

Protect Life Michigan Life Advocate Intensive Training, April 2024



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LIFESPAN sponsored seven young people for the Protect Life Michigan (PLM) Life Advocate Intensive (LAI) training in August 2023 and 13 young people (high school students, college students and young adults) in August 2024. We plan to sponsor at least 20 young people in August 2025! In all the years we have been sponsoring young people to go to the PLM LAI training, everyone has gained a lot from their experience!

Through your generous monetary and prayerful support and your encouragement to continue LIFESPAN's Generation Truth Youth Outreach program, together we will provide young people with educational opportunities during the year where they can learn how to speak with others about the reality and value of human life in the most vulnerable stage of humanity—in the womb—based on scientific facts, truth and common sense. They will gain knowledge and guidance and be able to engage others in conversations, in their families, among their peers, at school, in their faith communities, at work and when meeting people in other situations. A huge heartfelt thank you!

Here is a peek into the PLM LAI 2024 training: https://youtu.be/Mg_dS2Hj6Ow

Registration for the event will begin in May. The training is for 11th-12th grade students, college students and young adults (maximum age is 25).

Please contact **Lynn Gura, Youth Director**, at oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org or call 248-816-1546 for more information on the training that will take place in the Detroit area, July 24-26th, and in the Grand Rapids area, August 7-9th, and how you can sponsor a person! We are very grateful to you in helping to train up the younger generation to be strong Advocates for Life!

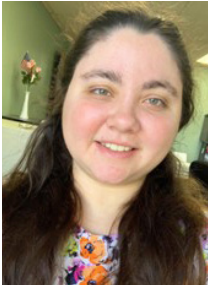
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Protect Life Michigan Life Advocate Intensive Training Reflections

By Julia Walrath, Former Associate Youth Director, Right to Life – LIFESPAN



HI went to Protect Life Michigan's Life Advocate Intensive (LAI) Training last August through LIFESPAN's sponsorship. We won't always remember the words people use, but we remember how they make us feel!

We trained how to hit the streets, quite literally, and we learned how to argue the pro-life position in real-life with the murky middle and even hard pro-aborts. I learned many arguments to use.

I greeted people with the kindest voice possible because, in my opinion, they may not change their minds right away, but this may be the only Christian or pro-life person they'll interact with and my goal was to change their hearts not their minds alone.

The second day we went to Detroit I had a very successful day with ten conversations—two full-mind changes and five partial. It was successful, but I really played into heart apologies and wanted to bring humanity to the person and genuineness over the arguments.

The third day I remember the shocked face of a young adult woman whose voice muttered to her family...that's a baby! Pointing at the sign I saw the shock in her eyes. We dealt with real emotional people. This weekend I learned that delivery is always more important than the arguments we use. Heart-to-heart is more effective than shouting, and being kind is never unnoticed.

We are called to plant seeds and let God do the rest. We can have the best arguments, but if we aren't kind, we have no ground. We can only hope that in the end we will have a chance to say, when it counted, that we never hid the truth or were ashamed of doing the right thing. I can think of many times when I have hesitated to do the right thing and those moments haunt me and if I had saved one more life or helped someone I would have fewer regrets. If I can stand up always, maybe then I might have merit, but we fall and get up. Growth isn't always upwards and sometimes we regress...that's okay, but if you don't give up, you never fail at your mission.

A super heart-provoking video we saw was *Justice for the Five*. Five partial births that were intercepted by two women who asked for the waste bins. They now have the dismembered horrific bodies of the innocent victims and seeing the corpses was gruesome and shocking to me. They showed the actual children, not just a cartoon. Seeing these since I was young, I've been exposed, but this is nonetheless always sad.

I learned a lot at LAI, and I had the most rewarding experience standing up on the streets and approaching people I would honestly usually avoid. Sometimes I choose to be selfish in my bubble, but that day I can say, I stood up for those who are experiencing genocide and age-based discrimination. ♦

By Joshua Parker, College Student



LAI was an experience I will never forget. I have always been pro-life, and I did not know what to expect going into the weekend, but I never would have guessed how life-changing it would be.

LAI was the first opportunity I had in my life to truly have my eyes opened to the horror of abortion. I always knew it was wrong, but this weekend brought a new depth I never imagined. I can genuinely say that my life will never be the same after LAI.

During the talk called, "The Faces of Abortion," my heart was deeply broken for the unborn, more deeply than ever. Directly after that talk, I considered what this would mean for the rest of my life. No longer can I sit idle. I know that I need to stay involved and do something to save these children.

I still think about that talk to this day and I am considering working a job in the future that would involve this kind of work. I am so thankful to Right to Life - LIFESPAN for allowing me to participate in this life-changing experience. Thank you so much again. ♦



God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another.

I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next.

~ St. John Henry Newman ~

Protect Life Michigan Life Advocate Intensive Training Reflections

By Rebecca Wolf, College Student



Attending the Life Advocate Intensive Training (LAI) was a transformative experience for me, and I am deeply grateful to Right to Life – LIFESPAN for sponsoring my participation!

Before attending, I had no particular expectations, but I can confidently say that the weekend left me with a renewed and invigorated perspective on the pro-life movement.

Growing up with a pro-life stance, I always believed abortion was wrong in all circumstances. However, LAI deepened this conviction and ignited a newfound passion within me to advocate for the unborn. The weekend was rich with talks and personal testimonies that offered valuable insights into discussing abortion effectively. The speakers didn't just present the facts and logic of the pro-life argument; they also provided practical strategies for connecting with people on a more emotional level. They emphasized addressing what they referred to as "heart" issues, which proved to be a crucial aspect of engaging with others on this sensitive topic.

Equipped with these new methods, we took to the streets of downtown Detroit to share the pro-life message. To be honest, I was initially terrified. The thought of confronting such a sensitive topic in a public setting was daunting, and I was anxious about how people would react. However, once the outreach began, my anxiety subsided as I reminded myself of the importance of my mission. The outreach was both challenging and rewarding. We faced hostility and encountered individuals who were unwilling to listen, but we also had the opportunity to reach many people through our conversations and the powerful abortion victim photography we displayed.

Each evening, we gathered for a debrief and dinner, which provided a valuable opportunity to share our struggles and successes from the day. These discussions fostered a sense of camaraderie and support among us. Despite the demanding schedule, the time spent together was profoundly impactful and allowed us to build lasting connections.

My experience at LAI was genuinely life-changing. It has rekindled a fire within me to advocate for the unborn with renewed vigor and commitment. I look forward to attending LAI in the future and am hopeful that this experience will continue to inspire and impact many others as it has me. ♦

By Hannah Wolf, High School Student

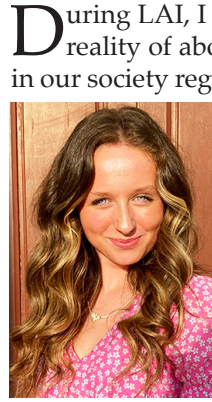


My experience at LAI was truly life-changing and eye-opening in so many ways. The weekend was packed with many talks from inspirational speakers, reaching out to people on the streets of downtown Detroit and surrounding cities, and spending time with teens/young adults all with the same mission.

We learned how valuable AVP (abortion victim photography) can be in apologetics to help people understand the pro-life movement. Doing outreach and asking people their opinions on abortion was so eye-opening to see other people's perspectives and to be able to utilize the apologetics they taught us during the talk sessions.

Overall, the experience was amazing throughout the whole weekend and worth every second of it to fight for the lives of the unborn. Thank you to Right to Life - LIFESPAN for sponsoring me and giving me this wonderful opportunity that I will never forget. ♦

By Mary Wolf, High School Student



During LAI, I was truly able to see the harsh reality of abortion and the need for change in our society regarding the issue. I was amazed by the speakers, who went in-depth about the pro-life movement and what we can do to advocate for the unborn who don't have a voice to stand up for their right to life. The AVP (abortion victim photography) was especially moving since it showed the brutality of abortion.

After the talks, we then moved into the streets of Detroit and did outreach. It was so touching and inspiring to be able to hear about and witness the minds that were changed through outreach and the future lives that would be saved.

I would like to thank Right to Life-LIFESPAN for funding my experience that was so life-changing and inspiring. I wouldn't change my experience at Life Advocate Intensive for the world! ♦

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*A small group of thoughtful people could change the world—
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. ~ Margaret Mead ~*

Protect Life Michigan Life Advocate Intensive Training Reflections

By Luis Mata-Aguilar, College Student



Each year, I make it a priority to plan my summer around LAI because I recognize how crucial it is for us young people to be actively involved in something so important.

Reflecting on my first experience at LAI three years ago, I'm amazed at the personal growth I've experienced, both as an individual and as a man of God. Despite attending for three years now, I'm still blown away by how much I continue to learn with each new conference.

I owe a huge thanks to Lynn Gura from Right to Life - LIFESPAN for that simple invitation all those years ago, which opened my eyes to the harsh reality of abortion.

Since then, I've come a long way—from being terrified to speak out about abortion during outreach to now ensuring I don't let a single person pass by without sharing the truth. Thanks to Protect Life Michigan and the LAI conferences, I've become much more involved in the pro-life movement, and I continue to spread the message to my friends and people I encounter.

What truly inspires me is seeing so many teenagers and college students with such passion for this movement. It's vital because we truly are the Pro-Life Generation. ♦



By Marianne Mata-Aguilar, High School Student



My whole life people have told me that each person has been given an important purpose and mission on this earth that all leads to God's further glorification. That always struck me very deeply and ever since I can remember, I've been desperate to try and figure out what God is calling me to do in my life. I've heard many testi-

monies of people hearing the voice of God in their lives and His calling for them to a certain vocation. Being at peace knowing I am doing God's will is a state of mind I've always wanted to experience.

This year, as my faith and sincere love has grown for Jesus and Mary, they've helped me to understand more deeply that we are all called to accomplish God's will, but only some are chosen to hold the great responsibility of leading many souls straight to God with the example of their life. As God holds them close to His heart, He chooses some to undergo extreme suffering for His greater glory and as a testimony of light in the dark for others.

However, we are all here for a reason. I've always had the desire in my heart to do something. To help God's people in some way. God may have greater responsibilities for some, but first and foremost, we are all called to love.

So when I signed up for the Protect Life Michigan Life Advocate Intensive training this summer, I was thankful for the opportunity to help in the fight against abortion even if what I did was small. The opportunity to meet teens who have that same desire to make a difference in our broken world is beautiful and inspiring to me. Seeing minds change about abortion using the God-given tools of logic, compassion and understanding is a blessing that motivates me to keep going in this fight against evil.

It's easy to get stressed about not knowing what God desires for us in the future; but by the Grace of God and my experience in LAI, I've come to learn that in the present moment, He only wants us to fight for what is right and to do it with love. He will take care of the rest.

Thank you Right to Life - LIFESPAN for the sponsorship so I could be a part of this opportunity! ♦



*God already thought of us before
the creation of the world.*

*Not one of us is extra.
All of us are desired by God.*

~ unknown ~



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