



 /ProLifeUnion  /ProLifeUnion
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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.

February 2017

March for Life 2017



The streets of DC were filled last Friday with people from all over the country who came to march for life. This annual event is a celebration of the gift of life, and an opportunity to speak with legislators and to the broader community about the sanctity of life. The peaceful, family-friendly event shows the power and positivity of the pro-life movement. Buses from all over the Philadelphia area traveled down to DC and heard amazing speakers. Congresswoman Mia Love delivered an emotional and powerful address, sharing her own story and beliefs. Her words are a reminder to us all: “Each child born and unborn has the potential to open up our world and take us to places and spaces we’ve never imagined. Each living child carries with him or her the potential for greatness.”

Witness in Philadelphia

The Pro-Life Union sponsored a Prayer Rally in Center City at Planned Parenthood on Saturday, January 28th. Pilgrims and friends from the Diocese of Omaha joined us in prayer. Over 250 young people filled the street outside of Planned Parenthood and heard from speakers proclaiming the dignity of the human person. We loved that the students led us in prayer. Many were visibly moved as Sidewalk Counselors reached out to people going to the clinic and when they learned how many babies were aborted.

In late January, Planned Parenthood celebrity supporter Ali Larter, during a visit to Philadelphia, said “This policy has nothing to do with abortion...” The “pro-choice” position has everything to do with abortion, and nothing to do with healthcare, or women’s rights. Abortion is not healthcare. It is the destruction of an innocent human life. Planned Parenthood is the famous brand of the abortion industry. According to their own 2014-2015 Annual Report, 323,999 human beings lost their lives at Planned Parenthood facilities. Last Saturday, we stood for the unborn children and for women, and we prayed for healing and conversion.



Gosnell – The Follow-Up

A new book, *Gosnell – The Untold Story of America’s Most Prolific Serial Killer*, was recently released. A book signing took place at the Barnes & Noble in Willow Grove. One of the real heroes of the story was Detective Jim Wood. He acted courageously throughout the difficult case. His commitment to the dignity of every person was evidenced by his behavior and tenacity. The Gosnell story is horrific and Kermit Gosnell is a deeply disturbed man. Revisiting the case serves as a reminder that it is up to the pro-life movement to ensure that the abortion industry complies with regulations. Abortion hardens the heart and dulls the conscience, and it cannot be sanitized. Regulation and oversight do not make abortion right or good, but they do open the public’s eye to the reality of abortion.

A cursory glance at a recent state report shows ongoing violations at many major abortion companies. The Philadelphia Women’s Center report stated that the facility failed to provide written pre-operative instructions to each patient prior to the procedure for 18 of the 18 medical records reviewed. This is a facility doing abortion well into the second trimester. In our Public Affairs efforts at the Pro-Life Union, we remain focused on ensuring that already existing legislation is enforced. We also review the state facility reports. If you are interested in volunteering with our Public Affairs efforts, please contact us at the office.

Guiding Star Update

We welcomed our newest resident into the home in January and hosted a welcome dinner. This young mother was originally considering abortion, but through the efforts of our **40 Days for Life** campaign and a local pregnancy center, she chose life. She is a sweet young woman, and was so thrilled to receive maternity clothes. She mentioned recently that she "has never slept as well" since she has been at our home. What a tribute to the beautiful staff, our live-in missionary, and support from the other residents. We are particularly grateful to our donors and friends for the generous donations that allowed us to make this home truly beautiful. We welcome individual and group volunteers. If you have a skill you could share, please contact us. We welcome support from lawyers who could help our clients navigate custody and housing issues, or accountants to help with taxes and budgeting. Seamstresses and chefs are a welcome addition to self-improvement classes that are offered to residents. We would like to create a space in the home for the residents to exercise and welcome any gently used or new gym equipment. Exercise is important, and it is often hard for the moms to fit this into an already packed day, so a home gym would be a great asset to our program.

Annual Blaney Beef and Beer for Guiding Star Ministries
Saturday, Feb. 25th from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m.
Polish Eagles Sports Club, 3157 E. Thompson St., Philadelphia
The \$40 admission cost includes draft beer, homemade food, and entertainment by
the Glommer Twins (Rolling Stone Tribute band)
Contact Ed Blaney for tickets 215-840-8550

Layette Bags



Our layette bag program has begun. This simple act of kindness shown towards a struggling mom can have such an impact. Some items needed for the bags are newborn and size one diapers in smaller packs. Baby wipes, pacifiers, neutral color layette gowns or onesies, burp cloths, and hand-knitted or crocheted blankets are always special gifts. Recently one young woman was somewhat harsh and was clearly worried when she first visited. When the bag was handed to her, her demeanor changed and with a big smile, said, "Oh my! Thank you so much!" These bags change how many women feel, this gift shows the women that they are not alone and we are celebrating the life of their baby. If you are interested in donating or volunteering for our layette bag program, please e-mail us at mail@prolifeunion.org.

Hotline Training

We have written about our Pro-Life Union pregnancy hotline in the past. This hotline has been a lifeline for women as they navigate the conflicting information about abortion and try to find real answers and tangible support. Last year, we enabled a texting function so we could communicate with women. Last week, this allowed us to continue a phone conversation with one of the callers while she considered her choices. Her abortion was already scheduled but we were able to confirm that she cancelled the appointment. We hope to meet with her this week.

Have you ever wondered what you would say if you encountered someone who is abortion-minded? Where would you direct them and what are the facts? We are seeking interested people to join our Hotline Volunteer Team. Volunteers will be trained to answer calls and will be placed on the schedule for time they can offer.

Join us for this Hotline Training even if you are not certain you could take the calls at this time. You will learn how to discuss the issues and stay focused in order to help the moms!

Date: Thursday February 16th, 2017 Time: 9:30-11:30am

Location: Pro Life Union Office, 88 Pennsylvania Ave., Orelan PA 19075

If you are interested, please contact us at 215-885-8150 or email efinnegan@prolifeunion.org



610.626.4006
HOTLINE

Support the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia's mission through a secure, recurring online monthly gift. Monthly gifts are deeply appreciated. Please consider signing up as a Monthly Donor through our website or by contacting us here at the 215-885-8150.

Visit www.prolifeunion.org and www.guidingstar.org to learn more and share our work with others.
The Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia is a 501(c) 3 organization!

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Please contact the Pro-Life Union if you have not received your 2016 Tax Receipt letter.