

Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

August 2013



Editor: Jim Burke

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, CFLI Board Meeting
Sept 10

Sunday, 40 Days for Life
Sept 22 Kick-off Rally

Tuesday, CFLI Work Meeting
Sept 24

Wednesday, 40 Days for Life Begins
Sept 25

**We welcome newcomers
to our meetings**



Recruitment

Although the Coalition for Life of Iowa already saw growth in participation over the years, we realized we engage only a small fraction of one percent of the county's population. We know there are many more pro-life people in our community.

We are kicking off efforts to recruit more people so we can reach even more people with life-affirming messages. We hope to see significant growth in the year ahead.

What more rewarding feeling is there than to reveal the value of life to someone else, enabling them to see something they didn't see before? It's amazing and extremely memorable when we see conversions on life issues. We just can't keep this to ourselves.

Dozens of Closures

What's special about the numbers 42 & 24?

pg. 4



40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

There is less than a month left before our fall 40 Days for Life campaign! We will pray for 40 days outside the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood abortion facility again, starting Wednesday, September 25 and ending Sunday, November 3.

We plan to involve more churches this fall, which should yield more people praying. Additionally, as

we usually do each fall, we will bring the message to the neighborhoods by leaving door hangers with information about 40 Days for Life on the doors of local residents.

We could use your help in distributing door hangers. More information will be available soon. We will also inform you

of our kick-off rally.

We keep seeing more positive reactions to our presence. Please ask others to join you and get involved. The prayer flash mobs will start again after 40 Days for Life is over. We know it's a commitment. We'll see you on the sidewalk!

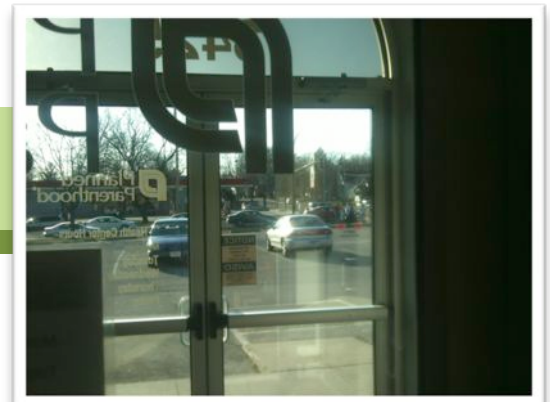
More Local Changes

Last spring, we announced the decrease in hours at the local Planned Parenthood abortion facility. They dropped 10 hours per week in the last year, which amounts to over 500 hours fewer per year!

Within the last few weeks, we found out they changed their hours again. But this time, they

only shifted their hours on Wednesdays. They used to open at 11 am and close at 7 pm. Now, they open at 9 am and close at 5 pm.

We continue to see positive results from our activities. It feels so rewarding when we see the number of abortions on women that live in Linn County dropped by



over 37% in just 3 years!

So when people pray outside Planned Parenthood, note the change in hours. Businesses don't change hours for trivial reasons. We continue to have an effect! Thanks for your efforts.

Children: Life Does Matter!

By Marty Lammers

For many years, in our nation, children were seen as a gift from God. We were a Christian nation and followed Christian principles. In 1930, adherence to these principles started to change as a Christian denomination approved the use of contraception by married couples. This has since snowballed to where the contraceptive mentality is now accepted by most in our country.

A failsafe method of preventing pregnancy was availed with the legalization of abortion through the US Supreme Court in 1973. This provided a solution for the oftentimes-ineffective contraception.

In less than 50 years, our nation departed from a long held God-centered belief that embraced life to a self-centered way of life

in which God was little more than an inconsequential bystander.

The effects are seen in the fact that abortion has extinguished the lives of over 56 million children. Only the Creator knows the comparable number relative to contraception.

The foundation of stable nuclear families is no longer commonplace in our society. The 2010 Census confirms that, for the first time, less than 50% of American households are led by married spouses. This is detrimental to children. Research is clear that children require a solid foundation given by a home with a father and a mother. Over 40% of our children are now born to unwed mothers. These children are at much greater risk of poor academic performance, engaging in criminal



activity, never being societally productive and carrying their errant behavior into ensuing generations.

With all of the great work done to eliminate abortion, we must recognize that this problem is founded more deeply. Until we, as a nation, regain a benevolent moral foundation, our children will continue to suffer. This starts with you and me.

As Frederick Nietzsche, an atheist, penned with some concern, in 1883, “God is Dead ... we have killed Him”. For the sake of our children, is it not time that we found Him again?

Dozens of Closures

This year has been amazing so far when it comes to closing abortion facilities. Just this year, 42 abortion facilities and 24 Planned Parenthood facilities have closed!

This is a much larger number than last year, and we are only partway through the year.

Many laws were passed in states across the nation, although Iowa was not one of them. Most notably, Texas passed sweeping reforms that required abortion providers to meet the same minimum standards as medical facilities that perform surgeries like they were doing. About 90% of the abortion providers in that state sounded like they not only wouldn't be able to comply with these common standards, but it would be too hard to comply that they could go out of business.

Very soon after passage, the Planned Parenthood where 40 Days for Life originated announced that



it would close. It has now closed! It's one among several in that area that closed.

The photo of the large Planned Parenthood sign being dismantled comes from that Planned Parenthood in Bryan/College Station, where Abby Johnson used to serve as the director. The photo provides great symbolism, as the huge and powerful organization appears to have toppled as a result of the prayers of the community and people standing up for life—against the forces of death.

Mississippi passed laws that should have closed the only abortion facility in that state. But that facility continues to operate.

In the last few years, Iowa saw the closure of several facilities. But like we see in so many areas of our lives, victories aren't one-sided. Dr. Nathanson, who helped co-found the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) said that they needed churches to remain silent, and that would allow them to spread abortion across the nation. We cannot remain silent! Silence kills!

Pro-Life Challenge



Distribute Door Hangers

In September, we will have a few opportunities to distribute door hangers.

We pair up, and it's a simple task. With 2-hour shifts, we can get thousands out in very little time if we get enough support. Please join us!

More information available soon.



Recruit Helpers

If you know people who can help distribute door hangers, especially high school or college-aged students, we would really appreciate their help.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for the people who will make decisions of life and death. This includes a wide range of people.

It includes women who face challenging pregnancies. The people who influence the lives of pregnant women also need prayer. So many abortions occur because the father of the child pressures the mother. Sometimes it's the family of the couple that pressures them. They all need prayer.

Pray for people who make policies that affect life and death decisions. This not only includes lawmakers, but people on the Iowa Board of Medicine, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and now the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The decisions these people make can greatly influence people's lives and the ability to make

life and death decisions. It places a great weight on them, since they have such great responsibility.

For people facing death, may their family and caretakers make the right decisions and find peace. May they not hasten death, and affirm the value of life, showing love for those close to them.

For the criminally minded, that anyone seeking to take a life have pause enough to reflect and realize they should not follow through with their actions.

We should always affirm life, and not give in to the hopelessness of killing.





Spread the Word!

Do you know other pro-life people that might like to subscribe to this newsletter?

- Tell them about it
- Forward a copy to them
- Print a copy to hand to friends

Do you have ideas you want discussed in future issues? Contact us with your suggestion. We may consider including your article if you prefer to write your own.

Did you spot some issues with this newsletter that really bug you? Then perhaps you'd like to help edit it. Contact us to see how you can help.

We welcome advertisers for a reasonable price.

Remember, Life Matters!

Request electronic copies by email: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

Coalition for Life of Iowa

P.O. Box 864
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406