



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

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We welcome newcomers to our
events and meetings

Donate Here

<https://coalition-for-life-of-iowa.square.site/>

Marching Forward

40 Days for Life has drawn to a close. But we still have pro-life work to do this year. We have a bit of a lull of activity. However, we still have our Mother's Day fundraiser and a movie showing that we are trying to plan in the next few months.

From a governmental perspective, we will still face challenges from the federal government, while things are much better at the state level. But even the state level has some bills worth pushing to get passed.

We saw some great turnout this year at the Cedar Rapids 40 Days for Life rally. We hope to continue such strong showings of support for pro-life causes in the year ahead.

- Coalition for Life of Iowa's Board of Directors

Upcoming Events

Second Tuesdays

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Fourth Tuesdays

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

CFLI Board Meetings (2nd Tuesdays)
& CFLI Working Meetings (4th Tuesdays)

Get involved in our organization!

Where: Contact us.

More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

We are planning more events.

Care to join our planning efforts?



GUIDING STAR
PROJECT

Guiding Star

The Guiding Star Project was born from the conviction that women deserve better than the current standard for mainstream women's healthcare. They recently had a fundraiser, and donations to them will receive a dollar-for-dollar match between now and April 8th.

Several things make Guiding Star stand out above others in the medical community. Guiding Star uses the best in medical science, while adhering to moral ethics. The combination respects women, children, fathers, and families.

Mothers who visit a doctor have to figure out whether to bring children along or to find someone who will look after them until she returns from the appointment. Guiding Star provides onsite childcare.

Rather than masking symptoms with drugs, Guiding Star uses NaProTechnology methods to diagnose and treat the underlying causes of disorders that can affect fertility and other aspects of a woman's health.

Guiding Star recognizes the inherent dignity of every human being, beginning with natural conception and ending with natural death. Therefore, abortion is never a consideration.

When women learn about their bodies and cycles, including teens they have a program for, they get excited and recognize how amazing the female body is and how it works. Men often have the same reaction about women's bodies. This appreciation fosters healthy relationships and respect, rather than use, abuse, and lust.

The fundraiser went very well. It took place online. They covered a few high-level things, and then went to each of their sites. They provided tours that stepped through some of the locations. They pointed out the needs and bigger projects of each site.

Guiding Star Marshalltown is the newest of the sites. They opened last year in June during the COVID restrictions. If that's not hard enough in their first year, they also

are trying to raise funds for an ultrasound machine.

Guiding Star Cedar Valley up in Waterloo was the first of their affiliates in Iowa, and it has done great things over the years. The fruit of their work led to others opening in Iowa.

Guiding Star Orange City in the northwest quadrant of Iowa has also seen many good fruits of their work. The event also included sites in Minnesota, Texas, and Tennessee.

We wish there was a Guiding Star in Cedar Rapids and Iowa City. Perhaps there will be one or more in the years ahead. Until then, we strongly recommend Guiding Star. It fills a need in healthcare before women find themselves considering abortion or having problems because they have masked symptoms for many years.

If you are interested in their virtual event, you can watch a replay here:

<https://www.helpwomenbeheroes.com/cedarvalley-webcast/> 



Government Update

National

There is a new head of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). He has no background in the medical or health fields.

The main thing he has accomplished that relates to it is that he has sued pro-lifers more than other people that may have otherwise been considered for that position. HHS is the department of the federal government that is the most powerful, based on size, budget, and power over lives.

The COVID relief bill has none of the typical protections of life, which means that the abortion industry could end up with funds from the \$1.9 trillion bill. When Planned Parenthood received tens of millions of dollars of funds last year for COVID reasons, they received funds that were explicitly prohibited from funding them. The current administration does not appear interested in addressing this misappropriation of funds.

The Equality Act remains a threat to the pro-life movement. It threatens to make a very unequal balance between mother and child. By focusing on a uniformity of treatment between men and women, despite the obvious difference resulting from the presence of a child in the womb, abortion and similar threats to life could be more easily justified in the law.

Virginia Death Penalty

Virginia has passed legislation that ends the death penalty in their state. This makes them the 23rd state to abolish the death penalty, and the first of the Southern States.

The bill has been signed into law. It does not take effect until July. But there are no executions planned prior to the date when it will take effect.

Iowa

The Iowa legislature faces the next funnel. In order to prevent a glut of bills to deal with at the end of the session, funnels are set up to make sure that bills only remain up for consideration if they advanced beyond a certain point by a certain day. The Life Amendment made good progress early in the session, but needs to advance again in the next few days in order to have any chance of passing this year.

Most of the lawmakers in Linn County stand in favor of the abortion industry's desires, which put them opposed to life. We need more pro-life people to contact their lawmakers to make clear just how important pro-life legislation is.

It's important to remain respectful. It also helps to make influential arguments that consider their perspective, while communicating what they need to know about where you stand on the subject. 🗣️

Amendments

Helms, Hyde, & Weldon

The title of this article is not the name of a law firm, but rather a trio of amendments to bills in order to protect lives and conscience rights. They are listed in chronological order from when they first took effect. Sadly, there are efforts in play to try to remove these protections.

The United States Foreign Assistance Act of 1973 included the Helms Amendment in response to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on *Roe vs. Wade* earlier that year. It was named after Senator Jesse Helms who introduced the bill. The text states, “No foreign assistance funds may be used to pay for the performance of abortion as a method of family planning or to motivate or coerce any person to practice abortions.” This remains in effect because it’s permanent. Therefore, it would take legislative action to end these protections. Some people have argued that one could free up funds by justifying abortions for reasons other than family planning.

In 1976, Congressman Henry Hyde introduced the Hyde Amendment as a rider to the Health and Human Services (HHS) appropriations bill. The text has varied a bit over the years. In short, it prohibits funding abortions with federal funds. The current version includes exceptions that allow Medicaid funds for abortions in cases of rape, incest, or the health of the mother.

The exceptions reduce the protections it would otherwise offer. Also, this rider has to be included in each year’s budget, otherwise it will not apply.

The Hyde Amendment was intended to go into effect in 1977, but it was challenged in court. The *Harris vs. McRae* case upheld the constitutionality of the amendment, so the Hyde Amendment went into effect in 1980. The Hyde Amendment had broad support across parties up until a few years ago. Now, there’s a major political party that opposes it, and there are strong pushes to eliminate it. This is a real threat, since the COVID relief bill did NOT include the Hyde

Amendment. Considering how Planned Parenthood previously acquired federal COVID funds that were explicitly prohibited by organizations like theirs, it’s hard to imagine that the abortion industry would pass up any free money.

The abortion rate increased from 1973 to 1980, and has gone down ever since then. Hyde has saved many lives, and it helps show that subsidizing abortion led to increased abortion rates and that it stopped increasing when the subsidizing ended.

Congressman Dave Weldon introduced the Weldon Amendment in 2004. It’s also an annual amendment to the HHS appropriations bill. The Weldon Amendment protects the conscience rights of health care providers. It protects doctors, health care organizations, insurance plans, and health professionals from being forced to provide, pay for, provide coverage of, or refer for abortions.

These life-saving amendments are all at risk of going away. 🙏



40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

Cedar Rapids

40 Days for Life+

We closed out our spring 40 Days for Life campaign on Palm Sunday. It was great to see so many of you once again. We are grateful for the many people who helped make the rally successful.

Pat has done a great job leading 40 Days for Life in recent years. Dr. Don and Gary provided music at this rally and the kick-off rally. Rick and Marianne led devotions. Sue also led a devotion and provided an update on Coalition activities. Jim provided an update on things going on with Planned Parenthood and coordinated the pizza order. Stephanie provided music outdoors and some Watch candles and angels. Natalie and Tony brought the cross and sound system and also led prayer. We also thank Godfather's Pizza for once again feeding us as we gather at the end of the 40 days.

The upgrades to Planned Parenthood's facility a bit more than a year ago was almost entirely to make it more "modern". We are grateful that they didn't appear to introduce anything that would bring

surgical abortions in the near future. We also learned of some local businesses that are supportive of Planned Parenthood, some of which we knew before.

As for the Coalition, we are in the planning stage for showing the Roe v. Wade movie that is coming out soon. It's very educational about what went on in the leadup to the ruling that overturned the laws of our entire nation.

We are also planning for the Roses for Moms fundraiser on Mother's Day. We will move into more churches this year.

We had several door prizes at the rally. We appreciate the people who made it to the rally, their prayers, and their donations helped defray the costs of the event.

The winds were a bit strong earlier in the day on the day we had the rally. We were pleased that the winds died down a bit by the time our event took place. It was still a bit windier than we would prefer, but at least it wasn't any earlier.

The people driving by had plenty of negativity to send our way. We tried to respond with positive responses, as usual. We sometimes have people stop and talk with us who have opposing views. That did not occur this time.

It's important to remember that 40 Days for Life is a good place to start. But we need people to pray year-round. The places that close are the places that have people present and praying as much as possible. We could spend years engaged in 40 Days for Life. We could see Planned Parenthood close in much less time through continuous prayer. We've seen places close due to prayer in some places that seemed very unlikely to have any closures. It's absolutely possible, but it doesn't just happen without our prayerful presence.

Join us in prayer, and recruit others to pray for this noble cause at least a few times throughout the year ahead! We would love to see some of you come out on a weekly basis.



Pro-Life Challenge



Prayers

Please pray for God to work in the lives people, in particular:

Jenifer (pro-lifer with health issues);
Çantana (pro-lifer);
Northern Minnesota's PP sites; a good start for UNI Students for Life

VOLUNTEER



Help Us!

Use your skills to help pro-life efforts, and invite friends and family to attend our events. Invite them to help us out. Many hands make for light work!



Vaccine Update

Another vaccine has been approved for emergency use in the United States. Johnson & Johnson (J&J) has a single-dose vaccine that has gained interest of people who want immunity as soon as possible. Of the three vaccines with this emergency approval, J&J has the vaccine with the LEAST ethical source.

The J&J vaccine also offers the least effectiveness. Many people aren't considering the moral implications of the vaccines, and they are drawn to the convenience of knowing that a single dose is one and done, until such time as someone pushes a booster, which seems likely for current vaccines. They are all still experimental, and the odds that any of them, whether one or two doses will maintain immunity for the rest of your life just seems like a long-shot.

Knowing that the disease is not pleasant to experience can make some people rush for a vaccine. Knowing that it is not very lethal makes many people resist the vaccine.

As I figured, the first and easiest opportunity for me to receive a

vaccine ended up being the J&J vaccine. I have no intention of getting that one. It may delay me getting a vaccine by weeks or months. If I contract the disease in the meantime, the good news is that there are treatments that have been around since early on, although politics got in the way and people made the treatments that could have saved hundreds of thousands of lives sound deadly and ineffective. With such treatments available, it's surprising that the emergency use provisions remain. If I don't contract the virus in the delayed time period, then I will be able to reward companies that engaged in less evil.

If we support the most evil approaches possible when we have a barely lethal disease (as a percentage), when less evil options exist, we make it clear that ethics aren't a concern to us, and companies can and will do more evil in the future. If we draw a line and seek the most ethical options, companies will take note. With demand outpacing supply, it's also critical that we contact the vaccine makers. 🌱

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