



## Let the Party Begin!

Tom Stevens, President and CEO, Pro-Life Union

A sobbing woman came outside and sat on the bench as I prayed in front of Planned Parenthood at 12th & Locust Streets. She began talking to the Planned Parenthood escort. During a lull in conversation I walked over and said, “There’s hope and help, can we talk?” The woman came outside the gate and started talking with me. I learned that her great granddaughter was inside having a chemical abortion. I discovered that I’m face to face with the woman who is paying for the abortion of her great-great grandchild. She’s already raising a 5-year-old grandchild. I heard a lot about her difficult family story.

I told her about the Abortion Reversal Pill. “It’s not too late. We have a home for single moms (Guiding Star Ministries).” She asked me for some details, so I explained that there’s counseling, diapers, assistance, resources, adoption, and help at Guiding Star. I told her a story about a single mom who was offered housing just the night before. The great great grandmother took our number. I walked her through the brochure in the blessing bag and told her about [AbortionPillReversal.com](http://AbortionPillReversal.com) several times. We talked for ten minutes and I prayed with the great great grandmom. Unfortunately, I don’t know the end of this particular story.

There’s a moment in the *Unplanned* movie where Abby Johnson, clinic director, resigns and walks out Planned Parenthood’s door for the last time. She’s welcomed by Shawn Carney and the 40 Days for Life group. Oh, what a victory! Soon enough, the center closes and the Planned Parenthood sign comes down. Oh the joy! I recently heard the story of a five-year-old boy who is alive today because someone was praying outside an abortion center and handed a brochure to his mom as she walked in. Yes!

In the story of the Prodigal Son, the Father runs to his repentant son as he arrives back home, embraces him, and one of the greatest lines in the Bible: “Then the celebration began.” There are so many reasons to celebrate right now and in the future. Let’s do it. Don’t let the heaviness of the cry of the unborn keep us from the celebration of the victories, the lives saved, and the great hope of the future.

## Pro-Life Union's Interview with Local *Unplanned* Star, Maura Corsini



*Unplanned*, released in theaters on March 29, depicts the life story of Abby Johnson, Planned Parenthood director turned pro-life advocate.

One of the movie’s co-stars, Maura Corsini, who has roots in the tri-state area, plays “Megan” (Abby’s good friend and Planned Parenthood co-worker) in the film. The Pro-Life Union asked Maura some questions about her experience in *Unplanned*, and why it’s important for people living in the Greater Philadelphia region to see this film:

### How did you feel at the start of *Unplanned* production vs. end of production?

It was a great experience all around and being on set in Oklahoma was the best month and a half of my life. But it’s funny, we had absolutely no idea of the gravity and impact this film would have. I remember being in my trailer on the last day of shooting and one of my co-stars called me, excitedly, saying that it might end up being in some theaters. Now here we are with over 1,000 booked in America alone. God is good.

### What inspired you to audition for the film *Unplanned*?

I emailed the directors, Chuck and Cary, because I heard God’s Not Dead 3 was in pre-production and I wanted to be a part of it. They explained that they were no longer working on that film, but they had a pro-life film in the works that they wanted me to read for. They warned me, and all the cast for that matter, that being blacklisted by Hollywood was a big possibility, but I couldn’t pass it up. The first independent film I ever booked I ended up dropping out of because of pro-choice themes, so this felt very full circle and gratifying.

### You have a Catholic upbringing. Did the movie content, a.k.a. Abby Johnson’s life, offer further realization for you on a personal level about the abortion industry and/or the pro-life movement?

I have always been pro-life but honestly I was not that educated on the topics, only the basics. I was pro-life because my parents were, which is a very ignorant mentality regardless of the subject matter, so I am happy now to have done such extensive research on both sides of the argument.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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*(“Exclusive Interview” continued from page 1)*

**Because the majority of Hollywood tends to lean toward the pro-choice stance, what was it like starring in a movie that depicts both stances, but truly focuses on Abby’s conversion to the pro-life movement?**

The special thing about this movie and why it differs from other faith-based or politically driven dramas is that it does truly show both sides of the argument. It gives a fair depiction of the pro-life and pro-choice stance which, I think, makes it so much more effective. There is no condemnation towards pro-choicers, just understanding that they’re (for the most part) just trying to support women. We are just kindly trying to share the notion that pro-life is pro-women, not visa versa.

**The movie release is timely based on recent news headlines about abortion. What kind of impact do you hope this film will make on the American people, no matter what age or gender they are?**

Obviously I want an end to abortion. That’s not a secret. But we can do more than that—let’s talk about restructuring the foster care system so children who don’t get aborted have a better chance at success and a happy life. There are so many steps to best solve this issue, but the first step is to bridge the gap between political affiliations. These are NOT partisan issues, they are humanitarian issues. Let’s drop our egos and hear each other out.

**After your involvement in *Unplanned*, what advice would you give to those who may be ‘on the fence’ about seeing this movie?**

I do have a lot of pro-choice friends so I understand if someone is on the fence about the issue, but I do NOT understand how someone can be on the fence about seeing the film. This is a true story with no fabrication so if you are scared to see it, ask yourself why. Maybe you are relying on the convenience of abortion, or maybe you’re afraid to go against the grain of society. My advice is to stop letting outside forces dictate your beliefs. Watch this film. Then watch a pro-choice film if you want. Do your OWN research and I promise you will find the light and the truth. Abortion is a genocide and with proper research it becomes overwhelmingly apparent.

**What can pro-life individuals do in the Greater Philadelphia area to help transform other hearts and minds to choose life?**

My challenge for all of my Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey friends is to invite at least one pro-choice person to see this movie. If they’re resistant, maybe buy their ticket for them. Then have a respectful and open dialogue after the film to share thoughts and feelings.



**Picture (above):** Team Leader Training was held at the Pro-Life Union’s office in February 2019.

## Sue Thayer Reveals Planned Parenthood’s Mindset and Actions at Peaceful Philadelphia Protest Event



Pro-Life Union held a National Protest Planned Parenthood Day for those in the Greater Philadelphia region on April 3 outside Planned Parenthood at 12th & Locust Streets. Sue Thayer, former Planned Parenthood clinic manager who now serves as 40 Days for Life Outreach Director, provided shocking insights about Planned Parenthood, why she left her job at the abortion clinic and became pro-life, and what inspired her to get involved in 40 Days for Life.

When Sue first applied for a job at Planned Parenthood in northwest Iowa, she had no idea she would eventually become a center manager and observe surgical abortions. She recalled the distinctive noise of the suction machine and visual of the baby’s body parts in a jar. Sue eventually became a sexuality educator for Planned Parenthood talking to youth about birth control, STDs and other matters. After years of work for the nation’s largest abortion chain, she did some self-reflection wondering if she should continue her profession. One day Sue discovered Christian radio. Listening to God’s Word touched her heart, which helped her to recognize that working at Planned Parenthood was wrong.

Sue realized she had enough of Planned Parenthood when they introduced web cam abortions and allowed non-medical staff to conduct transvaginal ultrasounds. Instead of having a physician or nurse practitioner on site, a doctor was available via web cam from another clinic to authorize the abortion pill to a woman during a scheduled 45-minute appointment, which also helped to monitor any bleeding or hemorrhaging. Planned Parenthood also trained non-medical personnel to perform transvaginal ultrasounds on patients. Because these ultrasounds were invasive, Sue felt it was wrong for a staff member without medical training to be searching for a small unborn baby in a woman’s uterus. Planned Parenthood would even turn down the volume on the ultrasound machines so women couldn’t hear their baby’s heartbeat. Sue decided to call Iowa Christian Radio and contact Iowa’s Right to Life to tell the truth about Planned Parenthood. As a result, she was fired, but discovered 40 Days for Life. Although former co-workers had choice words for Sue while leading a campaign outside a larger abortion clinic in Iowa, she continued witnessing and recruiting more people to join her. Once 40 Days for Life learned of her past profession and conversion to the pro-life stance, the organization offered her a job position.

Women have approached Sue asking, “Do you remember me? I almost had an abortion, but you convinced me not to.” Women have also asked her, “Do you remember me? You helped me to have an abortion.” But, she has *never* encountered a woman who said, “Do you remember me? This is my child. I chose life, but wish I had an abortion.”



**Picture (above):** Dr. Ruberu leading the Pro-Life Union's Sidewalk Counseling Training.

## Sidewalk Counseling Training: All About Love, Generosity and Compassion

On February 26, the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia held a Sidewalk Counseling Training to provide attendees with advice on the best ways to effectively witness outside an abortion center. Here are some of the main points Dr. Monique Ruberu shared during her presentation:

1.) **It's all about love, generosity and compassion.** Speak in a calm and loving voice to ask, "Are you here to have an abortion today? If so, can I give you some information?" If an abortion center escort is screaming into the woman's ear so that your words can be ignored, then you whisper in a really urgent voice, "Look I'm just here to offer you resources. You're an adult; you can decide what you want to read and what you don't want to read. They obviously don't want you to read the information I have, but I think it's really important for you. They are going to try to take this away from you, so put it in your jacket or purse to hold onto it."

2.) **Your priority is to help women and babies. If someone is unkind to you, you have to let it go.** You have to completely empty yourself and ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit for any hope to pick the right words to say at the right time, that intuition of when to walk up to somebody, or when to stand still and just pray.

3.) **Use these opportunities to educate people.** Talk to individuals in a respectful way pertaining to the number of abortions happening at their local Planned Parenthood. You're not there to talk about politics, or to catch up with friends who are also witnessing at the same time. Time is precious; make your moments count with people who approach the abortion clinic.

4.) **Show you care.** Be aware of how you dress so you look friendly and approachable. If there is a nearby pregnancy resource center that can also convince a woman to choose life for her unborn baby, ask the question, "Would you consider coming to a crisis pregnancy center with me first, and then you can always go to your scheduled appointment afterward?" This question may actually provide an internal sigh of relief for the woman if she felt unsure or alone in her initial decision, but knows you've offered to accompany her inside a pregnancy center. Your compassion and resourcefulness may help the woman realize alternatives are available and prompt her to change her mind.

5.) **Have emergency contact information in your phone.** Always keep your phone on hand. It is highly encouraged to have 40 Days for Life leaders' phone numbers saved in your phone in case you need to call or text them with any questions or concerns.

6.) **The police are there to protect everyone.** If police officers are present, know that their primary duty is to keep everyone safe (those who are pro-life and pro-choice). Make sure you stand on public property (the sidewalk), stay courteous, and don't push or shove anyone. If you follow these simple guidelines, there's absolutely no need to worry. Just be kind and express appreciation for their presence as they do their job.

To learn more information about Sidewalk Servants, watch our video series at [prolifeunion.org/outreach/sidewalk-servant](http://prolifeunion.org/outreach/sidewalk-servant).



**Picture (above):** The Violations music group entertaining guests at this year's Blaney Beef and Beer Benefit.

## Blaney Beef and Beer Brings Smiles to Guiding Star Residents, Friends, and Supporters

The Blaney Beef and Beer Benefit took place on Saturday, February 23 at the Polish Eagles Sports Club in Philadelphia. The annual event provided food, drinks, and entertainment by The Violations music group. A couple hundred supporters, as well as Guiding Star residents and staff members, enjoyed this special evening for a great cause. All proceeds from the fundraiser went to Guiding Star Ministries maternity home, an outreach program of the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia. We sincerely appreciate the generosity and thank those who showed their support at this benefit.



## High School Respect Life Leadership Day

High School Respect Life Leadership Day, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Office for Life and Family, was held at Cardinal O'Hara on March 28. Peter and Tricia DeMaio presented "Choose Love, Life & Happiness." Students for Life of America and The Culture Project also spoke at sessions. This day offered discussions and ways to spread the pro-life message.



## Life Is Always in Style!

Did you know that over 42 fashion brands give back to Planned Parenthood? Gap and Old Navy are just two of the 42 fashion brands that give back to a Culture of Death. Carla D’Addesi and her daughters wanted to create a fashion for life brand that celebrates a Culture of Life and gives back to pro-life organizations. They chose the company name COL1972 to honor the last year, 1972, that we celebrated a Culture of Life in the U.S. COL1972 has women’s, men’s and a curves collection. Visit [www.COL1972.com](http://www.COL1972.com) to view their items and learn more information.

## Fundraising Dinner on May 2 to Benefit Guiding Star Ministries and Our Lady’s House

Two local maternity homes, Guiding Star Ministries and Our Lady’s House, are celebrating a combined 58 years of service to women and children in Greater Philadelphia. Both homes have ministered to the needs of over 400 women and 425 children. You are invited to join their upcoming dinner and rejoice in the testimonies of women and children whose lives have been changed, thanks to all who have helped them over the years:

**When:** Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>—cocktail reception begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** North Hills Country Club (99 Station Avenue, Glenside, PA 19038)

**Advertising Options/Deadline:** Ads due by April 22. Send camera ready ads to Anne Hinnegan at [ahinnegan@prolifeunion.org](mailto:ahinnegan@prolifeunion.org).

**For More Information:** Contact Patrick Stanton at 267-718-4851 or Anne Hinnegan at 215-885-8150.



## Pro-Life Union Member Organizations Focused on Hope and Encouragement

The Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia’s member organizations met on April 4. Gordon Douglas, Pastoral Advisor for Delaware County Pregnancy Center, presented about the topic of encouragement. There were 15 member organizations represented at our evening meeting.

## Upcoming Events:

**4/19—Good Friday Prayer Vigil and Living Stations**—Starts at 9:00am outside Planned Parenthood (12th & Locust Sts.), cross-walk until 1:00pm, then living stations of the cross from 20th & Locust Sts. to Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral, where Mass is held at 3:00pm.

**4/26—Gianna Center of Philadelphia Grand Opening and Open House**—Formal blessing and ribbon cutting at Suburban Community Hospital’s Medical Arts Pavilion (East Norriton, PA) at 12:00pm with Bishop McIntyre, followed by Open House from 1:00-4:00pm. RSVP to Emily Rice at 215-287-6218.

**5/2—Fundraising Dinner for Guiding Star Ministries and Our Lady’s House** (see information above)

**5/4—AlphaCare’s Kick It for Life**—Bring friends and family from 9:00am-2:00pm for a kickball tournament and family fun zone to raise funds for their Mobile Medical Unit, which serves women in need with free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, and social services in Philadelphia. Location is 8950 Ashton Road, Philadelphia, PA 19136. Rain date is 5/18. Visit [friendsofalphacare.org/kickitforlife](http://friendsofalphacare.org/kickitforlife).

**5/21—Public Affairs Training (stay tuned for more details)**

**TBD—Sidewalk Servant Training (stay tuned for more details)**

Visit [prolifeunion.org/events](http://prolifeunion.org/events) for complete event details.



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### Our Mission:

We will use our hope and love for families to serve and accompany others by offering education, alternatives, and public witness that eliminates the need for abortion and euthanasia in Greater Philadelphia.