



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

September 2014

Editor: Jim Burke

Upcoming Events

October Respect Life Month

Sunday, National Life Chain
Oct 5

Tuesday, CFLI Board Meeting
Oct 14

Tuesday, CFLI Work Meeting
Oct 28

Sunday, 40 Days for Life
Nov 2 Closing Rally

**We welcome newcomers
to our meetings**

Gearing Up

Respect Life Month is coming up in October. This is the time of year we gear up for an increase in pro-life activities. October, January, and Lent usually bring with them a busy season of pro-life activities.

40 Days for Life has already begun. The National Life Chain occurs in early October. We plan to have another educational event as part of our Life Series in November. In January there is a Midwest March for Life in Des Moines. Then we have our local March for Life here in Cedar Rapids and the National March for Life in Washington D.C. Soon after that we start up the springtime 40 Days for Life. We again plan activities for Mother's Day and Father's Day. Welcome to the season of LIFE!

- Coalition for Life of Iowa Board



Coalition for Life of Iowa Membership

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We've established membership; you may be a member

When Planned Parenthoods Close...

When pointing out the harm Planned Parenthood does, people often defend it by pointing out some good things it does. Even if one believes the faulty way of computing that abortions are only 3% of their business, one should always keep in mind that eating something with 3% poison or 3% garbage is not good.



When Planned Parenthoods in western Iowa closed, many of the communities in which they operated opened real

clinics or pregnancy resource centers. Organizations typically meet the true needs in a community. We don't need to accept a little evil in order to have something good.

We are blessed to have low-cost clinics and pregnancy resource centers here in Cedar Rapids.

Coalition for Life of Iowa Membership



In the past our official membership was limited to board members. This month the board voted and approved expanding membership to others.

Rather than calling everyone mere participants in our activities, we can now call each other members. By default, anyone on our email list is now a member.

In the future, we may

add levels or types of membership and add certain benefits. But for now we want people to feel a greater sense of being part of the great pro-life things that we do.

It feels great increasing the number of people we call members from just nine people to several hundred people!

40 Days for Life: It's On!

40 Days for Life has begun! Our kick-off rally went well.

In the future we would really like to maintain a bin with supplies. Supplies could include umbrellas, gloves, Bibles, information with abortion alternatives, and many other things. It's a common thing at other 40 Days for Life sites.

Although we've wanted to expand to doing this, the primary concern about a bin is making sure people are present at all times from the time the bin is dropped off for the day until it can be picked up again. Although we know people cover many more hours than the online vigil calendar suggests, the online calendar is our best way to determine whether we have continuous coverage. Even the new online calendar has few users, which leaves large gaps in the times covered.

Some 40 Days



sites use a sign-in sheet.

But again, the sign-in sheet is something similar to a bin that needs to be kept safe from being stolen.

Even if you pray outside of Planned Parenthood during times that are not part of 40 Days for Life, we ask that you record your time so we know we have people we trust present.

In addition to eventually getting a bin full of supplies, we could expand our hours if we knew we covered most of the existing hours. As it is, it's hard to measure how much coverage we have of hours.

Many of our members recently heard a story at

the Christ Our Life Conference in Des Moines that told of the end of abortion at a facility in another state. Even without praying at the abortion facility, people prayed 24 hours each day and participated in Eucharistic adoration just a few blocks away at a church. The abortion facility closed in a matter of months!

Soon after closing, the abortion providers tried to reopen their business. Praying and Eucharistic adoration continued around the clock. The business remained open for a few days and was closed within two weeks!

Being present helps us help clients and understand what is going on at Planned Parenthood. But prayer is the key!

The online calendar link appears below:

<http://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/calendar/>

March for Life

It's not January yet, but it's an important time to consider whether you wish to attend the National March for Life in Washington D.C. If so, organizations around the state will have upcoming deadlines for signing up for going as a group.

Iowans for Life and Dubuque County Right to Life are the two organizations we know about who are planning such trips. In both cases, expect to leave on Tuesday, Jan. 20th and

return on Saturday, Jan. 24th. The National March for Life brings together more than half a million pro-lifers.

Whether or not you go to the national march, there are state and

local marches that you may attend. Marches for Life happen at every level, and we encourage you to participate. Only the National March for Life requires action soon.



Photos taken from a video on the jp2mri.org website

Do You Have a Life Affirming Story?

Among our members, we have amazing people. We have people who have been directly involved in providing alternatives to abortion. Some members have adopted children and/or been foster parents for literally hundreds of

children. Some members have been praying outside abortion facilities for decades. Some women have had abortions.

If you have a life-affirming story, and if you are willing to share it with us, please do so. We could feature the

story in a future newsletter or have you speak at an event, but only if you want your story to be used in such ways.

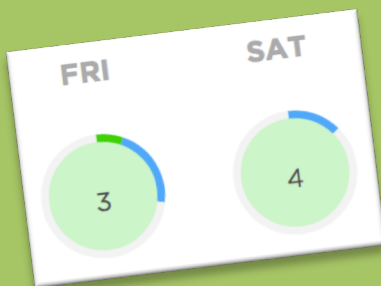
We know there are many stories out there, but only a few have been shared with us. Inspire others!

Pro-Life Challenge



Pray as Part of 40 Days for Life

Join us for our 40 Days for Life activities. Anyone can pray



Use the Online Vigil Calendar

It always helps to have friends and family with you when you pray. It's safer, more interesting, and could save lives and help parents avoid lifetimes of regret. Invite others to join in the work that led to a growing number of saved lives!

National Life Chain

Each October the National Life Chain organizes pro-life activities in communities across the nation. They depend on individuals to organize the activities at a local level, so the Coalition for Life of Iowa does not organize it. However, we do want to promote it.

The National Life Chain offers signs to hold along busy roads on the first Sunday of October. In Cedar Rapids the chain of people will start outside the Planned Parenthood at 3425 1st Ave SE, and stretch along 1st Ave from there. The event starts at 2:00 p.m. on October 5th, and ends at 3:30 p.m.

If you want to stick around afterward or come early, you may always pray as part of 40 Days for Life. Before 40 Days for Life came along, National Life Chain and the March for Life were the largest events that occurred on an annual basis.

In the 1990s the chain extended from roughly Westdale Mall to Lindale Mall. It shrunk at one point and there has been an effort to expand it again in recent years.

Join the National Life Chain. Wouldn't it be breathtaking to extend all the way across Cedar Rapids someday?



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Coalition for Life of Iowa

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