

Life is...Christmas.

Life is precious. Choose life.



L. F. E. TIME

Life is for Everyone

December 2018

Volume 21, Number 12



Christmas Party!

Thursday, December 6th

Sisters of the Presentation Cafeteria

(2360 Carter Road, Dubuque — Please enter through the main doors (under the awning)
and you will be directed toward the cafeteria)

7:00pm – 9:00pm

Please join us for this year's DCRTL Christmas Party! We will have an ornament making station, a bake sale, and appetizers/snacks for you! If you've been involved in ANY way this year, this party is for YOU! This will be so much fun, you won't want to miss it!

Ornament Making: Arrive feeling creative, because everyone will have the opportunity to make an ornament to take home with them! Add a reminder of the gift of *LIFE* to your tree this year. Make sure to bring your children and grandchildren so they can enjoy it as well!

Bake Sale: This year, instead of having to bring baked goods to the party, we are bringing them to you! Some students who are attending the National March for Life with DCRTL are joining us at the Christmas Party with a bunch of baked goods to sell! All sales and donations from the bake sale will go directly to these students to help them pay for the March for Life trip. It costs each student \$400 to attend this pilgrimage. We hope that you can attend the party for these students. They are our future in the pro-life movement. Please support them.

Finger food/snacks/appetizers: All of these goodies will be provided by your board of directors to enjoy during the party.

We hope that you can attend our annual Christmas Party! Whether it would be your first time or your 30th time attending, please join us!



Our Wish List!

- * *Scholarship monies for the March for Life*
- * *A volunteer to clean the gutters*
- * *A volunteer to trim a tree*
- * *Bottled water*
- * *Postage stamps (the US Postal Service has scheduled a 10% rate hike effective January 1— please consider donating stamps before they increase in price!)*

December 2018

Volume 21, Number 12
Published Monthly

December

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Office Hours:

Monday - Friday:
9 am—4 pm
Weekends: Closed

Dyersville Office:

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Dyersville, Iowa 52040
(563) 875-9152

Dubuque County Right to Life, Inc. is a non-profit, non-sectarian, education organization dedicated to preserving and fostering respect for human life from conception to natural death. We educate the public about the dangers of abortion, euthanasia and infanticide.

December	
Thursday, 6 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Christmas Party! Sisters of the Presentation Cafeteria, 7-9pm ◦ Final Day of the Roshek Holiday Silent Auction Fundraiser
Friday, 7 th	Final Day to Order Butter Braids
Saturday, 8 th	National Night of Prayer for Life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Basilica of St. Francis Xavier in Dyersville, 6pm-9pm ◦ St. Columbkille Parish in Dubuque, 5:30pm-8:30pm
Thursday, 20 th	Board of Director's Meeting
Friday, 21 st	◦ Delivery of Butter Braids
Tuesday, 25 th	<i>Merry Christmas!</i>
January <i>Happy New Year!</i>	
Saturday, 12 th	DCRTL Walk for Life, Washington Park in Dubuque, 10:30am
Wed., 16 th - Sun. 20 th	National March for Life, Washington D.C.
Sunday, 19 th	March for Life Chicago
Thursday, 24 th	Board of Director's Meeting



Roshek Holiday Silent Auction Fundraiser



A friendly reminder that the last day to bid on the stunning bench & wreath is Thursday, December 6th (bidding closes at 6:30pm)!

The bench is made from 100 year old reclaimed yellow pine lumber from barn rafters. You'll want to see it in person to appreciate all of the detail put into this bench – absolutely gorgeous. All proceeds from these items go directly to our organization.

To bid, either stop at the Roshek Building and sign the clipboard next to the item, or bid online at <https://www.accelevents.com/events/roshekbldg>.

A HUGE thank you to Ken & Dawn Leppert for building this custom bench for us, decorating it, and even including a handmade wreath! Such a blessing you are to our organization!



A Note From Ashley Stackis, Executive Director



Happy December! Not sure where the last two months have gone! Yikes!

I'm so excited that I finally get to tell you about Pro-Life Awareness (PLA) Week - it was AMAZING! At the different area schools, our speaker, Georgette, told her abortion testimony. A generous student, Brooklynn Moore from Marquette Catholic High School, video recorded it for us if anyone is interested I can email you Georgette's talk.

So two weeks after PLA Week I was given the Bellevue Newspaper from one of our members – I looked inside to find a lovely article in *The Marquette Medium* titled “Choose Life” by Halle Kilburg. I want to share her wonderful article with you:

“Throughout American history, there have been many laws and social norms that the vast majority of the U.S. today is not proud of. When reading textbooks, it seems almost unfathomable that for a period of time, it was legally seen as humane to own slaves. It was only natural not to let women vote or own land. Blacks and whites could never drink from the same drinking fountain or go to the same schools, it was just wrong.

As we look back on history now, it seems so morally wrong that we wonder how on earth it could be the common belief that these things were right, just, and allowed legally. Had it not been for courageous individuals, America may have never changed. Former slave Frederick Douglass escaped, and Harriet Tubman established the Underground Railroad. Susan B. Anthony worked tirelessly to earn women the right to vote and have a voice. Martin Luther King Jr. dedicated his life to the civil rights movement, and even gave his life for it. If history tells us anything, it is that in order for any injustice to end, someone (most frequently the oppressed), speaks up.

Maybe the reason that abortion is still legal today is the fact that those being murdered do not have a voice, or even fully developed limbs for that matter. They have no way of fighting back against the oppressors. The 125,000 innocent babies who are murdered each day have no way to defend themselves. We must defend them. If reading this article took one minute, approximately 87 babies were killed from the time the first sentence was read until now. Pray for change. March for change. Be the voice for change. We have the power to work for change so that one day, students will read in their history books that abortion was once legal, and they will not be able to fathom how people let this happen. Make abortion just that: history.”

I hope you're just as motivated as I was when I finished reading her article for the first time – great job Halle!! It was so reassuring to see such a beautifully well-written article from a student who heard Georgette's talk. This tells me that we are making a difference, we are raising awareness for the respect for life, and hopefully minds are changing towards abortion. Thank you to everyone who donates to our organization so we can make this possible every year. Over 1,200 students heard her testimony. Our mission is to educate – and we're doing just that!



Yours in the service of LIFE,

Ash

5th Grade Poster Contest Winners!

During Respect Life Month, nine area schools participated in our 5th grade poster contest! That means hundreds of 5th graders! The theme this year was “Life is...Family”. The posters were fantastic, all of the students did such a great job! Judging definitely wasn’t easy – I’m glad we had some volunteers to help with that part of it! We could tell it brought awareness of a greater respect for all human life to the students as many of the messages they were able to depict were powerful. Stop by the office to check out the posters!

We had an overall 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, as well as a top winner per school:

- **First Place:** Etta Lukes, Seton Catholic School (Peosta)
- **Second Place:** Sophia Miller, Aquin Catholic School (Cascade)
- **Third Place:** Valerie Rahe, St. Francis Xavier School (Dyersville)
- Dubuque Lutheran School (Dubuque) – Marcie Petersen
- La Salle Catholic School (Holy Cross) – Lily Cook
- Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dubuque) – Olivia Palm
- St. Anthony Catholic School (Dubuque) – Phoebe O’Neill
- St. Mary Catholic School (East Dubuque) – Sammie Soat
- Tri-State Christian School (Dubuque) – Emma Hilborn & Ellyse Fuerst

A big thank you to all the students who participated and especially to the parents and teachers who helped encourage the students in this endeavor. It’s such a fun and creative way to build awareness of the sanctity of all human life.

PS – keep an eye out for the middle/high school essay/poster/poem winners in January’s newsletter!

Etta Lukes
Seton



Sophia Miller
Aquin



Valerie Rahe
St. Francis Xavier



Butter Braids!



A friendly reminder that the final day to order Butter Braids (yum!) is Friday, December 7th!

These pastries are perfect to have on hand for a quick treat or of course breakfast during the busy holiday season. What's your favorite flavor? **Apple**, **blueberry cream cheese**, **caramel rolls**, **cherry**, **cinnamon**, **cream cheese**, **raspberry**, **strawberry cream cheese**? Whichever one you choose, we promise you'll be satisfied! They're scrumptious!

To order your Butter Braids today, contact a Mazzuchelli student if you know one (they are selling Butter Braids to help cover the cost of their March for Life trip), or contact the DCRTL office at 563.556.5960.



Keep Christ in Christmas Car Magnets

We have thirteen *Keep Christ In Christmas* magnets at our office – if you would like one please stop on by!

(Suggested donation of \$2.00)

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!



Dubuque County Right to Life awards up to \$10,000 worth of scholarships to graduating high school seniors who plan to attend college. A written speech, log of service hours, and a recommendation letter are required. Please go to www.dcrtl.org/scholarships for more information and to apply. Deadline is Friday, March 29, 2019. Finalists must be available to participate in a speech presentation at the DCRTL office on the morning of Saturday, April 20, 2019. Contact Ashley Stackis for more information at 563.556.5960.



Heading South for the Winter?

Please contact Erica at the DCRTL office with the dates during which you will be gone. You may choose to have us discontinue the monthly newsletters or have them sent to your winter mailing address. We can also make sure you receive it via email! Please let us know what you prefer.

Office Phone #: 563.556.5960

Erica's Email: reception@dcrtl.org



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"If people spent an hour a week in Eucharistic Adoration, abortion would be ended."

Mother Teresa of Calcutta
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Nowhere on earth are we more welcomed or loved than by Jesus in the Eucharist.



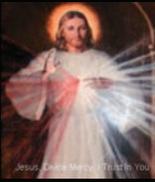
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SALVATION ARMY

Perhaps the most surprising group holding to immoral ideologies is the Salvation Army. Most of us are aware of the good work done by the Salvation Army, but few people are aware that they promote contraception and approve of abortion in cases of rape, incest, health of the mother and fetal deformity. The Salvation Army's International Headquarters states their position clearly:

The Salvation Army believes that termination can occur only when

Carrying the pregnancy further seriously threatens the life of the mother; or

Reliable diagnostic procedures have identified a fetal abnormality considered incompatible with survival for more than a very brief post natal period.

In addition, rape and incest are brutal acts of dominance violating women physically and emotionally. This situation represents a special case for the consideration of termination as the violation may be compounded by the continuation of the pregnancy.

DCRTL believes that all life is sacred, no matter the circumstances of conception nor the “judged” quality of life after birth. Should an innocent child be handed capital punishment for the crime of his father? Or should a child's life be cut short because she may have a disability?

This Christmas season, please consider dropping a note in the kettle (example below) rather than giving money to the Salvation Army.



Dear Salvation Army,

According to your International Headquarters, the Salvation Army approves of abortion in cases of rape, incest, health of the mother, and fetal deformity. As a “no exceptions” pro-lifer, I can't, in good conscience, contribute to your kettle. If your position were different, I would most certainly donate to your cause.

Please reconsider your position.

National Night of Prayer for Life

Saturday, December 8, 2018 will be the National Night of Prayer for Life on the celebration of the Immaculate Conception.

This year our Night of Prayer for Life will be held in both Dubuque and Dyersville:

- **St. Columbkille Catholic Church, Dubuque**
 - 4:15pm Mass
 - 5:30pm - 8:30pm – Night of Prayer
 - 5:15pm – Prelude Music
 - 5:30pm – Gathering Song
 - Welcome
 - Penitential: Chaplet of Divine Mercy
 - Exposition and Incensing of the Blessed Sacrament
 - 1st Reading
 - Responsorial Song
 - 2nd Reading
 - Gospel Reading
 - Homily
 - Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel
 - 6:30pm – Intercessory Prayer - Petitions followed by the Holy Rosary
 - 7:30pm – Hour of Silent Adoration
 - 8:20pm – Benediction
 - 8:30pm – Dismissal
- **Basilica of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Dyersville**
 - 5:00pm Mass
 - 6:00pm - 9:00pm Night of Prayer

It was on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception that Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas and the Unborn, first appeared to St. Juan Diego. The National Night of Prayer for Life bridges these feasts. It honors Mary and prays for her assistance in establishing a Culture of Life, to preserve liberty, to protect the faith and to beg her Son to revive our land. We will be united in churches across the country in prayer to end abortion and to restore God's blessings of Life, Liberty and Faith in America.

The National Night of Prayer for Life is a prayer service consisting of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the holy Rosary, silent prayer and hymns.

Please join us for a few hours, for one hour, or for even just a few minutes. Whatever your schedule allows! People of all faith traditions are invited and encouraged to participate!

Join us in changing hearts and
saving lives through our
constant educational efforts!
Please consider making a life
changing, end of year donation.
Thank you for your support!



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Your New Board of Directors!

Congratulations to your new members of the board of directors: Becky McGrane, Katie McGuire, Colleen Myers, and Martha Schmid! We are so excited and fortunate to have such a delightful group of pro-life advocates joining our efforts.

A very big THANK YOU to our retiring board members: Marian Bourek, Joyce Honkamp, and Ellen Markham. Thank you for your service to the board – you all contributed much wisdom and enthusiasm! If you get a chance, please thank them for their commitment to DCRTL and the pro-life mission. I have a feeling we will continue to see these wonderful ladies around quite a bit. 😊

Quick Fact...

In the three states where voters had the opportunity to directly decide Life issues, Alabamans and West Virginians did – giving the green light on two ballot initiatives that will officially spell it out in both state constitutions that abortion is not a fundamental right. Great job!

Presidential Proclamation on National Adoption Month, 2018

Issued on: October 31, 2018



During National Adoption Month, we recognize the immeasurable love and support that adoptive parents and families provide to hundreds of thousands of children each year. We celebrate the life-changing act of adoption, bring attention to the millions of Americans who are eager to adopt, and express our gratitude to the families who have welcomed children into their lives and homes. My Administration also acknowledges the courage of those mothers and fathers who place their child for adoption. Our Nation grows stronger because of the love and sacrifice of parents, both birth and adoptive.

Adoption is a blessing for all involved. It provides needed relief to birth parents, who may not, for whatever reason, be in a position to raise a child. It fosters loving homes for children. It enables individuals to grow their families and share their love. And it fosters strong families, which are integral to ensuring strong communities and a resilient country. To secure the benefits of adoption, we must continue to assist families who are willing to adopt children in need of a permanent home and support the adoptive families already formed. We must also encourage all Americans to recognize that adoption is a powerful way to show women they are not alone in an unexpected pregnancy.

My Administration is dedicated to supporting the children in foster care who are seeking permanent homes. Unfortunately, many youth leave foster care at the age of 18 without lasting family connections. These children deserve a permanent family, which can provide them with love, stability, support, and encouragement as they pursue personal, educational, and employment goals and confront life's opportunities and challenges.

Adoption affirms the inherent value of human life and signals that every child - born or unborn - is wanted and loved. Children, regardless of race, sex, age, or disability, deserve a loving embrace into families they can call their own. This month, we honor the thousands of American families who have grown because of adoption. We also stand with those children in foster care, and we appeal to families, communities, and houses of worship across our great Nation to help these children find a permanent home.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2018 as National Adoption Month. I encourage all Americans to observe this month by helping children in need of a permanent home secure a more promising future with a forever family, so they may enter adulthood with the love and support we all deserve.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-third.

DONALD J. TRUMP

Guest Article

I Lost My Husband to Cancer

By **Kristen Hanson**, *Community Relations Advocate*, Patients' Rights Action Fund

On Dec. 30, as snowflakes fell outside his window, my husband and the love of my life, J.J. Hanson, took his last breath. He was 36 years old. I was with him, holding our two young sons in my arms. We had known the day would come — J.J. had been living with terminal brain cancer for three and a half years. But that was more than three years longer than his doctors had expected.

Learning that you or a loved one has a terminal illness is devastating and scary. In our case it was also a shock. J.J. was a Marine Corps veteran of Iraq and a new father, and he had a job he loved. We were living the American dream and thought we had a long future ahead of us, until we learned J.J. had stage 4 glioblastoma multiforme, one of the most aggressive and deadliest forms of brain cancer. Living through that kind of illness day-to-day is a constant struggle that requires immense courage and great strength. J.J. had both. Even then, he — like many people who receive terminal prognoses — went through dark periods of depression.

Struggling against despair

Our struggle was taking place about the same time Brittany Maynard's story made headlines across the country. Maynard suffered from the same cancer as J.J. and was roughly the same age, but she famously decided to end her own life through assisted suicide in Oregon and to advocate its legalization in her home state of California.

I didn't know it then, but J.J. later admitted that during his illness, he sometimes felt such despair that he may have taken a lethal prescription had it been legal in New York, where we lived, and if he had it in his nightstand during his darkest days. He was tempted to believe that ending his life would relieve the burden on his caretakers and allow him to bypass the experience of illness-induced disability that the disease would otherwise cause.

Many people who consider or go through with assisted suicide have similar fears. Data from Oregon — where assisted suicide first became legal — show the main end-of-life concerns that people considering assisted suicide report relate to existential suffering, such as becoming burdensome to caretakers and facing disability. In fact, "inadequate pain control" or concern of physical pain isn't even in the top five reported reasons.

There's no telling what would have happened to J.J. and our family if lethal pills were available to him during that dark period. What we do know is that, as J.J. said, the support and hope of loved ones carried him past that difficult time and toward a different conclusion than the one Maynard reached.

Enduring in hope

Hope inspired us to try standard and experimental treatments to combat J.J.'s cancer. Those treatments extended his life beyond the initial four-month prognosis to three and a half years. If we had relied on the initial prognosis, given in to the depression and given up on hope, we would have missed out on so very much. Our oldest son, James, would never have gotten to know his father; our youngest son, Lucas, would never have been born.

Getting through his darkest moments and the temptation to despair made J.J. realize that assisted suicide presents a very real risk for terminally ill patients like him. J.J. and I resolved to fight efforts to legalize assisted suicide, laws that prey on terminally ill patients when they are most vulnerable. Assisted suicide is legal in six states and Washington, D.C. This is a tragedy, and one we can prevent.

J.J. served as president of the Patients Rights Action Fund, an organization that works on behalf of patients to oppose legalizing assisted suicide. We dedicated the last years of J.J.'s life to this because we recognized the "assisted suicide" movement for what it is: a well-funded rebranding of euthanasia offering nothing but a message of hopelessness.

If our experience taught us anything, it is to hold on to hope for yourself and for others around you, especially in the face of life-threatening illness. You could be improving their lives, as well as your own.

Special Thanks

- To all of the Life Saver Sunday volunteers!
- Cascade Area Right to Life for your donation to help host Georgette Forney during Pro-Life Awareness Week!
- Addoco Inc. for the large donation of mulch to our office!
- Marquette High School students for laying down mulch at our office for your Make A Difference Day! You did a beautiful job!
- Ramona Thomas for the donation of postage stamps!
- To everyone who donated to our organization through Birdies for Charity; a total of \$921.21 was donated! THANK YOU!
- Al Schroeder for installing new computer monitors for us!
- To those who donated to our organization for #GivingTuesday!

Memorials & Honorariums

In Memory Of:

- Marilyn Jacobs, given by Dan & Barb Nicholson
- Gracie Kane, given by Charles & Lela McCormick
- Robert Lueken, given by Dick & Jean Mescher, and Charles & Ann Recker
- Leo Schuster, given by Ramona Thomas
- Beverly Stierman, given by Jim & Kathy Conlon
- David Their, given by Catholic Daughters of America Presentation Court 1460

In Honor Of:

- Lynn Frank's Birthday, given by Dick & Jean Mescher
- Beth Gallagher's Birthday, given by Dick & Jean Mescher
- Jill Hartkop's Birthday, given by Dick & Jean Mescher

When a gift is given in memory or in honor of a loved one, an acknowledgement card is sent to the person or family you designate. With gifts of \$250 or greater, their name is engraved on our memorial plaque which is displayed in our office. Simply send us, along with your gift, the name of the person you are honoring and the name and address of the family to whom you'd like the acknowledgement sent. We'll be happy to send out cards.



Every human being, no matter their physical condition, has an inherent **DIGNITY**. Once we believe it is our place to aid in the premature end to another's life, we've **FORGOTTEN** that very dignity.

REBECCA MERCK, RN
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MEDICAL CENTER



Memorial Christmas Tree

This year we are starting a new tradition to remember those whom we've lost over the years. A loved one, a friend, a lost child through miscarriage or abortion. . . .

We will have a beautiful Memorial Christmas Tree displayed in the front of our office, decorated with handmade angel feather ornaments, each one in remembrance of someone special.



If you would like for us to display an ornament to remember that someone this Christmas season, please fill out the below form and mail to DCRIL, (2205 Carter Rd., Dubuque, IA 52001) and if you're able, to include a \$5 donation to cover the cost of the materials.



In Memory Of: _____

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

I/We would like this to remain anonymous.

<p>BEHR'S Funeral Home 1491 MAINS T ~ (563) 582-3297 ~ www.behrfuneralhome.com ~ <i>Honoring the Sanctity of Life</i> Since 1936 Kathleen (Behr) Conlon ~ Kevin & Nancy Conlon Jason Schumacher</p>	<p>Ruhl & Ruhl Harry Blewett REALTORS (563) 542-1904 600 Star Brewery Dr., Ste 300 Dubuque, IA 52001 Office 563.583.4550 www.RuhlHomes.com</p> 	<p>MOTHERS PRAYERS United in prayer we save our children To join or start a group contact: usa@mothersprayers.org LIZ CUSHMAN USA Coordinator</p> 
<p>St. Anthony Catholic Church 870 St. Ambrose St. Dubuque, IA 563-588-0571 www.stanthony-dubuque.org</p>  <p>Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Jer. 1:5</p>	<p>Beckman Catholic High School Dyersville, Iowa</p>  <p>"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you..." Jeremiah 1:5</p>	<p>FloorShow FURNITURE & FLOORING Proudly supporting LIFE! 1475 Associates Dr., Dubuque 563-557-9952</p>
<p>MARY'S INN MATERNITY HOME (563) 552-6288 Email: director@marysinnmaternityhome.org Website: www.marysinnmaternityhome.org</p> 	<p>Jim Giese Commercial Roofing Inc. The area's most recognized commercial roofer.</p> 	<p>Pat & Jerry Cullen Proud parents of 13</p>



2205 Carter Road
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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Stay Active & Stay Informed with DCRTL Happenings Emails

Maybe once or twice a week, we send out a DCRTL event reminder or an important pro-life news item via email. It is a great way to stay informed of local happenings and legislative activities as well as headline news. Would you like to be added to our DCRTL Happenings Email list? Just call our office at 563-556-5960 or email us at dctrl@dctrl.org to get added to the list!