



LIFESPAN

news

Vol. 53 No. 4

Presenting the Pro-Life Message in Southeastern Michigan Since 1970 – 54 Years!

June 2024



*“Dad: A
son’s first
hero, a
daughter’s
first love.”*

- Unknown

2024 Be The Change ~ Review

At both host locations for our 2024 *Be the Change*, we had a wide variety of guests from a baby in the womb, *speaker Alison's daughter, Grace, 7 months in her development*, up to 70 years old! There was a table of pro-life items for the guests, and they really liked the buttons, precious feet pins, pens, LIFESPAN bags, stickers, and the Be the Change t-shirts. Some of the educational literature was taken as well.



Some of the attendees responded this way from the surveys when asked WHY they attended the event:

- To learn more about the pro-life movement as a young adult.
- I wanted to attend because I really enjoyed it last year.
- I attended this event because I wanted to learn how to respond in situations involving/talking about pro-life, pro-choice, & abortion.
- I saw the flyer and was interested.
- I was hoping to become more equipped in fighting for the protection of the unborn.
- I wanted to continue growing as a pro-life advocate & attending the event always gives me more motivation to speak out more.
- I attended so that if I come across anyone in need or with questions, I can help.

What did they think about Joseph and Alison's presentations?

- Joseph - very moving, well spoken, interesting, inspiring, heard his talk before but it helped to get reminders, engaging and informative, I liked the examples he gave that make it easier to apply in real life, covered all the bases clearly and succinctly, had memorable ways to fight for Life, well organized, related well to the youth, his points will help me in future conversations, broke down apologetics wonderfully, very charismatic.
- Alison - engaging, powerful, liked her stories (very touching), inspirational person and she is absolutely doing God's work, good to hear from a woman who is pregnant, awesome, a great reminder of the lives we value in mother and child, you could really tell how much she is invested in this cause, relatable, great, the details about ectopic pregnancy, plan C, miscarriage treatment, etc. are really good things to know as we continue to equip ourselves for outreach, brought up the dad perspective, credible, funny, real, reputable, liked how she told us all the possible lies that might confuse us on social media, well presented, beautiful - her stories/videos left a big impact on me.

So many guests afterwards thanked LIFESPAN for putting on such an important event for the young people. Several adults said they will highly recommend it to young people to attend in the future. Guests who attended in the past said it was their favorite BTC so far! Several said they will be praying for us and our outreach to young people!

Lynn Gura, Youth Director, Right to Life - LIFESPAN Ed Fund, Oakland/Macomb Chapter

RTL – LIFESPAN

2025 Movement in Motion Youth Bus Trip

Post-Roe America



Why Do We Still March?

Our most important work is changing hearts and minds. The goal of the national March for Life is to not only change laws at the state and federal level, but to change the culture to ultimately make abortion unthinkable. We will continue to march every January at the national level until a culture of life is restored in the United States.

From the National March for Life website



Dates:

Thursday morning, January 23-
Saturday evening, January 25

Pick Up:

*Locations in Wayne County,
Oakland County and Macomb
County*

Cost Per Person
Buses 1-3 for
students & chaperones:

\$195.00

Includes bus cost, LIFESPAN hat, and a continental breakfast

*Accommodations for two nights
at two different host churches
(Bring sleeping bags,
mats, and pillows).*

Cost Per Person
Bus 4 for
Adults only (18+)

\$185.00

*They will stay at a hotel
not covered in the bus trip cost.*

Registration Period

September 1-
November 15, 2024

To Register:

Contact Lynn Gura
at 248-816-1546 or by email at
oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org

LIFESPAN Chapter News

Thanks!

Thanking people for contributing their time and talents for a special event is really dangerous. No matter how hard you try, someone is always forgotten. On the other hand, so many people worked so very hard to make something like our Celebration of Life Dinner a success that they definitely deserve recognition.

So, here goes — thanks to our speaker for encouraging us to keep on keeping on. To Chris and Karen for the BEAUTIFUL auction — time and again I heard people say how beautiful the items were presented and did we have a professional company do it! To Tim for keeping the evening moving along and on time! To Colleen for sharing her beautiful voice. To Brandon for his patriotism! To our wonderful young people who did whatever we asked with smiles and enthusiasm! To Lynn who assured everyone had a place to sit and a name tag, so no one was a stranger! To Diane F. who has led us for so long so well and with such patience! To Marge who puts our Resource Book together from her home in Pennsylvania! To San Marino for their

help with whatever we needed! To Max, our photographer whose pictures will be seen in upcoming newsletters. Last but not least, a huge thank you to our dinner guests who recognize that all human life is worthy of dignity and protection. For 54 years you have stood strong in the face of those who would abandon moms and their babies. You are what makes LIFESPAN strong.



1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G, Troy, MI 48084-3540
Phone: 248-816-1546 • Email: oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org
Office Hours: M/F: 9:30-2; T/W/Th: 8-3
Diane Trombley, Director
Lynn Gura, Office Staff/Youth Director

Viva la Muerte? NO! Viva la Vida!!!

Over 500 guests attended LIFESPAN's 2024 Celebration of Life Dinner on May 7 with (Fr.) Frank Pavone. He reminded pro-lifers to stand strong against the Culture of Death and nihilism which dominates America today from its abortion mills to its incoherent college protests. Fr. Frank gave a poignant example of a Spanish college president who stood up in front of a large Fascist student protest in 1930s Spain as the protestors chanted the slogan, "Viva la Muerte!" ("Long Live Death"). Fr. Frank powerfully reminded pro-lifers to stand for Truth and Life against the Cult of Death pervading our country today. He noted this Cult of Death has sadly found a political home within the Democratic Party in the United States. LIFESPAN's July newsletter will include the Candidate Survey for the August Primary Election. We do NOT endorse candidates but provide the tools for you to see where candidates stand on life issues. Not a LIFESPAN member? Visit <https://milifespan.org> to join or volunteer! **Viva la Vida! Long Live Life!**



Links for Life 2024

Happy Summer! It seems cruel to ask you to consider the end of summer already, but please save the date for Friday, August 30! LIFESPAN invites golfers of all ages and levels to join us for golf, food, and fellowship at the 4th Annual Links for Life Charity Golf Outing. It takes place at Fellows Creek Golf Club in Canton. This outing financially supports the educational and outreach efforts of Wayne Chapter. The outing includes 18 holes of golf with a 9am shotgun start, hotdog lunch, drink ticket, and steak dinner. It will also include a 50/50 raffle, auction items, and prizes. Sign up a foursome to golf, become a hole sponsor, or donate prizes by contacting wcd@rtl-lifespan.org or calling 734-422-6230. This year's rate is \$125 to golf.

Remember to celebrate "Dobbs Day" this June 24!

32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Ste. 210, Livonia, MI 48150-4305
Phone 734-422-6230 • Email: wcd@rtl-lifespan.org
Office Hours: T/W/Th: 9-3; M/F: Closed
Timothy Pruse, Director
Rebecca Bridgmanan, Office Manager
Audrey Ralko, Office Staff
Julia Walrath, Assistant Youth Director



Wee Care

Well, the auction, which ultimately benefits Wee Care's little ones, has come and gone and there are so many people we need to thank! To Judy Vigliotti, Irene Tharp and all of the young adults who sold raffle tickets for our Gift Card Tree – thank you!

To all the very generous friends who donated auction items and made the evening a success – we are so grateful.

To Geralynn Hurt, Janice McNulty, Rita Howell and Diane Fagelman for making our baskets look beautiful – a huge thank you!

To two very special guys, Ed Rinke and Mark Bowers, who loaded up their cars, drove to Troy, unloaded their cars and then carried 87 heavy auction items to their designated tables – they were invaluable!

To our payment volunteers, Ron Sulkowski, Greg Rapelje, Tony Hansen, Mike Schefke and Audrey Ralko who tried their best to hurry the process – thank you for trying!

And, finally, to my 17 angels, who every year say yes to working the auction tables at the end of the evening: Colleen Beaton, Rosalie Tislerics, Darlene Rinke, Betty & Leona Abate, Sandy Rogala, Katie Strieff, Ann Killingbeck, Marlene Vincent, Elaine Molony, Molly Popovich, Fran Mallie, Annette Schefke, Pat Lents, Claire Forster, Karen Johnson and Gloria Sulkowski – my gratitude is endless, dearest friends!

I hope I have not forgotten anyone – just please know how grateful Chris and I are for all your help!

Love, Karen and all the moms and their precious babies who will be provided for thanks to you!

A Program of Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund

32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Ste. 100, Livonia, MI 48150-4305

Phone: 734-524-0165

Office Hours: By appointment

Karen Patrosso, Director

All material and monetary donations to Wee Care are tax-deductible. Checks must be made payable to Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund.



YOUTH REPORT

Our annual **Celebration of Life** dinner on May 7th was fabulous! We had 24 teens and 10 young adults helping out that evening with various volunteer jobs, plus there were several other young people in attendance as guests in addition to small children, moms, dads, and other adults. One grandmother who turned 90 years old that day wanted to attend the dinner so several of her family members joined her and one married couple celebrated their 36th anniversary that day! A great celebration of love, Life, marriage and family that evening!

Pro-Life Leader Frank Pavone, one of the top Pro-Life Advocates in our country, did a “meet and greet” before the dinner program began and he delivered a powerful, passionate, inspiring talk to the large number of guests attending the dinner! He called on all of us at every age to be active participants in the Pro-Life Movement, and he paid special attention to the young people, encouraging them to be a part of Generation Truth – they are not the future, they are NOW! He said we are in a spiritual battle of Good vs. evil, of Life vs. death. We cannot sit on the sidelines. The choice is in front of us. Which side are we on?

Right to Life – LIFESPAN has many ways you can be

actively involved. Please contact either of us at the numbers/emails below and we will share with you all our activities, events and volunteer opportunities! You can choose what you would like to participate in as an Advocate for Life!

Happy Graduation to all of those who are graduating from high school and college! We wish you all the best as you continue on your life’s journey as Pro-life young adults!

We are excited to offer our Lifesaver Pack (Bring it Back!) again! We are re-introducing the pack of Truth and Life for students (high school through young adults attending colleges/universities/trade schools). Students will receive pro-life items, gear and love from LIFESPAN to use/wear/share among their peers and enrich the student’s involvement in the Pro-Life Movement! Donations are appreciated to keep them engaged in the movement. One \$30.00 donation will provide the cost of one pack per student. For more information about the pack and how you can order one for your loved one or sponsor one for a student, contact Julia at the Wayne County office 734-422-6230, youth@milifespans.org or Lynn Gura at the Oak/Mac office 248-816-1546, oakmac@rtl-lifespans.org Thank you!

Continued on Page 7

A Program of Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund

Email: youth@milifespans.org

Email: oakmac@rtl-lifespans.org

Lynn Gura, Oakland/Macomb Counties Youth Director

Julia Walrath, Wayne County Assistant Youth Director

LINKS FOR LIFE 2024

Friday, August 30

Represent your family, church,
business, or organization with
Sponsorship opportunities
starting at \$100!!!



LIFESPAN'S 4th Annual Charity Golf Outing

Right to Life— LIFESPAN

Invites you to join us on Friday, August 30, 2024 for a 9am
Shotgun Start @ Fellows Creek Golf Club in Canton

Best Ball Golf with Hot Dog Lunch, Steak Dinner, Contests, Raffles & More!

Register for \$125 per golfer (\$45 for dinner only) TODAY!!!

Contact the LIFESPAN Wayne Chapter at 734-422-6230 or wcdr@rtl-lifespan.org to register today!

Registration Form on Page 10

2024 Pro-Life LIFESPAN Events

Father's Day Candy & Pens

June 16, 2024

Candidate Survey: General Election Due Date

September 18, 2024 (Election Date: 11/5/24)

Find the surveys in the October 2024 Newsletter

Candidate Survey: Primary Due Date

June 19, 2024 (Election Date: 8/6/24)

Find the surveys in the July 2024 Newsletter

Life Chain

October 6, 2024

Links for Life

August 30, 2024

National Pro-Life Cupcake Day

October 9, 2024

Legislative Luncheon

Fall 2024

Autumn Pro-Life Sidewalk Chalking Day Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity

October 15, 2024

CIDER Walk for Life

Fall 2024

Movement in Motion Bus Trip to DC

Registration: Sept. 1 - Nov. 15, 2024

Nat'l Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children

September 14, 2024

Cut off & Hang on your Calendar ✂

Youth Report ~ Continued from Page 5

We invite and encourage you to go to our social media platforms (see below our signature lines) to view the pro-life news links we want to share with you! You can view and share whatever ones you want with others on social media! It's an active way of being Pro-Life!

Be the Change comments and pictures are included in this Newsletter (see page 2). Enjoy! Our next event will be in March 2025. Stay tuned after the summer for more details!

Together, we will **Be the Change!**

Lynn Gura, Oakland/Macomb Counties Youth Director,
248-816-1546, oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org

Julia Walrath, Wayne County Assistant Youth Director,
734-422-6230, youth@miLIFESPAN.org

Find us online at:
miLIFESPAN.org

And follow us on social media:

Facebook.com/miLIFESPAN • Instagram: @miLIFESPAN
Parler.com/miLIFESPAN • SnapChat: @miLIFESPAN
Truth Social: RTLLIFESPAN • X (Twitter): @RTLLIFESPAN



First Ironman with Down syndrome becomes first to run world's top six marathons

By Cassy Fiano-Chesser

Chris Nikic, the athlete with Down syndrome who made history by completing the Ironman triathlon in 2020, has made history once again by becoming the first person with Down syndrome to run all six of the world's top marathons.

The Guinness Book of World Records reported that Nikic had earned his Six Star medal by completing the Tokyo Marathon in March. Runners earn a Six Star Medal by completing marathons in Tokyo, Boston, London, Berlin, Chicago, and New York.

"I love running by Buckingham Palace," Nikic said of the London Marathon. "My favorite part of the London Marathon and the Boston Marathon was going on a date before and after the races. And the landmarks! Everything here is fun."

Since completing the Ironman, Nikic has made numerous records; he was the first person with Down syndrome to run the Boston and New York City marathons, as well as the first athlete with Down syndrome to get an official sponsorship. In 2021, he won the ESPN Jimmy V Award for Perseverance, and in 2022, he completed the Ironman triathlon world championship, which is held in Kona, Hawaii. His motto — 1% better — has since become famous: each day, he works to do just 1% better than he did the day before. It has helped him to continue breaking boundaries... not just for him, but for other people with disabilities like him, too.

"It feels good to inspire my friends," he said. "They were a bit shocked in the beginning when they heard about my record, but they were all inspired."

His father, Nik Nikic, said that it has been an uphill battle just to ensure that Chris, and other people with intellectual disabilities, are included.

"Chris's major success in his life is about how many people he inspires. How many people change their lives as a result of seeing him, and then believ-



ing in their own abilities to achieve greatness," he said, but added, "We have found enormous resistance in the world of sport. Months of fighting and negotiations just to allow Chris to run in the Ironman. Currently everything is a fight."

He added, "We need more people and powerful organizations to ask the question: how is it that, in 2024, a person with an intellectual impairment is being viewed as less than human? Why can't they even be included as a category, unlike every other human on earth? People think it's a small group, but it's the biggest minority group in the world."

The next goal Nikic wants to take on is an ultramarathon; while lengths can vary, to be classified as an ultramarathon, a race must be at least 31 miles, compared to the 26 miles in a marathon. "If anybody in the world can do it, it's Chris," Nik said.

Rhonda Vetere, Nikic's guide, will be there every step of the way, too. "There are a lot of emotions because it's not fair. These guys are not just out there running, they are doing more than that," she said. "It's not just fun: we are making a change in the world and we are dedicated to it."

- Live Action, May 17, 2024

2024 Celebration of Life Dinner & Silent Auction

Our Celebration of Life Annual Dinner and Auction on May 7th was a great success. Please enjoy the pictures below and look for more in future newsletters.



Donations have been made -

Wee Care: *In Memory of:*

Vickie Flis

Given by: Elizabeth Kramar

In Memory of:

Betty J. O'Neill

Given by: Diane Trombley

A Friend

Given by: Sharon Boekhout

Where do the candidates stand on pro-life issues? Watch for LIFESPAN's July newsletter.

2024 LINKS for LIFE Charity Golf Outing

Right to Life– LIFESPAN is a 501c(3) organization and all Sponsorship donations are tax deductible. Please make checks out to *RTL– Lifespan* and mail to *RTL-Lifespan* Wayne County Chapter, 32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Suite 210, Livonia, MI 48150. Visit <https://milifespanspan.org/donate/> and comment “Golf” to charge by Credit or Debit Card.

Sponsor Registration

_____ Yes, I/We would like to sponsor ____ hole(s) at \$100 per hole as a Hole Sponsor.

Hole Sponsors will receive a printed sign at a Tee Box.

_____ Yes, I/We would like to be a Program Sponsor for \$250.

Program Sponsors will receive a printed sign at a Tee Box & Sponsor recognition in the printed program.

_____ Yes, I/We would like to be an Event Sponsor for \$500.

Event Sponsors will receive a printed sign at the clubhouse entrance as well as a Tee Box, Sponsor recognition on the cover of the printed program & *LIFESPAN* newsletter, & discounted 4-some at \$90/golfer.

Please send the desired text and/or a jpeg or gif of your desired image or business card to tpruse@milifespanspan.org

Sponsor Name: _____

Sponsor E-mail and/or Phone Number: _____

Golfer & Dinner Registration

_____ Yes, please register ____ golfer(s) at \$125 per golfer.

_____ Yes, please register ____ guest(s) for dinner only at \$45 per guest.

Golfer Names and E-mail Addresses and/or Phone Numbers”

Additional Dinner Only Attendee Names: _____

_____ Total \$ Included for Golf/Sponsorships

Note: LIFESPAN will NEVER share golfer/sponsor personal contact info with anyone.

From the President's Desk



Dear Friends of Life,

Another successful and enjoyable **Celebration of Life** dinner was held at the San Marino Club, as always, the Tuesday before Mother's Day. We have been doing this event for almost 30 years. It is our largest fund-raising event, and its revenues allow LIFESPAN to serve the community and promote the pro-life message in the Metro Detroit Area.

Our speaker Fr. Frank Pavone, as usual, was terrific with his messaging, and was right on target as to what actions pro-life people must take to save the future. Fr. Frank's work nationally is a vital link in helping clergy understand and preach on pro-life issues.

This event could not be as successful without the excellent work of Karen Patrosso, Christina Hansen, Diane Trombley, Lynn Gura, Marc Sosnowski, Marge Bradley, Tim Pruse, and the many volunteers who worked and donated to the Raffle and Auction Tables and worked on our Resource Book. Also the young people who helped at the Registration table and were greeters to the many that came to support our work.

There are so many people who have volunteered their time, their talents, and their treasure these past 54 years to keep the pro-life message in the public square. I am convinced that due to their dedication, the pro-death movement, has not succeeded, nor will they, in taking over our society. Pro-life people are the moral compass this country desperately needs.

It is worth noting that what I have observed with our teens and early twenties generation, the future looks much brighter. These young people seem to be more pro-life than prior generations these past 60 years. That is why LIFESPAN named our Youth Outreach Program, "Generation Truth." Young people grew up with permissive abortion laws and they have seen what it has done to our society. More young people understand the TRUTH about abortion; abortion kills another human being. Abortion STOPS a beating heart.

So, we continue our work. We must never waver. We hang on till there is no more killing of our future generations by abortion. We must persevere till "no more children die and no more women cry."

May God give us the courage to continue no matter how difficult.

- Diane Fagelman, President

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* will be used to save the lives of many through our efforts.

Have questions? Please contact Charles Kleinbrook at 248-352-9569 or MrChip1234@aol.com

LIFESPAN News

June 2024; Vol. 53, No. 4

President & Publisher: Diane Fagelman

Co-Editors: Christina Hansen & Diane Trombley

Right to Life - LIFESPAN is a non-profit organization and is funded entirely by membership dues, private donations and fundraisers.



MAIN OFFICE

32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Ste. 100, Livonia, MI 48150-4305

Phone: 734-524-0162

Email: mainoffice@rtl-lifespans.org

Summer Main Office Hours: M-W-F: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm;

T-Th: Closed Website: miLIFESPAN.org

Christina Cascos Hansen, MA, M.Ed., Office Manager

Right to Life - LIFESPAN Membership Form

June 2024 News

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 preborn, the aged, the incapacitated. Won't you please help in our struggle to preserve respect for human life? A contribution brings you the *LIFESPAN* News as well as educational materials and special mailings.

_____ Annual Membership	\$30.00	_____ Platinum	\$500.00 or more
_____ Student/Senior Member	\$20.00	_____ Gold	\$250.00
_____ Monthly Pledge	\$ _____	_____ Silver	\$100.00
_____ Other	\$ _____	_____ Bronze	\$50.00

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Please complete this form and return with your donation to: **Right to Life - LIFESPAN, 32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Ste. 100, Livonia, MI 48150-4305.** For more information, call **734-524-0162.**

Right to Life - LIFESPAN
Oakland/Macomb Chapter
1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Ste. G
Troy, MI 48084-3540

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Royal Oak, MI
Permit No. 294



DATED MATERIAL

LIFESPAN's **2024 CANDIDATE SURVEY**

LIFESPAN sends a ten-question survey to candidates in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb Counties. The results from these surveys are published in the July News (for the Primary Election) and in the October News (for the General Election).

LIFESPAN does not endorse candidates for election, but we publish the answers to the survey as a service to our members.



Coming Next Month!