



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

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.

Mother's Day 2017

The Journey to Motherhood

Last fall, Halle learned that she was pregnant. She felt the timing was wrong and a baby would only make the circumstances more difficult. The answer, while painful, was simple - abortion. Abortion was her best, worst choice. She had felt the sting of losing a child that way in the past, but really did not see another way out. She had no place to go and her boyfriend was abusive and unsupportive.

She felt particularly sick on the morning she went to Planned Parenthood last fall. As she was walking into the clinic, two people were there praying during the 40 Days for Life Campaign and offered help. Their kindness stopped her in her tracks. They listened as she shared her predicament. Halle never went into Planned Parenthood that day. She instead found help and emotional support at the local pregnancy center. The counselor brought her to the hospital and stayed with her while they treated her for morning sickness.

Halle needed a safe place to live and prepare for the baby. Within a few months, she found a place at Guiding Star Ministries. When she first moved in, she noted that she had slept more peacefully than she had in weeks. As Halle adjusted to the community life at Guiding Star, she began to embrace her child and motherhood.

We all have wounds that need healing, and healing takes time. Women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy need affirmation and love so they can experience the joy of motherhood.

Motherhood is a journey of joys, sorrows, laughter, pain and love. In the gift of motherhood, women can be transformed and then go out and transform the world in which we live.

The tragedy of abortion is that it destroys the possibilities inherent in motherhood. No woman deserves to feel like abortion is her best worst choice. Shouldn't we as a society ensure that every woman has the freedom and support needed to make the choice for life?

In April, two new babies came home to Guiding Star, including Halle's little boy. His life and her journey are only possible because of the good and generous people who live out their belief in the gift of life. The Pro-Life Union and Guiding Star Ministries are inspired by the faithful who pray that mothers accept the gift of life and then assist women as they make the choice for life.

Wishing everyone a happy Mother's Day!



The Most Important Person on Earth is a Mother. She cannot claim the honor of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not. She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral-a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body...
- Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty



It's normal to grieve a pregnancy loss, including the loss of a child by abortion. It can form a hole in one's heart, a hole so deep that sometimes it seems nothing can fill the emptiness. You are not alone.

Please call 888-456-HOPE (4673) or 610-354-0555

Sidewalk Servants by Dr. Monique Ruberu

God is amazing. A few short years ago, while praying outside of Planned Parenthood's main offices in downtown Philly, the question arose.... "Why don't we have a 40 Days for Life here?" I was new to pro-life outreach and wasn't sure. The strong presence at that facility every Wednesday was always a time for incredible encounters and opportunities to talk about the sanctity of life and offer support. Maybe, with God's grace, we could have a consistent presence through 40 Days for Life.

Would it be difficult? Yes. Would it please God if we tried? Yes. Would it be worthwhile even if not a single child was saved, but we were able to cover the place and the people present with prayer? Yes. Would we be able to place all of our hope and trust in God that He would use this, provide help and resources, and change hearts? YES.

Thus began our first Philly 40 Days for Life vigil. God has changed all of us participating in this witness. He has given us the words needed when the time came for conversations. He helped us to find peace and strength in the most unlikely of places. He gave us the strength and courage we needed to pray with such intensity and purpose. He changed our hearts. He took away the anger and replaced it with love. Love for every person that walks through those doors. We have learned that hearts and minds change with compassionate conversation. Our prayers are for each and every patient and sidewalk escort, the boyfriend or family member, and the abortionist. Prayer is our weapon, love is our fuel, God is our source.

After the fifth campaign, I was exhausted yet, so sad for it to end. The thought of people walking in and out of the Planned Parenthood without anyone there to offer them love, resources and support brought me to tears. This facility needs our witness. According to Planned Parenthood of Southeast Pa., 9,362 abortions were performed at their four facilities in just one year!

Now, we are embarking on another great endeavor. We hope you will join us as we engage in the greatest human rights battle of our time, here in our own city! *Sidewalk Servants Outreach* is the vigil between the 40 Days vigils. The goals of this outreach are simple. Cover the morning hours from 8 am-12 pm every day that the abortion centers are open, with trained sidewalk counsellors offering prayer, resources and love at those times. We will equip participants with sidewalk counselling training on a regular, consistent basis so they are ready to reach women in need.

Considering the time restraints of most working people, the ideal volunteers for this mission are young adults, active elderly, those who work from home or have a morning off during the week. We can work with people who face financial and or transportation difficulties.

We are continually amazed by the challenges overcome by persistence and prayer. We will continue to have a strong presence every day, bring love and light to the darkness and be a voice for the voiceless. When we volunteer to be present, we are telling God that we are open to do His will. We are praying that He will use us to move hearts and save lives. Is He asking you to donate toward this outreach so others can go in your place? Please contact us at the Pro-Life Union.



Area Vigils

3rd Fridays – Planned Parenthood Warminster – beginning at 7:30 a.m.

1st Saturdays – Planned Parenthood Upper Darby – beginning at 9 a.m.

1st Saturdays – Planned Parenthood Comly Rd. & Roosevelt Blvd. – beginning at 8 a.m.

1st Saturdays – Planned Parenthood West Chester – beginning at 9 a.m.

3rd Saturdays – Planned Parenthood 12th & Locust – beginning at 9 a.m.

Every Saturday – Philadelphia Women's Center – 8th & Cherry – beginning at 6:30 a.m.

Reflections on Motherhood and Adoption

Seven years ago, a baby boy was placed in my arms. I fell in love immediately as I stared at his round cherub-like face and his perfectly puckered lips. Months of paper work, countless classes, and background checks made the moment even more perfect. I had imagined more than once meeting my baby. I expected the intensity of love and relished the joy of holding my son. Something else happened in the moment he was placed in my arms - I fell in love with his birthmother.

Our family has a beautiful relationship with my son's birthmother through the gift of open adoption. Open adoption is different for every family that chooses to embark on this journey. For us, it has been very rewarding. We celebrate birthdays and holidays together. My son's birthmother and family have attended preschool graduations and even "babysit" when possible. When his birth mom got engaged, we were overjoyed.

This beautiful woman chose life; then she chose my family to raise her beautiful baby. We are forever connected. We are a family.

On Mother's Day, I want to celebrate all the joy that my son's birthmother has so selflessly given to me. I pray for her, that she has peace in her heart on what is a bittersweet day for her. I thank her for the amazing gift she has given to me.



Layette Bags



Women who are considering abortion often feel that they have no support and no other options. Sometimes a small gesture to them or their baby can make all the difference in the world. We have seen how a gift of baby clothes and products can cause an immediate attachment. It also lets the woman know that she is not alone and we, as a community, are willing to help.

We are happy to report that we are now able to give women who call Guiding Star Ministries or the Pro-Life Union Hotline looking for support a small gift along with information and referral services. Thank you to the many groups who have donated items for the Layette Bag program, including, Holy Cross and IHM.

Community Baby Shower

The Pro-Life Union is blessed by our friendship with Catholic Social Services. Their family support centers are tremendous resources for women and families. They have a diaper bank, offer parenting classes, and so much more! We are excited to be working with them for our Community Baby Shower. This event will be held for moms and dads in the Germantown area with refreshments, giveaways, raffles, music, and helpful information. The Shower will be held on Friday, May 19th from 10am-1pm.

Great Ideas

We love the way parishes and church groups come together and find ways to support families in need. Last year, a group from Immaculate Heart of Mary's Respect Life Committee reached out to Guiding Star Ministries. They visited the home and were given a tour. Since then, the group discussed ways in which they could support the women and their babies and children at the home. An idea came about to hold a drive for items from a GSM wish list. IHM collected the items during Lent and it was a great success. The onesies, baby items, clothes, and blankets will be shared with the moms at Guiding Star and women from the community!

The Knights of Columbus call every month and ask what we need for the families we meet. Some months they collect and deliver diapers and wipes. Recently, they have been helping us with cleaning items for the maternity home. Thanks to our friends for sharing great ideas and giving with great love!

Save the Date! Sunday, November 19, 2017

Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel

Before you know it, the 2017 Stand Up For Life Dinner will be upon us and you really don't want to miss out on this wonderful event where pro-life friends, families, students, and teachers gather for an evening of fellowship.



Elizabeth Cady Stanton



"When we consider that women are treated as property it is degrading to women that we should treat our children as property to be disposed of as we see fit." Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, along with Susan B. Anthony, was a leading figure in the women's rights movement. She shocked Victorian society by walking around in public visibly pregnant and raised a flag when her son was born, celebrating her motherhood. She was pro-life and understood that abortion is a violation of a woman's dignity.

Getting to Know the PLU

The Pro-Life Union is committed to the sanctity of life. We live out that commitment through our work in education, outreach, public affairs, and providing alternatives. Over the last year, we have distributed information on abortion and its alternatives throughout Greater Philadelphia. We hosted the annual Stand Up for Life Dinner last November with Karen Gaffney as our keynote speaker. We spoke with elected officials to update Pennsylvania's abortion law to reflect what we now know about fetal development.

We answered phone calls and texts on our hotline and hosted multiple Sidewalk Counseling Training sessions. At our maternity home, Guiding Star Ministries (www.guidingstar.org) thirty-eight people, including unborn babies saved from abortion, were housed at the home over the last year. We have responded to one-hundred and thirteen calls offering referrals, counseling, support, or material assistance. Last Christmas, a group of local families and the moms in our home celebrated Christmas with gifts from the community.

Please support us with your donations, prayers and, volunteer help! Together, we can make a difference. Join us as we defend the sanctity of life.



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.

I would like to be a Lifeline Donor. Please charge \$_____ to my card each month.

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