

Moms are Heroes!



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prolifeunion.org

MOTHER'S DAY 2019

  @ProLifeUnion

 @prolifeuniongreaterphilly

When a woman becomes pregnant, she becomes a mother. This isn't a political statement, and it's not a complicated philosophical or theological idea. It is recognition of what has happened biologically: a new life has come into existence, and a woman has become the mother of a rapidly developing human person.

What, then, is there left to debate politically, societally or culturally? In a healthy society, the only thing to debate when a woman becomes a mother, especially if it happens unexpectedly, or in a potential situation of abuse, homelessness, deprivation, etc., is how our whole society will respond in love and support of that mother. In a healthy society, the natural thing to do would be to create and provide a complete set of life-affirming solutions and choices for that mother that would help her and her child to live and thrive when her child is born.

Of course, we at the **Pro-Life Union** have been striving to provide mothers with life-affirming solutions and choices for nearly 50 years. Women (and men) need to hear, "We will help, you're not alone." We offer counseling, financial assistance, material aid, education resources, housing, support and love.

As we celebrate Mother's Day, we invite you to join with us by increasing your existing level of support and commitment, even if only by a few extra hours of volunteering or by a few extra dollars. And we encourage you to intentionally reach out to one friend or family member to ask them to do the same.

Guiding Star Ministries

Guiding Star Ministries, an outreach program led by the Pro-Life Union, provides shelter and assistance to single pregnant women and their children. Through counseling, group meetings and a nurturing faith-based environment, residents work toward independence as they pursue educational or vocational goals during their stay. Guiding Star welcomes six to seven mothers and their families at a time. Since 1992, it has served more than 250 women and more than 165 children. To learn more, visit guidingstar.org.



Tasha and her baby Isaiah

"Guiding Star has transformed me into a highly positive individual. I came in scared, hurt, confused, and slightly bitter and vulnerable. As each day passed, I saw a new reason to slowly let my guard down. I am nicer, less stressed, not scared anymore and stronger. All in all, I am truly convinced that Guiding Star is a God-send! God has shown me who I am." —Tasha, GSM Resident

Want to support Guiding Star Ministries? You can support their mission by volunteering (as an individual or group), donating new or gently used items (for the babies, mothers, and house), or contributing financially. Visit guidingstar.org for full details.

Grieving the Loss of an Unborn Child?

The loss of a loved one can feel like a rollercoaster of emotions. The heartbreak that women and men experience after an abortion is especially painful. Our society has typically kept quiet about the aftermath of abortion, which can make the grieving process worse. However, **Rachel's Vineyard Ministries** offers retreats and resources to heal emotionally and spiritually from past abortion(s).

Rachel's Vineyard retreats are extraordinary opportunities to help people grieve their loss while understanding and releasing deep feelings of anger, shame, guilt, and grief that frequently accompany an abortion event. This is a unique and effective process that shows the mercy and compassion of God. These retreats will help people's souls to find their voices and transform the pain of the past into hope. Rachel's Vineyard retreats are not only for mothers and fathers of the aborted child, but also for grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, and even those who have participated in the abortion industry. To learn more, visit rachelsvineyard.org.



Pictured (above): Pro-lifers at the 46th Annual March for Life held on January 18, 2019, in Washington D.C.

Join a Movement in Motion

Most Americans were shocked when New York state's Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed the Reproductive Health Act (RHA) into law, and when Virginia's Gov. Ralph Northam made comments supporting infanticide. Those who recognize the sanctity of each human life were also flabbergasted when the U.S. House of Representatives refused to vote on the Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which would provide medical care and treatment for babies who survive abortions.

Enough is enough. People are no longer able to sit on the fence about the issue of abortion.

Will you be a voice for the unborn? Become involved; learn how at prolifeunion.org.

Pro-Lifer's Journal: Impactful Encounters

Many unborn babies' lives have been saved, thanks to the presence of prayerful witnesses outside abortion centers. Here are two profound encounters written by a Sidewalk Servant:

Story #1:

I began talking with a young pregnant girl who was in a relationship with an older man. Because of their ages, this was technically considered a case of rape. When the young girl initially engaged in conversation, she was adamant to get an abortion in order to pursue a gymnastics career. I kept gently explaining that even though I can't guarantee her success as an Olympic gymnast in the future, it was totally possible for her to have a child *and* chase her dreams. The young mother still made an appointment at Planned Parenthood, but I communicated one more message: "I heard that you are going to get the abortion. I wish you would reconsider, but I understand why you feel that you need to...I know you must be really scared, but want to remind you that you are in control of your life, not your boyfriend. Please don't do this for him." Then this powerful exchange took place:

Young Girl: "I changed my mind. God told me not to do it. I heard him...do you believe me?"

Me: "Really? What did He say? I believe you. God has spoken to me before."

Young Girl: "He said to not be afraid for I have a plan for you. That's what I heard."

Me: "That's right, He has a plan for you because YOU are HIS child. You have no idea what God has planned for you, but it's bigger than you and me. Where did He talk to you?"

Young Girl: "Outside of the Planned Parenthood."

Me: "Were there people outside? Did they help you? They have resources you can use."

Young Girl: "Yeah, but not right outside. I want to give my life to God like my sister."

Story #2:

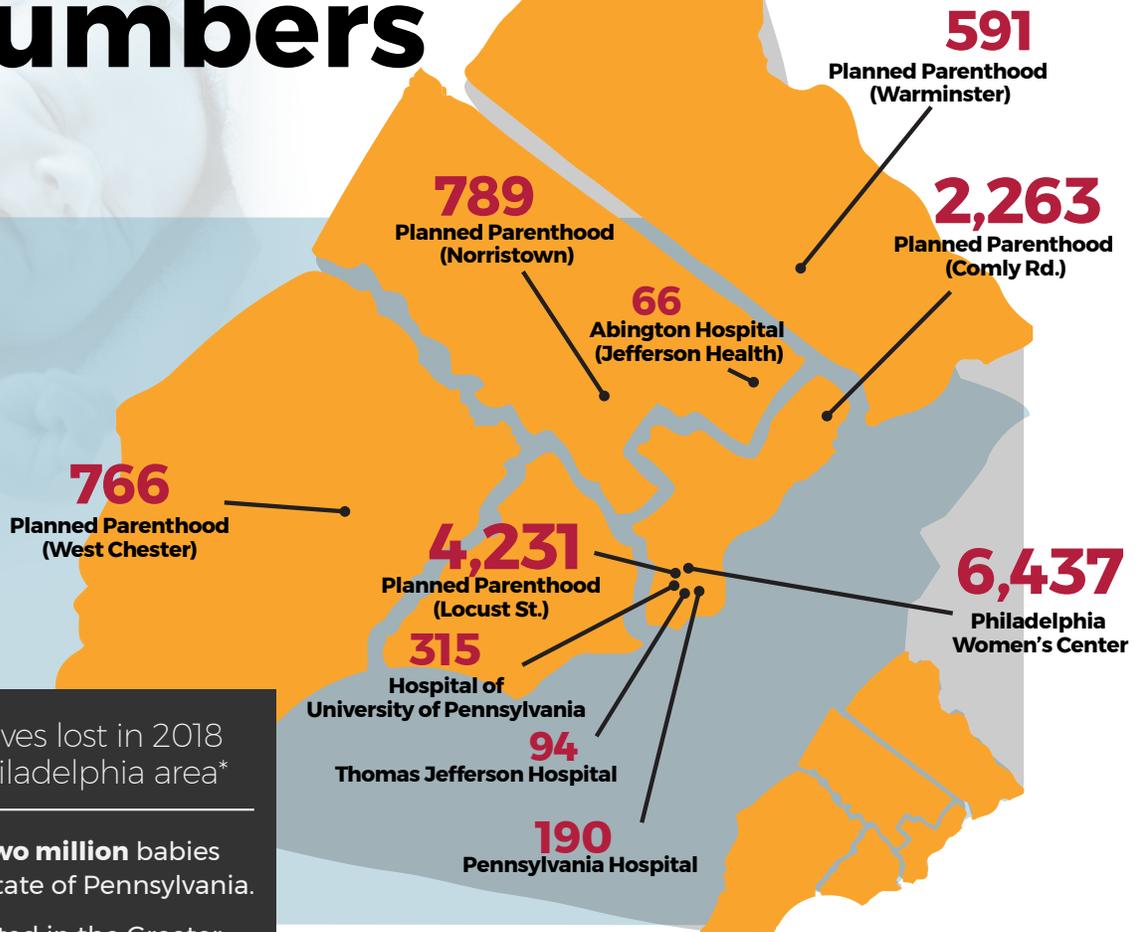
Christine is one of our newer Sidewalk Servants who chose to stay an extra hour one day witnessing outside a Philadelphia abortion center after her designated morning block of time. A car arrived with a mother, father and toddler. The mother got out of the car, but paced the clinic entrance a few times. Christine approached her and asked if she could offer a bag containing some resources that could help her in a difficult situation. The mother took the bag without saying a word and walked away heading toward another street.

Christine thought the mother may have used a side entrance to go into the abortion center, but she came back to the car minutes later showing the father one of the Pro-Life Union's brochures. They got inside the car, but didn't move for about five minutes. After those minutes of contemplation, they eventually drove away without ever going inside the clinic. Praise God! Please pray for this family; may they experience God's love and comfort.

Pregnant?

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

2018 | Abortion by the Numbers



15,821 unborn lives lost in 2018 in the Philadelphia area*

- ◆ Since Roe v. Wade in 1973, **two million** babies have been aborted in the state of Pennsylvania.
- ◆ **One million** have been aborted in the Greater Philadelphia area alone.

ARE YOU ALRIGHT WITH THAT?

*based on information from Pennsylvania Department of Health



Abortion Pill Reversal Helps to Save Lives

The latest 40 Days for Life campaign, which ran from March 6 to April 14, 2019, worked to change the minds and hearts of women who scheduled appointments at an abortion center. Public witnesses pray outside the abortion center and offer the women resources in a loving, compassionate manner to hopefully convince them to choose life for their unborn baby. One woman had an early afternoon appointment at a Planned Parenthood in Philadelphia. Hours later, she took her first abortion pill, and walked past the prayerful 40 Days for Life participants to go home. Once the young woman arrived home, she felt a sense of sadness and guilt. God had moved her.



Although this woman did not take any printed resources from the public witnesses outside Planned Parenthood, she browsed on Google to check if she could undo this wrong before taking the next abortion pill. Fortunately, she found the abortion pill reversal hotline, talked with medical professionals, and began taking a pill to stop the abortion process. Now she is looking forward to becoming a mother! For more information about abortion pill reversal, visit abortionpillreversal.com.

Talk to someone before you do what cannot be undone.
There's hope. There's help. You are going to make it!



Imitate a Mother's Love!

Fr. Chris Walsh, Chair, Pro-Life Union Board of Directors

As I watched the film *Unplanned*, like so many I was inspired by the gradual conversion of Abby Johnson who escaped the horror of her employment at Planned Parenthood and has wonderfully become an advocate for the unborn and a great advocate for others escaping the abortion industry. The creators of the film did a wonderful job developing the various characters who played diverse roles in Abby's story. For me, the most inspiring were the portrayals of Marilisa and Shawn Carney, the founders of the 40 Days for Life Campaign who befriended Abby "thru the fence" of the Planned Parenthood in Texas. This couple was a source of encouragement and kindness in her gradual conversion.

As I drove home from the theater that evening, I reflected on the many wonderful roles played by people in the pro-life movement today. I thought of the civically minded people who advocate with our elected officials. I thought of the wise who fight legal battles on behalf of the vulnerable citizens of our nation. I thought of the courageous people who pray, advocate and witness on sidewalks outside abortion facilities. I thought of the brave who encounter the culture head-on in education settings at every level. I thought of the compassionate who serve in pregnancy centers and homes for moms in need. Each area of pro-life advocacy is crucial. Each has its challenges. Each has its rewards.

As I thought of Marilisa and Shawn and the way they accompanied Abby Johnson through the years, I began to imagine how beautiful it will be when we all embrace their approach more readily. It is not easy to be patient. It is not easy to love another when they are doing something that you find so abhorrent. It is not easy to smile and have conversations with people who you see as the enemy. Yet, if we want more victories of the kind we celebrate in Abby Johnson, we can all learn from the example of Marilisa and Shawn and imitate the way they loved Abby.

I know that I have been loved by so many in this way, but especially my own mother. I hope that each of us have been blessed by a mother's love that has accompanied us at both our best and our worst. A love that is always faithful and kind and filled with the hope that eventually we will "come around" and do the right thing. Let's bring that love into every aspect of our pro-life work so more and more will walk away from places like Planned Parenthood because of a friend they made "thru the fence."

Allstate DeMaio Agency Supporting Guiding Star Ministries!

Spread the word! The **Allstate DeMaio Agency** (Drexel Hill, PA) is offering two incredible opportunities during the month of May to support **Guiding Star Ministries**: 1.) For every new line of insurance added, they will make a \$50 donation in your name to Guiding Star. 2.) For every new quote Allstate DeMaio Agency provides, they will make a \$20 donation to Guiding Star.

Make sure to mention Guiding Star Ministries! Email Pete DeMaio at peterdemaio@allstate.com or call 610-259-3939 for your Allstate needs.



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Celebrating
moms today
and every day.

Support life. Give today.

Yes! I want to fight to end abortion, provide alternatives to vulnerable families, support Guiding Star and promote the Culture of Life. Enclosed is my donation of \$_____ to help the Pro-Life Union's efforts in Greater Philadelphia.

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Email _____
Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ CSC _____

I would like to become a monthly "Lifeline" donor! Please charge my credit card \$_____ each month.

I would like to make a one-time donation of \$_____ charged to my credit card.

For Pro-Life Union.

For Guiding Star Ministries.