

Life is... spring chickens.

Life is precious. Choose life:



L. F. E. TIME

Life is for Everyone

May 2021

Volume 24, Number 5

Mass for the Unborn



Thank you to everyone who joined us at the Mass for the Unborn, to pray for the sanctity of all human life, from conception to natural death! It was an incredibly successful event, with between 140 - 150 people present, plus those who watched online.



Wish List:

-  Mother's & Father's Day donations in honor or in memory of those you love!
-  For Prayer Warriors to Sign Up for the **24 Hours of Prayer for LIFE!**
-  Postage Stamps

May 2021

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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.



April		Abortion Recovery Month	
Friday, 30 th		24 Hours of Prayer for Life	
May			
Saturday, 1 st		National Pro-Life Chalk Day	
Friday, 7 th		Rose Bouquet Pick-Up: DCRTL Office 11am-4pm, DCRTL Satellite Office 12-1pm & 6-7pm	
Friday, 7 th - Sunday, 9 th		One Million Rosaries for Unborn Babies	
Sunday, 9 th		Happy Mother's Day! Mother's Day Roses available at local churches	
Thursday, 20 th		Board of Director's Meeting	
Monday, 31 st		Happy Memorial Day!	
June		John Deer Classic Birdies for Charity Fundraising Initiative	
Thursday, 3 rd		Trip to Iowa City to pray outside of the Emma Goldman Abortion Facility, Praying/Standing for Life from 10am-12pm	
Sunday, 13 th		Pro-Life Bike Ride, Heritage Trail, 1:00 pm	
Thursday, 17 th		Board of Director's Meeting	
Sunday, 20 th		Happy Father's Day!	
Monday, 21 st		Deadline for Final Pledges to be Mailed to Birdies for Charity	
Friday, 25 th		Pro-Life Bridge Day, 3-6pm, Pedestrian Walkway Over Hwy 20 (near St. Joseph the Worker Church)	
July			
Sunday, 4 th		Happy Independence Day!	
Monday 5 th - Sunday 11 th		John Deere Classic; Birdies for Charity	
Thursday, 15 th		Board of Director's Meeting	
Friday, 23 rd		Pro-Life Bridge Day, 3-6pm, Pedestrian Walkway Over Hwy 20 (near St. Joseph the Worker Church)	
Tues., 27 th - Sun., Aug. 1 st		DCRTL Educational Booth at the Dubuque County Fair	



LIFE.

Life Is...For Everyone

DCRTL provides countless opportunities that cultivate members of our pro-life youth, allowing them to flourish into influential, passionate, leaders.

Despite cancelling our in-person 29th annual LIFE Dinner, our educational programs are still happening and **our organization is still growing. We need YOU, our pro-life family, to help us** with the many costs of effectively executing our invaluable mission.

Please consider making a one-time, *life-saving* gift to Dubuque County Right to Life today!

In addition to a one-time gift, please consider joining our **Life Force**, a select group of our most faithful monthly supporters. Our Life Force is committed to a **monthly investment** in the work our organization does. Regular, recurring, monthly donations of any amount allow us to better plan our events, activities, and outreach for the year. For example, a gift of \$23/month (that's just \$0.77 a day!) influences 10,500 people with a life-affirming, educational pro-life billboard message, **that can affect a woman's decision to choose life for her baby.**

Each month you have the opportunity to impact **THOUSANDS** with the truth about the inherent dignity of each person. One day the injustice of abortion will be a memory because of **YOUR** faithfulness and willingness to protect the lives threatened.

What is your one-time and monthly gift that can save a life?

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, bringing forth future generations of pro-life leaders.

So, *thank you*, from the bottom of our hearts!

Yours in the service of LIFE,

 Dubuque County
Right To Life, Inc.



2020-2021 Year in Review

- Spiritual Adoption Monthly Development Update
- DCRTL Scholarships Awarded to 14 Area High School Seniors
- 24 Hours of Prayer for Life
- One Million Rosaries for Unborn Babies
- Handwritten Mother's Day Honorarium Cards
- John Deere Classic's Birdies for Charity Event
- Membership Event - ZOOM Natural Family Planning Presentation by Eben & Lindsey Krapfl
- Distributing Pro-Life Shirts and Tumblers
- Handwritten Father's Day Honorarium Cards
- Third Annual Pro-Life Bridge Day (June)
- DCRTL Executive Director, Ashley Stackis, Attended the Signing Ceremony of the Alfie Evans Bill with Gov. Reynolds
- Virtual Pre-Fair Party to Prepare for the Dubuque County Fair
- Educational Booth at the Dubuque County Fair
- Pro-Life Bridge Day (July)
- Annual Membership Picnic
- Pro-Life Bridge Day (August)
- Prayer Service at the Memorial to the Unborn
- Mass for Life
- Nat'l Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children
- Outdoor Pro-Life Stations of the Cross
- Distribution of New Pro-Life Vehicle Magnets
- Membership Event - Movie Suggestion: Maafa 21
- DCRTL Booth at the *40 Days for Life* Kickoff Rally in Manchester
- "Thinking of You" Nursing Home Card Program
- Pro-Life Novena for Unborn Babies
- Pro-Life Awareness Month
- Cemetery of the Innocents in Dubuque & Epworth
- Life Saver Sunday in Area Churches
- Life Chain in Dubuque, Dyersville, & Galena
- National Pro-Life Cupcake Day
- DCRTL Booth at the Rosary Rally
- Trip to Manchester for the *40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil Campaign*
- Pregnancy & Infant Loss Remembrance Day
- Membership Event - Educational, Pro-Life Bike Ride Along the Heritage Trail
- Clarke Student Volunteer Day at DCRTL
- Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity
- Trip to Cedar Rapids for the *40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil Campaign*
- DCRTL Educational Lollipops Handed Out at Trunk or Treat at the Dubuque Fairgrounds
- Pro-Life Awareness Speaker, Lauren Costabile, Sponsored by DCRTL Virtually in Area Schools
- Share Your Family Day
- "Precious in God's Eyes" 5th Grade Poster Contest
- 8th-12th Grade Pro-Life Essay Contest
- National Adoption Day
- Election of New Board Members
- Thanksgiving Craft & Treat Packets for Families
- Giving Tuesday
- DCRTL Christmas Diaper Fundraiser for Mary's Inn Maternity Home
- Nat'l Night of Prayer for Life in DBQ & Dyersville
- DCRTL Memorial Christmas Tree
- Christmas Craft & Treat Packets for Families
- Memorial to the Unborn Reconstruction Project Fundraising Initiative
- *9 Days for Life* Novena for the Respect & Protection of Human Life
- Anniversary of Roe v. Wade & Doe v. Bolton
- Annual Walk for Life
- DCRTL Executive Director, Ashley Stackis, Testified Before the Iowa Senate Subcommittee in Support of the Protect Life Amendment
- Lenten Prayer Campaign
- Trip to Cedar Rapids for the *40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil Campaign*
- Spiritual Adoption Prayer Campaign
- World Down Syndrome Day
- Mass for the Unborn & Pro-Life Rosary at Church of the Resurrection
- Abortion Recovery Awareness Month Proclamation Signing with Gov. Reynolds
- Easter Egg Hunt & Craft Day for Families
- National Pro-Life T-Shirt Day
- 24 Hours of Prayer for Life
- National Pro-Life Chalk Day
- ONGOING: Weekly Preparation for the Rachel's Vineyard Retreat, Speaking Engagements, Action Alerts, Boycott Letters, Membership Events, Educational Booths, Committee Meetings, Board Meetings, Seminars, Workshops, Conferences, Monthly Newsletters, Pro-Life Social Media Outreach, Educational Online Pro-Life Advertisements, Pro-Life Commercials, Life Is... Campaign, Anti-Euthanasia Campaign, Brochure & Educational Material Distribution, Up-To-Date Library, Volunteer Opportunities & More!





A Note From Ashley Stackis, Executive Director

We are thrilled to finally share with you the THREE short, inspirational pro-life testimonial videos (in lieu of our annual Life Dinner)! They will provide a glimpse into how DCRTL grows pro-life leaders in our community. I kindly ask that you PLEASE watch these videos before making your donation. Please see the insert in the newsletter for additional information. **Thank you!** -Ashley



DCRTL Grows Leaders

Simply open the camera on your smartphone, hover over the QR code, and it will take you to the videos. Or go to this link: <https://qrco.de/DCRTL>

24 HOURS OF *prayer for life*

WE NEED YOUR LAST-MINUTE HELP! WE HAVE TEN HOURS OF PRAYER STILL OPEN. CAN YOU PLEASE SIGN UP FOR ONE HOUR? THANK YOU!!

DCRTL will be hosting a 24 Hours of Prayer for Life, to pray for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death, on **Friday, April 30th** (to be prayed from anywhere). Since we are cancelling our in-person LIFE Dinner Banquet, this is a perfect opportunity to shower the life-saving mission of DCRTL and other pro-life organizations with your prayers.

Ways to sign up for an hour of prayer:

- Online at www.shorturl.at/dkGll
- Call DCRTL at 563-556-5960
- Email DCRTL at dctrl@dctrl.org

Please consider signing up to pray during a 1-hour time slot between 12:00am - 11:59pm on this special day that you will so graciously dedicate in praying for LIFE. **Thank you!**

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Dubuque County
Right To Life, Inc.

Happy Mother's Day to all women – the ones who are mothers, the ones who stepped up to be mothers, the ones who are grieving the loss of a mother, and those who want to be mothers. Know that you are seen, loved, and valued. With great love and gratitude for the gift of life, Dubuque County Right to Life, Inc. wants to wish you and your loved ones a very special and blessed Mother's Day. We hope you have a beautiful day, Moms, you deserve it! 

Mother's Day Roses

If you ordered a bouquet of roses, this is a friendly reminder of the pick-up info:

- **DCRTL Office** (2205 Carter Rd, Dubuque) May 7, **11am-4pm**
- **DCRTL Satellite Office** (1657 15th Ave SE, Dyersville) May 7, **12-1pm & 6-7pm**

Dubuque County Right to Life will have single roses available for a donation at many of the local churches over Mother's Day weekend. Thank you for your generosity! But more importantly, thank you to all of the wonderful mothers, grandmothers, motherly figures, and special women for all that you do. You are appreciated tremendously! Thank you!

National Pro-Life Chalk Day

May 1st is the perfect day to spread positive pro-life messages using sidewalk chalk! These messages are a great opportunity to make a lasting impact on someone's life! Be sure to tag us on social media so we can see all of your amazing art! We can't wait to see what you can come up with!



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@DCRTL



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One Million Rosaries for Unborn Babies

The multinational One Million Rosaries for Unborn Babies, hosted by the *Saint Michael the Archangel Organization*, is scheduled for **May 7-9th, 2021**. They encourage people to:

- Pray at least 1 Rosary as a participant
- Let others know about the One Million Rosaries for Unborn Babies prayer event

Anyone may register to be a participant by going to their website:

www.SaintMichaelTheArchangelOrganization.org



Trip to Iowa City to pray outside the Emma Goldman Abortion Facility Thursday, June 3rd

We will be caravanning to Iowa City to join Johnson County Right to Life's prayer team that prays on Thursdays, **when the Emma Goldman facility does abortions**. Will you join us? When people are praying outside an abortion clinic, the no-show rate increases up to 75%! **Again, will you join us?** Thursdays are the days they are taking innocent life. **The babies need you!**

Schedule for Thursday, June 3rd:

- **8:00 AM:** Please arrive to the DCRTL office (2205 Carter Rd., Dubuque).
- **8:15 AM:** We will depart from the DCRTL office.
- **10 AM - 12 PM:** Pray outside of Emma Goldman (227 N Dubuque St., Iowa City, IA 52245).

Due to the pandemic, we will not be carpooling, but rather caravanning to Iowa City. Please **grab your family and friends to fill your car!** After we pray from 10am-12pm, you have the option of either grabbing lunch with other fellow prayer warriors or driving back home. **Please contact our office (563-556-5960) to let us know if you will be joining on this journey.** Feel free to bring a foldable chair if sitting to pray is preferred during the 2 hours.

Please join us in standing up for life on Thursday, June 3 to **pray outside of Emma Goldman during the time they perform abortions**. We hope for many car-loads to join! If it is easier for you to simply meet us there instead of caravanning from the DCRTL office, please feel free!



Pro-Life Bike Ride Sunday, June 13th » 1:00 PM



Heritage Trail: Starting at Graf Park, riding to either Epworth, Farley, or Dyersville, & back to Graf

Join us for a pro-life bike ride along the Heritage Trail! Everyone will park their vehicles and gather at Graf Park **by 1:00 pm** to begin the day with a pro-life talk given by Nikki Biese, the Executive Director for *Biking for Babies* (her talk will begin **at 1pm!**). After the talk, we will begin the bike ride! You can bike from Graf to either:

- **Epworth** (there & back is 8 miles)
- **Farley** (there & back is 16 miles)
- **Dyersville** (there & back is 28 miles)

You're welcome to ride more or less if you'd like! Walkers/joggers/runners are welcome too!



Not interested in joining on the trail?

No problem! Hang out at the Graf Picnic Shelter for activities, cornhole, and ladderball! There is also a big jungle gym for the kiddos! Bottled water, apples, bananas, oranges, cookies, and granola bars will be provided for all.

FYI: Graf Park has sufficient parking, a picnic shelter, restrooms, and even a fix it station for bikes! There are no restrooms along the bike trail.

This is pro-life fun for ALL ages, so please bring the whole family! You WON'T want to miss it! Please RSVP by **Thursday, June 10th** if you would like to join us so we know how much food to bring. Please call (563-556-5960) or email (dctrl@dctrl.org) to RSVP. **THANK YOU!**



Pro-Life Bridge Day Friday, June 25th | 3-6pm



Pedestrian Walkway Over Hwy 20 (near St. Joseph the Worker Church)

Let's spread the pro-life message to thousands driving by!

We will have two signs displayed that read "Abortion takes a human life", one for each direction of traffic, as we stand on the pedestrian walkway over Highway 20, near St. Joseph the Worker Church. You won't need to do anything except show your pro-life support by your presence, and maybe smile and wave to those driving by. We ask that you do not bring your own sign as that can be distracting for drivers to have too much to look at. Feel free to bring a chair so you can sit comfortably, and maybe even a good book to read!

Anyone is welcome to join at any time. BUT just so we know if people plan to attend, would you mind registering for an hour, to stand for life? Maybe you need to get out of the house for some fresh air, or maybe you are itching to make a difference. This is the PERFECT opportunity for you!

Please call Julia at 563-556-5960 (or email reception@dcrtl.org) to sign up for an hour or more. But of course, you are still welcome to join even if you do not register. Thank you!

DCRTL Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Needs

DCRTL is hosting a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat September 24-26, 2021, to help women and men heal from their abortion or experience with abortion. We've already been planning for almost TWO years now, how time goes by so quickly! We will have many opportunities for support if you are interested in donating your time and/or talents. Or if you feel called to support this retreat with a financial donation, please consider mailing a donation to DCRTL (2205 Carter Road, Dubuque, IA 52001) with "Rachel's Vineyard" written in the memo line to directly support this life changing program. Please reach out to us if you would like to be involved in any way!



Prayer Team: We are searching for individuals to join the "Rachel's Vineyard Prayer Team". During the entire weekend retreat there will be at least 1 person praying for all the participants and retreat leaders at any given time. We need a team to head up this initiative, to schedule prayer warriors to pray. Would you join the team to find people to pray? Please email dcrtl@dcrtl.org if you are interested and/or have any questions. Thank you!

Advertising Team: There is a lot of outreach to be done ahead of the retreat to spread the word of this life-changing opportunity. We are looking for people to help brainstorm and research different churches, organizations, colleges, counselors, communities, etc. to share the Rachel's Vineyard Retreat information with. Please email dcrtl@dcrtl.org if you are interested and/or have any questions. Thank you!

Counselor: We are looking for a retired or licensed counselor for our retreat team. This individual must have experience and be comfortable in a group setting. It is even more essential that the mental health professional have a strong faith rooted in a prayerful, humble spirit. This individual must be capable of flexibility and working together with others on the retreat team. You will be expected to attend a two-day training in August in addition to several weekly meetings. The retreat will be held on Friday, September 24th through Sunday, September 26, 2021 at the Shalom Spirituality Center in Dubuque. After prayerful consideration, if you are interested, please call Teresa at 563-542-8378. Or if you know of anyone who may have interest, please forward along this information. Thank you!



- Thank you to all of the following individuals who also helped to make the annual Mass for the Unborn a success: Deacon Jim Schmidt, Kevin Walsh, Amy Dolan, Emma Belken, Catherine Curtiss, Charlie Curtiss, Ellie Kirby, Gracie Leibfried, Katherine Schmalz, Bridget Schmid, Caroline Schmid, Jamie Schmid, and Emily Unsen!
- Thank you to all who attended the Mass for the Unborn!
- Thank you to Doris McDermott for donating 11 boxes of Kleenex to the office!
- Thank you to Duhawks for Life for volunteering at the office!
- Thank you to everyone who helped with our "Life Dinner" mailing!
- Thank you to Brad Hesselbacher (BJH Web Solutions) for recording & editing the scholarship speech presentations!
- Thank you to Anthony Digmann (Capture This Video Productions) for producing the "DCRTL Grows Leaders" testimonial videos!
- Thank you to Sophia Schuster and Darby Callahan for sharing your pro-life testimonials!
- Thank you to Rose Ann Kunkel for donating a roll of stamps to the office!

DCRTL Scholarship Speech Presentations & Recipients

DCRTL held our annual Scholarship Speech Presentation Day on Saturday, April 3rd. We are very excited to share the recorded speeches with you! The theme you'll hear from the students is, *"The Slippery Slope: Abortion, Euthanasia, & Assisted Suicide."*

To watch the students giving their speeches, please go to:

- **DCRTL's Facebook Page** (www.facebook.com/dcrtl)
- **DCRTL's YouTube Page** (Channel Name: Dubuque County Right to Life)

For the 2020/2021 school year we awarded a total of \$4,250 in scholarship monies to these passionately pro-life students:

- **Emily Trumm**, Cascade High School (left)
- **Luke Heying**, Wahlert Catholic High School (middle)
- **Evelyn Ward**, Wahlert Catholic High School (right)



DCRTL began this scholarship opportunity back in the 2010/2011 school year, making this the **10th year** of helping to financially support pro-life students pursue their dreams!

We are so proud to have given **nearly \$75,000 worth of deserving scholarship monies in total so far!** That is incredible and all thanks to our donors who support this important annual initiative of DCRTL's!

These young, pro-life warriors spread the affirming message of LIFE on their college campus because of YOU. Oh, how we wish we knew the number of lives that have been saved and will be saved because of these students!

So, thank YOU, from us, from them, and from the countless innocent lives saved!

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Please Enjoy the Below Essay by Luke Heying:

The Slippery Slope: Abortion, Euthanasia, & Assisted Suicide

Chinese philosopher, Lao-Tzu, said, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step," but what happens when that first step is the wrong one? One single decision can change someone's life forever. If that first step is the wrong one, it can have major consequences. Nowadays, people falsely proclaim abortion, euthanasia, and assisted suicide as human rights. And the more people do them, the easier and more acceptable they become. This has to change, because no matter what people say, taking an innocent life is never the answer. That's why it's so important to not take that first step, to never take the easy way out. It's truly a slippery slope. The more people get abortions, the more people are euthanized, the more people assist in suicides, the darker our world becomes. Those facing the difficult decision of life or death must have the strength to say no, and we as a society must be there to help them. Only then can we bring light to the world. Only then can we make a change.

When I was little I joined a baseball team with kids I didn't know. It was really difficult at first since I was very shy and didn't branch out. However, with time, I slowly began to make friends. Soon I found myself branching out and going to baseball became easier and easier. Everything gets easier with time and repetition. Unfortunately, this holds true for bad decisions as well. The Guttmacher Institute reports that the abortion rate is 13.5 abortions per 1000 women. According to a 2007 study by the same Guttmacher Institute, almost half of those in the United States are repeat abortions. When people decide to get an abortion for the first time it is normally a difficult decision. If they do get the abortion, however, it makes it so much easier to make the decision to get another one. Furthermore, no matter the person, taking an innocent life takes its toll. It's a vicious cycle of more death and more pain. If people had the strength to say no to the first abortion, so many lives could be saved. I pray that anyone facing an abortion has the strength to take the first step towards life instead of towards death.

People must also have the strength to say no to euthanasia and assisted suicide. About five years ago, my grandmother was diagnosed with stage 3c ovarian cancer. She was told that no one her age had survived the surgery and intense chemotherapy. She was faced with a difficult decision: either endure chemotherapy and possibly live longer, or not treat it and die. Thankfully, she chose to fight. Because she took that step toward life, she got to see both my sisters graduate high school, and will get to see me graduate high school and my sister graduate college. Five years later, she is cancer free having beat it twice. Five full years of life and happiness because she never gave up. She could have denied treatment and died without a fight. Thank God she decided not to. She was never considering euthanasia, now, but she still faced that decision of life or death. We cannot know the future. Even when hope is seemingly lost, goodness can find a way. In every case, for abortion, euthanasia, and assisted suicide, it's important to never take the first step down that road. It's not for us to play God. We do not have the right to decide who lives and who dies. No matter how the odds may be stacked against a person, happiness, love, and goodness can always come about. Just as my grandmother chose life and has had five wonderful years because of it, so too must people deciding to live or die choose life. It's so important to simply take the first step in the right direction.

Much of the responsibility of life, however, falls on the shoulders of the people not making the decisions. We cannot abandon people deciding whether or not to have an abortion or be euthanized. The most important thing we can do is support people making the decisions. If we can help them see that they are not alone, that they have options, hopefully that will give them the courage to take that first step in the right direction. A study by the respected JAMA journal showed that, in places where it's legal, between .3 and 4.6 percent of deaths were reported as euthanasia. Interestingly, that same journal showed that most people who decide to be euthanized do not do so because of pain. Rather, they do so because they feel useless or feel like their lives no longer have meaning. We must show these types of people that their lives do in fact have meaning. We must show them that they can still feel happiness and love. To those considering abortions, we must show them the psychological distress and regret that comes with getting an abortion. We must show them that it may seem like the easiest option but will hurt them in the long run. Most of all, we must show them that they are loved. That we, as a society, are here to help them no matter what.

If we do that, if we show them there's another way, we can make a real change. The ending of innocent lives will slowly diminish until it's no longer proclaimed as human rights, but rather for what it actually is: murder. This is only possible if we help people take that first step in the right direction. Because it truly is a slippery slope. But with a little courage and a lot of help, we can save lives.

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Jeremiah 1:5*

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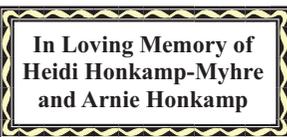


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- **Dan Coble**, given by John & Colleen Myers
- **Fr. Richard Gaul**, given by Harold & Darlene Schieltz
- **Irene Graves for Memorial Day**, given by Mike Martin
- **Arnie Honkamp for Memorial Day**, given by Joyce Honkamp
- **Steven Kraus**, given by Brian & Shellie Olberding
- **Fr. Tom McAndrews for Memorial Day**, given by Charlotte Chambers
- **Heidi Honkamp Myhre for Memorial Day**, given by Joyce Honkamp
- **Delores O'Brien**, given by Roger & Darlene Osterhaus
- **Tom Pins**, given by Joyce Honkamp
- **Thomas Sheehan**, given by Bill & Colleen Pasnik
- **Regina Stoll for Mother's Day & Memorial Day**, given by Ronald Stoll
- **Myra Mary Welsh for Mother's Day**, given by David & Eva Stabenow
- **Phil Wulfekuhle for Memorial Day**, given by Sharon Wulfekuhle-Hefel

In Honor Of:

- **Kate Cromien for Mother's Day**, given by John & Colleen Myers
- **Art Gilloon**, given by Mark & Mary Nauman
- **Alice Griffin's 100th Birthday**, given by Richard & Bernie Halvorson
- **The Birth of Nate & Claira Kapraun's daughter, Margaret**, given by Ashley Stackis
- **Janet Rhomberg's 90th Birthday**, given by Betty Frommelt
- **Kristi Steger for Mother's Day**, given by Jesse & Karen Steger
- **Kristie Stump for Mother's Day**, given by Jesse & Karen Steger
- **Amy Winsky for Mother's Day**, given by Jesse & Karen Steger

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, 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 a card.

President Biden Signs COVID Bill With the Greatest Expansion of Abortion Funding in a Decade

President Joe Biden signed the COVID relief bill in March, allowing taxpayer funding of abortion, contrary to the decades-old Hyde Amendment that has applied to every other COVID-19 relief package. The bill will spend tens of millions, perhaps over \$100 million on funding abortions and the Planned Parenthood abortion corporation. Susan B. Anthony List president, Marjorie Dannenfelser, noted in a press release that pro-abortion lawmakers "exploited COVID-19 relief to expand taxpayer-funded abortion on demand, breaking with more than four decades of bipartisan consensus" though most Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. "The so-called American Rescue Plan is disastrous for unborn children and their mothers," she added.

The \$350 billion state bailout funds are particularly problematic as the bill doesn't prevent states and localities from using taxpayer funds to pay for abortions. Under the current guidelines, pro-abortion states like New York and California, which are likely going to receive the lion's share of the bailout, can funnel millions to abortion giants like Planned Parenthood if they choose. Tom McClusky, president of March for Life Action, said, "The COVID-19 relief package is the largest expansion of abortion funding since Obamacare. Less than 10% of the 'relief' actually goes towards combatting the pandemic. Instead, pro-abortion politicians are using this bill to open the floodgates to abortion funding, with billions of dollars unprotected from being used for the life-ending practice both here in the U.S. and abroad. This is radically out of step with the majority of Americans who oppose their tax dollars funding it. Americans who have been suffering from the effects of the pandemic deserve authentic relief, not this pro-abortion bonanza."

www.lifenews.com/2021/03/11/joe-biden-signs-covid-bill-with-the-greatest-expansion-of-abortion-funding-in-a-decade

Volunteer Gardener Needed

Do you have a green thumb? Enjoy the outdoors? Volunteering your time? DCRTL is looking for a volunteer gardener to help keep our landscaping beautiful at the DCRTL office (2205 Carter Road, Dubuque). Our amazing and faithful pro-life gardener for MANY years, Ken Chapman, heartbreakingly passed away this winter, leaving big shoes to fill. If you are interested, please contact our Executive Director, Ashley Stackis, at 563-556-5960, or via email at astackis@dcrtl.org. Thank you!

I Spy...A NEW Billboard!

As one travels east or west along Hwy 20 just west of Peosta near Dutch Lane, you will see a NEW, beautiful pro-life billboard, paid for by DCRTL as well as several area Knight of Columbus Councils. In 1994 this sign was created and erected by DCRTL volunteers, spear-headed by Paul Simon, Frank Simon and Mike & Sara Brehm. Sometime later, lighting was added by Jim Leibold so the message could be illuminated at night, and Jim & Donna Gibbs generously paid for the electricity for many years. The sign was originally placed just east of Epworth along Hwy 20 near Bierman Road, and in the summer of 2016, area Knights of Columbus Councils gave it a much needed face-lift. Due to the sale of the property, the sign had to be moved and so, on Good Friday, 2021 it was moved to its current location!

KC councils donating towards the sign in 2016 as well as 2021 include:

- Epworth-Placid KC Council #7823
- Farley KC Council #2001
- Peosta KC Council #5513
- 4th Degree KC Dubourg Assembly #1573



Proclamation Signing



On April 12, Governor Kim Reynolds signed a proclamation that declared the month of April in Iowa as "Abortion Recovery Month". This is to help raise awareness of the devastating affects abortion has on women, men, and families, and to promote resources of hope and healing. Thank you to our fellow pro-life friends for joining in support of this annual proclamation and a special thank you to Governor Reynolds for this opportunity!



IOWA CONSTITUTION



UPDATE

The people of Iowa, not the state Supreme Court, should decide how Iowa regulates abortion. In June 2018, the Iowa Supreme Court created an unlimited "right" to abortion in Iowa by striking down an Iowa law providing for a three-day reflection period before an abortion is performed. To reach their decision, the Court "discovered" a fundamental right to abortion in the Iowa Constitution.

- The Court's decision is **even more radical than Roe v. Wade**, opening the door to abortion in Iowa at any time, for any reason, right up to birth. Just like New York.
- The decision means **every pro-life law ever passed or that could be passed in Iowa could be declared "unconstitutional."**
- Dissenting judges worry the decision is "a stepping stone" to making taxpayers fund abortion.

No mere law can stop Iowa's rogue court. The surest way to overturn this radical ruling is a state constitutional amendment. We support a Protect Life Amendment (PLA) that would simply clarify that our state Constitution does not recognize, grant, or secure a right to an abortion. The amendment must pass both chambers of the Legislature in two consecutive General Assemblies (2021-2022 & 2022-2023), and then if passed it would be on the ballot for a vote of the people of Iowa for approval (likely in the Fall of 2024).

UPDATE:

- **Iowa House:** On January 27th, the Protect Life Amendment passed by a vote of 55-44.
- **Iowa Senate:** The Iowa Senate passed the Protect Life Amendment on April 6th, by a 30 to 17 vote! Way to go, pro-life legislators! The Iowa House already passed a similar Amendment, which means both chambers will need to negotiate the final language of the bill. This is the first, critical step to returning the Iowa Constitution to its original abortion-neutral status, undoing the handiwork of activist judges who found a constitutional right to an abortion in our State constitution. Thanks to the courageous legislators who stood up for the rights of the unborn in passing the Protect Life Amendment. This Amendment returns the right to regulate abortion to the people of Iowa, taking it back from unelected judges who legislate from the bench. We ask you to thank and encourage your legislators for passing this historic Amendment this session. Our work isn't done, but it's a great start!

Pro-life forces are at work all over the state educating the public on this very important effort, and DCRTL will keep you informed of developments in this "Iowa Protect Life Amendment UPDATE" section of the monthly newsletter. In the meantime, please contact your legislators to tell them how you feel about the Protect Life Amendment to the Iowa Constitution. Thank you!



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Can You Help Give Our Birds A Home?

Here at the DCRTL office we are so blessed to listen to the beautiful birds happily chirping during our workday. It's lovely! Unfortunately, they tend to make nests (and very big messes!) between the beams and roof overhang on the front of the building. To solve this issue, we are searching for someone who has a very large "multi-unit" birdhouse that they would like to donate, or someone who would be willing to make one. And if your or someone you know would be willing to install it with a metal stake or pole into the ground, that would certainly be appreciated too!