

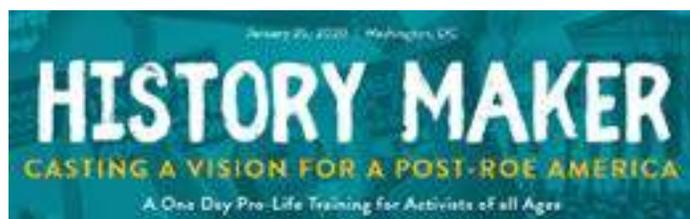
The Power of One

By: Tom Stevens, President and CEO, Pro-Life Union

Imagine eighty high school students becoming trained, equipped and inspired to have intelligent, passionate, and persuasive conversations with their peers. The impact is immeasurable. The National Pro-Life Summit held the day after the March for Life was a golden opportunity for these students to receive the most excellent pro-life training available today. The Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia sponsored students who couldn't afford the \$155 hotel or the bus fee for the National Pro-Life Summit so that the impact would be multiplied. A Thank You Note sent to us after the Summit said, "This event greatly impacted our daughters and they are now even stronger defenders of life!"

Everything we can do to train and strengthen young people in their respect for the sanctity of life, pro-life apologetics, and arm them to foster excellent pro-life groups in their schools is worth it. This is why we are so pleased to have Liana Hollendonner, Regional Coordinator for Students for Life of America, on our Board of Directors. We want to hear what students need and support her and them in their efforts. Pray for students. Pray for intelligent conversation that enables students to see the light rather than believe the common myths that the culture is selling.

Let the power of one well-informed, kind-hearted, persuasive person continue the discussions. A human being, with unique DNA, begins life at the moment of conception. A heartbeat starts by the end of the first month, and the nervous system, digestive tract, and functioning limbs are present by eight weeks. The DNA created on day one will dictate the eye color, and the height and the temperament of a unique person who deserves the opportunity to experience the world and contribute to it. The forming heart that beats by the end of four weeks deserves the chance to beat on average 42 million times every year! The arms and limbs that stretch and shift and grab in week 8 deserve the freedom to reach for the stars or to embrace another for a lifetime. Informed conversations can change the course of history. A truth is often repeated that a mom experiencing an unexpected pregnancy who hears about the beauty and the true facts of the life inside her body and the powerful and profound message "you can do this!" will likely choose life ... if only she would hear it from just one person. Be the Power of One today.



We Need You February 26-April 5!

The preborn children and their moms need you. Your witness, voice and prayers make a difference. Come and stand for life in the worldwide 40 Days For Life Campaign which will occur from February 26-April 5. 40 Days For Life is an opportunity for people to pray and fast for an end to abortion. The peaceful presence of pro-lifers outside abortion centers has helped to save 16,742 lives since 2007, also resulting in the closure of 104 abortion centers and departure of 196 abortion clinic workers who recognized the evil of the abortion industry. **Want to join other witnesses outside an abortion clinic in the Greater Philadelphia region?** You can become a prayerful presence in Center City, Northeast Philadelphia, West Chester, Norristown, and Warminster. For more information about 40 Days for Life locations and leaders, visit prolifeunion.org/outreach/40-days-for-life.



Pictured (above): Cardinal O'Hara High School students and faculty at the National Pro-Life Summit in Washington D.C.

Cardinal O'Hara Wins Students for Life of America High School of the Year Award

For the second consecutive year, a high school within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia won the Students for Life of America's National High School of the Year Award! Cardinal O'Hara High School's Respect Life Club won this prestigious award last month at the National Pro-Life Summit for their work as the best pro-life club among hundreds in high schools across the country. Last year's award winner was Bishop Shanahan High School. The Pro-Life Union congratulates Cardinal O'Hara on this distinguished achievement of building a Culture of Life!

**Pregnant?
Need Help?**



**Text 484-451-8104 or
call 610-626-4006.**



Member Organization Spotlight:

Rachel's Vineyard (featuring Emily Welfield)

It's important to remember how we can help women everyday through prayers, resources, and compassion, even after an abortion experience. Rachel's Vineyard offers retreats and resources for men, women and couples who are dealing with post-abortive emotions so they may begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing. Here is Philadelphia native Emily Welfield's personal testimony about her journey toward healing.

"My story begins with losing my virginity when I was thirteen years old. I was raped. That unresolved trauma led me to be very sexually active, which resulted in an unplanned crisis pregnancy at the age of sixteen.

It was decided by my parents that I would have an abortion and I was taken to the abortion clinic against my will. I asked for help from the staff at Planned Parenthood and stated that I was not there willingly. To my surprise, my cries for help fell upon deaf ears. I was degraded by the adults there and was told that I was acting like a child. During the ultrasound, I heard my baby's heartbeat loud and clear. That was it for me. Halfway through my ultrasound I stood up and ran out of the room and found myself up against a door. That is the last thing I remembered as I struggled to wake up in the recovery room. I imagine that I was drugged to keep quiet because staff at Planned Parenthood were concerned that I would scare the other women there preparing for their abortions.

I woke up in the recovery room feeling empty and in a state of total shock. I was slumped over in a chair in a group with the other girls and the first thing I saw when I opened my eyes was blood; I knew right then that my baby was gone. I felt small, weak, powerless, and violated.

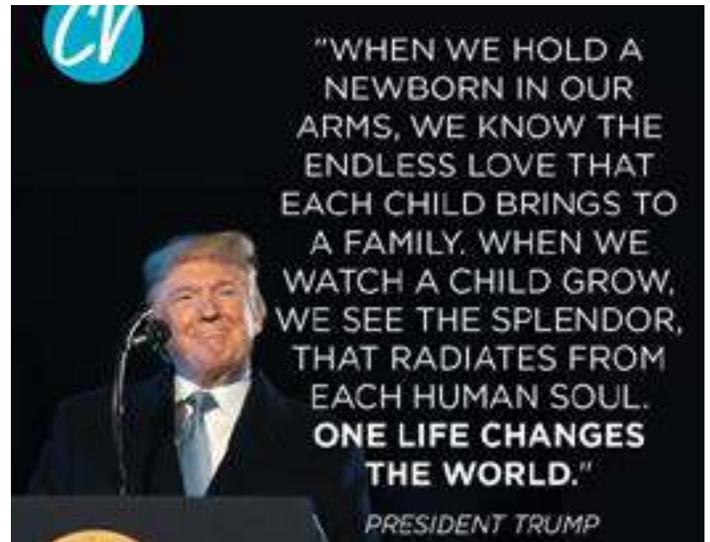
The shame, guilt, and pain I felt in the following days left me suicidal. Everything around me was a reminder of the betrayal and murder of my baby. So, not much time passed when I found myself turning to opiates to numb the pain.

By the grace of God, a friend recommended that I go on a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat. During the weekend of my retreat, I was touched by God's loving embrace and His Mercy and forgiveness. I was finally able to grieve the loss of my child and entrust his soul to Jesus. Our Lord showed me that I was to go forward to live my life in honor of my child. I believe Rachel's Vineyard saved my life. I am now happily married to a wonderful man and we are blessed to have a beautiful little boy."

For more info on Rachel's Vineyard, visit rachelsvineyard.org.

Will You Be Our Valentine?

Valentine's Day is all about love and we love all moms, dads and babies! Please help us support them through prayer and witness, volunteering or making a donation. Visit prolifeunion.org to find one of the many ways that you can give of your time, talent and treasure! Happy Valentine's Day!



47th Annual March for Life Becomes Historic with President Trump's Attendance

Thousands of people from the Greater Philadelphia area attended what many say was the "best and largest" March for Life they've ever attended. For the first time in history, a sitting US President personally attended and spoke to the crowd at the Rally before the March. President Trump motivated the crowd to continue defending the sanctity of human life, and addressed youth from the podium, recognizing their influence in our society. Trump said, "Young people are the heart of the March for Life and it's your generation that is making America the pro-life, pro-woman nation."

Pro-Life Union Hiring Part-Time Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Do you know someone with energy, creativity, an exceptional communicator,

tech savvy, and committed to the dignity and sanctity of life from the beginning to the end? The Pro-Life Union is looking for a Marketing & Communications Coordinator who is available part-time to work at our office in Oreland, PA. To directly view the full job description, visit bit.ly/36Ffo4 or go to prolifeunion.org/news.





Pictured (from left to right): The Hinnegan Family: Pat Sr., Anne, Andrew, Patrick Jr., and Sean.

Adoption and Possibility

By: Anne Hinnegan, Office Administrator, Pro-Life Union
(reprinted from May 2014)

I have been blessed to be a part of the Pro-Life Union for 33 years and have told my story to very few people. The compassion that I've experienced in the pro-life movement has made me realize that my experience is not one to be ashamed of, but one to share.

At 16, I found out that I was pregnant. I felt alone, embarrassed and terrified to tell my parents, but when I finally did, they reacted in the sweetest of ways; I know they loved me unconditionally—flaws and all. Abortion never occurred to me, but in the seventies, it was still taboo to be 16 and pregnant. My mom found a home for unwed mothers in Florida, and while it was hard to leave my friends and family, it was comforting to be with girls that were facing the same situation. Some of the girls chose to parent, while others chose adoption. I wanted the baby to have what I had growing up: a big, loving family, and a mom and a dad who would love the child unconditionally.

On May 15, 1977, a baby girl came into this world. I chose not to see her because I didn't want to waver in my adoption decision. But my mom held her and told me that she was beautiful. I moved back to Pennsylvania, met my husband and married in 1983. We are blessed with three extraordinary sons, the joys of my life. All these years later, I can clearly see how parenting would have taken me on a different path. I don't think my husband and I would have met and my boys would not have been born. Adoption allowed me to live the life God had planned for me. It opened the door for my marriage, my sons, and my involvement in the pro-life movement.

I became involved in the pro-life movement after my second son was born. I understand the fears, anxieties and concerns of women facing unexpected pregnancies. It is a blessing to be part of an organization that helps women choose life for their children, and it is especially heartwarming to hear about other women who selflessly give the gift of life to couples through adoption.

I often think about my only daughter and wonder if she is now a mom or maybe a musician like her birthmother. Many years ago, I surrendered her to the Lord, and I pray that she is happy and healthy and the joy of her parents' lives. I am grateful that adoption allowed her to experience life and God's plan for her.



Pictured: Bishop Joseph Coffey encourages the participants at the February 1st John P. and Harriet Stanton Memorial.

"We are ALL IN" at the 6th Anniversary Prayer Vigil and John P. and Harriet Stanton Memorial

A great crowd gathered on Saturday, February 1st at Philadelphia Women's Center where more than 6,500 innocent preborn babies are aborted each year. The resounding theme of the morning was "We are ALL IN!" until abortion ends. Preaching and prayer leadership were provided by Pastor Herb Lusk, III, the Sisters of Life, Bishop Joseph Coffey, Marlene Downing and many others. We were also treated to an original pro-life song by one of the seminarians from St. Charles Borromeo. A Memorial Mass was held at Holy Redeemer Church in honor of John Patrick Stanton and his wife Harriet. Known for his leadership in the pro-life movement and active involvement in the Philadelphia area, John advocated for the rights of the unborn, even if it meant briefly serving time in jail. His determination for the sanctity of human life never wavered; we should live by John's example and never stop defending the rights of the unborn.



Kathy Barnette's Mom Chose Life!

When Fox & Friends Political Analyst Kathy Barnette was preparing to enter the Army Reserve at 18 years old, she realized by finding a copy of her birth certificate that her mother was only 12 years of age when Kathy was born. It was then that she discovered that she was conceived during the rape of her mother. This knowledge made her adamant about the sanctity of all life. "Aborting me would not have eased the trauma my mother suffered or allowed me to be in a place where I can take care of my mother." Kathy recently told her story at the Annual Open Board Meeting of Abington Hospital. "I am eternally grateful to my mom. She had me." Kathy's powerful witness left an impact on those who attended. Pray that Abington Hospital stops aborting. Kathy also gave her testimony at the March For Life in front of the Supreme Court Building.

Advertise and Save Lives!

This month's advertiser is our landlord and neighbor Lee's Moving and Storage. Tim Leibtag and his crew are always ready to lend us a hand when we need it. Please consider Lee's for your moving and storage needs!

If you would like to advertise in our monthly newsletter, call us at 215-885-8150. Your advertisement will help cut the cost of publishing and your business will be promoted to our 1,300 members who receive this publication!



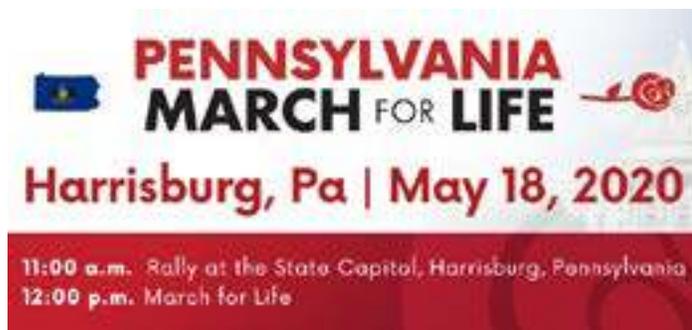
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March 15th St. Patrick's Day Parade: Philly's Own March for Life!

Let's make it a large attendance this year at the St. Patrick's Parade. It's a great opportunity to Stand Up for Life and join the Pro-Life Union on Sunday, March 15th. We march every year together behind our banner and are near the front of the parade. Come be counted. Irish or just Irish friendly, you are invited! Plan to arrive around 11:30 am and we'll be done before 2:00 pm. Let us know you're planning to attend by emailing mail@prolifeunion.org and we'll send you details when available.



Join us at the first ever
PA March for Life...
Let's show legislators
that Pennsylvanians care about life!

Upcoming Events: (Visit prolifeunion.org/events for complete details about these events)

2/19 - 7:00 pm - Kickoff Prayer Rally for 40 Days For Life - Greater Exodus Church, 704 N. Broad St., Phila. 19130. Celebrate with prayer and song and hear the testimonies of Kathy Barnette, Author & Commentator, Matt Britton, Chair, 40 Days For Life and Dr. Monique Ruberu, OB/Gyn Physician.

2/26-4/5 - 40 Days For Life Campaign - Mark your Calendars! Participate in the next 40 Days For Life Campaign, which will run from February 26-April 5. Visit prolifeunion.org/outreach/40-days-for-life to sign up!

3/3 - 7:00 pm - Sidewalk Outreach Training - St. Colman Church, 11 Simpson Road, Ardmore, PA 19003.

3/10 - 7:00 pm - The Sisters of Life - will lead a Rosary, followed by a talk at St. Joseph Parish, 332 Manor Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335. Contact Cathy at stjoesprolife@gmail.com or call 484-206-5151. A freewill offering for the Sisters of Life will be taken.

3/14 from 10:00am-12:00pm—March 'Newby Saturday'—'Newby Saturday' is for people who want to learn how to effectively witness outside an abortion center. Join us on Saturday, February 8th from 10:00am-12:00pm outside Planned Parenthood at 12th & Locust. Get common questions answered and learn by example from experienced Sidewalk Servants! Details at prolifeunion.org/outreach.



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