

# Livingston County Life-Line

## Fall 2005

**Right to Life**  
Livingston County, Inc.

**Office Hours**  
Tuesday - Thursday  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
and by appointment

810-227-5788  
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The prolife movement is united in its goal to protect the precious gift of human life from fertilization to natural death. We continually work to defend defenseless and vulnerable human beings, born and unborn whenever they are threatened whether by abortion, infanticide, euthanasia or assisted suicide. Simply stated, our goal is to save innocent human lives and to restore a prolife climate to our world. Without a doubt, abortion is the leading cause of death to innocent human beings.

We are convinced that with prolife education and legislation, the efforts of crisis pregnancy centers throughout our state, such as Pregnancy Helpline in our county, and the help of prolife churches - working together - will save lives.

The measurable impact of the hard work of grass-root prolife organizations is demonstrated in lower abortion rates in Michigan, a drop in teen-age pregnancies, an increase in the election of prolife candidates and the passage of prolife legislation. More importantly there is a change in the societal climate regarding life issues. Many polls show that the percentage of people that are in favor of limiting or abolishing abortion altogether continues to increase. But our fight is far from over. While public opinion may be changing, too little action - too late has resulted in court rulings especially by our U.S. Supreme Court, that fail to uphold the right to life of the unborn and others who cannot speak for themselves.

Unfortunately, abortion rights only began the free-fall that has led to a disregard of the value of human life. To-

day we battle against the cloning of human beings for their organs and tissue, the destruction of human embryos for their stem cells and the starving of helpless people because they cannot speak for themselves.

While popular opinion may be changing in regards to the necessity for and the right to abortion on demand, the lack of commitment

## A Call to Action for Life

By Nina Cedar

ment of many of those who claim to be prolife allows this culture of death to continue to exist. It is not simply the actions of abortionists or researchers that allows humans to be disposable. The hard truth is that the inaction and apathy of many who claim to be prolife is what permits abortion on demand to continue.

In the fight for the unborn, complacency and apathy is our toughest enemy. Make no mistake about it. Apathy is the reason that abortion is still legal after 32 years. Apathy fuels the industry that destroys the unborn and preys on women in crisis. Apathy is the abortionist's best friend!

The pro-abortion industry and lobby is well funded and does not depend on donations and funding from individuals in order to survive. Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest single abortion provider (with an office in Brighton) is partially funded by our tax dollars. Huge amounts of money is raised by grants and donations from large companies and individuals who support their pro-abortion culture. In addition, as the largest single abortion provider in our country, their income increases every year as they expand their market

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share of the number of abortions performed. The fact is, we can't even begin to compete with the abortion industry when it comes to their financial resources.

Thankfully, in Michigan and throughout the country, increasing numbers of elected prolife legislators, lobbying through the internet and ongoing education efforts are working to change public opinion about life issues. These are the tools we use to

save lives. We don't need new office buildings set in beautifully landscaped surroundings and equipped with state of the art technology that is paid for with public tax dollars. But we do need you. Every single one of you! We need your

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prayers, your time and your financial support.

We need volunteers to work in the office and out of the office. We need people to make phone calls and to write letters to

the editor. We need people to contact elected officials to ask them for their help and to thank them for their efforts in support of prolife legislation. We need you to coordinate efforts in your churches. We need you to support our fundraising efforts - again and again and AGAIN! We need you to be committed and faithful to the fight to end abortion in our land.

Even when set-backs occur, we believe that it is just a matter of time before Roe v. Wade is overturned. This is our unwavering hope. This is what we have been working towards since that infamous Supreme Court decision of January 22, 1973, when activist judges imposed their personal social preferences on every American - born and unborn.

Thirty-two years of groundwork has brought us to this place. Now is not the time to sit back and wait for change to come about. Now is the time to come forward and make change happen. The future is in our hands. The more hands the better. We need you to become engaged in the battle. We need every person who considers themselves to be against abortion to become active supporters of the prolife movement.

## First Annual Vigil for Life

Right to Life Livingston County Inc. in conjunction with Life Summit presents the First Annual Vigil for Life, Sunday, October 2, 2005 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. This event will take place at the historic courthouse in downtown Howell.

We know that every fourth baby dies from choice. To symbolize this statistic, we will hand out 3 candles for every 1 cross. Everyone attending the vigil will be asked to hold either candles representing life or a cross representing the death of babies who die from abortion.

The memorial vigil will be a visible reminder of the devastating effect abortion has had on our community. Groups and individuals are welcome to participate.

Candles and crosses will be available to pick up that evening or RSVP in advance for a pack to be ready for your group.

Please plan on arriving a few minutes early in order to get a cross or candle. The event will take place, rain or shine. For further information contact Pregnancy Helpline at 810-494-5433 or our affiliate office at 810-227-5788.

Sunday, October 2, will give us the opportunity to pray together during Life Chain and to be a visible reminder of the devastating effect abortion has had on our community during the First Annual Vigil for Life.

*"Sometimes people of faith say,  
'Well, God is going to take care of everything.'  
But what Christians need to realize is that  
God takes care of everything precisely through His people.  
He always calls His people into the battle."*

Fr. Frank Pavone

## Pregnancy Helpline

- **Free & Confidential Services & Information**
- **Free Pregnancy Testing**
- **Free Abortion Information & Counseling**
  - **Free Ultrasound**
- **Free Post-abortion assistance**
- **Free Material assistance for pregnancy and early childcare**

7743 W. Grand River Suite 101,  
Brighton, MI 48114

24 hr hotline  
810-494-5433

**If you or someone  
you know are  
facing pregnancy alone....  
help is only  
a phone call away.**

**Call today**

# Life Chain-2005

Sunday, October 2, 2005



Not a picket...not a march...but a prayer chain!

The purpose of Life Chain is to join hearts in prayer with the Christians in our community and nation on Sunday, October 2, from 2:00 – 3:00 pm. All participants will be silently holding prolife signs. Our prayer is for God's divine mercy and intervention for our nation in order to end abortion. This is an opportunity to go into battle and do spiritual warfare for life issues and the future of our nation.

For more information, please contact the office at 810-227-5788.



- **Brighton**-have a representative pick up signs for your church participants at the CVS parking lot, or contact affiliate office. See flyer for individual church locations along Grand River
  - **Howell**-pick up your sign in front of the court house
  - **Pinckney**-signs are available at M-36/Dexter-Pinckney Rd.
  - **Fowlerville**-get your sign at Grand River/Grand Ave.

*“If my people, which are called by my name,  
shall humble themselves, and pray and seek my face,  
and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven,  
and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”*

*Chronicles 7:14*

If your church has not participated before, don't hesitate to pick a spot along Grand River and publish it in your bulletin as a meeting point. This is not a time for visiting, so be sure to allow 10 feet between people and do not block any driveways/roads during this prayerful time. Signs are also available at our office, call 810-227-5788 to arrange for an earlier pick-up, 1-2 weeks in advance, if the spots listed above are not convenient.

**Together we are making a difference!**

As I write this message, I am terribly aware of another impending disaster in the Gulf Coast and her name is Rita. My prayers go out to those facing the loss of homes, jobs and even lives. Americans will once again be asked to be generous so that the most basic of human necessities can be provided to the victims of this new storm.

Most of you know that fundraisers pay the bills at Right to Life-Livingston County, Inc. This year - we're blaming the weather and the economy - for our shortfall. We are prudent stewards of the money entrusted to us by our supporters. But this year it seems that almost every fundraiser has failed to meet our goals - not by much, but by enough to make things just too tight right now.

Everything that happens in our office happens because faithful volunteers come in on a regular basis with a willingness to do whatever has to be accomplished on a particular day. Often they rearrange their lives so that they can volunteer another hour or even another

day so scheduled tasks can be completed. We have a working board of directors. Every member of the board takes on projects and helps to implement our programs used to educate, motivate and encourage community support for life issues.

We've come a long way from humble beginnings. Much has been accomplished in our county that encourages and promotes a respect for life. There is much more to be done. Our work will not be finished until abortion, and other threats to the sanctity of innocent human, is banished from our land.

The most important and effective tools we have seem to cost the most money. Our presence at community events is very costly. Fees have increased over the years. Our newsletter is now being mailed to over 4,000 addresses. We have names of many more households that could be added to this distribution list. Only a lack of vital funding for this project prevents it from happening.

Our vision for the future is to reach as

many hearts and minds with the truth about abortion, assisted suicide, infanticide, embryonic stem cell research and other life issues. Unless people hear and understand this message, they have no opportunity to change.

We believe that the facts about abortion will continue to soften the hearts of the proabortion people in our county and state. We want to share this truth. What can you do that will help us make our vision a reality. Is it your prayers for our work? Is it your time spent as a volunteer? Is it financial support for our flower sale, Life-Line Project or Focus on Life Dinner? Is it buying our Christmas cards or sending in a monthly donation? What can you and your family do to support this important work? What can you do today?

God bless,

Penny Sobonya  
Board Chair

## FROM THE BOARD....



## Mike Rogers is a prolife champion

We are truly blessed to have a U.S. Congressman representing Livingston County who has the strong, effective pro-life record that Mike Rogers does. Mike has been a staunch champion of life issues through his entire ten years of elected public service.

Mike, a strong advocate for life, family and children during his service in the Michigan Senate in the 1990s, today is a member of the U.S. House leadership, where he is in a position to stand up for the sanctity of life and the protection of our basic family values.

Mike was an original co-sponsor and

leading advocate for the Partial Birth Abortion Act, which was signed into law by President Bush in 2003. In the current Congressional session, Mike has tackled multiple life issues, co-sponsoring the Right to Life Act, the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act, the RU-486 Suspension and Review Act, and the Human Cloning Prohibition Act. Mike also, earlier this year, spoke out against, and voted against, expanded stem cell research included in the Stem Cell Research Act.

Because Mike has a 100 percent pro-life voting record, and stands tall on life issues, marriage protection, and child

safety, he carries a perfect 100 percent rating from the National Right to Life. .

We are grateful to have Mike Rogers representing us in Washington, and we encourage all prolife supporters to let him know how much we appreciate his efforts to protect life.

## Legislative Update

### State Legislation

**Abortion-free Insurance:** Rep. Scott Hummel introduced **House Bills 4246-47** on 2-9-05. The bills establish that health insurance coverage for elective abortions not be a “built-in” benefit, but rather must be a coverage added by an optional rider paid for by the purchaser. The bills were referred to the House Insurance Committee. No change.

**Ban Aborted Tissue Research & Trafficking:** Sen. Cameron Brown has reintroduced legislation to prohibit medical/scientific research using tissue from aborted babies (**H.B. 4675**). **H.B.4676** will prohibit the sale or trafficking of fetal tissue for financial consideration. **S.B. 9** was introduced on 1-12-05 and referred to the Senate Health Policy Committee. The House bills were introduced on 4-26-05. No change.

**Live Ultrasound Requirement:** Rep. Dave Robertson introduced **H.B. 4446** on 3-3-05 that requires abortionists to offer all women considering an abortion the option of seeing a live ultrasound image of her baby as part of the 24-hours Informed Consent law. Discussions with key Senate leaders are underway to plan the timing for moving this legislation during this fall session.

**Adulterous Spouse-Guardian:** Rep. Joel Sheltroun introduced **H.B. 4752** on 5-10-05 to place a presumption in law that a spouse who is acting as a legal guardian for an incapacitated spouse and who is engaged in an openly adulterous relationship shall be considered to have a legal conflict of interest. That conflict will prohibit the spouse from being able to authorize withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment. No change.

**Health Care Conscientious Objector:** **H.B. 4741** protecting healthcare workers who do not want to participate in life-ending medical actions or research was introduced by Rep. Brian Palmer on 5-5-05. Rep. John Gleason introduced **H.B. 4775** to protect religious health care

facilities from having to perform objectionable procedures. Rep. Scott Hummel introduced **H.B. 4246-47** to protect employers or insurers from having to provide insurance coverage for objectionable procedures. No change.

**Wrongful Death Revision: H.B. 4777** will revise our 1998 law that allows a family to sue an individual whose criminal action caused the death of an unborn child. Several recent court cases have been dismissed after the trial judges interpretation of the law was that the child must be “viable” at the time of death. This bill will clarify that those interpretations are wrong, and that families do have the right to bring suit regardless of the age of the unborn. This legislation is expected to receive action in the House judiciary Committee later this fall.

### Court Challenges

**Legal Birth Definition Act:** Federal district judge Denise Hood issued a decision on 9-12-05 striking down the legal Birth Definition Act. Judge Hood sided completely with the proabortion challengers and entirely dismissed the Attorney General’s arguments. Our prolife Attorney General, Mike Cox almost immediately approved an appeal notice to be filed. Right to Life of Michigan along with STTOP (Standing Together to Oppose Partial birth abortion) are preparing to appeal this decision.

**Carhart et. Al. v. Ashcroft:** Three challenges were brought against the federal Partial Birth Abortion Ban last year. The law was ruled unconstitutional in all three federal courts. Appeals are now pending in the cases. The Bush Administration is strongly defending the law through the Justice Department. No change.

### Federal Legislation

**Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act (CIANA)/Child Custody Protection Act:** Legislation from previous sessions preventing adults from taking minors across state lines for abortions in order to skirt parental consent/notice laws has been reformulated as CIANA (**HR 748**). No change.

**Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act: HR 356, S 51-**This bill requires abortionists to inform women considering an abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy that the unborn child is capable of feeling pain, and to offer women the option of providing anesthesia to the unborn child prior to the abortion. No change.

**Embryonic Stem Cell Research:** After Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist announced his “new” position on ESCR, proponents of more federal funding thought a vote was imminent. However, strong prolife opposition, Hurricane Katrina, the Roberts confirmation hearings and new advances in adult stem cell research have worked against ESCR. It is now uncertain as to when a vote will take place.

**Judicial Nominations:** The sudden death of Chief Justice William Rehnquist, and Judge John Roberts’ elevated nomination to fill the Rehnquist vacancy entirely changed the dynamic of his confirmation and places the “real” battle to replace Justice O’Connor on delay until President Bush makes this second nomination.

# 15th Annual Focus On Life Dinner



Featuring guest speaker

## Dr. Richard Land

President of  
The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission  
of the Southern Baptist Convention

Thursday, October 20, 2005  
6:30-9:30

Crystal Gardens  
5768 E. Grand River-Howell, MI

Dr. Richard Land addresses social, moral and ethical concerns and their impact on American families. He is one of the most influential prolife speakers of our day. President George W. Bush appointed Dr. Land to two terms on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. In May, 2004, Land was recognized by the prestigious National Journal as one of the ten top church-state experts “politicians will call on when they get serious about addressing an important public policy issue.” In February, 2005, he was featured in Time Magazine as one of “*The Twenty-five Most Influential Evangelicals in America.*” Dr. Land is a radio and talk-show host, author of several books and has appeared on *Hannity & Colmes*, *Meet the Press* and *Scarborough Country*.

_____ Individual reservations \$45 per person Personal table of 10 for \$400 - <i>save \$10 per couple!</i> I cannot attend but wish to help the prolife movement with the enclosed gift of \$ _____				For your convenience we also accept charge cards _____ Please bill by MasterCard/Visa/Discover      card number	
_____ Name-Address				_____ Name as it appears on card      exp. date	
_____ City	_____ State	_____ Zip	_____ Phone	_____ Signature	_____ last 3 digits on sign pad
Make checks payable to: Right to Life-Livingston County, Inc. P.O. Box 934, Brighton, MI 48116-0934  Dinner reservations are not tax-deductible				Registration begins at 6 p.m. For additional information call 810-227-5788 or e-mail <a href="mailto:rtlhc@sbcglobal.net">rtlhc@sbcglobal.net</a>  Ticket purchase includes one year affiliate membership	

*Together we are making a difference!*

## Free ultrasound-see your baby in action



Pregnancy Helpline has a new ultrasound through Focus on the Family's Option Ultrasound program. God has met their financial needs in an exciting way as they stepped out in faith for this life-saving but expensive purchase.

The new equipment has been installed and four nurses have been certified through training. In order to retain their certification, the ultrasound technicians need to perform many ultrasounds during the coming year.

If you are pregnant and willing to help these ladies in this on-going process call Pregnancy Helpline at 810-494-5433 to

schedule your appointment. You will receive a free ultrasound and a picture of your baby.

Crisis pregnancy centers report that nearly 90% of abortion minded pregnant women who have an ultrasound decide to continue with their pregnancies. If you are pregnant, you can see your baby in action and help the technicians with their continuing education. Ultrasound is a powerful tool that works to save lives, call today!

## Life Summit

Life Summit is a consortium of life organizations working in Livingston County. Together we will communicate our individual activities and missions, so we can work alongside one another, each fulfilling their unique purpose in the life movement.

All prolife groups are invited to participate. The next meeting is Friday, December 2, 9:30 am at Pregnancy Helpline-call 810-494-5433. We are excited to be a part of Life Summit, and look forward to expanding local public awareness of life issues.

**Please let us know if you prefer to be removed from our mailing list. Contact our office at 810-227-5788 or email [rtllc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rtllc@sbcglobal.net)**

## Life-Line Project/Membership/Donation Form

November 28, 2004 marked the 25th anniversary of the prolife movement in Livingston County. We are proud to be partnering with the local community on behalf of the unborn. The abortion rate in our state and for teens has decreased, saving lives. Education about abortion, infanticide, euthanasia and assisted suicide works to change the minds and hearts of many about life issues. In addition to education, the election of prolife candidates has enabled our legislature to pass laws protecting the innocent unborn and elderly frail. This is possible because of your efforts, prayers and financial support. We need you!

**\$15 New/Renewal    \$5 Sr. Citizen    \$5 Students**

Name		Address		
City	State	Zip	email address	Phone

*For your convenience, we also accept charge cards, above address information required for charging*

Please bill my MasterCard/Visa/Discover (circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

Card number	Expiration date
Signature	Security code (last 3 digits on sign pad)

Make checks out to: **Right to Life**  
 Livingston County Inc  
 P. O. Box 934  
 Brighton, MI 48116-0934

\_\_\_\_\_ Dollar amount



**Right to Life**  
 Livingston County, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 934  
 Brighton, MI 48116-0934

Non-Profit  
 U.S. Postage  
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 48116  
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***In Loving Memory and Honor of***

*You may honor a deceased loved one by making a memorial contribution to Right to Life-Livingston County. This memorial gift is a fitting way to remember a lifetime of love for the unborn. Your contribution can also be made to commemorate birthdays, new arrivals, graduations, Mother's Day, Father's Day or any other special occasion. An acknowledgment card will be sent to the family or person you designate. The contribution amount will be kept confidential.*

Enclosed is my (our) gift of  
 \$100  \$50  \$25  \$10  Other

Made in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Made in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Occasion \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Address-City-State-Zip

My (our) name is \_\_\_\_\_

I would like a notice of this gift in the next newsletter-  yes  no

*Any donation entitles you to one-year free membership.*

“We have no government armed in power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Our Constitution was made only for a religious and moral people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other.”

John Adams