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Dubuque County  
**Right To Life, Inc.**  
www.dcrtl.org

# L. F. E. TIME

Life is for Everyone

October 2021

Volume 24, Number 10

## Pro-Life Awareness Speaker

Nikki Biese, Executive Director of Biking for Babies



Dubuque County Right to Life is thrilled to welcome our Pro-Life Awareness Week Speaker, Nikki Biese of Biking for Babies. Nikki has been the executive director of Biking for Babies since 2018, however she and her husband have been involved since 2011. She is a pro-life power house and has been passionately advocating for pregnancy resource centers as well as training the rising youth to get out there and make a difference with their pro-life beliefs.

Nikki will be speaking at various area schools and religious education classes as well as at our Pro-Life Awareness Luncheon and Loras College over October 12th, 13th, and 14th on what "Life Is..." Please see the details below for where you can stop by and listen to Nikki's incredible talk. Also, keep an eye out on our social media pages and for Happenings Emails with additional details! Thanks!

### PLA Luncheon

Tuesday, October 12th

Location: Best Western Hotel, 3100 Dodge St., Dubuque

Registration beginning at 11:30am

Lunch to be Served at 12:00pm

Cost: \$10/person, Payable at the door



### Loras College

Tuesday, October 12th

7:00pm

Location: TBD

Free and open to the public

# October 2021

Volume 24, Number 10  
Published Monthly

## Office Personnel:

**Julia Schulfer**  
*Executive Assistant*

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## Contact Us:

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## Office Hours:

Mon.—Fri.: 9am—4pm  
Weekends: Closed

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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.



# CTOBER

October	Respect Life Month!
Saturday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Sunday, 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Life Saver Sunday in Area Churches
Sunday, 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Respect Life Sunday: Life Chain in Dubuque, Dyersville, & Galena, 2-3pm
Saturday, 9 <sup>th</sup>	National Pro-Life Cupcake Day
Tuesday, 12 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PLA Luncheon, Best Western Dubuque, 11:20am registration, 12:00pm Luncheon</li> <li>• PLA Talk at Loras College, 7:00pm, Location TBD</li> </ul>
Friday, 15 <sup>th</sup>	Pregnancy & Infant Loss Remembrance Day
Tuesday, 19 <sup>th</sup>	Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity
Thursday, 21 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board of Director's Meeting</li> <li>• DCRTL Handing Out Educational Lollipops at the Dubuque Fairgrounds' Annual Trunk or Treat, 5:30 - 7:00pm</li> </ul>
Saturday, 30 <sup>th</sup>	Take Down the Cemetery of the Innocents, Divine Word College, 9:30am
Sunday, 31 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40 Days for Life Prayer Campaign Ends</li> <li>• Share Your Family Day</li> </ul>
November	National Adoption Month
Thursday, 4 <sup>th</sup>	DCRTL Board of Director Elections
Friday, 5 <sup>th</sup> - Sunday, 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Hosted by DCRTL, St. Columbkille Convent Suites in Dubuque</b>
Thursday, 18 <sup>th</sup>	Board of Director's Meeting
Saturday, 20 <sup>th</sup>	National Adoption Day
Thursday, 25 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Thanksgiving!
Friday, 26 <sup>th</sup>	DCRTL Office Closed

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE GET ON BOARD

**Become a part of DCRTL's Board of Directors!** Our wonderful organization is governed by a board of directors, consisting of 9-12 persons nominated and elected for staggered three-year terms by the members of DCRTL. Do you want to be a part of our mission in changing hearts and saving lives? Call our office, at 563-556-5960 if you are interested! To be added to the official slate of candidates in the November newsletter please call by October 15.

We will present a slate of candidates to the general membership in the November newsletter. All DCRTL members are eligible to vote, but must do so by calling (563-556-5960) or emailing ([dcrtl@dcrtl.org](mailto:dcrtl@dcrtl.org)) your vote to the DCRTL office on Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup> between 9am-4pm. Information on the candidates will be in the November newsletter. We look forward to your help electing the newest members of the DCRTL Board of Directors!

## Update on the Executive Director Search



When Ashley announced her intention this spring to move to Colorado and resign her position as Executive Director of DCRTL, we who serve on the Board knew that filling her role would be a big task! Throughout the summer we have reviewed numerous applications, conducted interviews, and met many talented pro-life candidates. We've navigated schedule challenges, health issues, and technological shortcomings to connect with these candidates in-person or virtually. In turn, they have shared their time and pro-life passion, reminding us of the vibrancy of our membership and the positive impact of Dubuque County Right to Life. Despite some setbacks, we on the Board remain optimistic that we will find a new Executive Director with the passion, skills and vision to continue driving the pro-life mission of DCRTL forward in our community.

We appreciate your encouragement, prayers and patience as we continue working through the hiring process. We also want to affirm our commitment to maintaining high-quality events in the interim. Your help is needed to make this happen! In the coming weeks, we will be inviting volunteer participation to assist with our educational efforts. In addition to volunteering, we encourage you to be the face of our pro-life organization by attending events and inviting your friends!

Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped with events and staffing the office this summer. Special thanks to Cassie Schetgen, President of the Board of Directors, for her leadership and generous gift of time during this transition. Thanks also to Ellen Markham and Marian Bourek for sharing their wisdom as past Executive Directors. Last, but not least, a big shout out to Julia Schulfer, who has taken on many tasks beyond her job description to keep the office open and operational. We are so grateful for all your efforts!

DCRTL Board of Directors

### 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!



### Thank You!

- Thank you to Patricia Heiderscheit for donating postage stamps!
- Thank you to Kayla Sass for volunteering in the office!
- Thank you to all of you who attended our September events!

### We Love Our Friends!

Please follow us on social media to keep up-to-date with DCRTL events, news items, articles, and so much more than what we can provide in this newsletter. We also have a BEAUTIFUL website that was completely updated last year. Please check it out if you haven't yet. Thank you!!



@righttolifedubuque



@DCRTL



@dcrtlife



dcrtl.org

### HAPPENINGS EMAILS

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. Just call our office at 563-556-5960 or email us at [dcrtl@dcrtl.org](mailto:dcrtl@dcrtl.org) to be added to our DCRTL Happenings Email list!



## **Respect Life Month Events**

### **Life Saver Sunday in Area Churches**

**Saturday & Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Be a LIFE SAVER! Life Savers will be offered after Mass in area churches on the first weekend of October, the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>. They will have different pro-life messages with them! What a perfect way to raise awareness of the respect for life, to give the message to be a Life Saver. All proceeds will help further the educational work of Dubuque County Right to Life, Inc. Your generosity is appreciated!



### **Life Chain in Dubuque & Dyersville**

**Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> >> 2-3pm**

**Dubuque:** Highway 20 at Bluff Street

**Dyersville:** Highway 136 at Beckman High School

Please join area pro-lifers at one of our local Life Chains. Signs will be provided. The Life Chain is a national effort with thousands of cities participating. It is a peaceful, prayerful witness to our belief in the sanctity of all human life. We will be praying for the millions of victims of abortion and all women in unplanned pregnancies, that they receive the good help that they deserve. We will also pray for all public officials, and for a deeper respect for the ill, the handicapped, and the aged. You need not address anyone, just stand holding a sign with a message of your choosing. Stand up for life with tens of thousands of pro-lifers throughout the USA and Canada. Please join us on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>!



### **National Pro-Life Cupcake Day**

**Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**



Everyone loves cupcakes! National Pro-Life Cupcake Day began as a day to remember the lives of children who were denied the right to life – the right to have a birthday – because of abortion. By sharing a cupcake, we have the opportunity to also share information about the lives lost to abortion. We ask you to stand up for life with this approach, which will open the door for conversation and education in a loving, warm, non-hostile way. By sharing the truth in love, minds will be changed, lives will be saved, and better choices will be made by those touched by something as little as a cupcake.

### **'America Needs our Lady of Fatima' Rosary Rally**

**Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> >> 12:00-1:00pm**

**Location To Be Determined**

Praying for the UNBORN and PEACE in AMERICA, to Our Lady, across the Nation. America Needs Fatima (ANF) is The American TFP's special campaign to spread the message of Fatima in the United States. America urgently needs the prophetic messages of Our Lady of Fatima. Above all, America needs a clear direction, a great purpose, and the means to achieve it.



## Respect Life Month Events

### **Pregnancy & Infant Loss Remembrance Day**

**Friday, October 15th**



National Pregnancy & Infant Loss Remembrance Day is observed annually in the United States on October 15. It is a day of remembrance for pregnancy loss and infant death which includes, but is not limited to, miscarriage, stillbirth, abortion, or ectopic pregnancy. Everyone is invited to light a candle at 7:00 pm in all time zones, all over the world. By keeping your candle lit for at least an hour, you will be participating in a world-wide "wave of light" in observance of Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness Day. What a beautiful way to remember and honor our babies.

### **Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity**

**Tuesday, October 20th**

Are you willing to give up your voice for one day for those who have no voice? Students from all around the country will stand in solidarity with those 4,000 American citizens silenced against their wills through abortion on this day. We ask all local student pro-life groups to participate. Wear a red arm band and remain silent for the day. If anyone asks you why you are silent, hand them a flyer (they can be picked up at DCRTL) explaining that your silence is a voice for the 1/3 of your generation that will never have a voice. Please speak to school staff and teachers in advance to let them know you are participating in this event. Others can join in the silence too! Take a silent lunch. Choose just one hour sometime during the day to remain silent. Whatever it may be, choose a time to be silent, to honor the babies who have been silenced through abortion.



### **Dubuque Fairgrounds' Annual Trunk or Treat**

**Thursday, October 21st**

**Dubuque County Fairgrounds, 5:30pm – 7:00pm**



DCRTL will be handing out educational lollipops at the Dubuque Fairgrounds' Annual Trunk or Treat! This event is open to the public, so bring your children for a fun evening and make sure to stop by our trunk to say "hi"! We will be handing out educational cards on fetal development to parents, and educational lollipops to kids, which have the same size and shape of a baby's feet at 10 weeks in the womb on them. We love getting out into the community for fun events like this where we have the opportunity to educate on the sanctity of human life. See you there!



# Respect Life Month Events

## Share Your Family Day Sunday, October 31st



On this day, share yourself and your family with someone. Visit a friend, a relative, a nursing home resident or someone at Hills & Dales, etc. – use your imagination. Deliver cookies to an elderly neighbor or call someone you appreciate and tell them so. Do you know of someone who may be lonely? Someone you haven't seen for a long time? Someone you owe an apology to? Babysit

for a young mother; invite your pastor to dinner. Make someone else's day! You'll be surprised what it can do for you, too!

## Respect Life Student Contests

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, our area students won't be marching with hundreds of thousands of other pro-lifers from across the nation at the National March for Life in Washington DC this January. BUT, the students still get the opportunity to write a pro-life essay describing their knowledge of and commitment to defending LIFE. This year's theme is "What Being 'Pro-Life Means to Me'" with a focus on DCRTL's mission.



As well, 5th grade students are participating in a poster contest with the theme "Life Rocks!". We anticipate hundreds of entries and look forward to amazing results! If you want to be one of the volunteer judges, please let us know - we would love for you to join us!



Keep an eye out in future newsletters for the essay and poster winners!

## Clarity Clinic Open House Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>



Clarity Clinic will be hosting an Grand Opening and Open House of their brand new Tree of Life Education Center on Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. They encourage anyone to stop by the building to tour the new addition, meet their team, and enjoy refreshments. The building will be open from 10:00am - 7:00pm and people are encouraged to use the new entrance to Suite A. We hope to see some of you there!

## Wish List:

- ❁ Life Dinner Donations
- ❁ Bottled Water
- ❁ Postage Stamps
- ❁ Toilet Paper

### Mike Martin

US Navy Veteran  
Member of  
American Legion  
Dubuque Post #6



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## Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have made the tough decision to reschedule the Rachel's Vineyard Retreat, as well as the location. The leadership team is working diligently to prepare for the retreat and would appreciate your prayers. Please also pray for the individuals registered to attend this retreat, as well as those who are contemplating doing so.

### Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place

Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild, and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential, and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release, and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal, and healing. Each weekend is run by volunteers who care deeply about your needs. Many of the facilitators have suffered the same loss.



### Rachel's Vineyard can help you

Rachel's Vineyard can help you find your inner voice. It can help you experience God's love and compassion on a profound level. It creates a place where men and women can share, often for the first time, their deepest feelings about abortion. You are allowed to dismantle troubling secrets in an environment of emotional and spiritual safety. Rachel's Vineyard is healing for the soul. Participants, who have been trapped in anger toward themselves or others, experience forgiveness. Peace is found. Lives are restored. A sense of hope and meaning for the future is finally re-discovered.

### DCRTL's Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Details:

November 5-7, 2021

St. Columbkille Convent Suites, Dubuque, IA

- **Schedule:** The weekend begins on Friday evening, with arrivals starting at 4:30 PM and concludes on Sunday, mid-afternoon.
- **Cost:** \$150.00 registration fee includes lodging for two nights, one meal on Friday, three meals on Saturday, and two meals on Sunday, plus all materials provided. Financial assistance is available for those who request help.
- **Accommodations:** Participants will be staying at the St. Columbkille Convent Suites in Dubuque. You will have your own bedroom with shared common spaces and bathrooms. We will also have COVID-19 precautions in place.
- **Confidentiality:** DCRTL strictly respects confidentiality and privacy. If you or someone you know is hurting, please reach out today. Please email ([dcrtl@dcrtl.org](mailto:dcrtl@dcrtl.org)) or call (563-556-5960) DCRTL if you have any questions about participating in the retreat.

To register, please go to: [dcrtl.org/RV](https://dcrtl.org/RV)

For more information about Rachel's Vineyard and other retreat locations, visit: [rachelvineyard.org](https://rachelvineyard.org)

**We hope you, or someone you know, can join us for this life-changing retreat.  
Transform the pain of the past into hope and love. You are not alone.**

## DCRTL Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Needs

DCRTL is hosting a *Rachel's Vineyard Retreat* November 5-7, 2021, to help women and men heal from their abortion or experiences with abortion. We will have many opportunities for support if you are interested in donating your time, talents, or treasures. Please reach out to us if you would like to be involved in any way!

**Prayer Team:** We are searching for **MANY** individuals to join the "Rachel's Vineyard Prayer Team". During the entire weekend retreat there will be at least 1 person (but hopefully 2) praying for all of the participants and retreat leaders the whole time. **Will you please join to pray?** We need at least 48 volunteers to fill all the time slots.

### To sign up:

- **Email:** [dcrtl@dcrtl.org](mailto:dcrtl@dcrtl.org)
- **Call:** 563-556-5960
- **Online:** <https://bit.ly/RVpray>



Please reach out to sign up or if you have any questions. Your prayers are **iN**CREDIBLY important during this weekend of hope and healing. Please consider dedicating just 1 hour of your time for the participants and leaders. They need your prayers during this life-changing weekend. **Thank you!**

**Financial Support:** If you feel called to make a donation towards covering the many expenses of hosting this retreat, please consider mailing a donation with "RV Donation" written in the memo line. Your donations directly support this life-changing program! You can mail donations to: DCRTL, 2205 Carter Rd, Dubuque, IA 52001. **Thank you!**

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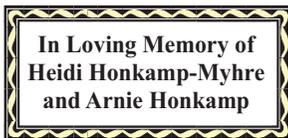
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"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you."  
Jeremiah 1:5*

## Texas Law Will Save Babies & Help Women in Crisis

On Wednesday, September 1, 2021, the Texas state heartbeat law went into effect, prohibiting abortions once an unborn baby's heartbeat is detectable, at about six weeks of pregnancy. The legislation has the potential to save tens of thousands of babies' lives in Texas, including about 100 every day. It will also stop women from being harmed.

Along with passing the heartbeat law, Texas state lawmakers also increased support to help pregnant and parenting mothers and babies, ensuring that they have resources to help them choose life. Among other things, they voted to put \$100 million into the Texas Alternatives to Abortion program, which provides free counseling, parenting classes, diapers, formula, job skills training and more for women. This raised the prior year's commitment by \$20 million.

Up until now, state heartbeat laws have been blocked in court. The precedent established in *Roe v. Wade* prohibits states from STOPPING abortions before an unborn baby is viable. But the Texas law is unique from other heartbeat laws because it includes a private enforcement mechanism that allows people to file lawsuits against abortionists who violate the law.

**THE LAW DOES NOT CRIMINALIZE ABORTION. IT DOES NOT MAKE ABORTION A CRIME. IT DOES NOT ALLOW THE PREGNANT WOMAN OR A WOMAN WHO HAS HAD AN ABORTION BE SUED. IN CONTRAST TO WHAT THE PRO-ABORTS ARE SAYING, UBER DRIVERS WILL NOT BE SUED. ABORTIONISTS, HOWEVER, CAN BE SUED IF THEY KILL A BABY WITH A BEATING HEART. ABORTION CLINICS FEAR THIS LAW BECAUSE IT WILL STOP THEIR BIGGEST MONEYMAKER....KILLING BABIES.**

The law has the potential to save tens of thousands of babies from abortion. In 2020, about 54,000 unborn babies were aborted in Texas, and about 85 percent happened after six weeks of pregnancy, according to state health statistics. That means more than 100 unborn babies with beating hearts may be spared from abortion every single day in Texas.

Meanwhile, pro-life organizations are reaching out to pregnant mothers in need, offering information and resources to help them and their babies. Abby Johnson, who lives in Texas, said her organization LoveLine is ready to provide financial and material help to mothers in need and her ministry "And Then There Were None" can assist former abortion workers in finding new jobs and healing from their abortion work.

"We know women will not stop wanting abortions after September 1 and [we] have in place a robust ministry, Loveline, that has already helped more 400 women in crisis pregnancies get the help they need to carry their babies to term and support their families," Johnson said. "We urge them to contact us."

Human Coalition, another pro-life organization that provides pregnancy and parenting resources, also is ready to help Texas women with emotional support, resources and assistance to create safe and stable environments for themselves and their families.

If the Texas law will remain in effect or ultimately is upheld as constitutional in court remains uncertain, but pro-life leaders are hopeful now that the Supreme Court has a conservative majority.

In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court took away the states' ability to protect unborn babies from abortion under *Roe v. Wade*, and instead forced states to legalize abortion on demand. *Roe* made the United States one of only seven countries in the world that allows elective abortions after 20 weeks. The court is scheduled to hear a Mississippi case in the fall that challenges this precedent.

Please follow this developing news in the media and on our website and Facebook page. DCRTL, Inc. will keep you informed.

## Memorials & Honorariums

### In Memory Of:

- **Joan Ament**, given by Dick & Jean Mescher
- **Ann Andracchio**, given by Carol Kalb, Rocky Andracchio, and Chuck Andracchio
- **Jan Ferson**, given by Jim & Kathy Conlon
- **Rose Heiderscheit**, given by Jack & Maria Smith
- **Joyce Jasper**, given by Dick & Jean Mescher
- **Bob Juergens**, given by Karen Juergens, Irene Kaukaskie, and Bryon & Cheryl Symons
- **Bill Kennedy**, given by Tom & Ruth Lucas
- **Dorothy Lake**, given by Dick & Jean Mescher
- **Sr. Joan Lickteig, PBVM**, given by Tom & Beth Simpson
- **Del Link**, given by Lynn Kloft, Adrian & Elaine Korbek, Paul & Teresa Ruzicka, and Lavern & Karen Link
- **Jean Naber**, given by Jack & Maria Smith
- **Larry Scherrman**, given by Jack & Maria Smith
- **Regina Stoll**, given by Ron Stoll
- **Mary Ann Vogt**, given by Dick & Marilyn Vogt
- **Thomas Welu**, given by Dan & Barb Nicholson

### In Honor Of:

- **Keith & Jenny Boever's 3<sup>rd</sup> Wedding Anniversary**, given by Mary Ann Boever
- **Lois Forkenbrock's Birthday**, given by Dick & Jean Mescher
- **The Birth of Adam & Betsy Koestler's Twins, Peter & Marie**, given by Rachael Bennett, Stephanie Kumor, Maggie Kramer, Sadie Robbins, Jess Pennington, and Nicole Koetz
- **The 2nd Anniversary of Fr. Thomas McAndrew's Death**, given by Dick & Marilyn Vogt
- **Eric Schumann's Birthday**, given by Karen Gravel

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.

## Pro-Life Onesies!



Honor a new mom and celebrate new life in a special way. Donate \$25 or more and we'll send a custom designed DCRTL onesie (size 12 months) to the new Mom on your behalf with a congratulatory card. Just mail DCRTL a donation with a note that includes the new mom's name & mailing address. We'll take care of blessing her with this beautiful gift!



## 2022 March for Life Update

As we continue searching for an Executive Director and navigating the challenges of COVID, the board of Dubuque County Right to Life has decided not to coordinate a local trip to the March for Life this coming January. However, you still have the opportunity to participate in the national march! Iowans for Life is sponsoring bus travel, hotel accommodations and event participation in the National March for Life activities scheduled for January 19-23, 2022, in Washington, D.C. Buses will travel through Dubuque County, with a pickup location to be determined. The cost is \$400/person. To learn more about the event and to register, visit [www.iowansforlife.org/march-for-life/](http://www.iowansforlife.org/march-for-life/) or contact Maggie DeWitte at [mdewitte@iowansforlife.org](mailto:mdewitte@iowansforlife.org) or 515-255-4113.



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**Right To Life, Inc.**

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