



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

February 2014

Editor: Jim Burke

Upcoming Events

Saturday, Mar 1 KC Dance for Life to benefit Birthright

Wednesday, Mar 5 40 Days for Life Begins

Tuesday, Mar 11 CFLI Board Meeting

Tuesday, Mar 25 CFLI Working Meeting

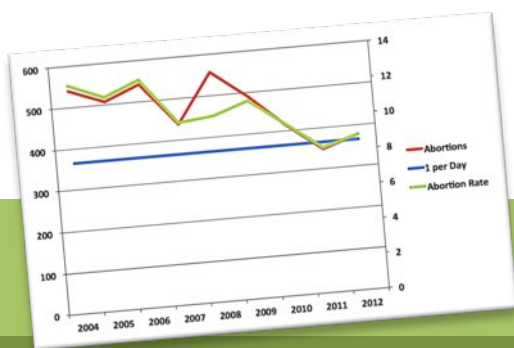
**We welcome newcomers
to our meetings**

Pro-Life Education

The Coalition for Life of Iowa has sponsored several educational forums over the years. We brought in experts in their fields, speaking on a variety of life issues. We plan to have educational events on a much more frequent basis, but at a smaller scale.

We know smaller, shorter, but more frequent events work best. We welcome your ideas to guide us in what you want to learn about. We also welcome anyone who is interested in helping out in any way.

Coalition for Life of Iowa Board



Local Abortions Increased in 2012

Webcam Abortions Began That Year

40 Days for Life: Starts March 5

On Wednesday, March 5th, we will begin our spring 40 Days for Life campaign. We invite you to join us in praying outside the local Planned Parenthood abortion facility on the corner of 1st Ave and 35th St Dr SE.

Many of you remember how cold and windy it was last spring. This winter has been colder. But 40 Days for Life begins on the same day we celebrated the

midpoint of last year's 40 Days for Life. If it remains cold, we could see similar results as last spring, when Planned Parenthood reduced their hours by 10 hours/week.

If it warms up, you might just enjoy spending some time outside in warmer weather after a long, cold winter.

Creston, Iowa will

participate in 40 Days for Life for the first time. They are one of two locations in Iowa where Planned Parenthood is open zero hours.

Come; join us!



Dance for Life: March 1

Each spring, the Knights of Columbus raise money for Birthright by organizing a Dance for Life. The dance includes music, food, a silent auction, and plenty of other people to socialize with.

The event keeps growing each year, and everyone

has a great time. It's family friendly entertainment for all ages. The dance starts on

Saturday, March 1st at 6pm at the St. Pius X Church hall. It ends at 10pm. See you there!



Local Abortions Increase

Abortion numbers and abortion rates fluctuated, but remained relatively flat for many years. In 2008, the number of abortions performed on women who lived in Linn County spiked up after a year with a downward spike. The abortion rate didn't follow the same path.

Abortion reporting is based on the county of residence of the mother. Abortion rates take the number of abortions and divide by the number of women of

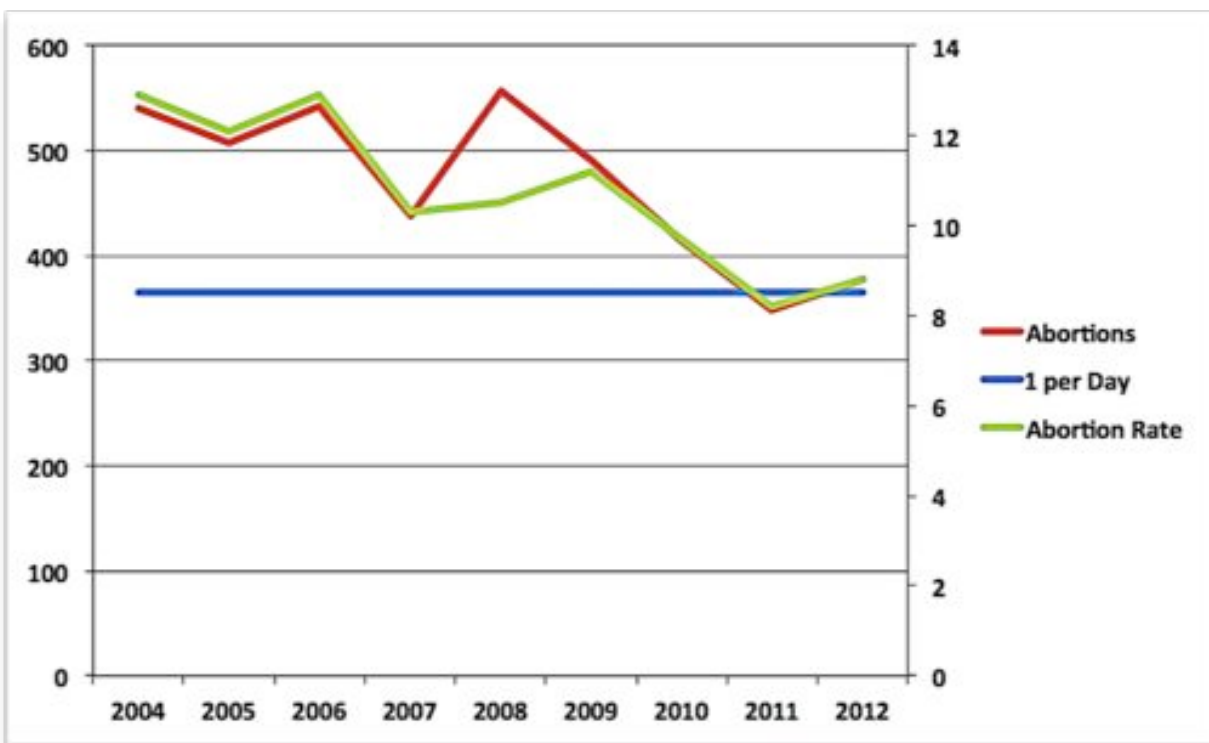
childbearing age.

In the chart below, the number of abortions use the numbers on the left side of the chart, and the abortion rate uses the numbers on the right side of the chart.

In 2008, we began praying for 40 days. Both the number of abortions and the abortion rate fell dramatically in the years that followed. Abortions dropped by over 37%, and fell below one abortion per

day.

But, in September of 2012, the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood began offering webcam abortions. That was enough to bump the number and rate of abortions in Linn County. We rose above one abortion per day again. By only covering part of the year, we expect next year's report to show a larger increase. We need everyone's help to combat webcam abortions.



March For Life Outcomes



In the midst of a very cold winter, we experienced a warm break just long enough for the Cedar Rapids March for Life. People showed up in great numbers, making it the largest outdoor event we've had.

We occasionally have someone give a personal testimony about abortion. This year, Joey told her story. So many people have fallen for the belief that abortion gives women freedom to choose. Joey told of her circumstances where she felt she was forced to have an abortion. Most women who have abortions report feeling pressured to have the

abortion. The coercion takes away that choice.

The life-long effects of abortion were apparent throughout the emotional testimony. It's clear that that

abortion isn't the quick fix so many women are told it is. Pain and regret are just a few of the effects.

We normally plan about 30 minutes for prayer. But this time, between the testimony and announcements, it left us less time for prayer. For those of you that wanted more prayer time, we're sorry. We try to balance maintaining the schedule and getting all of the activities accomplished.

Marchers enjoyed chili, side items, and drinks afterward.

The students that headed to Washington

D.C. encountered terrible weather the day after our local march. The combination of delays early in the trip and forecasts calling for enough snow to make a mess in Washington D.C., they turned just after reaching the halfway point.

The experience is great, so we hope anyone that tried to make it this year tries again next year. This is the first time the groups going ever turned back early. Despite the rarity of not making it to the final destination, it makes it clear that we should not put off going.



Pro-Life Challenge



Pray During 40 Days for Life

Join us with a peaceful, prayerful presence outside the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood. Remain respectful and law abiding, but most of all, pray. It's not political, and it's not a protest...it's prayer.



Bring Friends!

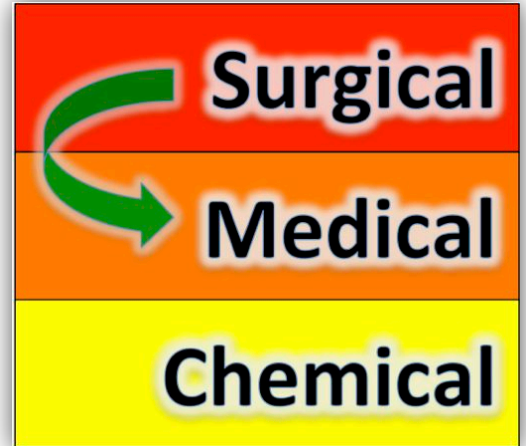
When you come out to pray during 40 Days for Life, invite family members, friends, and even co-workers!

Two Cities in Iowa End Surgical Abortions

Late in the year last year, a few cities in Iowa started to show signs that they may not continue surgical abortions. We have confirmed that Sioux City and Bettendorf have stopped performing surgical abortions! But they still perform webcam abortions.

This is good news, but it's just one step in the right direction. Webcam abortions remain a menace. Few people want to perform abortions, so when abortions cease in a city, it makes it harder for them to start up again.

This leaves Des Moines and Iowa City as the two remaining cities in Iowa that offer surgical abortions. Only Keokuk and a small facility in Des Moines still don't provide webcam abortions, which are a form of medical abortion. Such



facilities tend to refer clients to facilities that offer abortions, or they offer chemical abortions. Chemical abortions usually involve pills very shortly after conception. Many abortion advocates don't consider chemical abortions to be abortions. But ending life after it begins is still a form of abortion.

Let us keep up our efforts to see abortion leave our community and leave our state. We make progress each time they close a facility or drop down the type of abortions a notch.

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Coalition for Life of Iowa

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