



Right to Life OF INDIANAPOLIS

...On behalf of the unborn, disabled and elderly.

life@RTLindy.org

www.RTLindy.org

Vol. 15 Issue 6

November 2008

News and Activities



Mark your
calendars
for 2009
RTLII events!

**Pro-life Concert
at Marian College
Saturday, January 24**

**Memorial Service
for the Unborn
Sunday, January 25**

**\$1000 College Scholarship
Application Deadline
Wednesday, April 1**

**Essay & Speech Contests
Deadlines
Wednesday, April 1**

**Art Contest Deadline
Friday, April 17**

**Golf Outing
Thursday, June 4**

**Bike 'n' Hike
June, TBA**

**Celebrate Life Dinner
Tuesday, September 15**

Visit www.rtlindy.org for
additional information

March for Life

Education & Defense Fund

**Thursday, January 22, 2009
Washington, D.C.**

Right to Life of Indianapolis offers \$500 grants for up to 11 buses for students going to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. These grants will be given to school or church groups within Marion County and the 7 surrounding counties, who organize charter buses to transport high school and/or college students to the annual March for Life. Applications can be found at www.rtlindy.org and must be submitted by December 1, 2008. A new application must be completed annually. If you have questions call 317-582-1526 or email life@rtlindy.org

Joan Byrum, President Emeritus of Right to Life of Indianapolis, passed away October 9, 2008 after battling ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis). The pro-life community mourns the loss of this great leader. We extend our sympathies to her husband, Clark, her children and their families.

For Joan, the pro-life cause was more than just an issue or a social cause. She was acutely aware of how abortion diminishes the value of all life including the poor, the elderly and persons with disabilities, which in turn leads to an increase in euthanasia. Joan never hesitated to discuss life issues. Whether she was visiting with a long time friend or meeting someone for the first time, she would discuss the importance of life. She not only talked about the issues, but was an example through her actions as she suffered with her disease. As one person wrote after hearing of Joan's death, "I consider myself very fortunate to have known Joan, even though the time was short. It didn't take long to realize that I was having the privilege of dealing with someone very special."

Joan especially wanted to educate those who did not know life before the *Roe vs. Wade* decision legalized abortion — those ages 0-35. To reach the teens, she led efforts to create contests in art, essay and speech; and Teens for Life Clubs were begun in area schools. Currently there are 11 clubs and the prospect of 6 more starting this year alone. A \$1000 college scholarship was offered for the first time two years ago to encourage teens to take a pro-life stand. Youth outreach was near and dear to Joan and therefore this scholarship has now been named the Joan Byrum Pro-life Scholarship.

Joan joined RTLII in 1988 and soon was asked to be on the Board of Directors. Under her leadership as President (1994-2008), Right to Life of Indianapolis flourished in both volunteers and educational opportunities. Among the many venues where RTLII educates the public are the Memorial Service, State Fair, Black Expo, Health Fairs Home Educator Conferences, Golf Tournament, and Bike 'n' Hike.

Joan was honored many times for her tireless pro-life works. Among her many awards are the Charles E. Stimming Sr. Pro-life Award given by Right to Life of Indianapolis, Respect Life Award of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, John J. O'Connor Pro-Life Award of Legatus International, and the Sagamore of the Wabash Award (see article below).

Joan's legacy will live on as all those in the pro-life movement remember her and work daily towards the goal of overturning *Roe v. Wade*. Joan was once asked why she was president of RTLII. She responded by quoting Edmund Burke, "**The only thing needed for evil to triumph is for good men and women to do nothing.**"

In Loving Memory



of Joan Byrum

Sagamore of the Wabash awarded to Joan Byrum

Joan Byrum, President Emeritus of Right to Life of Indianapolis, was awarded a Sagamore of the Wabash award. This is the highest honor which the Governor of Indiana bestows. Lt. Governor Becky Skillman presented the award on behalf of Governor Mitch Daniels at the Celebrate Life Dinner in September. The Sagamore of the Wabash is a personal tribute given to those who have rendered a distinguished service to the state or to the governor. The term "sagamore" was used by the American Indian Tribes of the northeastern United States to describe a lesser chief or a great man among the tribe to whom the true chief would look for wisdom and advice. Among those who have received Sagamores have been astronauts, presidents, ambassadors, artists, musicians, politicians and ordinary citizens who have contributed greatly to our Hoosier heritage.

Joan was a passionate advocate for life for over 30 years and was President of Right to Life of Indianapolis for 14 years. She devoted her life to promoting the sanctity of all human life—from the moment of conception to natural death. The Governor could not have chosen to honor a more worthy recipient.

Celebrate Life Dinner

Jason S. Jones is unconditionally pro-life and tireless in his advocacy efforts to protect the lives of unborn babies. The co-executive producer of the award-winning, pro-life feature film *Bella* experienced the horror of abortion 20 years ago as a teenager when his girlfriend's father forced her to abort their baby.

Jones shared his heartbreaking story during his keynote address at the 26th annual "Celebrate Life" dinner on September 16 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. "She was crying like I had never heard a woman cry in my life before or since then," Jones said of that terrible day. "She kept saying over and over again, 'I'm sorry, I'm sorry.' Her father got on the phone and said, 'We know your secret, Jason, and your secret is gone. I took Katie to get an abortion.'"

Their baby would have been born in about three months, Jones said, emotion evident in his voice. "I promised her that day that if it took me the rest of my life, I would work to make sure abortion is illegal," Jones said. "That's a naïve promise for a high school dropout. But if you asked me (then) when human life begins, I could have told you it begins at conception."

Their tragic loss two decades ago led him to work on the critically acclaimed 2006 film which has inspired thousands of viewers to reflect on the priceless value of human life. *Bella* became one of the top-rated movies of 2007 winning the grand prize for best dramatic feature at the 2007 Heartland Film Festival in Indianapolis, best picture and actor awards at the 2008 MovieGuide Awards, People's Choice Award at the Toronto Film Festival and prestigious Legacy Award from the Smithsonian Institute's Latino Center. "As of today, we have confirmed that 32 women who walked into a theater to see a movie, not knowing what it was—*Bella*— with an abortion scheduled, walked out to choose life," Jones said.



Photo and story by Mary Ann Wyand, The Criterion

**Right to Life of Indianapolis has copies of the movie, *Bella*, available for you to view.
Call 317-582-1526 to make arrangements!**



Photo by Mary Ann Wyand, The Criterion

The **Charles E. Stimming Award** was established in 1980 to recognize the outstanding service of those working to protect innocent human lives. **Joe and Kate Turk** were honored this year for their many years of service with Right to Life of Indianapolis. Joe has been involved with the organization of the golf tournament since its origin in 2000. Kate became involved with the Dinner Committee in 1989 and since 1999 has been the Reservations Chairperson for this event. Thank you Joe and Kate for the many years of dedication and commitment to the pro-life cause!

The **Respect Life Award** was first presented in 1993 to honor outstanding persons or organizations in the community who have spoken up in the public arena and taken firm action to protect all human life. **Micah Clark, Executive Director of the American Family Association of Indiana**, was acknowledged for his many years of work with pro-life and pro-family organizations. Through his tireless efforts, a few of his accomplishments include the passage of a feticide law to protect unborn children murdered in a criminal act against a pregnant mother, the passage of adoption assistance legislation, abortion clinic regulations and pro-life license plates. Thank you Micah for your profound impact on the pro-life movement!



Thank you to all who volunteered their time, attended the dinner, or financially supported the Celebrate Life Dinner!

DVD or CD of Dinner Available

Right to Life of Indianapolis is offering a DVD of the entire 2008 Celebrate Life Dinner or a CD of the presentations given by Jason Jones, Joan Byrum and Abigail Maurer, the RTLI 2008 Oratory Speech winner. To order your copy, mail the form below with your check or credit card information to Right to Life of Indianapolis, 1060 E. 86th St., Suite 61-B, Indianapolis, IN 46240. The cost is \$10.00 each which includes shipping or they may be picked up at our office.

Name _____ Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email _____ Phone# _____
 #DVD's _____ #CD's _____ Total Due _____ Check# _____
 Visa/Master Card# _____ 3 digit# _____ Exp Date _____
 Name of Cardholder _____ Signature _____

In Honor Of

Joan Byrum

Thomas and Jeanne Atkins
Roberta Duffy

Carole & Byron DeCapua

Mary and Dick Williams

Special thanks to

Dr. James and Susan Cumming
for their sponsorship of RTLI's
Celebrate Life Dinner

In Memory Of

Ruth B. Murphy

Altherm, Inc.
Gregory and Jill Bardonner
Mark Deady
William and Catherine Farney
Jane Marie Hackman
Jason Hartzold
Bernard and Marie Kavanagh
Debra B. Ligorano
MacWilliams Family
Isidore and Germaine Mandelbaum
Philip and Martha Martin
J.B. and F.H. O'Rourke
Patrick O'Shaughnessy
Martin Sharpe
Pulley and Associates, Inc.
Peter and Lorraine Sakon
Suncoast Sales, LLC

In Memory Of

Joan Byrum

Colin and Lauren Andrews
Robert and Mary Busby
Tim and Michelle Campbell
Angelo and Jeannine Carnaghi
Mark and Germaine Catton
Charles and Susan Clark
Paul and Frances Corsaro
James and Barbara Curtis
Byron and Carole DeCapua
Charles and Kathleen Deck
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Larry and Mary Dougherty
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Charles and Jayne Farber
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Charles and Carol Hall
Tom and Cathleen Hirschauer
Gary and Kate Hoefle
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E. Scott and Joan Nichols
Chuck and Pat O'Drobinak
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Joan Pruitt
John and Pamela Purdie
Reva Sahn
Peter and Lorraine Sakon
Terry and Nancy Sangl
Jack and Mary Schliessmann
Jerry and Rosemary Semler
Karen Steilberger
William and Mary Kay Stuhldreher
Manley and Gina Tate
Joe and Kate Turk
Gregory and Patricia Vollmer
Thomas and Julie Wood
Scott and Cindy Ziegele
William and Marilyn Ziegele



Local Students Join In National Pro-life Event To Remember the Unborn

On October 21, students from over 4,000 colleges and high schools across the country took part in the annual Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity. Right to Life of Indianapolis is aware that students at Covenant, Carmel, Fishers, Zionsville, Brownsburg & Speedway High Schools participated. Contact us with your Day of Silent Solidarity story at these schools or other schools.

"As I sat down after giving a note to my teacher saying my friend and I would not be talking today and explaining why, my friends asked me what was going on," explained Sarah, a member of Carmel High School's Teens for Life club. "I wrote down to explain, 'I am not talking today out of respect for unborn children. What if I was not here? What if you weren't?' My three friends sat there and all decided to be quiet for the day as well."

"I loved seeing how many people were wearing red and supporting the cause," remarked Laura, another student participant at Carmel High School. "I think as a whole, we served as a very strong and positive witness to our peers."

Participating in the Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity is just one way Teens for Life clubs continue to make a stand for life. *If you would like to get involved with a Teens for Life club in your local High School, please call Right to Life's office at 317-582-1526.*

County abortion regulations closely watched in Indiana

Two Indiana counties (Vanderburgh and Dubois) have passed ordinances that require abortionists to have the authority to admit patients at local hospitals.

Some abortion facilities are staffed by doctors who are based elsewhere and are unlikely to have admitting privileges at local hospitals, so the rules present a new obstacle for abortion providers. "Absolutely, it's a new strategy," says Mike Fichter, President of Indiana Right to Life. The ordinances ensure that women with complications after abortions can quickly get medical care, he says, but he hopes they also make abortions hard to get. Fichter expects at least a half-dozen Indiana counties to pass similar measures this year. National groups on both sides of the abortion debate are monitoring Indiana. USA Today

Volunteer bookkeeper needed at Right to Life of Indianapolis:

Keep your accounting skills sharp, set your own work hours and work in an office with other committed, pro-life Christians!

Volunteer as a bookkeeper for Right to Life of Indianapolis!

Right to Life of Indianapolis currently needs someone with basic accounting skills, a knowledge of basic accounting software and a heart for the preborn to help us keep track of our deposits, receipts, bills and other financial records. The position would require approximately 10 to 15 hours a week in our office working with the organization's president, treasurer and a host of other dedicated pro-lifers.

Put your financial skills to good use for a good cause. Please call Nancy at 317-582-1526 or email life@rtlindy.org to volunteer today!

The difference between the pro-life and pro-abortion philosophies:

If you are pro-life, someone lives.

If you are pro-abortion, someone dies.

Joan Byrum

Roses for Life



Each year Right to Life of Indianapolis has a rose drive to raise funds to help us in our mission of speaking out for those who cannot speak for themselves - the unborn, newborn, those with disabilities and the aged. The drive also serves to remind us all to continue to build respect for the sanctity of life from conception to natural death.

This is a great way to assist your congregation in supporting pro-life issues. The Sunday in January closest to the anniversary of Roe v. Wade (January 22) is selected by many churches for the drive. Mother's Day in May is also a very popular date as a thank you to each mother for giving life. If your church would like to participate, call our office at 317-582-1526, email us at life@rtlindy.org, or mail the form below to Right to Life of Indianapolis, 1060 E. 86th Street, Suite 61B, Indianapolis, IN 46240. We are happy to work with each church on any date that is most convenient for them. Silk roses can be furnished by RTLI with a suggested

donation of \$2 per rose or a free-will offering may be taken. We want to say a big **THANK YOU** to all the churches that support us each year.

Church Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Pastor/Minister _____ Pro-Life Coordinator _____

Church Phone _____ Coordinator Phone _____

Date of Rose Drive _____ Number of Roses Needed _____

Do you know of an event where RTLI could have a presence? Call us today!

www.RTLindy.org



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