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Dubuque County
Right To Life, Inc.
www.dcrtl.com

L. F. E. TIME

Life is for Everyone

November 2020

Volume 23, Number 11

Respect Life Month Event Pictures:



Cemetery of the Innocence at Divine Word College, Dubuque Community Church, & Sacred Heart Church in Fillmore



40 Days for Life Prayer Vigils



DCRTL Booth at the Rosary Rally.



Life Chain in Dubuque & Dyersville

November 2020

Volume 23, Number 11
Published Monthly



Office Personnel:

Ashley Stackis
Executive Director
Julia Schulfer
Executive Assistant

Board of Directors:

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Jessica Pennington
Martha Schmid

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Office Hours:

Mon.—Fri.: 9am—4pm
Weekends: Closed

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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.



November: National Adoption Month

Sunday, 1 st	40 Days for Life Vigil Ends
Thursday, 5 th	Board of Director Elections
Thursday, 19 th	Board of Director's Meeting
Saturday, 21 st	National Adoption Day
Thursday, 26 th	Happy Thanksgiving! (DCRTL Closed) 
Friday, 27 th	DCRTL Office Closed

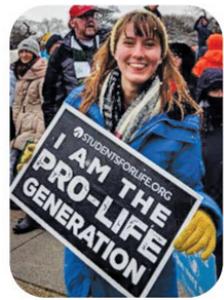
December

Tuesday, 1 st	#GivingTuesday
Friday, 4 th	Final day to order Butter Braids
Tuesday, 8 th	National Night of Prayer for Life, Basilica of St. Francis Xavier, Dyersville, and Church of the Nativity, Dubuque, from 6-9pm
Thursday, 17 th	Board of Director's Meeting
Friday, 18 th	Butter Braid pick-up: DCRTL, 1:30pm-4pm
Thursday, 24 th	Christmas Eve (DCRTL Closed)
Friday, 25 th	Merry Christmas! (DCRTL Closed) 

Maybe once or twice a week, we send out a DCRTL event reminder via email. It is a great way to stay informed of local happenings. Would you like to be added to our DCRTL Happenings Email list? Just call our office at 563-556-5960 or email us at dcrtl@dcrtl.org to get added!

Welcome, Julia!

We want to give a special welcome to DCRTL'S new Executive Assistant, Julia Schulfer! Julia graduated from the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse in May 2020, majoring in archaeology with a writing emphasis and minoring in legal studies. She currently lives in Platteville, Wisconsin with her husband, Jacob. Julia is thrilled to be joining the DCRTL team. She has been passionate about pro-life issues since she was a young girl. While in college, she helped to start a successful pro-life group on campus and proceeded to spend one year as president. As president, she helped to design and lead apologetics training, host campus wide displays and events, bring in guest speakers, and organize volunteer opportunities. Julia cannot wait to dive in and help DCRTL fight for the most vulnerable among us.





A Note From Ashley Stackis, Executive Director

What an eventful month! With the current COVID-19 situation we've had to pivot many of our events and educational efforts, forcing us to think outside of the box, which at times can honestly be a little difficult. But, luckily it has proven to be very fruitful! New initiatives include the "Thinking of You" Nursing Home Card Program and the educational Pro-Life Bike Ride. Expanded initiatives include an extra pilgrimage to pray for the 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigils. If you ever have any creative ideas by which DCRTL can educate and/or advocate, we'd love to hear about them! Please reach out!

I was specifically in awe by the success of the "Thinking of You" Nursing Home Card Program that we hosted. Our goal was to get 60 cards for nursing home residents, but thanks to you we received 249!!! We expanded our blessings to several nursing homes in Dubuque, Bellevue, Cascade, and Dyersville! This will certainly be a program we'd love to do again in the future. When calling nursing homes to propose this fun idea, I received such a large thanks from one of the staff. She expressed that when the

COVID-19 situation began, they were beyond excited to receive so many cards that all of their residents were getting a card nearly every single day for a full month! But unfortunately after that, the cards seized. The residents have been going through such a difficult time of loneliness that she was so grateful for the thoughtful cards and how meaningful they are, especially now. I was personally afraid that we had waited too long to execute this program, but her response was a friendly reminder that God is in control and His plan is always better than mine! Thank you so much to those who participated in this initiative!

Another very special 'thank you' to all of our prayer warriors. We had a large group of 16 individuals show up in front of the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood to pray, and because we were there they locked their doors and left! Planned Parenthood's no-show rate reaches up to 75% when people are outside praying... and they know it!

Yours in the service of LIFE,
Ashley



L.I.F.E.
Life Is... For Everyone

Our goal for the 2020 L.I.F.E. Dinner fundraising mailer was \$100,000, which would sustain DCRTL for the coming year. **As of October 15, 2020 we have raised \$76,169.** If you haven't sent in your donation yet, we would be incredibly grateful for your financial support, especially during this unprecedented time. Our mission to educate is only accomplished thanks to your generosity, support, and prayers. You are each vital members of our organization and a light in helping to spread the culture of life in our community. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for your support!



DCRTL is governed by a board of directors, consisting of 9-12 persons who want to change hearts and save lives. They are nominated and elected for staggered three-year terms by you, the members of DCRTL. Our nominating committee presents to you the below slate of 4 candidates to fill 5 available spots on the board of directors. Due to COVID-19 we are not having in-person membership events at the office and therefore will not have an in-person vote. Rather, we are hosting the election by receiving votes via phone call. **All DCRTL members are eligible to vote, but must do so by calling the DCRTL office between 9am-4pm on Thursday, November 5th.** Thank you for helping to elect the newest members of the board of directors!

- **Laura Dolehide:** Laura Dolehide is a work at home wife to Jack, mother of 9, grandmother of 8 and small business owner. As a past board member for 8 years she is honored to have the chance to actively serve on the DCRTL board again. She brings 36+ years of constant study and involvement in life issues. Laura is an active member of St. Columbkille Catholic Church and 1st co-recipient of the Mary's Inn Women of Hope Award for housing pregnant women in need.
- **Jessica Pennington:** Jessica Pennington grew up in Cedar Rapids. She is a graduate of Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia, with a B.A. in History. After graduating, she returned to Iowa to marry her high school sweetheart, Michael. Michael's job was in Dubuque, so the couple made their home here in 2012. Currently, she stays home with their rambunctious 5 kids: 6, 5, 3, 2, and 3 months. This year, she is trying her luck at homeschooling their daughter who is a 1st grader. They are active members of St. Columbkille Church. She loves spending time outside with her family. In her very limited free time she likes to read, crochet, bake, cook, and have adult conversations with friends. When her children are grown, Mike and her hope to see all 50 states and travel abroad. Standing up for life has been a vital part of Jessica's life. Her parents taught her the need to respect life in all its stages by their example and hard work. She hopes to instill the same upon her children with her dedication at DCRTL.
- **Cassie Schetgen:** Cassie Schetgen was born and raised in Peosta, Iowa. She attended Loras College, where she obtained Bachelor of Arts degrees in religious studies and music. Cassie is employed by Holy Spirit Parish in Dubuque, where she serves as the Coordinator of Faith Formation. She also teaches piano to several students in the Dubuque area. Cassie is married to Brandon, and they have two daughters, Felicity and Lucy. Cassie's family instilled in her from a young age the importance of standing up for life. She has attended the March for Life numerous times, prayerfully protested outside of Planned Parenthood, helped out at retreats for persons with disabilities, written about the dignity of human life, and served on the DCRTL Board since 2015.
- **Martha Schmid:** Martha Schmid has volunteered in the Dubuque County Right to Life, Inc. office off and on for many years, organizing the March for Life pilgrimage for 8th graders in the area for over ten years. She retired from that rewarding role in 2017. She has missed being with pro-lifers, as they are a great group of people! She hopes to be able to contribute to the success of the mission of DCRTL by spending her energies promoting the cause in any way needed.



NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

Saturday, November 21

National Adoption Day is a collective effort to raise awareness of the more than 123,000 children waiting to be adopted from foster care in the United States. A coalition of national partners — the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, Alliance for Children’s Rights and Children’s Action Network — founded National Adoption Day. On November 18, 2000, the coalition and the Freddie Mac Foundation encouraged seven cities to open their courts on or around the Saturday before Thanksgiving to finalize and celebrate adoptions from foster care. The first National Adoption Day was inspired by the innovative efforts of Michael Nash, a former presiding judge of Los Angeles County’s Juvenile Court. He opened the court on Saturdays, engaged the volunteer efforts of court personnel and finalized adoptions to reduce the backlog of one of the busiest courts in the nation.

ATTENTION FAMILIES!

Typically we host a Thanksgiving Craft & Treat Day at the DCRTL office every year. Due to COVID-19 we won’t be hosting the event in our office, but would still love to provide packets for families to pick up to enjoy at home!



Each packet will include:

- A coloring sheet
- An activity sheet
- ‘Tree of Thanks’ craft kit
- A yummy treat



Swing on by any time Monday-Friday from 9am-4pm to pick up a packet for each of your children to enjoy!

Happy Thanksgiving!

In this time of gratitude, we give thanks for you! From subscribing to our newsletter, to volunteering in our office, to making a donation, we sincerely value your continued support. Without members like you we could not continue in our efforts to grow and foster a culture of life. We would like to especially thank those attending DCRTL events. We

understand how busy life is, so we greatly appreciate you sharing your time with us either raising awareness of the respect for life, praying for the respect for life, enjoying educational content we provide, etc. **Wishing you all a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving, from your friends at Dubuque County Right to Life, Inc.!**



#GIVING TUESDAY

Tuesday, December 1st

- ◆ #GivingTuesday is a global giving movement that has been built by individuals, families, organizations, businesses and communities in countries around the world. Millions of people have come together to support and champion the causes they believe in and the communities in which they live.
- ◆ We have two days for getting deals – Black Friday and Cyber Monday. On #GivingTuesday, we have a day for giving back. Together, people are creating a new ritual for our annual calendar. #GivingTuesday is the opening day of the giving season.
- ◆ Every act of generosity counts, and each means even more when we give together. Everyone has something to give. You can give time or expertise, monetary donations large or small, or simple acts of kindness.

We hope that you will consider Dubuque County Right to Life, Inc. this #GivingTuesday. Our mission wouldn’t succeed without our volunteers or donors.

We are eternally grateful for each and every one of you!



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Available to: Graduating high school seniors who plan to attend college.

Scholarship Amount: Up to \$10,000 is available to be awarded between the applicants, at the discretion of the judging committee.

Expectations:

- Students must submit a written copy of an original speech (5-10 minutes in length) on the topic “The Slippery Slope: Abortion, Euthanasia, & Assisted Suicide”.
- Students must submit evidence of service hours logged in the cause of protecting human life.
- Students must submit one (1) recommendation letter describing individual commitment to some aspect of the DCRTL mission.

Submission: The application, written speech, log of service hours, and recommendation letter must be uploaded to the DCRTL website (www.dctrl.org/scholarships).

Deadline: Submissions of the application (written speech, log of service hours, and recommendation letter) are due by Friday, March 5, 2021.

Finalists will be chosen by the quality of their written speech, as well as logged service hours and recommendation letter. If chosen as a finalist, the student must be available to participate in a speech presentation on Saturday, April 3, 2021 from 9am-12pm, at the DCRTL office, located at 2205 Carter Road, Dubuque, Iowa.

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Memorial Christmas Tree

Remember those whom we've lost over the years. A loved one, a friend, a child through miscarriage, stillbirth, abortion, etc....

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 us to display an ornament to

remember that someone this Christmas season, please fill out the below memorial slip and mail to DCRTL (2205 Carter Road, Dubuque, IA 52001).



In Memory Of: _____

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

I/We would like this to remain anonymous

A perfect gift! Grab one for yourself and/or gift it to someone special. Perfect for a birthday, a get well wish, a thank you gift, thinking of you gift, or a Christmas gift. We're only asking for a \$10.00 donation per tumbler. Please feel free to pick up at your convenience, during our office hours, as there will be plenty available in our front entryway. Just simply drop a \$10 donation (per tumbler) in the donation box. Thank you!



Butter Braids!

The perfect opportunity is available to ALL, to purchase the most delicious pastries (EVER!) while supporting our youth in their pilgrimage to the 2022 March for Life in Washington DC! Monies raised will provide scholarships to the top essay winners, as well as to students who need financial assistance to attend the March. 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

Cinnamon rolls with cream cheese frosting



Cinnamon

Cream cheese

Raspberry

Strawberry cream cheese



Whichever one(s) you choose, we promise you'll be satisfied! To order your Butter Braids, contact the DCRTL office at 563-556-5960 or via email at dcrtl@dcrtl.org.

Final Order Deadline: Please call or email your order by Friday, December 4

Pick-Up Date & Time: Please pick up your order on Friday, December 18 at the DCRTL office, between 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Cost: \$13/each (\$5.50 of that will go directly towards the March for Life Scholarship Fund)

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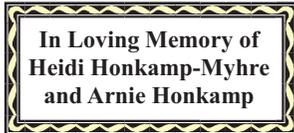
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you." John 2:5

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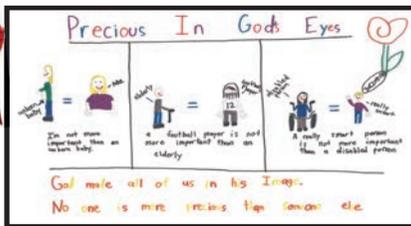
Drs. Clark &
Ann Williams



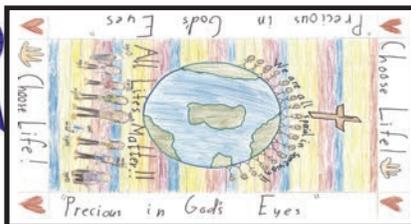
5th Grade Poster Contest Winners!

During Respect Life Month, several of the area schools participated in our 5th grade poster contest! That means hundreds of 5th graders!

The theme this year was "Precious in God's Eyes" which encouraged great reflection from the students. 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! 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. We had 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place overall winners (to the right), as well as a top winner per school! Enjoy!



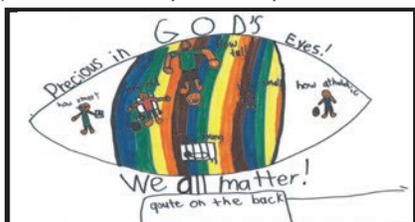
Mallory Kluesner, Seton (Peosta)



Mollie Orr, Aquin (Cascade)



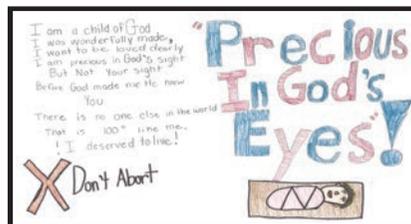
Maggie Cassidy, Xavier (Dyersville)



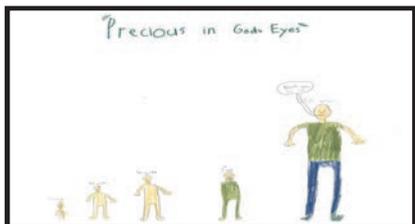
Joseph Deaver, Marquette (Bellevue)



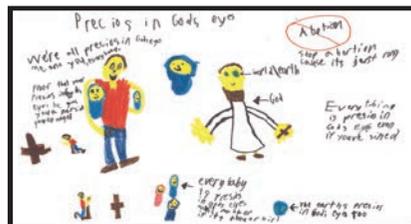
Grace White, Aquin (Cascade)



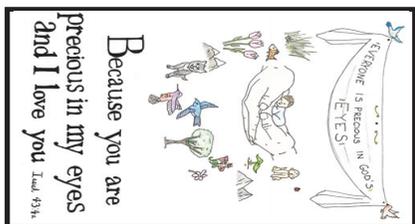
Emma Welter, Seton (Peosta)



Landen Borgerding, LaSalle (Holy Cross)



Gavin Hoeger, Xavier (Dyersville)



Sadie Morales, Our Lady of Guadalupe



Eva Topping, Resurrection (Dubuque)

Pro-Life Bike Ride





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"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the LORD . . . plans to give you a future full of hope." Jeremiah 29:11

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"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you."
Jeremiah 1:5



JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU!

Bill & Jan Frye



Take my hand not my life...
stand with us for Life!

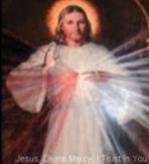
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Jer. 1:5



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"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you..."
Jeremiah 1:5



HomeShow

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Thank you!

- Thank you Mary Conrad, Caroline Mockler & Family, Joey & Angela Ambrosy & Family, Kaitlyn Schroeder & Family, Ted & Meg Recker & Boys, Patty Melin, Sister Mary Dolores Moes, Colleen Myers, Deb Schroeder and Jan for also participating in the “Thinking of You” Nursing Home Card Program!
- Thank you Colleen Myers, Becky McGrane, & Teresa Shepard for staffing the office!
- Thank you to Joel Triphan and his 3 wonderful children for swinging by DCRTL to pick up & dispose of a truck-load of tree and bush trimmings!
- Thank you to our two Clarke Student volunteers who helped to clean windows and paint the yellow stripes in the parking lot!
- Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped to display crosses at the Cemetery of the Innocence in front of Divine Word College & Dubuque Community Church!
- Thank you to the Cascade Area Students for Life for putting up a Cemetery of the Innocence display at Fillmore Parish! Great job to the students: Sydney, Annie, Alyssa, and Emily. Thank you to Katie McGuire for leading this initiative!
- Thank you to the Beckman Students for Life for putting up the Cemetery of the Innocence display in front of Beckman Catholic High School!
- Thank you to all who showed up in support of our annual Life Chain in Dubuque, Dyersville, and Galena! Special thanks to Anna Durr and Mary Jane Conrad for leading the Dyersville and Galena Life Chains!
- Thank you to all of our Life Saver Sunday volunteers and to all of the parishes who participated in this fundraising initiative for DCRTL!
- Thank you to John & Sue Lukasik for coordinating the Rosary Rally and inviting DCRTL to host an educational booth at the event!
- Thank you to all who participated in the 40 Days for Life in Manchester & Cedar Rapids!
- Thank you to Tina Hasken for being an amazing help as the remote receptionist!
- Pro-life Bike Ride Thank you's:
 - to Free Flight for donating a \$25.00 gift certificate towards our adult drawing!
 - to Theisen's for donating towards the pumpkins!
 - to Holly Cook for providing homemade apple cider!
 - to Stacy Stackis for taking pictures during the event, for helping to set up, take down, serve food, and even purchasing some food!
 - to Don & Colleen Schultz, Paul & Jean Blaser, Dianne Reiter, and the McGrane family for volunteering at each of the 9 stations and special thanks to Anna Durr's students at Beckman Catholic for making the signs!!
 - to Colleen Myers for making sandwiches and preparing items for the stations!
 - to Mary Murphy for delivering the sandwiches to the event!
 - to John & Sue Lukasik for all of your help setting up the event, helping the kiddos paint pumpkins, and cleaning up!
 - to Cassie Schetgen for helping to serve food!
 - to all who showed up to enjoy this special event!

Help DCRTL while you shop!

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AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support DCRTL every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the same shopping experience as Amazon.com, but with the added bonus that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to DCRTL.

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Memorials & Honorariums

In Memory Of:

- **Gary Anglin**, given by John & Colleen Myers
- **Eugene Bird**, given by Dan & Barb Nicholson
- **David Clemen**, given by William & Elizabeth Rediger
- **Joe Fagan**, given by Marie Thier and Mickey Burlage
- **Tom Feltes**, given by Dr. Virgil & Marian Bourek
- **Lila Marie Fern**, given by Doug & Jan Fern
- **Deacon Richard Gehrke**, given by Dick & Jean Mescher
- **Joe Gudenkauf**, given by Roger & Darlene Osterhaus
- **Rev. Joseph Hauer**, given by David & Eva Stabenow
- **Art Kronlage**, given by William & Elizabeth Rediger
- **Gilbert & Bernice Mescher**, given by Thomas & Bonnie Weidemann
- **Grace Roling**, given by Roger & Darlene Osterhaus and Doris Wessels
- **Mike Schmitt**, given by Jim & Kathy Conlon, Ted & Jo Ann Deacon, and Doris Wessels
- **Amy Schumacher**, given by Jeff & Julie Voss
- **Barb Setter**, given by Jim & Kathy Conlon
- **John Simmons**, given by John & Colleen Myers
- **Gary Willenborg**, given by Roger & Darlene Osterhaus

In Honor Of:

- **The birth of Catalina**, given by Ron & Diane Hess
- **The birth of Charlie Jean**, given by Mike & Pat Thies
- **The birth of Noah James**, given by Tom & Ruth Becker
- **Jerome Urbain's 90th Birthday**, given by Tom & Beth Simpson

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.

Spiritual Adoption — development of baby UPDATE

Week 29

Baby is growing white fat deposits under the skin, and their energy is surging because of it!



Week 30

Baby's brain is getting wrinklier to make way for all that essential brain tissue! Baby is also strong enough to grasp a finger!



Week 31

Baby is going through major brain and nerve development. Their eyes are developing too—the irises can now react to light!



Week 32

Baby is getting ready for their descent and is likely in the head-down position!





Dubuque County
Right To Life, Inc.

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