



## We Can Help You - And We Will

By: Tom Stevens, President and CEO, Pro-Life Union

Ofentimes when standing outside abortion centers, as we reach out to women (and men), we say, "You don't have to do this—there's help! There are options, information, support, assistance, housing, community, clothing, counseling, as well as other forms of help. We want to help you and we want to help your baby. There's no problem or difficulty so insurmountable that you can't overcome it. You are stronger than you think you are!" We can truly help...and we will.

Jhane was one example. She was living in a friend's van while putting herself through school. She was pregnant and in need of help. She heard about our maternity home, Guiding Star (it could have just as easily been another home for pregnant moms such as Cradle of Hope, Our Lady's House, Mother's Home, etc.). She met with the Guiding Star director and when there was room, Jhane moved in and expressed how the home really helped her. Two years later she's independent, working, living in an apartment, and raising her 10 month old child. Later Jhane contacted us because her employer cut her hours and she was having troubles paying rent that month. We had her complete a 'rental assistance' application and state her need (including her plan to not continue to be in this situation). While Jhane was visiting our office to receive a check for rental assistance made out to her landlord, she mentioned that she had no furniture in her apartment. Two days later someone called me and said she wanted to donate furniture to the Pro-Life Union. I said, "Thank You, Lord!"—I know someone who needs some furniture. Pro-Life Union board member, Patrick Stanton, and a moving company delivered it to her apartment.

That's what we call the Continuum of Care. If a mother is unexpectedly pregnant, homeless, or in some other challenging situation, we say, "We can help." And we do help. She gains housing at Guiding Star (or some other home), support, counseling, parenting classes, community, and other ways of assistance. Then she moves into independent living and we stay in contact. If she needs help again, she will know where to turn.

To illustrate the concept, we receive these types of calls:

- "Hello, my name is Renee and I am 20 years old. I'm pregnant and looking for a place to stay."

## ("We Can Help You - And We Will" Continued)

- "Hi, I have 3 kids and just left an abusive relationship. I've been living on the streets for two days. Please help me."
- "I'm pregnant, have a 11 month old child, and need help finding a job."

The pro-life community is passionate, caring, resourceful, and always here to help. Call or text our Pregnancy Hotline numbers below for immediate assistance.



## 40 Days for Life Campaign: Sept. 25-Nov. 3

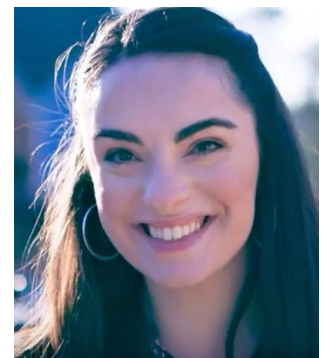
Will you raise your voice for the unborn? Will you pray outside an abortion center and help pregnant women to choose life for their child? Join the next 40 Days for Life campaign from September 25 to November 3. For locations, days and hours in Greater Philadelphia, visit [prolifeunion.org/outreach/40-days-for-life](http://prolifeunion.org/outreach/40-days-for-life).

## Unplanned DVD/Blue-ray Now Available!

The movie *Unplanned*, which shows the life story of Abby Johnson (pro-life advocate; former Planned Parenthood clinic director), is now available on DVD. *Unplanned* was released in U.S. theaters in March 2019, and can continue to impact (and possibly change) hearts and minds. Get your DVD copy to watch and show your family, friends, and church community! Buy online, in stores, or borrow a *Unplanned* DVD from the Pro-Life Union by contacting our office at 215-885-8150.

## 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Stand Up For Life Dinner

Mark your calendars! The Pro-Life Union's 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Stand Up For Life Dinner will take place on **Sunday, November 24** at the Philadelphia 201 Hotel Sheraton. This year's keynote speaker will be Rachel Guy, a "medical miracle" who survived despite several doctors recommending abortion to her parents. Visit [prolifeunion.org/events/dinner](http://prolifeunion.org/events/dinner) for complete details.



**Pregnant?  
Need Help?**



**Text 484-451-8104 or  
call 610-626-4006.**



**Pictured (above):** Some participants of the Sidewalk Counseling Training who joined the group outside Planned Parenthood in Philadelphia to pray for those considering abortion.

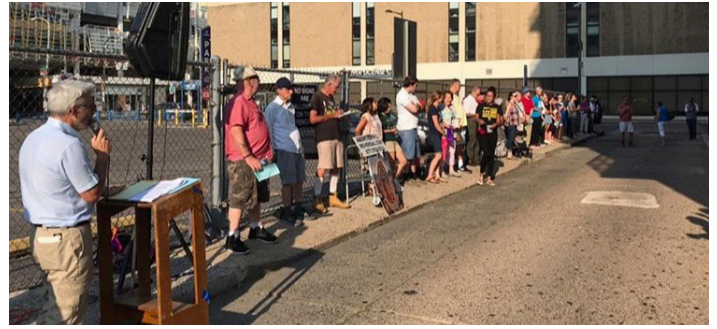
## Sidewalk Counseling Training Teaches Practical Tips to Help Women Choose Life Instead of Abortion

Thirty participants attended the Pro-Life Union's Sidewalk Counseling Training on July 27. The group learned how to compassionately interact with expectant mothers who have scheduled appointments at an abortion clinic, hoping to change their minds so they choose life for their unborn baby instead of abortion. Dr. Monique Ruberu, Pro-Life Union board member and Philadelphia's 40 Days for Life leader, taught how to approach an expectant mother with practical advice and helpful resources. After the discussion, the group utilized what they learned by praying outside Planned Parenthood on Comly Road in Philadelphia. To view our list of best practices for Sidewalk Servants, visit our website at [prolifeunion.org/outreach](http://prolifeunion.org/outreach). Watch our Sidewalk Servant video series at [prolifeunion.org/outreach/sidewalk-servant](http://prolifeunion.org/outreach/sidewalk-servant) or on our YouTube page "Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia."



## Remembering Their Lives: Memorial Cross Program

The Pro-Life Union's Memorial Cross Program for the unborn consists of a set of 61 white crosses, each representing 1 million abortions since the Roe v. Wade landmark decision in 1973. The memorial crosses do create an impact. Mothers who have lost a child through abortion have come and placed flowers as a part of their healing. A mom considering abortion called our hotline for help. These crosses are a powerful reminder of the number of children not given the chance to live. The Pro-Life Union will install and remove the crosses. They typically remain in place for one month. If your parish wishes to display the crosses, call the Pro-Life Union office at 215-885-8150.



**Pictured (above):** Pro-Life Union board member, Pat Stanton, addressing guests at the Respect Life Prayer Vigil outside Philadelphia Women's Center.

## Respect Life Prayer Vigil Brings Awareness to Innocent Lives Lost, Need to Protect Human Life

Adults, students, and even children were moved by powerful speeches at the Pro-Life Union's Respect Life Prayer Vigil, which occurred on July 27 outside Philadelphia Women's Center. Student leaders, well-known pro-life leaders, and other speakers shared their testimonies. Speakers included Liana Hollendonner from Students for Life of America, Katelyn D'Adamo from Generation Life, and collegiate/university student leaders such as Villanovans for Life's Dominic Sceski and Temple University Newman Center's Karly Brown. In 2018, there were 6,437 abortions performed at Philadelphia Women's Center, the highest number at any Philadelphia facility.



**Pictured (above):** Dominic Sceski from Villanovans for Life speaking about the need to protect human life.



## Title X Recipients Can't Refer or Provide Abortion Services

The 9<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals let stand its June 20<sup>th</sup> decision, which makes clinics ineligible for Title X family planning funds if they provide abortion referrals. This is part of the Trump Administration's Protect Life Rule. Abortion advocates are displeased by the ruling, especially Planned Parenthood, which will lose about \$60 million in funding each year.

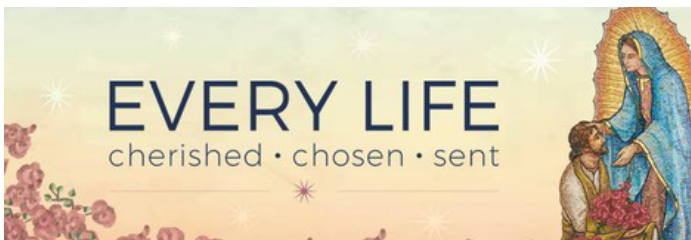




**Pictured (above):** Speaking for Life Seminar helps attendees gear up to contact representatives by phone, email, or meet in person.

## Legislative Seminar Helps People Communicate Better with Elected Officials

The Pro-Life Union's "Speaking for Life Seminar: How to Be Effective with Legislators" helped concerned citizens better understand ways to engage with elected officials and their staff members. This public affairs event, which happened on August 6<sup>th</sup> in Wayne, PA, also allowed guests to ask questions and discuss pressing topics with our presenter, who has years of legislative experience. To view the Pro-Life Union's educational materials to help you begin effective conversations with your local representatives, visit [prolifeunion.org/education](http://prolifeunion.org/education).



## Archdiocesan Respect Life Sunday Celebration in Philadelphia

Don't miss the 40 Days for Life kickoff event with the Philadelphia Archdiocese's Respect Life Sunday Celebration on September 29<sup>th</sup> at the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul. Join the Holy Hour for Life first at 5:15 p.m., led by the Sisters of Life, followed by Mass at 6:30 p.m. with Archbishop Chaput. After Mass, there will be opportunities to sign up for 40 Days for Life locations, dates and times.



Want to spend quality time and talent spreading the pro-life message at AbbeyFest on September 21? Volunteer some time at the Pro-Life Union's table! Call our office at 215-885-8150.

## First Ever Pennsylvania March for Life in Harrisburg on May 18, 2020!

Join fellow Pennsylvanians to defend the lives of the unborn! March for Life is hosting a Pennsylvania March for Life outside the state capitol on May 18, 2020. A rally will begin outside the state capitol building at 11:00 a.m., followed by the march at 12:00 p.m. through the streets of Harrisburg.



To RSVP and receive email updates about the Pennsylvania March for Life as they develop, visit [PAMarchforLife.org](http://PAMarchforLife.org). The event is also hosted by Pennsylvania Family Institute and Pennsylvania Catholic Conference.

## Philadelphia's First Pro-Life Conference for Women on Nov. 16

Philadelphia will hold its first pro-life conference for women, "Ladies Love Life", on Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at New Life Church (Huntingdon Valley, PA) to engage, empower, and educate pro-life women.

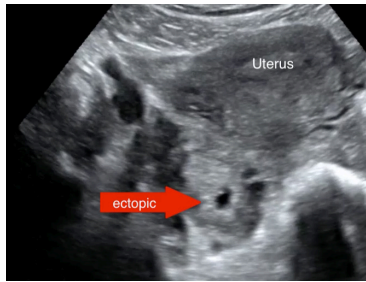


When we learn how to help women, even before pregnancy, we can spread the good news and step into action where our talents are best used. This conference is organized by Dr. Monique Ruberu, a pro-life OB/GYN. To register, become a sponsor or vendor, and for more details, visit [ladieslovelife.com](http://ladieslovelife.com).

## PA Lawmakers Advocate for Heartbeat Bill

Two Pennsylvania lawmakers—Sen. Doug Mastriano (R-Franklin County) and Rep. Stephanie Borowicz (R-Clinton County)—are pushing the Heartbeat Bill, and have invited Senate colleagues to become co-sponsors. Sen. Mastriano distributed a memo on July 17<sup>th</sup> requesting support for it, and stated that science "shows more than 90 percent of all pregnancies are viable when a heartbeat is detected." This bill will require all physicians before proceeding with an abortion to determine whether the baby has a heartbeat; if it's detected, the abortion cannot be performed. Gov. Wolf has said this bill would be vetoed if it reached his desk. However, Mastriano and Borowicz believe a scientific approach could at least win some people over, and is worth a conversation.

## Roman Catholic Church's Teaching About Ectopic Pregnancy



In the Pro-Life Union's July 2019 newsletter, a local student's essay about the sanctity of human life was included, which stated her personal opinion about ectopic pregnancy that *"...under no circumstances is murdering an innocent life ever acceptable. No matter what obstacles the mother has to face during her pregnancy, there is always a way to seek help and guidance."* An ectopic pregnancy refers to an embryo that does not reach the uterus, but will instead implant in the fallopian tube, which is not designed to support a pregnancy. This type of pregnancy is considered high risk, possibly resulting in the deaths of both mother and child. Is it moral to kill the unborn baby if it means saving the life of the mother?

According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Roman Catholic Church teaches the following: "In certain cases, such as...ectopic pregnancy, it is morally licit to remove the threat of the mother's life...by removing part, or all, of the fallopian tube where the child implanted, even though it is foreseeable that the child will die as an indirect and unintended effect of such surgery. Abortion, a direct and intentional attack against the child's life, is never morally licit."

## Hospitals Aren't Always Safe for Babies

Number of abortions (reported by the Pennsylvania Department of Health) that occurred at hospitals in 2018:

- Abington Hospital—66
- Bryn Mawr Hospital—6
- Einstein Hospital—54
- Jefferson Hospital—94
- Lankenau Hospital—2
- Paoli Hospital—not reported in 2018
- Phoenixville Hospital—3
- Taylor Hospital—not reported in 2018
- Temple Health—not reported in 2018
- University of Penn—315

Want hospitals to stop offering abortions? Visit [prolifeunion.org/education](http://prolifeunion.org/education) for the contact information of Greater Philadelphia hospital presidents and CEOs. Penn Medicine is opening a new site in Radnor with suspicions of abortions to be performed there.

## Thank You, Bill Wentz!

For the past seven years, Bill Wentz allowed us to store materials, brochures, and blessing bags at his home near Planned Parenthood at 12<sup>th</sup> & Locust Sts. This helps prayer witnesses safely retrieve and return items once done. Thank you, Bill!



## Upcoming Events:

**8/24—Triath for Life**—HOPE Pregnancy Center will hold this walk, run, and ride event from 10am-3pm at 716 N. Broad Street in Philadelphia. To register, visit their Eventbrite page by typing "Triath for Life."

**9/19—HOPE Pregnancy Philadelphia's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet**—Join HOPE Pregnancy Center at 6:30pm at Drexelbrook Special Events Center (Drexel Hill, PA) with keynote speaker Dr. Alveda King. For more information, call 267-546-3600.

**9/20-9/22—Rachel's Vineyard Retreats (English and Polish Languages)**—There will be two weekend retreats (one in English and one in Polish) at The National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa (Doylestown, PA) for anyone impacted by the loss of a child to abortion.

**9/21—6<sup>th</sup> Annual AbbeyFest**—Join this faith, music, and family festival from 12:00pm-9:30pm at Daylesford Abbey (Paoli, PA). Visit [theabbeyfest.com](http://theabbeyfest.com) for tickets and more details. Contact the Pro-Life Union at 215-885-8150 to volunteer at our vendor table.

**9/25-11/3—40 Days for Life**—Visit [40daysforlife.com](http://40daysforlife.com) or [prolifeunion.org/outreach/40-days-for-life](http://prolifeunion.org/outreach/40-days-for-life) for locations, days, times, and contact information of each local leader in the Greater Philadelphia region.

**9/29—Respect Life Sunday Archdiocesan Celebration**—Holy Hour begins at 5:15pm at the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, followed by Mass at 6:30pm with Archbishop Chaput and time afterwards to volunteer for 40 Days for Life.

**11/16—Ladies Love Life Conference**—Join the first pro-life women's conference in the Philadelphia area, which will teach attendees how to engage, empower, and educate other women before becoming pregnant. Visit [ladieslovelife.com](http://ladieslovelife.com) for more information.

**11/24—38<sup>th</sup> Annual Stand Up For Life Dinner**—Join the Pro-Life Union on Sunday, November 24 at the Philadelphia 201 Hotel Sheraton. Keynote speaker will be Rachel Guy. Details at [prolifeunion.org/events/dinner](http://prolifeunion.org/events/dinner).

Visit [prolifeunion.org/events](http://prolifeunion.org/events) for complete event details.



Tom Stevens, President and CEO  
tstevens@prolifeunion.org

## Board of Directors

Fr. Chris Walsh – Chairman  
Paul DeCamara – Vice Chair  
Bob Biggs – Treasurer  
Helene Hallowell – Secretary

Monique Ruberu, M.D.  
Richara Krajewski  
Lisa Liccione  
Tom Shakely  
Patrick Stanton

