



/ProLifeUnion



/ProLifeUnion

88 Pennsylvania Avenue, Oreland, PA, 19075
(215) 885-8150 | www.prolifeunion.org

September 2015

Board of Directors

Bill Wohlgemuth – President
Tom Shakely – Vice President
Fr. Chris Walsh – Spiritual Advisor
Bob Biggs – Treasurer
Sandy Sasso – Secretary
Rick Auletta
Tom Holman
Regina O'Reilly
Patrick Stanton

Guided by a commitment to the sanctity of every life, the Pro-Life Union fosters a cohesive vision and strategy for a Culture of Life in Greater Philadelphia. Our beliefs are incarnated in the context of the family and through service to those making the choice for life. We work in the four areas of the pro-life movement: outreach, education, public policy and alternatives.

Exciting News



Over the last several weeks, the Boards of Directors for the Pro-Life Union and our long-time partner, Guiding Star Ministries, have been working to finalize a formal transition of the Guiding Star organization to the Pro-Life Union. Guiding Star provides housing for expectant mothers and their children, as an alternative to abortion. This program is unique in the Philadelphia region in that it welcomes both pregnant women and their children. We are so proud of our decades-long partnership and grateful for this opportunity to create an even stronger continuum of care for women and families in our city.

The Pro-Life Union regularly encounters abortion-vulnerable women through our sidewalk counseling, prayer vigils, and Pregnancy Hotline. With this change, we are already working to expand Guiding Star in several key ways:

- ☺ Increase the number of women and children served with safe housing annually
- ☺ Create a Family Center where Guiding Star clients in the community can receive baby supplies, gently used clothing, furniture, etc.
- ☺ Expand social services for residents and clients including counseling
- ☺ Expand programming for residents and clients including parenting workshops, job training, and mentor support.



How You Can Help

1. Volunteer

We are currently seeking individuals and families to assist as mentors for the women, children, and families we serve. These volunteers will walk with each mother and her children, offering support and guidance throughout their journey.

We also need volunteers to help with the building and preparing the rooms for incoming families. We have scheduled a volunteer day for Saturday September 12 from 9am-4pm. Other volunteer days are also being scheduled so if you can share a few hours, or have a group who can assist, please call our office at 215-885-8150.



2. Donate

Gifts to this effort will make a significant impact and ensure this building and program will be available for women, children, and families for years to come. Donations can be made through a one-time gift, a pledge made payable over 3 years, or other arrangements as desired. Gifts of specific denominations can be honored with naming a section or room in the home.



3. Pray

Our work is rooted in a deep trust that God provides in the ways He sees fit at the proper time. We are grateful for your prayers for the women, children, and families we serve, for our donors and volunteers, and for this project. We invite you to join with us in the prayer we use for this effort:

Lord God, you promised to send angels ahead of us to guard us along our way and bring us to the place You have prepared. Please send your angels to guide our efforts in preparing the places you have chosen to house the families we serve. May your angels move in the hearts and minds of all who will partner

with us in making Your plan become a reality. May all that we say and do be pleasing to You in a way that will allow us to praise You and the angels forever in the glory of heaven. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen. Holy Angels of God, pray for us.

Join the Pro-Life Union as we expand our efforts. We make a promise for life to everyone we encounter and we need you to help us as we keep those promises. To get involved, please call our office at 215-885-8150 or email mail@prolifeunion.org. To learn more online, visit www.prolifeunion.org/guidingstar.

Stand Up for Life Dinner

The Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia is excited to announce that Damon Owens, Executive Director of the Theology of the Body Institute, will be our guest speaker for the 2015 *Stand Up For Life Dinner* on November 22nd at the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel. Damon is an internationally known speaker at conferences, seminars, and universities on the good news of marriage, sexuality, and adoption. Please send in your reservation and payment! Individual tickets are \$65 and tables of ten are discounted to \$600. Student tickets are just \$40. We encourage all runners to consider joining our team at the Philadelphia Marathon! Held the weekend of the Stand Up for Life Dinner, the signature Philly event includes an 8K on Saturday, November 21st, and a half and full marathon on Sunday, November 22nd. Run and raise funds for the Pro-Life Union and Guiding Star Ministries, our program which provides housing and support for women and children.



Sidewalk Counseling Training



Sidewalk Counseling Training at the PLU office with members of The Culture Project.

The Pro-Life Union will offer our Sidewalk Counseling Training on Sunday, September 13, 2015 at St. Peter Church, 2835 Manor Rd., West Brandywine, PA 19320. There will be two sessions: 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. The pro-life community engages in sidewalk counseling in order to reach women as they are entering an abortion facility and provide them with alternatives, information, support and love. In this training, participants will learn effective tools for reaching women in this critical moment. They will also gain an understanding of why women may be considering abortion. Practical tips will be provided. There will be time for questions & answers. Information on the network of resources that are available to women will also be presented. Representatives from two local Crisis Pregnancy Centers, Birthright and Chester County Women's Services, will provide information on the free services they offer at their centers.

The seminar is sponsored by St. Peter's Respect Life Committee and will be conducted by Edel Finnegan, Director of the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia.

Planned Parenthood Update

The Center for Medical Progress continues to release videos exposing Planned Parenthood's involvement with the sale of fetal tissue. States have begun investigations and some have already defunded the abortion giant. Rallies were held in many cities throughout the U.S. on August 22nd in response to the atrocities which has gotten the attention of the media. The Pro-Life Union was present at Planned Parenthood in Center City and we were grateful to CBS News for their segment on the Rally and the surrounding controversy. The words of the Gospel of St. John come to mind "And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." A light is shining on the abortion industry and yet they remain undeterred. So, we strengthen our prayers and efforts, confident that the light is penetrating hearts. The upcoming 40 Days for Life Campaign is a great opportunity to get involved. There are campaigns being held in West Chester, Warminster, Norristown and Center City. Please call our office for details.

Upcoming Events

- September 17: Pro-Life Union Annual Open Board Meeting at St. Alphonsus Parish, Maple Glen. The Meeting will be held in the Parish Hall and is open to all and we look forward to sharing the good news about the Pro-Life Union and hearing from our members and supporters. Please arrive by 7pm.
- September 24: Friends of FertilityCare-Philadelphia is sponsoring an informative evening about the Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System and NaProTechnology. There will be a viewing of the film NaPro: A Quiet Revolution produced by the Black Friars Media at 7 PM sharp. Location: Conahan Hall of Immaculate Conception BVM Catholic Church, Jenkintown, from 7 PM to 9 PM. For more information or to volunteer, please call Barbara at (215) 884-2922.

The Power of Prayer

A new friend to the Pro-Life Union shared this lovely and amazing story with us recently and we pray it will give you hope! "A few weeks ago, I joined the group praying at Planned Parenthood. I felt like I was walking into a battlefield. Then I witnessed a young girl "Anne" leaving the clinic and walking down to talk to us. It was a blessing to see how quickly the sidewalk counselor made a phone call to the Hotline and was able to find help. There is another layer to that miracle, I asked "Anne" why she had come so far from her home and she answered that the facility near her wouldn't perform an abortion after 13 weeks, 6 days and she was in her 14th week. A few days later, as I began thinking about the baby our family has "spiritually adopted." I looked at the date of when we began the spiritual adoption... May 7, 2015 - 14 weeks and one day before I witnessed "Anne" leaving the clinic. I had wondered how my prayers could help a baby, and God answered by letting me know how our prayers for these children are heard and answered."

Spiritual Adoption Prayer

"JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH, I LOVE YOU VERY MUCH. I BEG YOU TO SPARE THE LIFE OF [BABY'S NAME] THE UNBORN BABY THAT I HAVE SPIRITUALLY ADOPTED WHO IS IN DANGER OF ABORTION."

- PRAYER OF ARCH. FULTON J. SHEEN

Support the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia's mission through a secure, recurring online monthly gift.
The Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia is a 501(c) 3 organization.