Catholic Library Association. Packets of brochures, books, a video and a free subscription to *Lifespan News* were distributed to over 50 schools.

On April 30, over 75 crisis pregnancy center counselors, nurses and students attended a workshop at Bloomfield Township Library. Molly Kelly addressed the how-tos on promotion of chastity with their clients and peers.

Informational packets on ECL's resources have been mailed to all Catholic high schools' counselors/religious education directors with success.

In the fall, we will be co-sponsoring, with Michigan Nurses for Life, a conference on medical ethics. Thanks to Maureen O'Malley and Linda Seng for all their creative talents and support.

If you wish to have Molly Kelly at your school in October, please call Margaret at (248) 879-9379.

### Educational Center for Life

**Coventry Place**

**1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G**

**Troy, MI 48084-3540**

**(248) 816-8489 • Fax (248) 816-9066**



**Happy Summer!**  
Where has this year gone? Hundreds of

babies have been provided for. Hundreds of used blankets, sleepers and t-shirts have been washed, sorted and given away. Hundreds of new outfits, diapers and teddy bears that were all Christmas gifts from Giving Trees have gone home with precious little ones.

And the phone continues to ring—from churches, visiting nurses, social workers, homeless shelters and desperate and frightened mothers-to-be.

Please continue to think of us during the carefree, fun-filled vacation days ahead. Whether cleaning out a closet, having a garage sale or shopping the clearance racks—we always desperately need clean, gently-used clothing up to size 12 months.

Also, please keep our moms in your prayers. They don't take a vacation from worrying about how they can care for their babies. You, however, make their summer a little bit sunnier and their hearts a little bit lighter when they receive their baby layettes.

Thank you and God bless you! Enjoy the summer and enjoy your loved ones.

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

A Program of Right to Life - Lifespan

## Calendar of Events

June 20 ..... Father's Day  
June 24-26 .... Natl. Right to Life Convention  
June 27 ..... Open House, p. 7  
Aug. 24-Sept. 6 ..... State Fair  
Oct. 3 ..... LIFE CHAIN, p. 9

### 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.

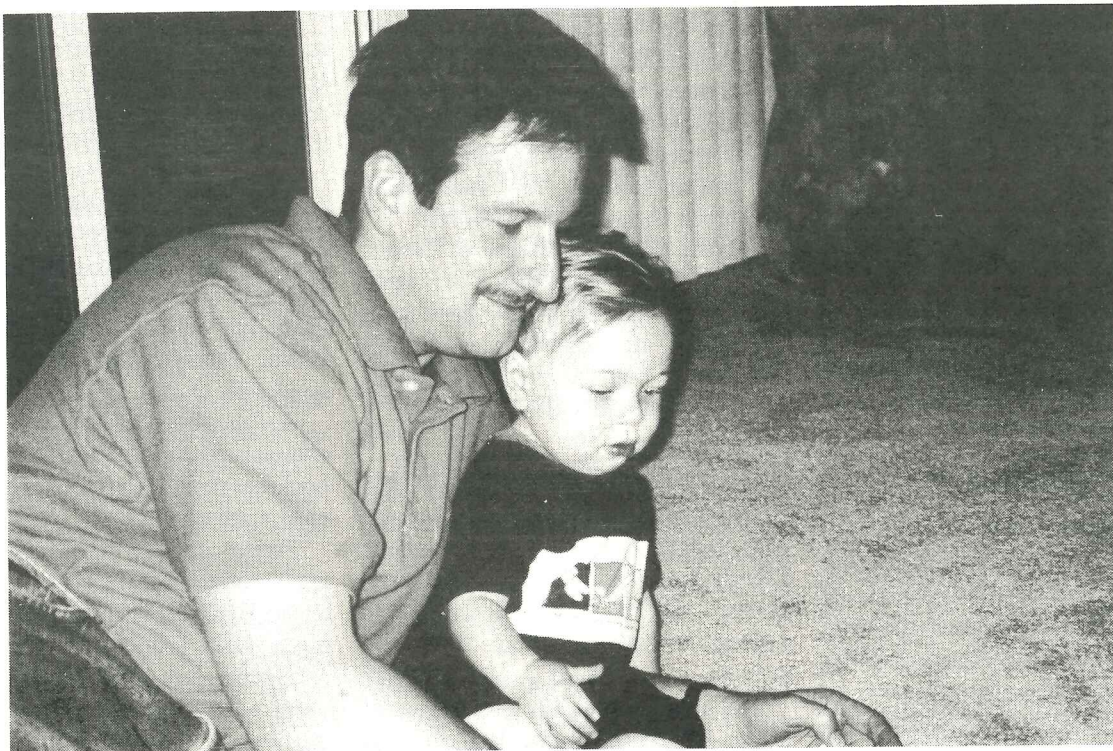
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Membership	\$ 20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly pledge	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Student/Senior Member	\$ 7.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	\$ _____

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.





## Abba, Father, Daddy

"Daddy,

*Whenever I mess up, whenever I've been scared, or whenever I just needed a shoulder to cry on, you've always been there for me—and I love you for that. Thank you!"*

*How many times have we had to run to our father needing his help, begging for his forgiveness, seeking his understanding—and he was there. Just like our heavenly Father, our earthly dad is many times the rock of our family, the rudder of a ship tossed by rough seas. Fathers light our paths and send out beacons of hope when we become lost. The bond between a father and child is an example often used to describe God's relationship with us. And the bond between a father and his little girl or boy is the stuff that makes the toughest heart melt.*

*This year, we want to honor those fathers who have always been there when their children needed them. Whether it was a piggy-back ride, a flat tire, a bedtime story or needing an ear when we had to make a decision in our lives, fathers have been there. This Father's Day, we want to say "Thanks, Dad!" for love, laughter and LIFE.*

**Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit**  
**Wayne West/Downriver Chapter**  
 27592 Schoolcraft Rd.  
 Livonia, MI 48150-2203



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