Lifespaan

Volume 26 Number 6

Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

Sept./Oct. 1997

Right to Life - Lifespan Invites You to Breakfast

With invited guest speakers



U. S. Congressman Joe Knollenberg



Michigan State Representative Deborah Whyman

Saturday, November 8 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Registration: 8:30 a.m.

Burton Manor

27777 Schoolcraft, Livonia

Reservations are required \$15.00 per person

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

For more information, call (313) 533-9090 or (313) 422-6230

Ron and Karen Meier will share their personal testimony about their son, Steven, who was born with Down Syndrome.

"Life is a blessing, every child is a blessing."

Plan now to hear an update on legislative issues

News Notes

Female infanticide

A state in India plans to pay poor women money to prevent the practice of killing female babies to avoid paying dowries.

The government of Tamil Nadu state also plans to keep mothers in hospitals for a month, United News of India news agency reported. It quoted the state's chief revenue administrator Renga Rao as saying that mothers often kill the babies within a month of their birth.

India's Parliament passed a law two years ago to prevent doctors from telling parents the sex of their fetuses in order to avoid abortions.

—Infonet-list, August 19, 1997

Lunch-time abortion

News has just arrived of the appearance in England this month of the "lunchtime" abortion, a 10-minute "walk-in, walk-out" service now available at Marie Stopes International clinics, a registered charity, at centers in London, Leeds and Manchester.

Using a new local anesthetic and the common vacuum-suction technique, Marie Stopes has marketed their new "convenience service" for the working woman of the 90s. Marie Stopes' chief executive, Dr. Tim Black, considers the 10-minute, up-to-12-week-old-fetus procedure as "a quantum leap in service delivery" and "the most important and positive development in abortion provision since the passage of the Abortion Act."

—Infonet-list, July 24, 1997

ABA refuses to take stand

The American Bar Association (ABA) refused to take a position on legalizing doctor-assisted suicide, leaving it to states to decide whether terminally ill people can get help in ending their lives.

—Infonet-list, August 7, 1997

Negligent abortion

Gerald Thurswell of Thurswell, Chayet & Weiner, a Southfield law firm, has filed a lawsuit in a case involving alleged negligent abortion procedures that ultimately left newborn Andrew Stafford of Detroit brain damaged and mentally retarded.

On August 8, 1997, Judge Michael J. Callahan ruled that an abortionist has a duty to the fetus and to evaluate the gestational age of a baby he is about to abort, so as not to negligently cause the premature birth and complications associated with prematurity and brain damage.

The lawsuit alleges that Dr. Finkelstein, of Detroit Riverview Hospital (formerly known as Detroit Memorial Hospital), negligently estimated the gestational age of baby Stafford whom he was about to abort, stating that the fetus was 24 weeks. In fact the baby was 27 weeks and viable. As a result of Finkelstein's negligence, the suit claims that he caused the premature birth of Andrew Stafford. Stafford now suffers from brain damage associated with his premature birth. According to Thurswell, Finkelstein claimed he owed absolutely no duty to the unborn fetus he was going to abort.

—Infonet-list, August 20, 1997 Infonet List is a daily compilation of pro-life news and educational information on the internet. To subscribe, send the message "subscribe" to: infonet-list-request@prolife.org. For more pro-life information visit the Ultimate Pro-Life Resource List at http://www.prolife.org/ultimate and for questions or additional information, email Steven Ertelt at infonet-list-mod@prolife.org.

Calendar of Events

Oct. 5LIFE CHAIN, back page Nov. 8Legis. Brkfst, front page, p. 5 Nov. 12 ..Deadline, Essay Contest, p. 2 Jan. 18Detroit Memorial Rally, p. 11 Jan. 22March for Life, Washington, p. 11

Lifespan News

Sept./Oct. 1997 Vol. 26, No. 6 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 Essay Contest ELIGIBILITY:

Any student in grades 9-12, in public, private or home school, who resides in Wayne, Oakland or Macomb Counties, is eligible for the contest except for students in the immediate family of a board member of Right to Life - Lifespan.

RULES:

- 1. The topic of the pro-life essay entry must feature one or more aspects of abortion, infanticide or euthanasia. The essay must be titled.
- 2. The essay shall be a minimum of 500 words, a maximum of 1000 words. No poems will be accepted.
- 3. The essay should be typed, but may be legibly handwritten.
- 4. Each entry must be the student's original work and shall not have been submitted to any other publisher or in any other contest. One entry per student.
- 5. On the <u>BACK</u> only of the last page of the essay, the student must PRINT neatly his/her name, address, phone number, age and grade, name of school, plus the names of his/her parents or guardian.
- 6. Each entry becomes the property of Right to Life - Lifespan, and each student who enters the contest assigns copyright for the entry to Right to Life - Lifespan.
- 7. The essay shall be judged on content and style.
- 8. All entries shall be considered by impartial judges selected with experience in the content. Judges reserve the right to award no prize winner if no entry is deemed meritorious of the prize.
- 9. Decisions of the judges shall be final.
- 10. All entries must be received by noon, Wednesday, November 12, 1997, and mailed or delivered to: 1997 Student Contest, Right to Life Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia, MI 48152.

PRIZES:

First Prize: \$500 Savings Bond Second Prize: \$200 Savings Bond Third Prize: \$100 Savings Bond

Prizes will be awarded at the 1998 Rally for Life in Detroit in January. The first-prize winner shall also be invited to read the winning essay at the Rally, and the winning entry shall be printed in *Lifespan News*. For more information, call Lifespan's Main Office (313) 533-9090.

Something to Hide in the Nursery?

By Nat Hentoff

n 1984 Congress, after bitter debate, passed the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. When it became law, child abuse and neglect were redefined to include "withholding medically indicated treatment from disabled infants with life-threatening conditions."

Part of the impetus for this child-saving law had been the widely reported death by starvation of a Down Syndrome baby in Bloomington, Ind., in 1980. The parents had agreed with their obstetrician that this child could not attain "a minimally adequate quality of life" because it would be mentally retarded. A horrified pediatrician at Bloomington Hospital tried to bring intravenous equipment to feed the baby, but he was too late.

In 1982 an article in the Archives of Internal Medicine reported, "It is common in the United States to withhold routine surgery and medical care from infants with Down Syndrome for the explicit purpose of hastening death." The requests sometimes came from the parents.

Additional cases of summarily dispatching infants with other defects had surfaced in the news. These decisions ending life were made on behalf of *born* children, not fetuses. Though handicapped, they were entitled at birth, to equal protection of the laws.

During the 1984 debate in the House, I was dismayed to see some of the most prominent Democratic liberals—Henry Waxman, Barney Frank, Charles Rangel and Geraldine Ferraro, among them—oppose these protections for handicapped infants. It should be up to the parents and their doctors, these humanists said, to make such life-or-death decisions. Children, therefore, were chattel, with no rights of their own.

The new law required each state—in order to get federal child-abuse and neglect grants—to create a system that would report to state child protection agencies whenever damaged infants were being denied treatment. No action

would be taken by the state, however, if treatment would merely prolong dying or if the infant was "chronically and irreversibly comatose."



After the law went into effect, there was much anger from physicians writing in some of the medical journals. Their professionalism was being interfered with, they said. There were pledges that the statute would be resisted.

What actually has been happening to disabled infants since then has been very difficult to determine. Not all records of the reasons for ending treatment are thorough or painstakingly honest. The hostility of many physicians to the 1984 law continues, and some have pointed out that since no doctor has been held responsible under that statute for civil or criminal liability, the law should be ignored because it is irrelevant.

"Most deaths among hospitalized newborns," they write, "result from neonatologists' decisions to limit [life-sustaining] treatment..."

Recently, in the prestigious journal *Pediatrics* (January 1997), the first detailed study of the consequences of the 1984 law has appeared. Drs. Stephen Wall and John Colin Partridge are the authors of "Death in the Intensive Care Nursery: Physician Practice of Withdrawing and Withholding Life

Support." Over three years, they have reviewed the medical records of all 165 infants who have died in the Intensive Care Nursery at the University of California, San Francisco.

"Most deaths among hospitalized newborns," they write, "result from neonatologists' decisions to limit [lifesustaining] treatment...[S]uch decisions are not infrequently based on the physicians' concerns about the infant's quality of life."

I have known a number of adults born disabled whose parents were advised by physicians to end their children's lives because of the future quality of those lives. One is now a lawyer; another is a psychotherapist. Yet in this study in *Pediatrics* the only reason physicians had for discontinuing treatment in 23 percent of the cases was the infant's future quality of life. And it was a contributing factor in marking other infants for death.

Moreover, "physician notes indicated that parents initiated the discussion of limiting treatment in only a few [13 percent] of these deaths." Parents were eventually drawn into the discussions, but the fact that a neonatologist—with all of his or her authority—was the first to recommend death had to change the infant's prospects.

During House floor debate in 1984, Rep. Henry Hyde (R-IL) said: "The Constitution ought to protect the child." It did not save many of those children before 1984, and it has not since. This time Congress should make sure that the Constitution does protect these born children.

As it is, say the authors of the *Pediatrics* article, since the 1984 debate "no extensive United States studies have as yet reported on actual physician practices of limiting neonatal life support—how frequently and for whom?" Why haven't there been such studies, except for this one hospital? Is there something to hide in the intensive care nursery?

—National Right to Life News, June 19, 1997 Reprinted with author's permission Nat Hentoff is a columnist with The Village Voice, New York



Legislative

Addresses

President

President Bill Clinton The White House Washington, DC 20500

Opinion Line: (202) 456-1111, M-F, 9-5

Fax Number: (202) 456-2461 e-mail: President@whitehouse.gov

Dear Mr. President:

U.S. Senators

The Honorable (Spencer Abraham, Carl Levin) United States Senate Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-3121 1 (800) 962-3524

Dear Senator (last name):

U.S. Representatives

The Honorable (first and last name) House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515 (202) 224-3121 1 (800) 962-3524

Dear Congressman or Congresswoman (last name):

Governor

The Honorable John Engler Office of the Governor P.O. Box 30013 Lansing, MI 48909 (517) 373-3400 e-mail: migov@aol.com

Dear Governor Engler:

Michigan State Senator or Representative

The Honorable (full name) State Capitol Lansing, MI 48913 (517) 373-1837

Dear Senator (last name): or Dear Representative (last name):

Medicare Rationing

In a victory for the right to life that will protect older Americans for decades to come, the United States Congress July 30 and 31 adopted legislation that will allow those eligible for Medicare voluntarily to add their own money, if they wish, to government payments in order to obtain unrationed, unmanaged health insurance.

"This hard-won success means that uncounted numbers of senior citizens will be saved from denial of lifesaving medical treatment, food and fluids against their will," said David N. O'Steen, Ph.D., National Right to Life Committee executive director. "The pasage of this legislation, which will have the long-term effect of protecting many of our most vulnerable citizens from involuntary euthanasia, ranks high among the most significant triumphs ever achieved by the Pro-Life Movement."

Under the Medicare provisions of the budget bill, which President Clinton, in a compromise with Congress, signed August 4, older Americans will be allowed to add their own funds when they choose a new option called "private fee-for-service." Unlike managed care insurance plans (HMOs) another Medicare alternative-fee-for-service plans allow freedom of choice of doctors, hospitals and other health care providers. The legislation also permits these plans to operate in a manner that leaves all treatment decisions to the doctor and the patient-instead of giving the insurance plan veto power through "utilization review" as in managed care plans.

Partial-Birth Abortion

The House has not yet given final approval to the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, which was revised and approved by the Senate last May. Once the House approves the Senate amendments, the bill will be sent to President Clinton, who has vowed to veto it. It is unclear how soon this will occur.

Campaign Reform

It is critically important that you immediately contact your two U.S. Senators to oppose the McCain-Feingold bill (S 25) and that you contact your U.S. House member to oppose all similar "campaign reform" bills that would cripple the ability of the pro-life movement to communicate with the public about the positions of politicians on pro-life issues.

The entire pro-life movement should regard the defeat of the McCain-Feingold bill and other bills to restrict free political speech as the single top priority during the months ahead. This fight is more important than any other single pro-life policy issue, because if these anti-speech restrictions are enacted, they will cripple the ability of the pro-life movement to advance ANY pro-life issue in the future.

Foreign Aid for Abortion

As we go to press, the House returns from summer recess. Its first order of business will be the foreign operations appropriations bill (HR 2159). The bill contains \$385 million in foreign aid for overseas population control programs, plus \$25 million for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Pro-life Reps. Chris Smith, Jim Barcia and others will offer an amendment to prohibit funding of overseas organizations that perform abortions or campaign to legalize abortion. This pro-life language is often referred to as the "Mexico City Policy," because it would restore a policy first announced by the Reagan Administration at a 1984 UN conference in Mexico City, but abolished by President Clinton in 1993.

Please send copies of any correspondence you receive from your members of Congress dealing with these or other pro-life issues to Lifespan's Main Office, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia, MI 48152; fax (313) 533-3556.

Update

Assisted Suicide Ban

Senate Judiciary Chairman William Van Regenmorter has introduced legislation (SB 200) that would ban assisted suicides and send violators to prison for up to four years. He plans to move the measure out of committee soon after law-makers return to work September 23.

Support for the ban has picked up steam since the U.S. Supreme Court ruling last month that found state prohibitions on assisted suicide to be constitutional, he said.

Ed Pierce heads the Merian's Friends petition drive to place a measure permitting assisted suicide on the 1998 ballot. Pierce's petition drive, which started in mid-July must gather at least 247,000 valid signatures by January. Pierce said about 15,000 signatures have been collected.

"The petition is badly flawed," Van Regenmorter said. "It's 12 legal size pages of fine print and we've found more than 30 constitutional, legal and practical problems."

"Legalized assisted suicide devalues human life," he said. "Once you do that, you can't stop."

Action Alert

Please contact your State Senator and Representative in support of SB 200. See related article on Merian's Friends petition drive.

Merian's Friends Petition

A petition drive by a group called "Merian's Friends plans to collect 350,000 signatures by January in an attempt to legalize assisted suicide. The issue would then be placed on the November 1998 ballot. The new law, if approved by voters, would be known as the Terminally Ill Patient's Right to End Unbearable Pain and Suffering Act. The U.S. Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, ruled that



the Constitution does not include the right to assisted suicide. Both the American Medical Association and the Michigan State Medical Society strongly oppose physician-assisted suicide. Petition signatures and donations will be solicited at churches, stores and door-to-door. Do not be deceived by their rhetoric. **DO NOT SIGN THIS PETITION.** Warn your pastors, neighbors, family and friends.

Following are just a few of the many reasons Lifespan opposes this petition:

- The proposed initiative does not only apply to those with terminal illnesses. Doctors can write lethal prescriptions for those suffering from "clinical depression" or other "mental illness."
- The law does not provide for control or oversight of suicides or lethal drugs. No physician or health professional is required to oversee the drugs' use or disposal. Lethal prescriptions can be handed to anyone who identifies himself or herself as a patient's agent.
- There is no requirement that family members be notified about a planned assisted suicide. And, for legal purposes, the cause of death will be classified deceptively as terminal illness not assisted suicide.
- Tax dollars will be used to promote assisted suicide. The Department of Community Health will print and distribute free booklets (i.e., tax-funded publications) on how to use this law.
- Michigan would become a haven for people from throughout the country who want assisted suicide. The law would ap-

ply not only to Michigan residents, but also to their relatives. Furthermore, Michigan would also become an exporter of suicide. Anyone can leave the state after receiving the lethal prescription.

The law would create a government committee which would operate in secret with meetings and records not open to public attendance or review. Furthermore, the committee is designed toward bias with the stipulation that its members all support assisted suicide.

For more information, call your local Lifespan chapter or the Main Office at (313) 533-9090.

In memoriam



Adedicated pro-life voice was silenced when Senator Doug Carl died of a heart attack on August 17. The second-term senator represented District 12 which includes Sterling Heights and northern Macomb County.

We send our sincere sympathy and prayers to his wife, Maria, and daughter, Colleen.

Send me tickets @ \$15.00 e	each for Lifespan's Brea	akfast on November 8.				
\$ total enclosed.						
Name(s)						
Address	City	Zip				
Please send a complete list of names and addresses for all people for whom you are ordering tickets, using another sheet of paper if needed, so that we may assign seats with						
legislators and other constituents from	om their districts.					



Chapter

Office hours

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

State Fair thanks

A great time was had by all who volunteered and gave so graciously of their time to help at the Michigan State Fair Lifespan booth.

Thank you to the new volunteers, and a special thanks to the seasoned veterans who always make the booth interesting and professional. We must keep the pro-life message in front of the public and the State Fair is one

of our most important outreaches.

Memorials

Help the Detroit Chapter in its efforts to spread the pro-life message by sending in your donations in memory of loved ones who have died or in honor of someone special for a birthday, birth or anniversary.

Your memorial/remembrance will be published in *Lifespan News*, and a card will be sent, upon request, to the family and/or person who is being honored. Send your donation to: Right to Life - Lifespan, Detroit Chapter, 5930 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202. Any further questions, please don't hesitate to call the office at (313) 874-0432.

Entertainment books

Be the first on your block to receive the new Entertainment '98. The book is again only \$40, and it's bigger and better than ever. The Entertainment Ultimate covers all of metro Detroit, and you get a fantastic 50% off and two-for-one savings on over 700 restaurants and entertainment opportunities.

Besides saving you money, each book helps support the Detroit Chapter's ongoing educational fight for LIFE. Call the office today at (313) 874-0432.

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

Office hours

MTTh 9-5; WF 9-2:45 Diane Fagelman, Director Diane Trombley, Ofc. Mgr. Mary Small, Adm. Asst. Clare Schneider, Nwsltr. Coor.

Fair friends

A very special thank you to all the folks who helped staff our fair booths this year. We had 268 hours of staffing to cover, and we are very grateful to all you wonderful folks who helped out.

If you didn't get a chance to be at a fair this year, call the office and we will put you at the top of the list for next year.

Cross countdown

We have 2000 crosses ready to go out to those who would like to use this stunning display. Each cross represents a little more than two abortions. They come with instructions for arranging the display and a sign easily read by passerby.

Isobel Johnson has agreed to be the coordinator for schedul-

ing the crosses and is waiting for your phone call (thanks, Isobel!). You can reach her at (248) 375-9516.

Entertainment excitement

The 1998 Entertainment books are here and ready for purchase. There is only one book for all of the Detroit metro area, and it is really BIG! Don't forget, these make great gifts and, believe it or not, Christmas is just around the corner.

Don't-miss dates

There are a number of things coming up that you won't want to miss, so mark your calendars now for October 5, Lifechain Sunday; November 8, Legislative Breakfast; January 18, Detroit Rally (indoors this year); early January, the deadline for the commemorative signature ad.

Remember, this January 22 marks the 25th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision. It is absolutely critical that we mark this day in a very public way.

A whole generation of people have been born and grown up over these twenty-five years and have only known permissive abortion. During this same time, more than 36,000,000 of their brothers and sisters have died from permissive abortion.

We may have grown older, but we must let all of Detroit know that our voices and our resolve to restore protection to all human life are still strong and determined.

Plan now to be at the Rally, put your name on the signature ad, and make your position known!

Remember, many view silence as acceptance. Our collective voices must make the rafters ring!

More members

Is there a green Lifespan membership renewal envelope lurking in your bill box? If so, please renew—today!

Did you send your renewal to the office this year? If not, would you do that—today? Can't remember? We can!—call the office—today!

Encourage a friend to join—today!

Give a gift membership to a college student—today!

Enroll your church—today! Help to save a life—today!

Oakland/Macomb Chapter Coventry Place 1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G Troy, MI 48084-3540 (248) 816-1546

News

Office hours

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

A special "happening"

The State Fair is now history. We applaud our loyal members and friends who worked the booth and helped to educate thousands of people, emphasizing the humanity of the unborn child. There were definitely good reactions to the fetal models; many were surprised at the recognizable development of unborn babies. They took the literature and asked for more; hopefully, some of them will become active in the pro-life movement.

west/downrive

Lifespan's presence at the Fair was very important, and you made it happen!

Respect Life speakers

October traditionally is "Respect Life" month. Please let us know if your church or organization would like to have a prolife speaker or educational booth.

We have many excellent speakers which include doctors and nurses who can speak on a variety of subjects, i.e., abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, national health care rationing, etc.

We have fetal models, videos, books and pamphlets for your use. Feel free to drop by for a visit and become acquainted with our office and its activities.

And the prizes go to...

This was my 15th year watching newcomers bowling with oldtimers, kids with other kids, adults with someone else's kids and families bowling to-

gether. They all came, pledges in hand and excited to be a part of our annual Bowling for Life. I never tire of seeing this camaraderie and fellowship among prolifers. Lifespan is privileged to have you among our supporters.

Those winning the grand prizes for most pledges collected by August 25, 1997 include:

1stJim Astalos	.\$900.00			
2ndEvelyn Phelps	315.00			
3rdJim Kidd	252.86			
4th Barb Graham	222.10			
5th Carolyn Bowers	216.00			
High games with handicap:				
ManJeff Haller	248			
Woman Barb Graham	271			
ChildJohn Bleeker, IV	245			
High series:				
John Bleeker, IV	700			

The scores were so close. Molly Feeley bowled 270 and came within one point of tying winner, Barb Graham. The men and children's scores were close too. It's really true—anyone can win the prizes.

Congratulations to all who bowled. Over \$3500 was raised in pledges. Our thanks to you and to your sponsors. Because of your love and commitment for all innocent human life, born and unborn, YOU ARE ALL WINNERS!

—Marie Gonzales Bowling for Life Chairperson

Director's note: Mega kudos, Marie, for chairing this event again—the gift certificates added a extra-special touch! And thanks to Rich Dreslinski who had the tough job of managing all the bowlers and trying to bowl, himself. Because of both of you, we had another great year!

P.S. To accommodate more people, we are considering changing the bowling to a Saturday morning in September or October 1998. Let me know how you feel about this—your opinion is important.

ENTERTAINMENTBOOKSAREHERE

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

From the **President's Desk**

Dear Friends,

Over the past few days, we have been mourning the untimely loss of a vibrant and beautiful young woman. Most of us never met her or even saw her in person, but we are still shocked and saddened by Princess Diana's death.

We recently marked the 10th anniversary of the plane crash on Middlebelt Rd. I didn't know anyone on board, but the media coverage was so intense I felt that I had lost best friends. And why was one little girl spared amid the carnage?

We also lost State Senator Doug Carl in August. He was a strong conservative pro-life voice in Lansing. He leaves a void that may never be filled.

I recently received some prolife articles written by Rev.
Marty Drake of Walled Lake.
One was entitled, "How precious is human life?" He says, "We are constantly confronted with scenes of tragedy and death...How precious is human life? Ask yourself that question!"

It's a very good question. We have become desensitized by almost 25 years of abortion on demand. Infants are dying in our hospitals because of concerns about the future "quality" of their lives. We are fighting a petition drive to legalize assisted suicide. Kevorkian kills with impunity.

"For whom does the bell toll? It tolls for thee."



Caring for fragile kids

Respite care center to provide parents with time away, peace of mind

By Darci Smith

B arbara Lubinski's dream to provide "medically fragile children" and their parents the peace of mind they deserve is about to materialize.

Lubinski, a psychiatric nurse, plans to open the first Children are Precious Respite Care Center in Springfield Twp., west of Clarkston, this summer. The idea for the center, which will provide temporary residential housing for children with severe life-altering illnesses, began budding in Lubinski in 1994 while she was working on her master's degree in psychiatric nursing at Wayne State University.

"I was caring for children who were very ill in their home, and I realized that I experienced the stress of the parents because there was no break," Lubinski said. "They were never being replenished."

Parents will be able to leave their offspring at Children are Precious for 24 hours to two weeks. During that time, Lubinski said, parents are encouraged to rekindle the bonds of their intimacy and give their attention to healthy children in the family.

"We're hoping that it will solidify the family," she said, noting that statistics show 75 percent of marriages fail at the prognosis of a long-term illness and 95 percent break up following the death of a child.

"We feel in offering a home away from home to these little children, we're helping the whole family." Lubinski explained. "We feel that in helping them before (something happens to the child), we're forestalling breakups.
...By us allowing the child to be outside of the home, the family can reconstitute themselves."

Lubinski added that families will be able to visit the Children are Precious Respite Care Center at any time to inspect the care their child is receiving.

Chuck and Andrea Baier plan to leave their son Tommy at the center

while they attend an out-of-state wedding this August.

"It means so

"It means so much to know that your child is

KERITON @ 1994

child is

ARE PRECIOUS

going to be cared for with love," Andrea Baier said. Tommy, 15, has chromosome 4p-syndrome or Wolf-Hirschhorn syndrome, a disorder in which the fourth chromosome is damaged.

The Baiers, members of Detroit's St. Gerard Parish, adopted Tommy when he was 18 months old after seeing a feature story about him in the *Detroit Free*

Press' "A Child is Waiting" series. "I thought one day a kid is going to be in there that's just right for us, and that's what happened," Andrea Baier said.

Prior to Children are Precious, the Baiers would leave Tommy with a baby sitter or family friends who have a similar child. They became acquainted with Lubinski at St. Gerard, after she spoke to a support group for families with disabled children to which they belong.

According to Andrea Baier, the Children are Precious Center will be different than others in that it is a "Christian-based loving environment."

"You just felt very peaceful having your child cared for in that kind of environment," she said. "(Lubinski) has such a loving heart. ... She just wants to do everything she can to make things good for the children. She loves them before she knows them, and then when she gets to know them, she loves them even more."

There are currently only five respite care facilities in Michigan, most of which do not differentiate between medically fragile and developmentally disabled children. Two of the facilities Lubinski visited resembled a home; the other three were like institutions.

The Children are Precious
Respite Care Center, purchased in
April, is a "homey, non-medical
atmosphere," Lubinski said. Six
children may be housed in the
three-bedroom, two-bathroom
former family home. The
residence also features a small
country kitchen, a playroom

and a deck; Lubinski added that plans are to build an extension next year for another playroom.

For Lubinski, the desire to work with dying children struck in 1973 when she read published diaries of dying children. She was then serving in France as a religious with the Little

continued on page 10

Remembering 25 Years

Join Right to Life - Lifespan in a public statement on the 25th anniversary of Roe v. Wade in remembrance of the millions of lives impacted by abortion.



Photo by Ben Bradley

PLEASE take the hand

of the helpless

little one in yours

for this special

proclamation

on LIFE

Plans are now being made to purchase a full-page ad in the *Detroit News* on Thursday, January 22, 1998. The ad will list the names of the contributing sponsors. **Space is limited to the first 2700 names.** This is not a fundraiser. The \$10 fee for each name listed will defray the cost of the ad.

		who will not allow this day to go unnoticed		
Name	Phone (include area code)			
Address	City	Zip		
Number of names: _	Amount	Enclosed:		
Make check payable to: Right to Life - Lifespan (Ad) Mail to:	List individual names of contributing sponsors at \$10.00 each: (Please type or print clearly.) (Example: Valerie Smith, not Valerie and Vick Smith.			
Right to Life - Lifespan Main Office 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127	First Name	Last Name		
Livonia, MI 48152 (313) 533-9090	First Name (Use another	Last Name sheet of paper for additional names)		

I do not wish my name to be listed in the ad, but wish to make the enclosed donation of

Children are Precious

continued from page 8

Sisters of the Poor. She left the order in 1985 to pursue a career in nursing, earning a bachelor's degree from Madonna University in Livonia in 1990 before pursuing a master's degree at Wayne State University.

Lubinski made the respite care center a reality through fund-raisers, donations and prayers. She sold her condominium to help purchase the Springfield Twp. home and plans to reside in the basement.

Besides help from parents whom Lubinski previously assisted and her parish, St. Gerard, Detroit College of Business was instrumental to Children are Precious' formation. The college donated the use of two offices at its Warren location, where Children are Precious has held support groups for healthy siblings.

Healthy children are rarely the center of their parents' undivided attention, Lubinski said, as their needs become secondary to those of the sick child. Resentment builds, and many healthy children become adults who grieve the loss of their childhood, she added.

"The healthy siblings are growing up sometimes with behavior and emotional disturbances because their needs have not been met," Lubinski said.

Although it is a Christian organization, Children are Precious Respite Care Center will be open to all denominations. Constant care will be provided to children by Lubinski and other nurses and nurse aides. The center will only be available on weekends until grants can be obtained to pay a full-time staff, Lubinski said.

The only thing holding Children are Precious back is the state of Michigan. Lubinski explained that she and the state are having trouble determining in which licensing bureau the respite care center fits.

"It's so frustrating to go from office to office and bureau to bureau seeking licensure," she said. "We have children waiting."

—Many items are needed for the Children are Precious Respite Care Center. For information and/or to donate, call (810) 620-9142.

—The Michigan Catholic, June 27, 1997 Reprinted with permission tor's note: Andrea Baier is a longtime

Editor's note: Andrea Baier is a longtime member and supporter of Right to Life -Lifespan.

Book Review

Why Can't We Love Them Both

By Jack and Barbara Willke Hayes Publishing Company 6304 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45224 \$4.95 at Lifespan chapter offices

TheWillkes have done it again. Their *Handbook on Abortion* was in every prolifer's pocket or purse in the 70s and early 80s. This "bible of the movement" was succeeded by their *Abortion Questions & Answers*.

And now they have written Why Can't We Love Them Both - Questions & Answers on Abortion.

Part One explains and formulates educational methods vital in responding to the rhetoric of the pro-abortion movement of today.



Subsequent chapters ask and answer just about every possible question anyone might ask about fetal development, abortion, infanticide and euthanasia.

Contents include many classical studies and a broad array of newer information. New subject matter includes breast cancer, parent notification and Becky Bell, violence, embryo experimentation and IVF, detail on RU 486, Methotrexate and prostaglandins, abortifacient drugs and more on post-abortion syndrome in women and in men.

Clearly this is an indispensable tool for the pro-life movement and all who are looking for the truth on these very controversial issues. This is not a book to buy, read and then put on the shelf. This one is to carry and use and use and use. It can also be purchased and distributed in quantity. If it is, it will reshape the educational methods of today's pro-life movement, re-energize it and help to reach vast numbers of people who today are part of the "undecided middle."





Thoughts of snowsuits, blanket sleepers, afghans,

warm blankets and Christmas—it must be September at Wee Care!

Why Christmas? This is the time of year when schools, churches, clubs, offices, etc. are planning their activities and projects for the holidays.

Would you consider helping my little ones with a giving tree at your church or business (people love to buy baby gifts) or a collection of warm mittens at a school (children can relate to cold little hands), or any other idea you might have?

Everything is needed at Wee Care—from pacifiers to baby bath tubs to monetary donations that keep our program running.

Please call me if you need any ideas or have any ideas to share.

What a perfect way to celebrate the birth of God's own Son—helping His newest tiny miracles!

—Karen Patrosso, Director Wee Care (313) 533-2727 A Program of Right to Life - Lifespan

Crisis hotline numbers

If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis pregnancy, help is available. There are 23 pregnancy help centers located throughtout the metro Detroit area.

For more information, you may call your Lifespan office listed on pages 6 or 7. Bethany Christian Services also has a 24-hour hotline number; please call 1-800-BETHANY. Or, you may wish to call Project Life at (313) 237-5755.

Counselors needed

Training for volunteer counselors will begin on October 14 at the AAA Crisis Pregnancy Center, located at 27592 Schoolcraft Rd., in Livonia. This is a unique program designed to reach women who are experiencing crisis pregnancies.

If interested, please call Sonia Ashe, Client Services Director, at (313) 425-8060. She will send you an application package and give you an appointment for an interview.

Donations have been made In loving memory of:

Helen Navarre
Given by: Mary Tomilo

Madeline KoonsGiven by: Frank and Margaret Krasinski

In honor of the birth of:

Our Third Child, Paul Michael Given by: John and Mary Martin

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.

Donations may be sent to your local Lifespan office. Sorry, they are not taxdeductible.

LFL State Conference

The 1997 Lutherans for Life (LFL) State Conference will be held Saturday, September 27, from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church, Rochester.

The keynote speaker is Dr. James Lamb, the executive director of LFL. Margaret Kobernik will give her personal testimony as a quadruplegic fighting MS.

The conference fee of \$15 includes a continental breakfast and lunch. For registration information, call Linda Nobili at (248) 693-8825.

Entertainment Books

One Entertainment Book edition, including all metro areas, is being offered, for \$40, and is available in all Lifespan chapter offices: Detroit (313) 874-0432; Oakland/Macomb (248) 816-1546; Wayne West/Downriver (313) 422-6230.

Bill Knapp's coupons

Our participation in the Bill Knapp Community Support coupon project continues. We are now saving for an outdoor exhibit tent to be used by all chapters.

Since we began saving Knapp coupons in 1986, we've collected 663,011 points and have acquired for our three chapters and main office: a movie projector, a computer, two copy machines, three fax machines, a TV-VCR, three display boards and a base unit for the display boards—this is all THANKS to you!

Please continue to save these coupons for our next project. When you present your check to the cashier at any Bill Knapp's Restaurant, ask for a Community Support Coupon. Send the coupons to Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia 48152. Thanks!

Prayer request

Gloria Klein, the founder of Lifespan in 1970, is suffering from a fast spreading cancer. She has committed herself to a clinical trial at the Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit with the hope that the disease can be halted.

She needs the earnest prayers of all her friends—those who know her and those who admire her work.

If you wish to send her a card or a note she may be reached at 860 Sugden Rd., White Lake, MI 48386.

Christmas cards

Beautiful Christmas cards will soon be available at Lifespan chapter offices.

Mark Your Calendar!

MEMORIAL EVENT Sunday, January 18, 1998 2-4 p.m.

To commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade (Supreme Court Decision Legalizing Abortion January 22, 1973)

This event will be held INDOORS for this 25th Memorial

Join hundreds of dedicated, committed Pro-Lifers!

Remember 25 years of Pro-life work in Metropolitan Detroit

Special recognition for those who owe their lives or children's lives to pro-life efforts: Call Lifespan, Detroit office (313) 874-0432

March for Life Washington, D.C.

Are you planning on attending the March for Life on January 22 in Washington, D.C.?

Are you interested in bus or flight arrangements?

Please call our Lifespan Main Office at (313) 533-9090 to help us make travel plans for this event.

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 Student/Senior Member	\$ 15.00 \$ 7.00	Monthly pledge Other	\$ \$			
Name		Phone					
Address Please detail	ch at the dotted line and return	to: Right to Life . I	City ifespan 28200 Seven Mile R	Zip d #127 Livonia ML	 48152-3736 I		
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.							

Sponsored By: Right to Life - Lifespan and **WUFL-AM 1030** Family Life Radio

Co-Sponsored By:

AAA Crisis Pregnancy Center, Livonia

Another Way Pregnancy Center, Novi

Auburn Hills Christian Center

Bethany Christian Services Madison Heights

Bethel Baptist Church, Roseville

Bethel Baptist Church, St. Clair Shores

Canton Free Methodist Church

Christ the King Lutheran Church Southgate

Community Bible Church Waterford

Community Foursquare Church Royal Oak

Cornerstone Baptist Church Roseville

Covenant Community Church Redford

Crisis Pregnancy Information Center, Berkley

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church Bloomfield Hills

Divine Child Catholic Church Dearborn

Dunning Park Bible Chapel, Redford

Educational Center for Life, Troy

Faith Bible Presbyterian Church Trenton

Faith Christian Assembly Lincoln Park

Faith Lutheran Church, Troy

First Baptist Church of Livonia

First Baptist Church of Wayne

Fisherman's Net Church, Utica

Five Points Community Church Auburn Hills

Garden City Christian Center

Grace Christian Fellowship, Livonia

Grace Evangelical Fellowship Lincoln Park



LIFE CHA

of Metro Detroit **National Life Chain Sunday**

October 5, 1997 - 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Woodward Ave. • From 7 Mile Rd. to 12 Mile Rd. Call (313) 533-9090 for details

Harmony Baptist Church, Rockwood

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Christian Women's Circle, Warren

Holy Family Catholic Church, Novi

Holy Spirit Catholic Church Highland

K of C Sacred Heart Council #8659 Auburn Hills

K of C St. Nicholas Council #7011 Sterling Heights

L.I.F.E. Club of Marian High School Bloomfield Hills

Melvindale Crisis Pregnancy Center

Memorial Church of Christ, Livonia

Mother & Unborn Baby Care Lathrup Village

Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, Redford

New Life Community Church, Westland

North Pointe Baptist Church, Warren

Northfield Hills Baptist Church, Troy

Northwest Fellowship Church, Detroit

Oakland Avenue Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Pontiac

Oakland Christian Church, Oakland Twp.

Oakland Woods Baptist Church, Clarkston

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, Plymouth

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church Dearborn Heights

Our Lady of LaSalette Catholic Church Berkley

Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church Waterford

Our Lady of Refuge Catholic Church Orchard Lake

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church Northville

Peace Lutheran Church, Waterford

Plymouth Church of the Nazarene

Regina Teens for Life, Harper Woods Resurrection Catholic Church, Canton

Right to Life of Allen Park/Melvindale

Right to Life - Central Macomb

Right to Life - Southeast Macomb

Right to Life - Warren-Center Line

St. Alphonsus Catholic Church & Rosary Altar Sodality, Dearborn

St. Andrew Catholic Church, Rochester

St. Anselm Catholic Church Dearborn Heights

St. Augustine & St. Monica Catholic Church, Detroit

St. Barnabas Catholic Church, Eastpointe

St. Basil the Great Catholic Church Eastpointe

St. Clare of Assisi Catholic Church Farmington Hills

St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, Grosse Pointe Park

St. Clement Catholic Church

St. Daniel Catholic Church, Clarkston

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church Wyandotte

St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic Church Bloomfield Hills

St. John the Baptist Romanian Byzantine Catholic Church, Detroit

St. John Bosco Catholic Church

St. John Lutheran Church, Rochester

St. John Lutheran Church, Taylor

St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church, Warren

St. Joseph Catholic Church Lake Orion

St. Justin Catholic Church Hazel Park

St. Kenneth Catholic Church Plymouth

St. Lucy Catholic Church St. Clair Shores

St. Matthew Lutheran Church Walled Lake

St. Maurice Catholic Church, Livonia

St. Michael Catholic Church, Livonia

St. Perpetua Catholic Church Waterford

St. Sabina Catholic Church Dearborn Heights

St. Stephen/Mary, Mother of the Church (Catholic), Detroit

St. Suzanne Catholic Church, Detroit

St. Sylvester Catholic Church, Warren

St. Theodore Catholic Church

St. Thomas a' Becket Catholic Church Canton

Shrine of the Little Flower Catholic Church, Royal Oak

South Redford Church of Christ

Stringham Missionary Church Waterford

Temple Baptist Church, Plymouth

Victory Enrichment, Detroit

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Livonia

Warren Road Light & Life Free Methodist Church, Westland

Warren Woods Baptist Church, Warren

Waterford Community Church

Wayne Wesleyan Church

Wyandotte Christian Church

Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit Wayne West/Downriver Chapter 27578 Schoolcraft Road Livonia, MI 48150-2203



Address Correction Requested

Non-Profit Org. U.S. POSTAGE PAID Westland, MI 48185 Permit No. 294