



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

April 2014

Editor: Jim Burke

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, CFLI Board Meeting
May 13

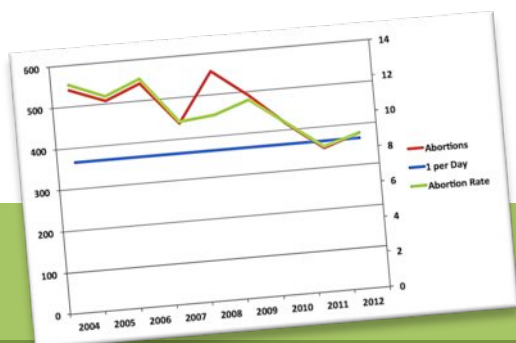
Sat & Sun, Roses for Moms
May 10-11 at local churches

Tuesday, Life Series Event
May 19 St. Pat's Parish Center

Tuesday, CFLI Work Meeting
May 27

Friday, Father-Daughter Dance
June 13 KC 909 Council

**We welcome newcomers
to our meetings**



Prayer Flash Mobs

We will again resume having prayer flash mobs this summer. By their nature, we won't provide notice of them in our newsletter, but we will make sure people know about the activities as they approach.

Last summer, we had great turnout. We typically pick one day per month, and then arrange for dozens of us to show up for one hour on that day.

It's a great way for everyone to stay in touch throughout the summer and do a very noble thing. We also invite people to pray on a weekly basis. Weekly time slots with people presently committed appear at:

http://lifeiowa.org/Prayerful_Presence.html

What Lowers Abortions Most?

Beyond a supportive family, these help most

40 Days for Life: Closing Rally

On Sunday, April 13th, we ended our spring 40 Days for Life campaign. We normally spend an hour in prayer before going for pizza. But this time, the wind and rain came down hard.

After a small number of us stood in the rain for a few minutes, we realized that umbrellas weren't holding up, signs were hard to hold onto without having to chase them after they blew

out of our hands. Few people driving by would have any reason to read our signs, since they would have to focus on driving in bad weather.

It was clear that we had to pray inside our vehicles or head over for pizza early.

It was still wonderful to see how many people



showed up despite the weather. Although we wish the conditions had been better, we thank everyone for joining us!

May & June Event Details

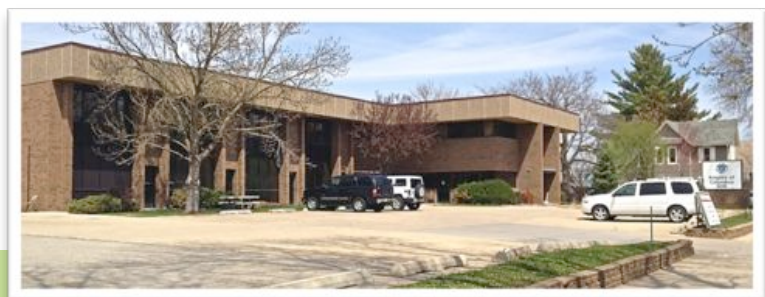
Help distribute roses to women on Mother's Day at participating churches.

About a week later, we will have our Life Series educational event that discusses the effects of contraception and how it ties to abortion. Join us on May 19th at 6:30pm at St. Patrick's Parish

Center, 120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids.

On Friday, June 13th from 6:30 – 8:30pm, we will sponsor a Father-Daughter dance at the

new Knights of Columbus Council 909 building, located at 1620 E Ave NE. The building is pictured below. Kick off Father's Day weekend with a dance!



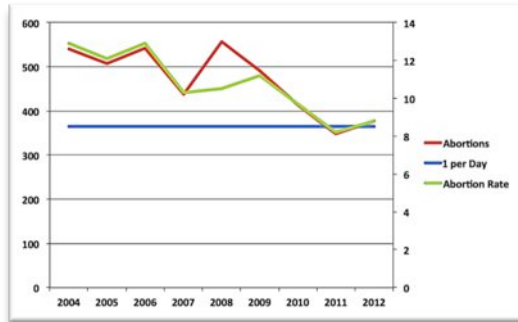
What Lowers Abortion Numbers Most?

In no particular order, the things that make a huge difference in abortion rates/numbers include:

- Peaceful Presence
- Pregnancy Resources
- Access to Ultrasounds
- No Abortion Providers
- No Planned Parenthood
- Abstinence Education

Peaceful Presence: Having a peaceful, prayerful presence outside of Planned Parenthood (PP) or abortion providers can give women the sign they seek to turn away from abortion. It also allows us a chance to point people to resources where they can get any help they seek. This is one reason we focus so much on this type of activity—it's so effective.

Pregnancy Resources: It's important to have supportive family and friends. But Pregnancy Resource Centers like Bridgehaven and Birthright help support anyone who is vulnerable to abortion. By offering help, they make it easier to raise children, regardless of the circumstances. We are blessed to have such great resources in the area.



Access to Ultrasounds:

Building off the pregnancy resources, the most powerful is the ultrasound. When women see an ultrasound of their child, they choose life the vast majority of the time. If the father of the child sees the ultrasound, the effect is even greater. Affordable ultrasounds make a huge difference, which is why organizations like Bridgehaven offer them for free.

No Abortion Providers: When access to abortion decreases, the number of abortions decrease as well. Abortion supporters often frame access in terms of having a provider in every county, but that's a bad measure. Iowa City provides more abortions per capita than anywhere else in the nation. Many people drive 30 minutes to Iowa City to get abortions in a different county. Distance matters most.

No Planned Parenthood:

Some PP facilities offer abortions, which fits in that last category. But as other issues of this newsletter point out, PP does things that correlate with higher abortion rates. When PP closed facilities in Texas, abortion numbers dropped significantly.

Abstinence Education: The affectivity of abstinence education programs has greatly improved beyond the "just say NO" mantra as such programs say yes to benefits of remaining pure. Yet, this goes largely unnoticed. Statistics regarding STDs, cancer and psychological concerns have greatly enhanced teens' acceptance of education programs promoting their own dignity.

Together: These things in combination bring abortion rates down. The Cedar Rapids area benefits mostly from the first three. We've seen some advancement when a local abortion facility closed in 2008. Sex Ed varies, especially when federal funds for abstinence education were cut in recent years.

Energy from Aborted Babies (Disturbing)

Perhaps one of the most disturbing news items of the year comes from power companies that incinerate the remains of children who were aborted so they can generate power. It disrespects the deceased.

When people treat others as medical waste, rather than people, it leads to this kind of thing. Medical waste, especially infectious waste frequently gets incinerated to minimize the chance of others contracting the disease.

But when healthy babies are aborted, they deserve the dignity we all share as human beings. To treat them as waste leaves some in sewers, others get incinerated; the forms of disrespect go on.

Most states dictate a variety of methods for disposing of medical waste, most of which include incineration. Incineration took on something more when power companies started using incineration as a method of generating power. When combined,

there is now a disposal method for abortion providers, and other companies now profit from the killing.

lead to a similar result. Since women are told to flush the “product of conception” down the toilet, our sewers will fill



It's beginning to look like the medical and disposal communities need rules to respect children. Incineration can make sense for most medical waste, but children are not waste.

When Kermit Gosnell was caught killing children as part of his abortion practice, we learned that his facility, like many other abortion facilities used the sewer as part of their solution for disposal. Similarly, webcam abortions in Iowa

with dead babies. With the way sewer systems work, many of these children may remain under a house for a long time, rather than flowing to the sewage treatment plant.

We need to respect life at all stages. We should not allow businesses to profit from the death of children, nor the destruction of their bodies as some means of disposal.

Pro-Life Challenge



Pray During Flash Mobs

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 to Our Life Series Event!

Come to our Life Series event and bring friends! The subject is one that is often misunderstood and misrepresented in public.

Good Friday Prayer Breakfast



We thank the volunteers that helped us set up for and work at the Good Friday Prayer Breakfast (GFPB).

It gave us the opportunity to reach several hundred people we normally don't reach with our message. It also helped us raise funds for the work we do. We let people know the results we've seen in the local pro-life movement, and they were impressed. We were also able to distribute some

educational videos.

Each year, the organizers of the GFPB invite two local charities to volunteer and speak in front of a large group of attendees from a wide range of local churches.

We are grateful for the opportunity to spread the word, educate, recruit and fundraise.

It was an early morning for our volunteers, but it was worth it. Thank you!



CFLI Board

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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.

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Coalition for Life of Iowa

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