



Right To Life - Lifespan Inc.

SERVING SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN SINCE 1970

VOLUME 10 NUMBER 5

MAY 1988

COUNTDOWN TO NOVEMBER 8TH SIX MORE MONTHS OF MEDICAID ABORTIONS

Sometimes six months can seem to be a long time. It is certainly a long time to continue to pay for the killing of the unborn babies of poor women.

On the other hand, six months is a very short time to prepare for the campaign to end this killing. Pro-life people in Michigan will need every minute of every day of those six months to work and to pray if we are to succeed on November 8th.

Lifespan has joined a coalition of Southeastern Michigan pro-life groups in a joint effort to prevent the 1987 legislative ban on tax-funded abortions from being overturned. This coalition includes Right to Life of Michigan, Christian Action Council and Lutherans for Life, as well as Lifespan.

Meetings have been held and plans have been made. Our ultimate success will depend on how many pro-life voters go to the polls on election day 1988. The wording of the referendum has not yet been decided. We will have to wait a while longer before we know whether the pro-life vote will be a "yes" or a "no."

All Lifespan members have a chance to vote "YES" now, though, by volunteering to participate in the challenging work ahead. There will be many ways to actively show your support. The Committee to End Tax-Funded Abortions needs to raise \$3 million, to be used primarily for media advertising. So...DONATIONS ARE IMPORTANT. Lifespan is expected to supply hundreds and hundreds of volunteers to make home visits to other pro-life members, to make phone calls, to distribute literature and post lawn signs. So...VOLUNTEER WORK IS IMPORTANT. All our efforts need God's blessings. So...PRAYER IS IMPORTANT.

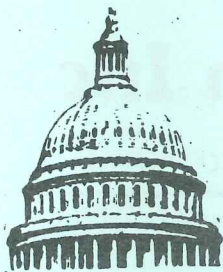
Will we win on November 8th? YES! We must win or accept the fact that each of us will continue to pay for the deaths of 19,000 unborn babies every year. Please help.

Call your local Lifespan office or the Main Office at 261-2757 or fill out the coupon below and mail to: Right to Life - Lifespan, Inc., 27578 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

() Yes, I want to help by becoming a volunteer for the Medicaid abortion referendum.

Name _____ Phone _____
(Day _____ Evening _____)
Address _____
(Street) (City) (Zip)

FOR DETROIT CHAPTER NEWS, SEE PAGES 4 & 5.



LEGISLATIVE NEWS

The following letter was sent to us by the National Right to Life Comm.

Dear Colleague:

Suicide continues to be a major public health problem. Over 25,000 people commit suicide annually, and an additional 200,000 attempt it. Suicide is the third leading cause of death for our young people. Individuals particularly vulnerable to suicide include those suffering from depression, other mental illness, financial or work-related setbacks, grief, or teenage stress. Their suicide attempts are a desperate cry for help, for somebody to listen. How will we respond?

Perhaps we should consider that this problem exists in an environment where prominent public officials have suggested that in certain circumstances people have "a duty to die, to get out of the way" or that active euthanasia is a "moral obligation" in some cases. Can a compassionate society accept death as a solution to its social problems? Many of the potential victims of suicide already feel alienated from us. We should carefully consider this when we hear people suggest that perhaps someone's life is not worth living or not of the same value as someone else's life.

Suicide and the underlying problems which may make a person feel suicidal are difficult areas. The answers do not come easily. However, I hope we will begin to focus on the underlying problems. Promotion of suicide and assisted suicide threatens to exacerbate the problem, without attempting to solve the underlying causes.

I am proposing a resolution which will state Congress' desire to prevent the promotion of suicide and assisted suicide. It will call for responsible entities to bring the focus of suicide back to the underlying causes and how to reverse the alienation of vulnerable Americans.

--Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. -- July 31, 1987

FETAL TISSUE USE BLOCKED BY FEDS

The federal government has refused permission for researchers at the National Institutes of Health to treat patients with implants of fetal tissue until a committee of experts can study the legal and ethical issues.

Many medical experts say fetal transplants have great potential in treating common, incurable diseases. But critics fear that such transplants could debase the fetus and make fetuses an eagerly sought commodity. They fear that some women may be tempted or forced by economic need to have abortions and sell their fetuses.

--From the Detroit Free Press
April 16, 1988

RTL-LIFESPAN GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

About 100 people attended the 11th annual Lifespan General Membership Meeting held Friday, May 6th at Madonna College. Kay James, President of Black Americans for Life spoke eloquently on the subject of Medicaid abortions and the upcoming referendum on this issue which Michigan voters face in the Fall.

In addition, Mr. Joe Iskra from Right to Life of Michigan explained the importance of citizen involvement in the referendum and described how proliferers could support the effort.

For the first time, Lifespan awarded pins to its dedicated volunteers. This one-of-a-kind cloisonne replica of our "Love Life" logo was given to the following 85 people who donated many hours of volunteer time during the past year.

LIFESPAN, INC.

Maryann Aiton
Marge Bradley
Jane Condron
Pat DeAgostino
Diane Fagelman
Rosemary Ledwidge
Betty Pevoovar
Alice Radwick
Carol Smith
Margaret Spas
Ann Thomas
Diane Trombley
Christy Wood

DETROIT CHAPTER

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Cecilia Barna
Ann Bonenfant
Mary Cascos
Margaret Cylkowski
Rose Dell'Eva
JoAnne Emerson
Anne Fracassa
Marlene Galant
Betty Kell
Mary Anne Martin
Peggy Michel
Betty Queen
Archie Queen
Madeline Satwicz
Ron Seigel

DETROIT CONTD.

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Edward Smith
Julia Sporka
Agnes Van Antwerp
Gail Van Cleef
Bob Van Cleef
Cheryl Walker
Alice Zegarski

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Joe Bommarito
Gerri Brooks
Catherine Cybert
Marguerite Dasho
Randy Ferguson
Ted Galeski
Marilyn Gligoroff
Kathy Hurley
Cherry Packer
Marsha Psyz
Frank Psyz
Joe Traylor
Lois Sprys

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Dawn Bernia
Jean Berry

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Margaret Joyce
Helen Kogut
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Dr. Dick Lomas
Florence MacDonald
Jean Martell
Holly Pomaville
Phyllis Sullivan
Ann Traverro
Betty Zimmerman

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Nancy Dankert
Terry Doyle
Paula Ervin
Pat Holscher
Helen Kleinbrook
Mary Lepere
Carmen Mosquera
Sally Price
Mary Sobaszko
Ed Starrett
Michael Wolfrom



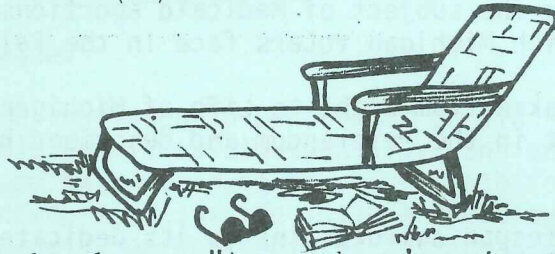
DETROIT CHAPTER NEWS

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

Educational Center For Life
909 Woodward Avenue
Pontiac, MI 48053-3015
(313)338-1910

Pregnancy Services
Birthright 532-3030
Eastland Problem
Pregnancy 372-1058
Pregnancy Aid 882-1000

THE HASTY "YES"



by Anne Fracassa

My friend Carol was on the phone. "Anne, there's going to be a meeting in Farmington Hills on April 30 about the referendum on the November 8th ballot to end Medicaid funding for abortions. I promised our Detroit Chapter would have some people there and thought about you. Want to go with me?" She paused for just a moment and added, "We could go out to lunch afterwards." Carol knows my weak spots.

I glanced at my calendar, saw that April 30 was empty and in that split second thought about all the years of fundraising, conferences, petitions, educational talks, meetings and more meetings that Carol, a longtime prolife activist, and I, a relative newcomer to the movement, had been involved in since abortion was legalized. I thought of all the times our hopes had been raised that tax funded abortions would end in Michigan only to have those hopes end in crushing disappointment because of some governor's veto.

"This is it," I thought. "This vote in November is a chance to make a big difference." It was definitely put up or shut up time.

"Sure," I answered. "I'd love to go!"

"You will?" Carol sounded incredulous. "Gosh, I can't believe you'd say 'yes' just like that!" A little warning began to sound way in the back of my mind. What had Carol gotten us into? I had a sudden vision of the entire summer slipping away.

On the Saturday of the meeting, Carol and I, as usual, were a little late. When we arrived the meeting was already in progress. Another tiny warning sounded. We were meeting not in a large auditorium but in a small conference room. Seated around a table was a group of less than twenty people. Just how important was I going to be? Too late to run now. I took a seat.

Joe Iskra, Chairman of the Southeast Michigan Committee to End Tax-Funded Abortions, was explaining how big the job ahead of us was, how the Committee had planned goals for every week between then and November, when, if we achieved our goals, Michigan would no longer be one of the fourteen states that pay for abortions. He was sure, he said, that the victory would be ours because through the group of leaders present in the room at that moment we would be able to fan a fire that would ignite the spirit of everyone in southeast Michigan who wanted an end to tax-funded abortions.

Our ultimate goal? According to Joe, we will bring 2,700,000 prolife voters to the polls on November 8. One million, three hundred thousand of those voters will come from southeast Michigan, the area we would lead! Mentally, I put my summer lounge chair away.

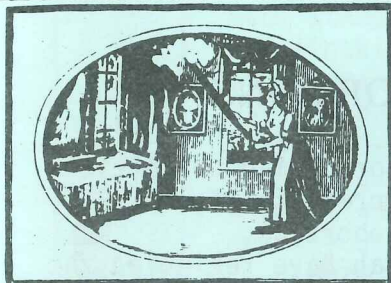
Carol and I and two other Detroit leaders then met with our Director, Rick Halliburton, a Detroit public school teacher. Rick, I decided, definitely had the fire. Funny and irreverent, he's one of those people you feel you've always known. Within one half-hour of meeting him, you'd seriously consider sky-diving if Rick went first.

Rick outlined Phase I of our plan, which was to contact every known prolife person in Detroit. I was to be in charge of only two Zip Code areas. Yikes!

Well, you might be wondering by now, just what are we going to be asking of people? There are quite a few ways to help. I'm writing this to give you, our newsletter reader, an idea of what to expect when you are contacted by phone or in person about this historic opportunity to stop medicaid funding once and for all. These are some of the requests I or another volunteer might make of you:

1. Financial help. We need money for literature, TV and radio spots, billboards, mailings, etc.
2. Assistance with door-to-door canvassing and literature distribution.
3. The use of your home for a meeting.
4. A sign on your lawn.
5. Mail postcards to your friends.
6. Make "get out the vote" phone calls.
7. Drive voters to the polls.

Please think carefully about ways you can help and be expecting a call or visit this summer. And if I'm the one at your door, please welcome me with open arms. Suddenly, it looks like an O.K. summer after all!



SPRING CLEANING?

DON'T THROW THOSE USABLE DISCARDS AWAY.
THEY COULD BE THE TREASURES OF OUR JULY
RIGHT TO LIFE YARD SALE! (Exact date not
yet determined.)

There will be more details in next month's newsletter. Start collecting items to be donated now. Pick-up at your home can be arranged if necessary. Call Betty Queen at 775-8776 or 874-0432 for information on where to bring your donations or to request a pick-up.

A CHILD'S VIEW OF RETIREMENT

A teacher asked her small pupils how they spent their vacations. One little boy's reply went like this:

"We visited my Grandma and Grandpa. They used to live in a big brick house in Michigan, but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Arizona. They live in a place with a lot of retarded people. They live in tin huts. They ride big 3-wheel bicycles. They go to a big building called the wrecked hall, but it is fixed up now. They play games and do exercises but they don't do them very good. There is a swimming pool and they go to it and just stand there in the water with their hats on. My grandma used to bake cookies and stuff, but I guess she forgot how. They go to restaurants that are fast. Outside the place where their hut is, there is a man sitting in a doll house. He watches all day so they can't get out without him seeing them. They wear badges with their names on them. That's in case they forget who they are. My Grandma says Grandpa worked hard all of his life and earned his retardment. I wish they would move back home, but I guess the man in the doll house won't let them out."

NURSE PREVENT'S GIRL'S LIFE-SUPPORT FROM BEING REMOVED

Carol Geukes, one of three registered nurses who attend a comatose 11-year old girl, was so convinced that it was wrong to remove the child from life-support systems that she resigned her position and informed the Oakland County prosecutor's office of the plan. Geukes was threatened by unnamed medical personnel not to discuss the case with the prosecutor's office or she would lose her nursing license.

Richard Thompson, chief assistant Oakland County prosecutor, said he obtained a restraining order after the nurse told authorities the girl was improving. The order was issued by an Oakland County Circuit judge.

Joelle Rosebush had been in a coma for 14-months after a January 1987 automobile accident paralyzed her from the neck down. Joelle has been a patient at the Georgian Bloomfield Nursing Home in Troy, but was scheduled to be transferred to Children's Hospital of Detroit, where the life-support systems were to be removed.

"From the information we had, the child had all the vital signs," said Thompson of the prosecutor's office. "She could respond to external stimuli, did speak on occasion and had appropriate answers to questions. Without forming an opinion as to the accuracy of what we were told, we had to take action to prevent a possible murder from taking place."

In recent years it has become more and more commonplace for helpless comatose patients to be removed from life-support, including food and water, by court order. Nurse Geukes is to be commended for her quick and courageous act which has at least temporarily prevented another defenseless, handicapped person from suffering a similar fate.

--Source: Detroit News, May 3, 1988

FATHERS WANT A SAY ABOUT ABORTIONS

New court battles question whether the father of an unborn child can prevent his wife or girlfriend from having an abortion. The U.S. Supreme Court, in 1976 ruled that states cannot require a husband's consent to an abortion.

However, three recent cases in New York, Indiana and Utah have rekindled the issue. All three abortions have been performed, but the issue continues.

In Indiana, a man won a court order April 7 forbidding his girlfriend from having an abortion. Although the girl violated the order a week later, James Bopp, counsel for the National Right to Life Committee, wants the state supreme court to rule on whether the order, issued by a county judge, was legal.

In Utah, an 18-year old had the abortion a few hours before appeals court justices issued an order prohibiting the procedure, which was made at the request of her estranged husband. Utah has a law requiring a pregnant woman to notify her husband before an abortion.

In New York, a husband has filed a lawsuit against his wife, her doctors and a hospital because she had an abortion last February without his knowledge. "This is a case of father's rights, of husband's rights," Dr. David Ostreicher told the New York Times. "Without my knowledge, without my consent, she took our baby and ripped it out of her."

Mr. Bopp, speaking for the National Right to Life Committee, said: "What we're saying - and we believe one of these cases will get up to the U.S. Supreme Court - is that the rights of the father constitutionally have to be taken into account."

--Source: Detroit News, April 29, 1988

USED BOOK SALE COORDINATOR NEEDED

There are two organizations in Metro Detroit which hold annual used book sales. Both, to our knowledge, are pro-abortion. (If this is untrue, we'd be glad to be corrected.) Lifespan thought it would be a good idea to have a prolife alternative for those who wish to donate used books to a worthy cause.

From our perspective, Right to Life is that cause. In addition, we are always looking for new ways to raise funds. So...if one of our members would be interested in volunteering to coordinate this enterprise, a used book sale could become an annual fund-raising event.

If you are interested, please call Marge Bradley or Alice Radwick at the Main Office. The number is 261-2757.

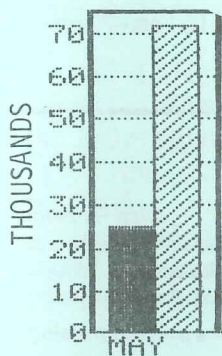
CHRISTMAS CARD VERSE CONTEST

The Christmas Card Committee is seeking suggestions for a verse to be printed in the cards for Christmas 1988. They have decided to sponsor a contest. The winner, the person who sends in the most appropriate verse, will receive a free box of Christmas cards. Please send your entries to the Main Office, 27578 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

If the verse is quoted from another source, please give the appropriate citations.

KNAPP'S COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM

Within the past month we have received 5,472 Bill Knapp Community Support Coupon points for a total of 25,380 to be used in obtaining a new copy machine for the Main Office. Knapp's has given us a goal of 72,000 points to be reached by March 31, 1989.



Thank you to the past month's contributors: Duncanson, McGauley, Gac, Staeger, Lower Huron Chemical and Supply Co., Carroll, Sharp, Dreslinski, Hager, St. Sabina School, Oblates of St. Benedict, Quilty, St. Maurice Prayer Group, LaJoie, Bryson, Dolinshek, Polgar, Another Way Pregnancy Center, Inc., Ervin, Joyce, Assenmacher, Potter, Queen, Itnyre, Bettega, Kleinbrook, Komar, O'Connor, Schmitt, Valliare, Macomb County RTL, Sullivan, Shortt, Kozlowski, Masterson, Needham, Wagener and other anonymous donors. Sorry, if we missed anyone; we thank you too!

When you present your check to the cashier at Bill Knapp's, ask for a Community Support Coupon. The cashier will indicate on the coupon how many points are awarded. Points are awarded based on this formula: 1 pt. equals \$1.00 computed on the total amount received by the cashier for meals, bakery items, take-out orders or purchased gift certificates.

Send the coupons to Right to Life - Lifespan, Inc., 27578 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Thanks!

PAUL RAMSEY DIES AT 74

The preeminent ethicist, Professor Paul Ramsey, died of a heart attack on February 29. As a professor of religion at Princeton University for 40 years, Paul Ramsey defended absolute moral norms at a time when "situation ethics" was fashionable.

Through his writings and testimony, Professor Ramsey promoted humane federal policies on fetal research, in vitro fertilization and care of handicapped newborns. In Congressional testimony he opposed the too-common practice of allowing infants to die on the basis of a "quality of life" calculus. His last contribution to public debate was to endorse a statement by scholars opposing withdrawal of food and fluids from unconscious patients.

Paul Ramsey was the author of *THE ETHICS OF FETAL RESEARCH*, *THE PATIENT AS A PERSON* and *FABRICATED MAN*. He will be greatly missed by the Right to Life Movement.

--From RESPECT LIFE REPORT
March/April 1988

CALENDAR UPDATE

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| May 22, Sunday | Day of prayer and fasting for the unborn |
| May 30, Monday | Offices closed for Memorial Day |
| June 11, Saturday | Benefit Concert for Crisis Pregnancy Center, 7:30 p.m.
Trenton Assembly of God, 239 Cherry Rd., Trenton
Call 374-0520 for information |
| June 19, Sunday | HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! |
| June 22, Wednesday | Day of prayer and fasting for the unborn |
| July 9, Saturday
(Tentative) | Independence Walkathon-For-Life, Taylor
To benefit Crisis Pregnancy Center
Call 374-0520 for information |
| July 9, Saturday | Benefit Concert for Mother and Unborn Baby Care, 8:00 p.m.
Meadowbrook; cost \$13.50 - lawn tickets. Call 628-1365,
693-1526, 693-9310 for information. |
| July (Date to be
determined) | Detroit Chapter Yard Sale
Save your usable discards; call 775-8776 or 874-0432 |
| July 21-23,
Thursday-Saturday | National Right to Life Convention, Hyatt Regency Crystal City
Arlington, Virginia. Call Main Office for details, 261-2757. |
- SUMMER OFFICE HOURS -- MAIN OFFICE -- June 13-Sept. 6 - Mon. thru Thurs. - 10 am-2 pm

RIGHT TO LIFE - LIFESPAN, INC.

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Right To Life - Lifespan, Inc. is a voluntary organization and is funded entirely by membership dues, private donations and fundraising. 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, Inc. or a donation in memory of a loved one, will be used to save the lives of many through our efforts. Donations are not tax-deductible.

Right To Life - Lifespan, Inc.

Detroit Chapter
5930 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, MI 48202-3516



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