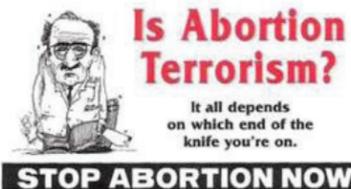




An affiliate of Indiana Right to Life™

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# Lake County Right to Life® Newsletter

An affiliate of Indiana Right to Life™

With a circulation of over 7,000 individuals

September / October / November

Lake County Right to Life Newsletter is the official publication of Lake County Right to Life, a non-profit organization.

The purpose of Lake County Right to Life is to promote the sanctity of human life, to educate the public on the subjects of abortion, assisted suicide and euthanasia, and to support legislation and constitutional changes to protect the right to life of all innocent human beings.



## 2014 LCRTL Calendar of Events

|       |          |  |
|-------|----------|--|
| Sept. | 1        | Labor Day Parade, Lowell, IN, 10 AM  |
|       | 9        | Board Meeting, 6 PM, LCRTL Office, Highland  |
|       | 13       | LifeJam Concert/Car Show, 4-8 PM, Cornerstone Baptist Church, 3425 Orchard Dr, Hammond   |
|       | 15       | General Meeting, 7 PM, Crossroads Community Church, 1538 Janice Drive, Schererville  |
|       | 23       | 40 Days for Life Fall Campaign Kickoff, 6 PM, Our Lady of Consolation, Vamos Hall, 8303 Taft Street, Merrillville  |
|       | 24       | 40 Days For Life Fall Campaign, Sept 24-Nov. 2, Planned Parenthood, 8645 Connecticut St, Merrillville  |
| Oct.  | 3, 4 & 5 | Rose Sale  |
|       | 5        | Life Chain, 2 PM to 3:30 PM, Ridge Road, Highland IN to Lansing IL   |
|       | 9        | Human Trafficking – “A Reality” Brunch, 10:30 AM to 1 PM, Our Lady of Consolation, Vamos Hall, 8303 Taft Street, Merrillville  |
|       | 14       | Board Meeting, 6 PM, LCRTL Office, Highland  |
|       | 18       | Jericho March, Begins 9:30 AM at 9292 Broadway, Merrillville OR<br>10:00 AM at 8645 Connecticut Street, Merrillville—K of C will lead the Jericho March up Broadway and seven times around Planned Parenthood while praying the Rosary |
|       | 20       | General Meeting, 7 PM, Crossroads Community Church, 1538 Janice Drive, Schererville  |
| Nov.  | 11       | Board Meeting, 6 PM, LCRTL Office, Highland  |
|       | 11 & 13  | LCRTL Telethon, 4-8 PM, First Baptist Church, Hammond  |
|       | 17       | General Meeting, 7 PM, Crossroads Community Church, 1538 Janice Drive, Schererville  |
| Dec.  | 6        | Middle School Oratory Contest  |
|       | 9        | Board Meeting, 6 PM, LCRTL Office, Highland  |
|       | TBD      | General Meeting, 7 PM, Place TBD   |
|       | TBD      | Empty Manger Caroling  |

Check out our NEW website at [www.lakecortl.org](http://www.lakecortl.org). Same address, new look.

If you would like to UNSUBSCRIBE to our newsletter please call the office at 219-838-1138 with your name, address, phone, and e-mail address. We will miss you. Errors and Omissions - while every effort is made to ensure accuracy sometimes we mess up.

## Human Trafficking, A Personal Account by Len Reynolds

“I saw a girl,” my friend, who is used to helping addicts and alcoholics get clean by offering them food, housing and work, was telling me, “she had bruises all over her body”. This was downtown Gary. “I asked her if she was alright and she said ‘no, but it doesn’t matter.’” We will call her Abby and my friend Matt. Matt asked Abby, “Why doesn’t it matter?” She told him why.

Abby was 16 and from a not-so-small town in Ohio where she was abused at home so she ran away. Abby travelled to Gary to seek out a friend. Before she was out of the bus terminal, a nice young lady had befriended her and exclaimed she too was from out of town and meeting friends who had lots of money, a real nice place not far away and plenty of room. Needless to say, Abby never called her friend. She was caught up in a human trafficking ring who survived by forming families of girls, “sisters”, who after a short time grew afraid to do anything to offend their “daddy” in fear that one of the other sisters would get severely beaten by that daddy.

Matt, who had seen many things, heard many stories, lived his life in the trash can at one time, was able to convince Abby, who was now 18, to leave and stay with friends of his who made a place in their home for her, loved her and helped her clean up. At one point, not long after staying with Matt’s friends, Abby blew up and screamed, “Why are you people helping me? What do you want?” She could not understand why someone would help and not want anything in return.

After several months, Abby had contacted her grandmother and found that her father was ill and dying, so she went back to Ohio. Human trafficking is hard to escape. Once you are out, it haunts you, accusing you, always telling you that you are no good and no one will want you after that. After returning to Ohio, Abby had not contacted Matt or the friends who gave her a home and the money to go back to Ohio. The end of stories like these is usually not good. We can only hope and pray that Abby remained focused on a positive future.

On Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 10:30 a.m., Lake County Right to Life is partnering with several organizations, churches, businesses and individuals to sponsor and host an educational brunch which will include speakers from top local and federal offices such as Homeland Security, The Julian House and Lake County Sheriff’s Human Trafficking Unit, as well as a human trafficking survivor and more.

### Human Trafficking in Northwest Indiana “A Reality” Brunch

All clergy, church leaders, community leaders, business owners, school officials, elected and appointed officials are invited as

#### OUR COMPLIMENTARY GUESTS

Vamos Hall behind Our Lady of Consolation Church  
8308 Taft Street, Merrillville, IN 46410

Thursday, October 9, 2014  
10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

#### EVERYONE MUST REGISTER

(219) 838-1138 or [office@lakecortl.org](mailto:office@lakecortl.org)

General Public Welcome \$10



### OFFICERS

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# Come to LifeJam!

by Lynne Scherschel

A benefit concert for Lake County Right to Life, LifeJam, will be held on Saturday, September 13, 2014 at Cornerstone Church, 3425 Orchard Drive, Hammond, 4:00 to 8:00 P.M. There will be live music, great food, fun and information about life topics. Performers will include Mr. Rongers Neighborhood, Julia Magagnotti, Tenfold, Felis Mubybia, Ken Tripp, and Mighty Men of God. Admission is free, and there will be an opportunity to donate to LCRTL in support of life. Go to our website: [www.lakecortl.org](http://www.lakecortl.org) for a map and directions. **DON'T MISS THIS UNIQUE EVENT!**

## Sidewalk Counseling Training

By Paula Allen

A Lake County Right to Life Sidewalk Counseling Training Class was hosted at Living Stones Church in Crown Point on Saturday, August 23, 2014. There are many different aspects of pro-life ministry, with Sidewalk Counseling being one of the most effective. A trained sidewalk counselor is able to engage people in dialogue as they walk from their car to the clinic, especially the woman considering an abortion, to insure they fully understand the consequences of their actions. They are there to minister the love, hope and healing of Jesus Christ in a very difficult and frightening situation. Often, they not only are able to save the child, but minister salvation to the parent or parents as well.



If you are interested in becoming a trained Sidewalk Counselor, you can find out more information on our website at: [www.lakecortl.org](http://www.lakecortl.org).



Our newest LCRTL trained sidewalk counselors:  
Front L-R: Luci Sadlowski, Lauri Little, Bob Longhi and Margie Hogan.  
Rear: 2nd from L: Paula Allen, Trainer. Not shown: Doug Allen, Trainer.

*Please consider a tax deductible gift to Lake County Right to Life as part of your regular giving.*

Please make checks payable to Lake County Right to Life.

*I wish to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

# Gianna Molla Pro-Life Workshop

by Barb Opperman

The Gianna Molla Respect Life Group at Our Lady of Consolation held a pro-life workshop in Vamos Hall Tuesday, June 10, from 6-9 p.m.

One of the speakers was Joe Tschida, a parishioner of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Griffith. Joe began a ministry about 1½ years ago helping young pregnant women who find themselves abandoned by their families and friends as a result of their pregnancy. He said many of them are kicked out of their homes and offered no support; they are despondent, alone and in need.

The first thing Joe does is gains their trust by listening to them. He asks them questions to assess their needs and goals. Joe commits to them for two years—to be available to them to listen and attend to their immediate needs, teach them how to do practical things for their baby, and directs them to resources for education and job opportunities so they can move forward with their lives.

Joe, a Caucasian male, at 76 years old, found himself trying to gain the trust of an African-American young woman in order to help her. While this could be an awkward situation, approaching it in prayer and faith yields fruits for both parties. One of the first tasks is getting the young woman to a safe environment. Sometimes it takes a few adjustments, but eventually things begin to improve.

Joe then shared a couple of other stories about the women he has helped.

Joe uses local resources to help these women. He encourages them to choose life. He gains their trust through his compassion and willingness to assist them. Finding a place for them to live is sometimes difficult. He strives to help them see the importance of God in their decisions.

Eventually, it becomes time to back away and allow them to move forward on their own. This is part of love—to allow a person to gain independence.

Joe's intense passion for helping these women has been their saving grace. Not only has he helped them, but he has saved the lives of their babies as well. And sometimes those babies are the source of healing for the families and friends who once rejected these women.

Joe encourages others to join him in his ministry. We need to get the word out to these women that there are people who care and resources to help them in their time of great need. He would like to see more people doing what he does. He said there is a great need for this kind of assistance.

Bethany Adoption Services offered stories and information on the topic of adoption. Their headquarters is in Indianapolis. Their website <http://www.bethany.org/> has a link to a DVD. Jessica, an open adoption birth mom, spoke. Dr. Barbara O'Block, Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Gary, shared her adoption experiences. Two other youth shared their stories of being raised as adopted children.

Jenny Ross sang a song by Barlow Girl entitled Tears Fall. The last line of the last verse profoundly reads "In the name of rights, we are filling nameless graves."

## Smart Chicks & Old Bags

by Brenda Huerter

**SAVE the DATE**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2014**

**AUCTION BEGINS AT 2:30 PM**

St. Michael Church Respect Life Ministry, in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus, will again host a tea to help finance another ultrasound machine for the State of Indiana. The tea will be held on Sunday, September 21, 2014 from 1 - 4 P.M. at 1 Wilhelm Street in Schererville. The Smart Chicks are the women who collect, clean, tag, and sell purses (Old Bags) and jewelry to aid the unborn. Tickets for the tea are \$5.00 and entitle the bearer to coffee, tea, fruit, and various cookies. Over 1,000 pieces of gently used purses and jewelry will be available. There will also be ladies' fabric and crocheted scarves plus designer men's ties. Please call either Marlene in Schererville at 219.365.5355 or Brenda in Highland at 219.838.3165 to purchase tickets in advance. Tickets will also be sold at the door. Bring a friend and enjoy the afternoon.

## In Memoriam

*I am grateful for my grandson, Nicholas Robert Ault, who was born at 18 weeks and clarified my position on life. Nicholas and God's call are the reasons I do what I do.*

*--Lynne Scherschel*

*Please call the office to find out how you can honor your loved ones in this section of our newsletter.*

# Pro-Life Youth Training Camp/Adult Summit

by Caleb Knezevich

As the plane settled through the afternoon haze, I caught a glimpse out my window of the massive skyline of Chicago. The first thing that impressed me was the size of the city, all of those people—living, breathing and dying. I wondered how many of them know the love of Christ. How many of them are missing from this city, torn from life, never seeing the waves of Lake Michigan gently lap up on the shore?

My name is Caleb Knezevich, and this past June I came to northern Indiana to celebrate life; specifically, the life of my newborn niece, Lydia Vivian Knezevich. I am from Portland, Oregon and over the last several years, my life has been on a crash course with the pro-life movement. I am currently serving as the president of Portland Community College Students for Life, a student-lead organization that seeks to promote and educate about life issues and help women in our community.

As I settled into Indiana, I was pleasantly surprised to learn that the pro-life movement was flourishing in this area. I was invited to attend Northwest Indiana's Youth Training Camp/Adult Summit. The summit dealt with a myriad of topics ranging from Planned Parenthood to using social media to spread the pro-life cause. I found the event to be engaging, insightful and well worth my time. I walked away feeling more equipped to spread the message of life on my college campus and around the nation.

It was my pleasure to find out that so many young people in Northwest Indiana care about life enough to take a beautiful summer Saturday afternoon to learn about how to defend life. In fact, one of my favorite moments was being able to share the story of how my life collided with the pro-life movement several years ago with over thirty of this next generation of pro-lifers.

I was also able to meet R.J. McVeigh, the Great Lakes Regional Coordinator for the Students for Life of America, my club's parent organization.

Soon my trip was over and I returned to Oregon. As I now sit here in my kitchen in Portland typing this article, my phone buzzes with emails and text messages from a new rising group of pro-life leaders all under the age of twenty-five that I have the privilege of guiding throughout the year. And as I direct and lead this charge in the great state of Oregon, I cannot help but smile and think of my brothers and sisters in Indiana who are valiantly standing shoulder to shoulder with me and my group protecting, advocating and dedicating our lives so the smallest and the weakest among us can have the chance to give their lives to our Lord. May we never waver. May we always love life.



# Thoughts on the National Right to Life Convention

by Elizabeth Morrison

Thank you LCRTL board for allowing Len Reynolds, Delano Scaife, and me to attend the National Right to Life (NRTL) annual convention. What an exciting opportunity to learn more, fellowship with those who are like-minded, and become recharged with zeal for the cause of LIFE! After catching a few hours of sleep Thursday morning, we were quickly plugged into the events. Each day was comprised of group sessions and small group workshops. Topics covered a range of issues including the war on women, fetal pain, abortion as a human right and the UN. Other topics investigated were the green mentality and a pro-life worldview, using social media to promote your group, and a special focus on strategic legislation tactics. The group sessions were especially instrumental in creating a sense of enthusiasm. The small group workshops were exceptionally insightful and relevant to our mission. Not only were the intellectual activities enlightening, but the group interactions were stimulating. How exciting to have a chance to sit down and discuss the topics that are relevant to us as a movement. Finally,



some of the most significant benefits of the national convention were the development of an overall atmosphere of hope, excitement, confidence, friendship, and the motivation that it promotes in the attendees. This was exceptionally evident in the special activities of the prayer breakfast with Dr. Alveda King (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s niece) and the final night's banquet, which honored individuals who have been instrumental in the fight for life. I feel so blessed to have been able to participate in this wonderful event.



# I Love a Parade!

by Brenda J. Huerter

It starts with the fire engines and goes on and on. Again, during the first week of July, LCRTL participated in the Highland and Crown Point Parades with their pro-life trailer and a team of volunteers who pass out literature, candy and balloons. Lowell will also include our trailer and team in their Labor Day Parade.



## Comments and Suggestions

If you have comments or suggestions about LCRTL, it's newsletter, website etc... you can email them to [lreynolds@lakecortl.org](mailto:lreynolds@lakecortl.org)

# Meet Me at the Fair

by Brenda J. Huerter

Lake County Right to Life was privileged to be part of Crown Point history. The 162nd Lake County Fair ran from August 1- 10. Those days were used to inform the public, both young and old, that life is precious from womb to tomb. The three tables displayed two sets of fetal models in either their nine month growth cycle or a set of soft models which displayed up to week 26. Numerous pieces of literature, fans, pencils and balloons were free. Excellent pro-life books, bracelets, pins, and bumper stickers were available for a nominal fee. Two TV monitors continuously showed speeches from the Middle School and High School Oratory Contests and LCRTL Banquet speakers Abby Johnson and Rebecca Keisling.



The highlight of the booth was the Baby Photo Contest. Each year parents or family members bring pictures of preborn to under three-year-old children with the hope of winning one of three monetary prizes. The 68 entries included one set of triplets, three sets of twins—68 individual entries for a total of 77 beautiful children on the star-studded wall. The adoring public made these choices:



- 1st Place - \$150 went to 7 week old Lydia Knezevich, entered by Peter Knezevich.
- 2nd Place - \$100 went to the 2-year-old twins Addison & Allison, entered by Christina Gray.
- 3rd Place - \$50 went to 1-year-old Mason Kasparian, entered by Nicole Kasparian.



Thank you to all the families who entered this FUNd-raising event. LCRTL was pleased to receive two pages of volunteers who will be invited to work on future events. Please check this newsletter for the dates and locations.

# Pro-Life Youth Training Camp/Adult Summit 2014

by Daniel Morrison

I had never been to a Summit before, but after attending this year's event, I would strongly urge you to come to next year's summit to learn more of the pro-life movement. During the Summit, I learned more about the pro-life movement in one day than in almost the entire time I have volunteered for LCRTL.

The Right to Life Summit was an amazing opportunity to learn of the current issues and legislation facing Hoosier and American pro-lifers. In the morning, we started off with a word of prayer. Micah Clarke, CEO of American Family Association of Indiana, reminded us that we should have the mind set that prayer is not a last resort, but should be a base on which we should stand continually. Throughout the summit, the main idea was that if you wish to help and volunteer, you can make a difference. Instead of just sitting by and complaining about your situation and the laws of which you disagree, you can contact your local, county, state, and even federal representatives.

The Adult Summit heard from several speakers including Micah Clarke on Legislation and The History of Planned Parenthood; and Ryan McCann, of Indiana Family Institute, on Social Media and Getting the Pro-Life Message out to the Public.

The call to action was to stay committed to the cause of right to life and to write or call your representative to express your opinions. When people get involved with their government, that government will become more like those people who are involved.

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## 40 Days for Life

by Barb Opperman

**Abortion is the leading cause of death in the world, ending more lives than cardiovascular disease, cancer, AIDS, war, hunger ... or any other cause.\***

It is now time to mark your calendar for the 2014 fall campaign of **40 Days for Life**. The campaign will run from **Wednesday, September 24 — Sunday, November 2** at Planned Parenthood, 8645 Connecticut Street, Merrillville. Our Lady of Consolation, 8303 Taft Street, Merrillville will host a **kick-off** in Vamos Hall on **Tuesday, September 23 at 6:00 p.m.**

There will be a **Jericho March on October 18, 2014**. The Knights of Columbus will lead the Jericho March, which circles Planned Parenthood property seven times in confident hope of a victory for life. Our peaceful and prayerful presence at the clinic is a powerful source of grace that saves the lives of many preborn babies and enhances the lives of those who, in their difficult situations, choose life.

**40 Days for Life** was the prolife response to the legalization of abortion in 1973 via Roe v Wade. The diligent work of all those involved over the 41 years is now reaping a fruitful harvest of closed abortion clinics and many hearts converted to the cause of the sanctity of life. **By the grace of God, 40 Days for Life has achieved a stunning track record of results since launching as a worldwide movement in 2007: 8,973 lives saved, 101 abortion workers quit, 56 abortion centers closed, 625,000 volunteers, 3,039 local campaigns, 539 cities, 24 nations.** We must continue to pray to end abortion. As their new ad campaign states, **40 Days for Life is the beginning of the end of abortion.**

\*Based on data from the World Health Organization and the Guttmacher Institute

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## Klopfers Ordered to STOP!

by Lynn Scherschel

**Due to the fact that George Klopfers, the abortionist at Friendship Family Planning in Gary, did not provide the Indiana State Department of Health the identity of his back-up physician in Northwest Indiana, he has been ordered to cease doing abortions in Gary as of July 1. Enacted Senate Bill 292 requires that abortionists provide the name of the hospital where they have admitting privileges or the name of their back-up doctor to the ISDH by July 1, 2014. Klopfers, as you may recall, lost his back up in Fort Wayne as of January 1, 2014, so he is now doing abortions only in South Bend, where he is sending women from Gary and Fort Wayne. As well, he is facing trial in Lake and Saint Joseph counties for failure to report abortions on thirteen year-old girls. As I've said before, the snowball is rolling. It is growing, and it is picking up speed!**

# Human Trafficking Is Here!

by Len Reynolds

"What a beautiful day!" exclaimed Joanie, the always rambunctious, bubbly 8-year-old, to her mother. "Can we get a smoothie after shopping, Mommy?" "We'll see," replied JoAnne, the always prim and proper mother who wants to be sure we are deserving of our treats.

After two hours of mall fun, Joanie exclaimed, "Thank you for the new shoes; they are so awesome looking!" "At least we know these (awesome looking shoes) fit; not like the last pair," replied her mother.

As the electronic door locks pop open, Joanie enters the front passenger seat of their minivan. As her mother approaches the rear hatch to place the newly purchased items into the cargo area, Joanie asks, "Mommy, can we please go to Frost Top and get a smoothie now?"

"...Mommy...Mommy...Mommy?"

In six seconds time, JoAnne was gagged, knocked out and quickly forced into a fast moving cargo van and on her way to Belize.

Human Trafficking is here in Northwest Indiana. It has been told to me recently that the human traffickers in every local area know where the runaways go and in 14 minutes, the traffickers have them locked up and secured and on their way to their new careers either as a slave or in prostitution.

This is no joke, ladies and gentlemen. It is happening right here in Northwest Indiana.

Pastor, can you help me? High School Principal, can you help me? How about you Mr. or Ms. Elected Official, maybe you can help me. Help me by learning exactly how and where human trafficking is affecting Northwest Indiana, and what the general public needs to know to identify it and stop it in its tracks, here and now. Learn by attending the:

### Human Trafficking "A Reality" Brunch

Thursday October 9, 2014, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Vamos Hall directly behind Our Lady of Consolation Church

8303 Taft Street, Merrillville

PLEASE REGISTER no later than Friday October 3, 2014

**EVERYONE MUST REGISTER**

(219)838-1138 or office@lakecortl.org

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## Great Day to Celebrate Labor in The Lowell Labor Day Parade

by Len Reynolds

The day began with a gloomy sky, gray overtones and what appeared to be some rain clouds covered the entire sky. Well, a quick and fervent prayer by our Vice President took care of the gray clouds and replaced them with white



clouds and a blue sky just as the sirens and whistles began to blow. The path was long, the temperature was perfect, and the spectators were out in the masses. After greeting many friends, and about 600 balloons, and several hundred flyers later, the eighteen foot Celebrate Life trailer parked its wheels outside while its heroic volunteers rested their feet under a nice sturdy table at The Ranchito and consumed some excellent Hispanic cuisine. Always a great parade when the pro-life family is there.



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## ROSES FOR LIFE! October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>

Roses are a symbol of love in our culture. Show someone you love them and life--support our Roses for Life Sale. On Saturday and Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, you'll find Lake County Right to Life selling roses at some of the local grocery stores.