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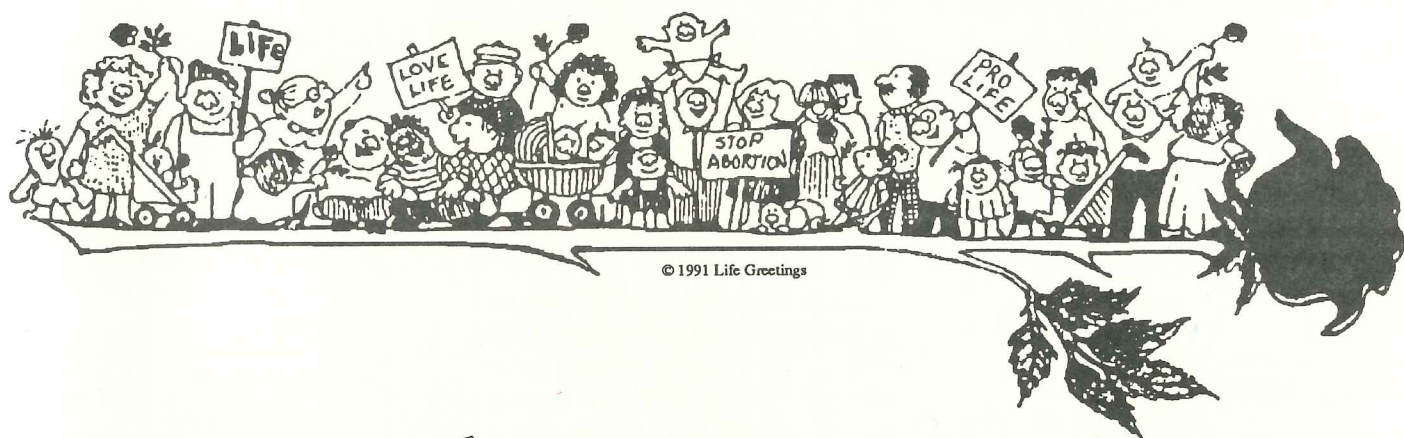
Essay Contest Winners
p. 5

Lifespan *news*

Volume 25 Number 1

Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

January 1996



RALLY for LIFE

*23rd Anniversary
of Roe v. Wade*

Date: Sunday, January 21, 1996
(snow or shine)

Place: Kennedy Square, Detroit
(at the intersection of Fort,
Michigan and Woodward)

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Rally map and information, p. 3

NEWS NOTES

Celebration of Life 1996 Calendar

Abortion waivers

More than 800 minors sought a judge's OK to have an abortion without the permission of a parent in 1994, the first full year the parental consent law was in effect, a report from the Michigan Supreme Court shows.

The law requires girls 17 and under to have a parent's consent for an abortion or ask a probate judge to waive the consent requirement. Judges may grant a waiver if they find the girl is mature enough to make her own decision or that the waiver would be in her best interests.

The court's report does not indicate how many waivers were granted or which judges approved them.

But it does indicate that Wayne County accounted for 52 percent—or 431—of the waiver requests. Oakland County was second with 78. Genesee and Macomb were tied for third with 60 each.

—*Detroit Free Press*, October 28, 1995

Vegetable

Hikari Oe, son of Nobel Prize-winning writer Kenzaburo Oe, was born 32 years ago with severe disabilities. Doctors tried to convince his parents that they should let their son die, saying the most they could hope for "was a kind of vegetable existence." But the parents, after struggling with the decision, sought an operation for their son, who survived but "was epileptic, developmentally delayed, visually impaired, with limited physical coordina-

tion." However, Hikari "has learned to express himself through music," and "a CD of music composed by Hikari Oe won Japan's top prize for Classical Japanese music last year. Not bad for a 'vegetable.'"

—*American Life League Communiqué*
September 22, 1995

Cash in on pregnancy

Concerned about a population decline, the region surrounding Russia's fourth-largest city, Nizhny Novgorod, is offering cash rewards to women who bear children.

Under a newly issued regional decree, mothers will be paid the equivalent of \$225 for their first child and \$292 for their second. The region's mortality rate is two times the birth rate.

—*The Detroit News*, September 17, 1995

Teen sentenced

An 18-year-old Fresno, California man has been sentenced to 20 years to life in prison for the shooting death of his ex-girlfriend's unborn child. He was convicted of second-degree murder.

A state Supreme Court ruled in May that killing of an unborn child that could not survive outside the womb could be prosecuted as murder. The 14-year-old girl was pregnant at the time she was shot in the back. The unborn child, 15 weeks in the womb, was born dead during surgery for the back wound.

—*American Family Journal*, October 1995



Right to Life - Lifespan is offering Dr. James Dobson's 1996 Celebration of Life Calendar valued at \$9.99 for only \$5.00. This beautiful spiral bound calendar measures 11" x 11" and is printed on heavy paper. The joys of childhood are captured in full-color photos. An encouraging scripture verse accompanies each month's page. Call (313) 422-6230, (810) 775-8776 or (810) 816-1546.

Lifespan News

January 1996 Vol. 25, No. 1

President & Editor - Ann R. Sands

Desktop Publisher - Marge Bradley

Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit

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MAIN OFFICE
28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127
Livonia, MI 48152-3736
(313) 533-9090



ABORTION...the ultimate child abuse

This year's billboard campaign consists of having a rotary bulletin positioned on metro Detroit's main arteries. Our message will be "ABORTION...the ultimate child abuse" with a picture of an empty cradle and Lifespan's phone number. It will move to a new location every sixty days. This gives us six different locations during a one-year period. This plan enables Lifespan to reach a large target audience. The total cost of this year's project is \$36,500. The total amount raised so far is \$11,792. We need \$24,708 to reach our goal. Will you, your family, church or organization "Adopt the Billboard" for a day for only \$100, or a week for \$700? But you can help by making a donation in any amount. For information, call (313) 533-9090. Please send your contribution to Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia 48152.

Enclosed is my/our donation to Lifespan's Billboard Campaign

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

"Adopt for a day" _____
"Adopt for a week" _____
Other _____
(Donations are not tax-deductible)

January 22nd Activities

March for Life

Unborn babies and our country need us to rally by the multitudes in Washington, D. C. at the 23rd annual March for Life. The March will be held on Monday, January 22, beginning at noon, with a Rally in the Ellipse, just south of the White House. The March will be broadcast live from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. on 780 AM, WABS. Bring your portable radio if you are going to the March. A Rose Dinner is also planned for Monday evening.

A March for Life Convention will be held on Saturday and Sunday, January 20-21, at the Hyatt-Regency Capitol Hill Hotel. Rates at the Hotel are \$89 for up to 4 persons per room. Make reservations by January 8. Call (202) 737-1234.

Bus transportation may still be available for the trip to Washington.

For more information about the March, Dinner, Convention or bus transportation, call (313) 533-9090.

Say it with roses!

In conjunction with March for Life activities, live red roses will be delivered to each Member of Congress, the Supreme Court and the President and Vice President on January 22nd.

If you, too, would like to "say it with roses," send your name, address, city, state, zip and phone number, along with a tax-deductible contribution, to MARCH FOR LIFE, Box 90300, Washington, DC

20090. Roses will be sent in your name to your legislators.

Memorial candles

Pro-life homes across the metro area will remember the millions of aborted babies by burning candles on the eve of January 22. Lifespan chapter offices have candles for your use; contact your local office for information and/or to obtain the luminaries for yourself or church.

Ecumenical service

Right to Life - Warren/Center Line is sponsoring a memorial service on January 21 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Dorothy Church, Warren. Call (810) 754-5251 or 751-0945.

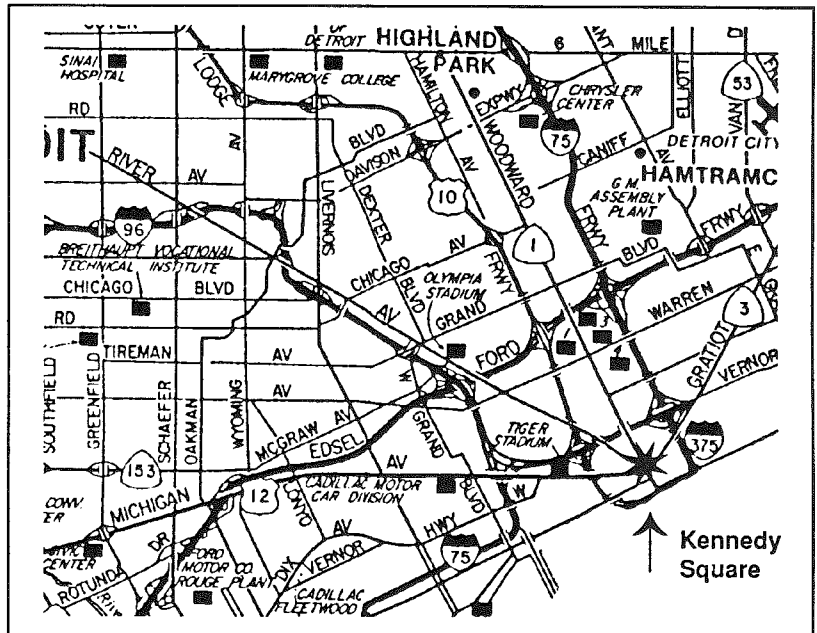
Rally for LIFE

Sunday, January 21, 2:00-3:00 p.m., Kennedy Square, Detroit

A Rally for Life will be held on January 21, 1996 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Kennedy Square in downtown Detroit. This annual pro-life rally is hosted by the Detroit Chapter of Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit.

Each year on the Sunday before the January 22nd anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, proliferators gather to memorialize the 1973 Supreme Court decision. 1996 will mark the 23rd year of legalized abortion on demand. Since January 22, 1973, on the day of infamy when the U.S. Supreme Court stripped the unborn child of his right to life, 33 million babies have been killed by abortion.

Let's join together at the "Rally for Life" to protest the last 23 years of legalized abortion and to publicly reaffirm our belief in the value of all human life. The rally is a family event so bring your children. Metro-wide support of this rally is crucial. For more information, call (313) 874-0432 or (313) 533-9090.



Please complete this form and return it as soon as possible to Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia, 48152.

_____ Yes, we are interested in attending the Rally for Life!

Church Bus _____ Yes _____ No

_____ Yes, please list my church/organization as a co-sponsor of the Rally!

Your Name

Pastor's/Director's Signature (only if co-sponsoring)

Your Phone

Church/Organization Name



Legislative Update



Addresses

President

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
Opinion Line (202) 456-1111, before 5 PM
(202) 456-1414, after 5 PM
Fax Number: (202) 456-2461

Dear Mr. President:

U.S. Senators

The Honorable (Spencer Abraham, Carl Levin)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3121

Dear Senator (last name):

U.S. Representatives

The Honorable (first and last name)
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 224-3121

Dear Congressman or Congresswoman
(last name):

Governor

The Honorable John Engler
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 373-3400

Dear Governor Engler:

Michigan State Senator or Representative

The Honorable (full name)
State Capitol
Lansing, MI 48913
(517) 373-1837

Dear Senator (last name):

or

Dear Representative (last name):

Senate Approves Ban on Partial-Birth Abortions

On Thursday, December 7, the U.S. Senate approved the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, HR 1833, 54 yes, 44 no, 1 not voting. Prior to final passage, several amendments were proposed. The key vote was on a broadly written health exception amendment offered by Senator Barbara Boxer. This amendment allowed the partial-birth abortion procedure to be used for virtually any reason. It was rejected 47 yes, 51 no, 1 not voting.

As was expected, the votes were close. Unlike the House, no Senators with consistent pro-abortion voting records voted against gutting amendments or in favor of the bill.

Because the House and Senate versions of the bill are not identical, differences will have to be worked out. The presumption is the House will accept the Senate changes. Whether Congress can complete action on this matter before Christmas is not clear. If it does not take action, the bill will be carried over into the 1996 session.

As reported in the November/December issue of *LifespanNews*, the U.S. House of Representatives voted November 1 to approve the bill by a veto-proof vote of 288 to 139.

The partial-birth abortion procedure is usually used 4½ months into pregnancy, often much later—even into the 9th month. The *Los Angeles Times* accurately summarized the procedure in a June 16 news story: "The procedure requires a physician to extract a fetus, feet first from the womb and through the birth canal until all but its head is exposed. Then the tips of surgical scissors are thrust into the base of

the fetus's skull, and a suction catheter is inserted through the opening and the brain is removed."

The following is a list of the votes of Michigan's Congressmen.

Key: X = Pro-Life Vote
O = Pro-Abortion vote

U.S. Senators

Levin C (D)	O
Abraham S (R)	X

U.S. Representatives

Barcia J (D)	X
Bonior D (D)	X
Camp D (R)	X
Chrysler D (R)	X
Collins B (D)	O
Conyers J (D)	O
Dingell J (D)	X
Ehlers V (R)	X
Hockstra P (R)	X
Kildee D (D)	X
Knollenberg J (R)	X
Levin S (D)	O
Rivers L (D)	O
Smith N (R)	X
Stupak B (D)	X
Upton F (R)	X

Be sure to thank those Senators and Representatives who voted pro-life, and express your disappointment to those who voted pro-abortion. Though President Clinton's staff has said he does not support this bill, please contact him; ask him to support this legislation.

Pro-Life Student Essay Contest

Three metro Detroit teens won savings bonds in Lifespan's Pro-Life Student Essay Contest on Abortion, Infanticide or Euthanasia. The first place prize of a \$500 savings bond will be awarded to Ava Williams, 15, a sophomore at Regina High School in Harper Woods. Ava is the daughter of Clifton and Gloria Williams of Detroit. The second place prize of a \$200 savings bond will be presented to Bethany Keilman, 14, who is homeschooled by her parents, Ken and Cindy Keilman of Riverview. Our third place winner, Alison Klemmer, 17, a senior at Athens High School in Troy, won a \$100 bond. Alison's parents are John and Chris Klemmer of Troy. The savings bonds will be awarded at the Detroit Rally in Kennedy Square on January 21.

We want to thank the judges who had such a difficult job choosing the winners from so many excellent entries. Judy Ellsworth has been involved with post-abortion counseling and education for many years, Charles Kleinbrook is an attorney and Margaret Spas is an adjunct professor at Madonna University. All three judges are members of Lifespan's Advisory Council. Printed below are the winning essays.

Euthanasia—The Lie That Kills

First Place Essay

Imagine this is the year 2002, the setting an ordinary courthouse. The case being decided upon is highly unusual, an elderly man has decided to challenge the conditions of a new law. His doctor has decided since this man is in less than perfect health, it would be better for him to die. The man pleads for his life, he feels that even though he is sometimes in pain, he wants to continue living. Both attorneys involved present their case. The jury takes less than 10 minutes of deliberation—their verdict: the man must die. As he is led out of the courtroom, an angry crowd of spectators (none of them over 50) boo and hiss him.

Does this sound like something out of a sci-fi novel? Or maybe a horror movie? It couldn't possibly happen, could it? Could it? Although the imaginery case has not yet occurred, it could happen. What could ever cause such a travesty of justice in our educated society? The newest medical term for killing those whose quality of life is not as we feel it should be: Euthanasia.

Euthanasia is defined as the proposed practice of ending one's life in the case of incurable disease so as to end suffering. Its supporters claim that euthanasia is a merciful way of ending the suffering and pain of an incurable disease—in other words, allowing that person to "die with dignity." Realistically, how can this be?

First, how can we possibly define any disease as being incurable? Everyday,

medicine comes up with a cure for so-called "incurable diseases." Why, if we looked into our past, we would see how true this is. What would have happened if people decided to kill every man, woman and child who suffered from small pox, polio or yellow fever because it was thought of as being incurable? Millions of people would

Finally, what is the potential outcome of this disastrous practice? Who would decide whose life is worth living? Would it be the politicians, the same politicians who are cutting health care benefits of those who desperately need them? What if these lawmakers decided euthanasia was the perfect way to end deficits, and cut medical reform costs

*Ava Williams, 15, is
a sophomore at
Regina High School
in Harper Woods*



have died needlessly of diseases that barely even exist today.

Secondly, what about euthanasia supposedly ending suffering and pain? What about the relatives of the victim left behind? Doesn't that person suffer, and feel pain (maybe for the rest of their life) at losing a loved one, of being cheated by science of even one more day to hold that person close and tell that person how much they mean to them, how much they love them. What peace does that person find?

Thirdly, how can anyone claim that euthanasia possibly allows someone to "die with dignity?" Does this so-called dignity being spoken of include reducing someone to the status of an animal, allowing them to be "put to sleep" like a dog whose bark is no longer satisfactory?

by just getting rid of those desperately in need? In this event, who would be the victims? Sure, euthanasia supporters say those with incurable diseases, but isn't almost every disease curable? Wouldn't the real victims be the elderly, since aging is really the only virtually unstoppable disease in life? If this is so, aren't we all in danger? Won't we all get older?

If we don't stop this now, we will all be in danger. We all need to take a long moment to think who has the power to decide who lives and dies—a doctor with a knife or the Creator of life. ■

Second and Third Place Essays appear on pages 8 and 9, respectively.



Chapter

detroit

Office hours

MW 10-2; TThF Closed
Carol Smith, Chairman
Mary Cascos, Ofc. Mgr.

Rally for Life

It's hard to believe that we will again be coming together to memorialize the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. It has been 23 years since our government turned its back on the most innocent and vulnerable of its citizens. It has been a long fight, but we cannot stop.

Lifespan needs you, your family, your friends, your church and your organizations to come to Kennedy Square and help us send a powerful message to the

people of metro Detroit. No, after 23 years, we are not discouraged. We are not giving up until all our citizens are given the Right to Life which is stated in our Constitution.

Come join us at Kennedy Square on **January 21 from 2:00 till 3:00 p.m.** It will only take one hour of your time, and it may save a life! Let's have as many people there as we had for our Life Chain. Dress warmly; the weather is usually cold, but you will definitely go away with a warm glow in your heart when you experience the love and concern of all those around you.

Call the office at (313) 874-0432 for directions or details. God will surely bless you for your witness.

25th anniversary

It has been 25 years of saving lives and educating the metro Detroit area on all Life issues. Congratulations,

Lifespan, for staying the course through the highs and the lows. Special thanks to those who continue to fight the good battle: Ann Sands, Carol Smith, Pat Holscher, Diane Fagelman, Phyllis Sullivan and all the many volunteers who Love Life. May God bless you with continued strength to keep the fight going until the war is won.

Thanks

Thank you to all our Christmas card distributors and to all of you who purchased our Christmas cards. This is a very important fundraiser for us, and we appreciate your support.

May the New Year bring to you the best of health and happiness.

Detroit Chapter

5930 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202-3516
(313) 874-0432

oakland

Office hours

M, Th, F 9-3; T, W 1-7
Diane Fagelman, Chairman
Theresa Koehler, Ofc. Mgr.
Clare Schneider, Secretary
Diane Trombly, Volunteers/
Fundraising

Educational series

Thank you to everyone who attended the Oakland Chapter's November Educational Series program on Fetal Experimentation which featured Professor Margaret Spas on November 18 at Spring Arbor College in Troy. The presentation was very informative and worthwhile. Thank you also to Sr. Mary Choener, Pastor Larry Cranston, Greta McKinney, Michael and Mary Alice Merlo, April Morris, Chuck Niehaus, Marge Wagner, Cindy Yanik and Mary Jane

Young for working with their churches in order to co-sponsor and promote this event for us.

January's program on "Managed Health Care" will be held on **January 20 from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Highland Lakes Campus of Oakland Community College at 7350 Cooley Lake Road in Waterford.** It will be presented by Congressman Joe Knollenberg and pro-life insurance specialist, Michael O'Dea. The program will be sponsored by five churches in the western Oakland County area. Please try to attend and pass the word; it will be very pertinent to current legislation and your personal political involvement.

Coming Educational Series attractions include Planned Parenthood: "The Big Lie," in March (Oakland University). We need your help to schedule and publicize these events; please call the office at (810) 816-1546 if you know of any public places to hold these programs.

Volunteer appreciation

Thank you to Sylvia Pfiester for recently volunteering to take on a HUGE office filing task which has been desperately needing a leader for a long, long time. We are still in need of a data entry volunteer BEFORE the end of January. Please call the office if you can spare some time each week and are familiar with Microsoft ACCESS.

Membership renewals

Please look at the address label on this newsletter. The date on this label is the last time you donated money to Lifespan. If it has been over a year, please take the time to write your check to renew your membership today. Thank you.

Oakland County Chapter

Coventry Place
1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G
Troy, MI 48084-3540
(810) 816-1546

News

Office hours

M-Th 10-4

Patricia Holscher, Chairman
Linda Kournoian, Ofc. Mgr.

I count my blessings

As chairman, how blessed I am to have our chapter's dedicated board of directors and all you loyal members surrounding me. I am able to accomplish the day-to-day tasks in the office because I know that I can rely on you. Your prayers, knowledge of the life issues, eagerness to help and financial support all strengthen my faith that we will win this unjust war against the unborn, the elderly and the medically dependent who are threatened in today's society.

Let's begin the New Year, 1996, by recommittng ourselves to the right to life movement. TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Our thanks

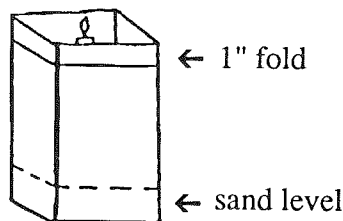
The 1995 Christmas card season was a great success mainly due to the cooperation of many pastors, church representatives, distributors and helpers who spent countless hours making Lifespan cards available to church members, their families and neighbors; and thanks, certainly, to those who purchased the cards.

Because of your constant pro-life efforts and support, our office continues to be viable. Our sincere thanks to all of you for another job well done. Your love for the unborn never falters. Thanks!

Light a candle for LIFE

Join other proliferers by placing a luminary outside your home on the eve of January 22nd. This custom acknowledges that 33 million babies have been killed through abortion.

Kits include a candle, bag and instructions. All you need for the bottom of the bag to weight it down is a little sand, kitty litter or baking soda. Candles are available in the office for personal use or for churches.



Dr. Dobson's calendars

Call (313) 422-6230 to reserve your Celebration of Life 1996 Calendar with words of wisdom from Dr. Dobson on each page. They make great gifts for the young and old alike. See page 2.

Entertainment books

Our thanks to all of you who bought and sold Entertainment Books from our Chapter. If you still need one for yourself or for a birthday or anniversary gift, we still have a few available. Call (313) 422-6230.

Rally for Life

Let's all gather on January 21, Sanctity of Life Sunday, in Kennedy Square, 2-3 p.m., to publicly denounce the killing of 33 million babies since *Roe v. Wade*. See page 3 for details. Call (313) 422-6230 for car pools and buses.

Wayne County, West and
Downriver Chapter
27578 Schoolcraft
Livonia, MI 48150-2203
(313) 422-6230

It was a great party!!

Seeing old faces and new together was a high point at our 25th anniversary party reminiscing on why and how we all came together and stayed together for 25 years. It's the best of times when I get together with my pro-life friends.

As I tried to chronicle the events that lead up to this night, it was hard to get all the needed remembrances in the space of 10 minutes allotted for my remarks. The thoughts I left out: the people that worked so hard, and have been taken home by GOD. Pat Barkey—our first attorney, Dr. Paul Mitros—the first physician who went out and spoke on the evils of abortion and how it would erode respect for human life.

Another thought I want to share with you is the importance of all those who worked so hard for their fellow man these past 25 years. I am talking about you! Whether you have licked envelopes, sold Christmas cards, spoken to a hostile crowd, it makes no difference—each of you is part of this great foundation for life—LIFESPAN.

It is also time to thank our spouses and children who have given up time and have been so supportive of those of us who must attend the meetings, get the newsletter out and the thousand little things most people don't think about.

Volunteering to stop abortion was supposed to be a short-term project in 1970—for many of us, it has become a lifetime commitment.

In closing, it is important to express my thoughts as to what keeps us going—always against odds. God has truly touched this movement. I believe He has called all of us—our activities may be different but our purpose the same. Do not be discouraged, we have done a lot in 25 years—the fact that we are still here is a testimony of our success. My husband, Jerry, so often has reminded me when things got tough—“Don't despair, Diane. Remember, it is God's time, not yours; stay focused.”

As our twenty-fifth year winds down, I thank God for all the wonderful people He has sent to this civil rights movement. I ask that He bless YOU with peace, health and happiness.

—Yours for LIFE, Diane Fagelman
Oakland County Chapter Chairman

Second Place Essay Who Hears the Cries of Innocence?

The only right and wrong in this world, are the ones that are right and wrong for you. What is right for you may be different from what is right for your brothers and sisters on this earth. No matter how different our opinions may be, we need to love one another...

This is the world's view of today. In this ideology, Innocence is out of place. Since this philosophy is not true, and innocence is among us, she comes under attack. This brilliant, white presence in the sea of "gray" shows that there is no gray at all. There is black and white, wrong and right, just like God created them to be. People are enraged that this is so. They know the truth, and it burns in their hearts and minds. They are enraged that God would create a protection system for them by making a clear-cut

continues. Innocence is being wiped out by the schools, doctors, philosophers, songwriters, and every form of media has taken up arms against her. The worst battles yet have been in the privacy of a mother, counselor and doctor. This deadly combination has attacked Innocence. The Fetus will die. Innocence weeps.

The Fetus is the beginning of human life, a baby in the mother's womb, part of God's plan and handiwork. Psalm 139:13 states, "For Thou didst form my inward parts; Thou didst weave me in my mother's womb." A fetus, baby, a miracle, is a clear reminder of the Maker of life. When people remember Him, the one who made the system that they despise, they become angry. Who is He to tell them that they cannot do what they wish with their bodies? The anger of knowing His response to be, "I created you, you are mine," enrages them. They hold their ears to the sounds of His voice, "I created that baby inside you. It is not yours, only given to you as a gift for a time." The gift of Innocence, a reminder of what was

**Bethany Keilman, 14,
of Riverview, is homeschooled
by her parents**



black and white, and restricting their "freedom." So like the selfish people that they are, they try to wipe out all the white, filling the void with darkness. They shut out the light that reminds them of their wrong.

The light will not be shut out. Like the "whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones," changing the outward appearance of something does not change the thing itself. There is no safety when people turn from God's ways. Innocence being under attack cries silent tears of grief and pain.

The war wages on. No longer just differing opinions, now it is clear to all that only one voice can exist. Innocence cries softly.

Fingers are being pointed in all directions. One side cries, "You are heartless and cruel for not letting us choose the right path for ourselves. Restricting our freedom is the worst thing in the world. Isn't that what this country was based on?" The attack

meant to be, is attacked. Innocence cries out!

"In Ramah was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not." Who hears the cries of Innocence? Not many in this age. In time, the cries of Innocence will be heard. Everyone will see the black and white of the sacrifice of children to the king of this age. How many will die before Innocence can resound the joy of life? When that happens, will God hear the repentant cries for help as the humans drown in the blood of their children, His prize creations...

Psalm 94:3-5: *Lord, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph? How long shall they utter and speak hard things, and all the workers of iniquity boast themselves? They break in pieces thy people, O Lord, and afflict thine heritage.* ■

Mother of the Year - 1996

In conjunction with our Mother's Day Dinner, on Tuesday, May 7, 1996, we will be honoring a "Mother of the Year."

We are looking for nominations from among our members or others for this sixth annual award. The nominee must be a resident of the metro Detroit area and able to attend the award dinner on May 7 at Vladimir's in Farmington Hills.

Nominations must be submitted in writing explaining why you feel this person qualifies for "Mother of the Year." Nominations must be received no later than **Monday, April 1**. No nominations by, or for, Right to Life - Lifespan board members will be considered.

Our "Mother of the Year" will be an honored guest at the dinner on May 7. She will be awarded a plaque, a dozen long-stemmed roses and a \$100 gift certificate to J.C. Penney's.

If your nominee is chosen, you will also receive a free ticket to the dinner. If the "Mother of the Year" is nominated by two or more individuals, the first one received will be eligible for the free ticket.

Our 1995 "Mother of the Year" was Margaret Williams, of Farmington Hills. She was nominated by her daughter, Wendy Acree.

Please include your name, address and phone number and also the name, address and phone number of your nominee.

Mail or deliver your nomination for "Mother of the Year" to Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia 48152 for receipt no later than **3:00 p.m. on Monday, April 1**. For more information, please call (313) 533-9090.

Post-abortion help/healing

Project Rachel, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Detroit, will be starting a new series of post-abortion support groups the third week of January. Call (313) 237-5910.

Post-Abortion Counseling & Education (P.A.C.E.) will meet beginning Tuesday, February 27, 1996, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Plymouth Church of the Nazarene, Rm. 108, 45801 Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth. Call Dawn at (313) 722-2839 or Susan at (810) 349-4120.

Third Place Essay

From the Moment They Met

A multitude of sperm swim toward their collective goal — the egg. It takes this group over half an hour to travel ten centimeters. When they finally reach the egg, these tiny creatures jostle it around for days, dissolving the acrosome cap they each wear. While the enzymes from the disappearing acrosome caps work to break down the nutrient cells around the egg, the female's white blood cells attack and kill the foreign sperm. Finally, one sperm manages to penetrate the egg's tough elastic shell, and the egg closes itself off to any other sperm and begins to move down the fallopian tube into the uterus. It is alive.

After the sperm enters the egg, their two nuclei meet and combine. Within twelve hours, the zygote splits into two cells. In the

neck. The ectoderm cells begin to form a thickened plate which rolls up into the neural tube, the predecessor of the spinal cord. At three weeks, the embryo is two millimeters long and shows the beginnings of eyes, a spinal cord, a nervous system, a thyroid gland, lungs, a stomach, a liver, kidneys and intestines. It is alive.

After four weeks, the embryo already measures six millimeters long, after five weeks, one centimeter. The heart differentiates into atria and ventricles. During the sixth week, the embryo grows to fifteen millimeters and has limbs with finger and toe rays. In the seventh week, the nerve cells in the brain begin to touch each other by projections, forming primitive nerve paths. Eight weeks into the pregnancy, the embryo measures four centimeters long and weighs thirteen grams. The presence of all structures marks a change in name from embryo to fetus. The fetus looks human. It is alive. And yet abortions are currently legal at this stage of development.

Alison Klemmer, 17, is a senior at Athens High School in Troy



next ten to twelve hours, the cells split again. By the third day, the original zygote has split four times, forming a solid sixteen-cell ball called a morula. On the fourth day, the group of about one hundred cells throws off the sheath that formerly surrounded it and expands to form a hollow ball. The woman has not yet experienced any chemical changes to warn her of pregnancy. It is alive.

By the eighth day, the two hundred cells have begun to differentiate into two layers, an endoderm and an ectoderm. The blastocyst has also attached itself to the uterus wall and begun to secrete a mucus to proclaim its presence. It is alive.

On the eighteenth day, the heart begins to twitch. Three days later, it begins a regular beating. The nineteenth day marks the formation of the neural plate, the beginning of a central nervous system. Day twenty witnesses the appearance of somites, the fore-runners of the vertebrae and muscles of the

During the fourth month, the fetus grows to over ten centimeters in length. Facial expressions appear. Between eighteen and twenty weeks, the mother notices the first fluttery movements of the fetus. During the last two months, the fetus' weight increases by half a pound a week. After 266 days in the mother's womb, the baby finally emerges into the outside world. It is alive.

Throughout history, scholars have argued the time a ball of cells becomes human. Aristotle believed the new creation is not human until after birth. St. Thomas Aquinas believed males received their souls forty days after conception, females, eighty days after conception. Early English and American law felt "quickening," movement in the uterus usually apparent after six months, determined life. However, the zygote is alive from the minute the sperm touches the egg. It deserves the respect and dignity given to life outside the womb. ■

Effort to starve accident victim overturned

Mike Martin has faced death twice and survived, the second time with the help of his sister, two committed lawyers and a family-friendly judge.

Martin and his family collided with a train in 1987. Martin's 7-year-old daughter was killed. Martin survived but is fed intravenously.

"Mike is paralyzed on one side but can communicate on a yes/no level," said Martin's sister, Patricia Major. "He even beat me at a game of cards!"

In 1992, Martin spelled out "AFRAID" on an alphabet board. When asked to explain the message, Martin informed his speech therapist that he was afraid for his life.

Martin had good reason to be concerned.

Martin's legal guardian and wife of 20 years, Mary, ignored requests from other family members and petitioned a court to remove her husband's feeding tube. Major and her mother hired attorneys John and Dan Hess to represent their family in court.

Mary Martin cited statements made only to her by Mike before the accident in which he allegedly said he'd rather die than live in a "helpless and dependent condition." Judge George A. Grieg ruled in favor of Mary Martin despite Mike's numerous expressions since the accident of his desire to live.

Mike's lawyers, however, refused to give up. "The [Hesses] have been very devoted to the case," Major said.

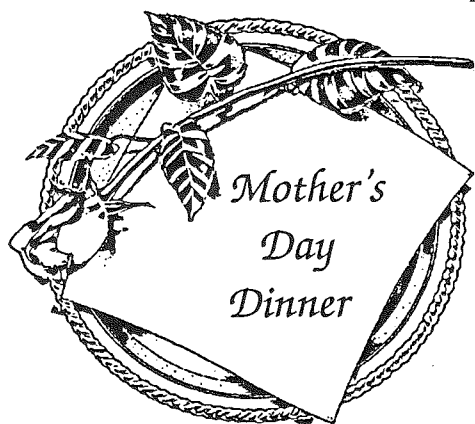
Last March, John Hess argued on Mike Martin's behalf before the Michigan State Supreme Court. On August 22, the court voted 6-1 to overturn the lower court's ruling and allow Martin to live.

"Had the decision gone differently, it would have had a broad and ominous impact on the rights of the impaired who would have been placed vulnerably at the mercy of their guardians," John Hess said.

—Focus on the Family Citizen
November 20, 1995

Reprinted with permission of John Hess

Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit INVITES YOU TO ITS



Mother's Day Dinner

Tuesday, May 7, 1996
6:30 p.m.

Vladimir's
28125 Grand River, Farmington Hills

Dinner Reservations: \$30 per person/\$250 per table of 10 by April 8
\$35 per person/\$300 per table of 10 after April 8

Number of dinner reservations _____ Amount enclosed _____. Advance reservations required by May 1.
(Please list names of all those for whom reservations are made on a separate sheet of paper.)

1996 RESOURCE BOOK

This book will contain informational material that will be used throughout the year. Your ad represents support for Lifespan's educational efforts. Names of Gold Patrons will be listed.

IMPORTANT: A complimentary dinner ticket will be given to any individual for every \$200 worth of new ads obtained for the Resource Book. The ad seller's signature must appear on the contract below when the ad and remittance is received by Right to Life - Lifespan.

Just fill out the form below and send it to us with your remittance included. **Deadline for submission is April 8, 1996.**

Gold Patron(s): \$10 for each individual name.

(Please print. Use a separate sheet of paper to list additional names.)

First Name _____ Last Name _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Advertising Contract: I wish to publish _____ page ad for the sum of \$ _____

<p>Full page (7.5 x 10) \$175</p> <p>Back cover (inside) \$250</p> <p>Back cover (outside) \$350</p>	<p>1/4 page (3.75 x 5) \$60</p>	<p>1/8 page (3.75 x 2.5) \$35</p>
	<p>Half page (7.5 x 5) \$100</p>	

Please attach copy-ready advertising slick, business card, business letterhead, or typed copy of ad. Black and white is preferred. All advertisers will receive a copy of book. Lifespan reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems unsuitable. **Deadline for submission is April 8, 1996. Remittance must accompany contract.**

Signature _____ Date _____

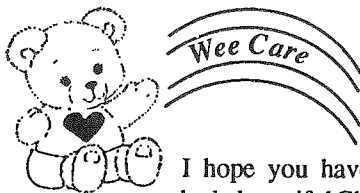
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Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Ad Seller's Signature _____ Phone _____

☐ Yes, I want to help, but cannot attend. Please accept my donation of \$ _____.

Make checks payable, and mail to: Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia MI 48152
For further information, call (313) 533-9090 (Donations are not tax-deductible)



I hope you have all had a beautiful Christmas filled with treasured moments and shared with those you love.

As I write this column, it is still early December, and Wee Care is overwhelmed with requests for help.

We have six babies so far that have due dates of either Christmas Day or Christmas Eve. We also have a number of babies who are expected in January. In addition, we have had many calls for warm clothing, blankets and snowsuits for little ones who have already arrived.

With each of these packages, I am able to tuck in a little Christmas outfit and stuffed animal. Throughout the year, I put these outfits aside to save for this very special time. As I reach deep into the bottom of my Christmas box (hoping that there is something left) there is always one more little suit or dress. It is another one of God's many miracles that He performs daily for Wee Care.

It is a wonderful time of year to be at Wee Care—I'm surrounded by sweet little ones, grateful moms and very special people who do so much for our precious babies. It is such a joy for me to do the work that you have entrusted to me.

I will have an update next month and a thank you for all of the beautiful ways that you helped us during this special season.

May Jesus, who was once a poor baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in a manger, bless each of you with a new year filled with all the happiness and love that you so generously give away.

—Karen Patrosso, Director
Wee Care (313) 533-2727

A Program of Right to Life - Lifespan

Remembrances

You can live on after death by helping those whose lives are threatened by abortion, euthanasia or infanticide.

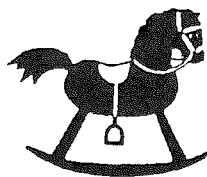
A bequest in your will to Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit will be used to save the lives of many through our efforts.

Donations may be made in memory of loved ones who have died. A memorial card will be sent by Lifespan in your name to the family of the deceased.

Donations may also be made to honor someone special, and near and dear to you, for a particular occasion, or just because...

• In memory of Dorothy LaBarge, requested by Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Brown, Phil and Doris Campain, Randy and Kathleen Campbell, Eleanor and Leo Coyle, John and Geraldine Coyle, Vera May Elliott, Therese Flanigan, Jack and Linda French, Robert and Patricia French, Ronald and Sandy LaBarge, Jane Larson, Harry and Joanne McDonough, Patricia O'Connell, Patty Preston, John and Rosemary Roblin, David and Anne Russell, Ginatius and Darleen Sutherland, Lloyd and Mary Therese Syron, Paula Woelke and Stanley and Louise Zywicki.

Baby Showers



On Sunday, March 10, 1996, Lifespan will sponsor approximately 22 baby showers at

different locations throughout the metro area for crisis pregnancy centers.

If you or your church are interested in hosting a baby shower, please call our Main Office at (313) 533-9090.



Educational Center for Life

Dear Pro-life Friends,

The Educational Center for Life is looking back on a unique year of activity. As participants in the state conference on abstinence education, we brought our message of chastity to parents, teachers and administrators across the state. We were able to provide, free of charge, the Molly Kelly video and packet to all who requested one, and we followed up to see how they were used, much to our satisfaction. Because of your continuing support, we are able to provide the most comprehensive array of materials on this now acceptable topic. We also plan to be at the Rainbow Conference on Youth with these same materials.

In the coming months, our goal is to identify pro-life student groups in our schools and provide them with a workshop and materials to educate others in their schools and in their homes.

We can proudly and rightfully claim that the Educational Center for Life is the best resource for anyone seeking information on life issues. We humbly and sincerely thank our generous benefactors who have made this possible.

Our job will be no small task. It will require the time, talent, prayers and financial assistance of every individual who cares about the moral impact that life issues have on our nation and on the world. We hope that you will see it in your heart to assist us in the manner most suitable for your situation. Please send your tax-deductible contribution to the Educational Center for Life at the address listed below. —Phyllis Sullivan, Director

Educational Center for Life
Coventry Place
1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G
Troy, MI 48084-3540
(810) 816-8489

Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit Membership Form

Right to Life - Lifespan believes that human life has value in all stages of development from conception until natural death, and is committed to speaking on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves — the unborn, the aged, the incapacitated. Won't you please help in our struggle to preserve respect for human life? A contribution brings you the monthly newsletter as well as educational materials and special mailings.

_____ Annual Membership \$ 15.00
_____ Student/Senior Member \$ 7.00

_____ Monthly pledge \$ _____
_____ Century Club (\$100 & above) \$ _____
_____ Other \$ _____

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Please detach at the dotted line and return to: Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia, MI 48152-3736.
Donations are not tax-deductible.

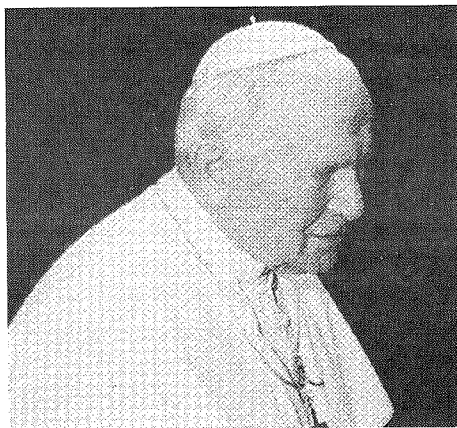
Pope Speaks on Right to Life During U.S. Visit

While a crowd of more than 80,000 stood in the pouring rain at Giant's Stadium in New Jersey on October 5, Pope John Paul II reminded all of us of the civil rights of the unborn that are being ignored.

"Sadly, today a new class of people is being excluded [in the struggle for civil rights for everyone]. When the unborn child—the 'stranger in the womb'—is declared to be beyond the protection of society, not only are America's deepest traditions radically undermined and endangered, but a moral blight is brought upon society. I am also thinking of threats to the elderly, the severely handicapped and all those who do not seem to have any social usefulness. When innocent human beings are declared inconvenient or burdensome, and thus unworthy of legal and social protection, grievous damage is done to the moral foundation of democratic liberties and the keystone of the edifice of civil society. Both as Americans and as followers of Christ, American Catholics must be

committed to the defense of life in all its stages and in every condition."

His Holiness departed from the U.S. October 9 with a moving plea to Americans to "love life, cherish life, defend life, from conception to



natural death." Vice-President Al Gore, who supports legal abortion, was present at the pope's closing talk which referred to the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights as the documents that are the foundation of the "recognition of the rights of the

human person, and especially respect for the dignity and sanctity of human life in all conditions and all stages of development."

Just before his U.S. visit, the Pope spoke to pro-life organizations gathered in Rome, October 1-4, for the World Congress of Pro-Life Movements, urging them to cooperate in order to influence the public and prevent legislative threats to human life.

"Those who have human dignity and the future of humanity at heart cannot abdicate a vigilant presence" over the actions of parliaments and legislatures, the pope said. He asked that church pro-life initiatives complement the work of civil and political groups. The church is now applying the *Gospel of Life* to a new and rich phase of pro-life efforts, he said. He challenged local church communities, dioceses, parishes, associations and movements to take on an "intense commitment" to the defense of life.

*—Religious Outreach Newsletter
National Right to Life Committee
November/December 1995*

Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit
Wayne County, West/Downriver Chapter
27578 Schoolcraft Road
Livonia, MI 48150-2203



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