



Respect Life Sunday 2016

88 Pennsylvania Ave., Oreland, Pa 19075
www.prolifeunion.org • 215-885-8150



Board of Directors

Bill Wohlgemuth – Chairman
Tom Shakely – Vice Chairman
Bob Biggs – Treasurer
Tom Holman – Secretary
Fr. Chris Walsh
Mary Paris
Rick Auletta
Patrick Stanton
Paul DeCamara
Catie Payne
Regina O'Reilly - Emeritus

Staff

Edel Finnegan – Executive Director
Anne Hinnegan – Member Services
Nicole Gibboni – Administrative Consultant
Amy Grace Miller - Coordinator for Alternatives

The Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia affirms the sanctity of life through leadership, service to those making the choice for life, and witness to a culture of love.

We work in four areas of the pro-life movement.
Outreach, Education, Public Affairs and Alternatives.



This year's theme for Respect Life Sunday is "Every Life is Worth Living." A truer statement could not be made.

The Christmas classic "It's a Wonderful Life," tells the story of a beleaguered man who feels that the lives of his family and loved ones would be better served had he never been born. After an eye-opening adventure with Clarence the Angel, George discovers that his life had a major positive impact on those whose lives he had touched. It is a powerful story, beloved by many.

In reality, every life given by God is a miracle. Each of our lives has an impact on the other humans who we encounter. We often miss this truth in a world where the disabled, elderly and infirmed are deemed weak and the unborn are denied the right to life. The stories below

beautifully illustrate how God uses the weak to lead the strong.

In October of last year, 12-year-old Carin Richardson of Michigan reacted quickly to save her baby sister, Jac'Lynn, from drowning in the family's backyard pool. The girls' mom stated that this was particularly impressive because Carin has Down Syndrome and it is unusual for kids with Downs to act so quickly. Many babies who receive the prenatal diagnosis of Down Syndrome are aborted. But, in this instance, beautiful Jac'Lynn is very grateful that her big sister was around to help.

This past June, an elderly man was responsible for saving the lives of many when a road in Chongqing, China collapsed in front of his house due to a landslide. Rao Guohua waved away more than 50 vehicles, warning them of the danger. He took his meals out on the road and stayed up all night until authorities could re-direct traffic. Drivers and passengers have visited Rao at his home to thank him for saving their lives.

Days after Baton Rouge Police Officer Matthew Gerald was gunned down in a July 17th ambush, his wife Dechia was told by her youngest daughter that "Jesus told me that there is a baby boy in your tummy." Dechia was thrilled when a pregnancy test confirmed that she was indeed pregnant. She feels her husband's presence all around her and is hoping that the baby is a boy with her husband's beautiful blue eyes that she fell for years ago. "There's no better gift that a husband could leave behind than a baby, a gift from God. There's no better gift than that," said Mrs. Gerald.

So, this Respect Life Sunday and every day, may our hearts be full of gratitude for Life, in every stage from the moment of conception until natural death. Every life is a miracle. Every life is a gift. Every life is worth living.

Support the work of the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia and our maternity home Guiding Star Ministries through a gift which can be made online or mailed to our office.

The Pro-Life Union and Guiding Star are both 501C3 organizations.

www.prolifeunion.org or www.guidingstarministries.org.

“For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst.” Matthew 18:20

A crucial part of the mission of the Pro-Life Union is outreach and education done through prayer and witness at abortion centers. When women who are facing an unexpected pregnancy see men and women praying outside of an abortion facility, they experience the love of Christ. It is a privilege to see the many women who have accepted their child and chosen life because they felt this love. This public witness is a cornerstone of the pro-life movement and is rooted in prayer. We are given the opportunity to educate women, families and the community about the humanity of the unborn child. We are able to offer alternatives to abortion. We can then speak to our public figures in Harrisburg about the needs of the pregnant women we assist.

Please consider sacrificing an hour of your time to participate in one of the opportunities listed below. Your presence could quite literally save a life.

40 Days For Life

The Fall 40 Days for Life Campaigns began in our area on September 28th and will conclude on November 6th. Each individual will be asked to spend one hour at an abortion facility. To offer an hour of your time, please contact the following area leaders.

PP Center City Philadelphia (12th & Locust)
PP West Chester (8 S. Wayne Street)
PP Warminster (610 Louis Drive)

Pat Stanton – 267-718-4851
Paulette Matthews – 484-832-2746
Mary Paris – 215-348-7480

(The campaigns listed above are Member Organizations and coordinate efforts with the Pro Life Union. Other modified campaigns are being organized at Bryn Mawr Hospital, Planned Parenthood at Comly Rd., and other locations. Contact us at the PLU at 215.885.8150 for additional details.)

On October 4th, the head of 40 Days for Life, David Bereit, will visit the Center City Philadelphia Campaign on his tour across the country. United 40 Days for Life will visit all 50 states. Join this inspiring rally at 7 p.m. at PP 12th & Locust. Call our office for more info.

Life Chain

Participating in a Life Chain is a wonderful way to witness for life. Holding signs that read “Abortion Kills Children, Jesus Forgives and Heals, Abortion Hurts Women, Adoption: The Loving Option and Pray to End Abortion,” people line the streets to allow these messages of life to be seen by passersby. Life Chains occur on the afternoon of Respect Life Sunday, October 2nd and there is probably a Life Chain near you!



Abington – Old York Rd & Horace (2-3)
Bryn Mawr – Bryn Mawr Ave & Lancaster (2-3)
Collegedale – Main St at 6th Ave (2-3:30)
Downingtown – Rte. 30 at Manor Ave (2:30-3:30)
Kennett Square – 225 Cypress at Meredith (2-3)
Oxford – Rte. 472 at Rte. 10 (2-3)
Paoli – Rte. 30 at Rte. 252 (2:30-3:30)

Philadelphia – Comly Rd at the Boulevard (2:30-3:30)
Phoenixville – Rte. 23 at Phoenixville Hosp (2:30-3:30)
Warminster – Street Rd from York to Louis (2-3)
Wayne – Lancaster Ave at Aberdeen (12:45-1:45)
West Chester – S High St at Market St (2-3:30)
West Grove – 290 State at Assumption BVM (2:30-3:30)

Guiding Star Update

Guiding Star Ministries is our maternity home located in the Germantown section of Philadelphia. The Pro-Life Union adopted Guiding Star last fall as a tangible sign of our commitment to the sanctity of life and to ensure that pregnant women and their children have a place to call home. The mission is to provide shelter to pregnant women and their children so that they may have a successful, healthy pregnancy while creating a beautiful home that is welcoming, nurturing, structured and supportive. Since last fall, we have housed ten women, eight children and eight unborn children. Our phones ring daily with requests for support from pregnant women facing homelessness. And, we have a waiting list of eight women.

This is an incredible endeavor and encompasses both the spiritual and corporeal works of mercy. Last month we had the home blessed and prayers were offered with the moms and children. Residents participate in programming including faith sharing, parenting classes and healthy living. We hope to add in a sewing class and a book club as well.

We invite you to consider joining the Pro-Life Union in this work that affirms the sanctity of life! We are always working on updates to the home, and our needs are great.

Board Spotlight

Regina O'Reilly recently stepped down after many years of Board service. She has been a faithful participant in all Pro-Life Union activities and we are so grateful she is staying involved. Through Board service, Regina has learned to recognize even more deeply the great gift of the other person, in all of their different talents and temperaments.

Regina became involved in pro-life work when abortion was first legalized. She joined with others from her parish to offer help and outreach to women considering abortion. She shared a story of one mom who she talked with and who eventually chose life. Regina gave her all of her baby items and the woman's gratitude was simply overwhelming. She was spurred into pro-life work with the simple thought that every life had to have a beginning and that no person is greater or more important or valuable than another. We all have infinite value in the eyes of God.

Over the last few weeks Regina has been spending time at Guiding Star supporting the moms and children and helping to reorganize and spruce up the kitchen. As a mom and grandmother she is perfectly suited for the task and we are so grateful for the gift of her time, talent and treasure!!



PLANNED PARENTHOOD TURNS 100

So, the nation's biggest abortion business is celebrating in style with parties and ads and even more ways to "raise money" for their work. And, what is the "work" of Planned Parenthood? The destruction of human life in the womb. Planned Parenthood sees life as a burden. They hide the history of their founder, Margaret Sanger, who promoted eugenics and thought of birth control as a way to weed out the "unfit." But, numbers don't lie. This fall as you hear ads about Planned Parenthood and its services, or learn about yet another fundraising event being held in their honor, remember the numbers and beg the Lord's mercy on us for allowing the death toll to continue to rise. Pray for conversions and for the lives lost and wounded.

Number of Abortions Performed in Greater Philadelphia by Planned Parenthood

2010 – 11,610

2011 - 11,362

2012 - 11,194

2013 – 11,517

2014 - 10,827

2015 - 10,380

Total Since 2010

66,890

2016 Stand Up For Life Dinner

Featuring **Karen Gaffney**



Sunday, November 20, 2016
Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel
17th & Race Streets

4:30 p.m. Cocktails

5:30 p.m. Dinner

In 2001, Karen Gaffney became the first person with Down Syndrome to complete a relay swim of the English Channel. Her 2007 swim across the nine-mile span of Lake Tahoe became the subject of the documentary "Crossing Tahoe: A Swimmer's Dream. Karen received a standing ovation for her witty and inspiration TEDx talk entitled "All Lives Matter" in Portland, Oregon. Tickets are \$65 per person, Tables of ten discounted to \$600. Student tickets are \$45 per student. Visit www.prolifeunion.org/dinner. Call 215-885-8150 for details.

Reservations may be mailed to 88 Pennsylvania Ave., Oreland PA 19075.

-
- I would like to make a donation to support the Stand Up for Life Dinner with a \$ _____ gift.
 - I would like to be a donor to the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia. Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____.
 - Please charge a one-time donation of \$ _____ to my credit card.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-Mail _____

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____