

Volume 7 Issue 9

September 2004

Dear Friends of Life:

There is an important message below from one of our members. But first, a building update. We continue to negotiate for the purchase of property on the west side that will match our needs and fill the same requirements we outlined more than a year ago. I cannot believe it has been that long, but the bumps and turns in the road to a new home for DCRTL have been more numerous than originally anticipated. All I can promise you is that your Board of Directors and the Building Committee are working continuously, diligently, and with the best interests of our supporters always in the forefront of our efforts. Please continue to bless us with your prayers and support.

On a different note, there has been much in the news lately about stem cell research. Nancy Reagan spoke at or about the time of former President Reagan's death, and even Ron Reagan spoke on national TV at the Democratic Convention. Many would believe popular opinion is moving in favor of unrestricted stem cell research, including research on human embryos. As you consider this issue, and realizing there is only one true pro-life view, consider the following letter recently received at the offices of Dubuque County Right to Life (This is the important message I referred to above!):

Dear Life Time,

I'm prompted to write the following because of the news items promoting embryonic stem cell research by people experiencing life shattering illness.

A talented actor is afflicted with Parkinson disease—another admired actor is paralyzed with spinal cord injury—an elderly actor/politician suffers and dies from Alzheimer's. The suffering patients, their families and loyal fans search for answers, solutions, and healing for the once vital humans they see slipping away.

According to the abortion industry, stem cells harvested from our defenseless babies broken bodies offer this solution.

As a cancer patient, I too would like to see healing, but how can anyone believe their life is more valuable than our babies. Will God bless us with a cure from a slaughterhouse?

I'm not famous, extremely talented, or a great mind; but the Lord gives all his people gifts to share.

What gifts were ripped from wombs with the bodies of babies? Perhaps a gifted actor or musician, a leader who could bring about world peace, or maybe. . . The holder of a cure for these terrible afflictions is right now curled safely inside a womb ready to be ravaged.

Our Lord sacrificed for our spiritual healing which is lasting.

Our babies are sacrificed for possible physical healing which can only be temporary.

Lord have mercy.

Carole Kiefer

Stem cell research is a critical issue in this day of almost unrestricted scientific research. Please stay abreast of this important issue and be active regarding it in both private debate and your public actions.

Sincerely,

Arthur F. Gilloon, President

Stewardship and the Culture Of Life go hand in hand!

It is sad to think that many people feel they are doing great things with their donations when in actuality they are supporting the Culture of Death. Prior to donating, you may want to check into the policies of any organization requesting funds. Keeping up with the latest practices of the charities is not an easy thing to do. But with a little investigating and a call to your local right to life office (563-556-5960), you can check out the charity before you give. You will be surprised at what you find.

"Donations to charity are not compulsory. They are free acts, deliberate choices, for which we must accept full moral responsibility – because, after all, we become the people we are, for better or for worse, through our morally significant free choices. When we freely choose to fund abortionists, we have freely joined ourselves to their iniquity. It's unsettling, but true: morally speaking, you become what you pay for." (Manikowski, Paul V. (1993) "Funding Abortion the United Way," *Human Life Review*, Fall 1993, p. 65.)

Alzheimer's Memory Walk coming up in September

The Alzheimer's Association supports fetal tissue transplantation research. (Des Moines Office, 700 East University Avenue, Level B, Des Moines, IA 50316-2392 (515) 263-2464, 800-738-801 FAX 515-263-2466. Washington Office – 1334 G St., NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005 Phone (202) 393-7737 FAX (202) 393-3109.) The Alzheimer's Disease Research Program of the American Health Assistance Foundation (22512 Gateway Center Drive, P.O. 1950, Clarksburg, MD 20871-1950 (301) 948-3244 or (800) 437-2423, FAX (301) 258-9454) is affiliated with the Stem Cell Research Foundation, a program of the American Cell Therapy Research Foundation, which supports embryonic stem cell research and use of human pluripotent stem cells in research. If you decide NOT to contribute, you may want to call or write to let them know why.

Sample letter:

Dear Sir or Madam,

I have been asked to participate in your Memory Walk. I am aware that Alzheimer's is a devastating, dreaded disease. Friends and family members of the victims grasp for a cure. I sympathize with them and, like them, would like to see the disease eradicated.

I understand the value of research in order to find causes and cures for this and many other diseases prevalent in our times. However, until the Association's policy supporting fetal tissue transplantation research changes, I cannot in good conscience support you in your efforts. This is unfortunate because I am aware that you do many good things with the money collected – 'safe return' kits, support groups, educational programs, educational materials, etc. I understand that funds can be allocated to specific services but I also realize that my money will free up other funds to be used in what I consider unethical research. It was a similar situation that got Enron and WorldCom into trouble. They were shifting funds within their organization and didn't know (or didn't care) where to draw the line.

The medical code of ethics, written at the time of the Nuremberg trials, states that research should *benefit the subject* and that informed consent must be obtained. Should you change your policy and conduct research that does not utilize fetal tissue or embryonic stem cells, please feel free to contact me again. Until that time, I will give my money to specific individuals or to organizations that value all human life.

Our society seems to base decisions on the "quality of life" argument. Is one life really more valuable than another? Who judges? Whatever good one might do, it is not good if done at another's expense.

Sincerely,

[your name, address and phone number]

BOYCOTT UPDATE:

Since the June issue of *The Boycott List* was published, the following changes have occurred:

RED ROBIN (restaurant chain) has been removed from the list. **Added** to the list under 'category' - FOOD & DRINK– Adolph's, Boursin, Carb Options & Chicken Tonight, **removed**—Paas Easter egg decorating kit. HEALTH—**removed**– Afrin, ChlorTrime-ton, Coricidin, Correctol, DiGel, Dr. Scholl's, Dricxoral, Feen-A-Mint, Gyne Lotrimin, Lotrimin AF, Muskol;, Solarcaine, St. Joseph aspirin, tinactin. PERSONAL CARE—**added**-CalvinKlein fragrances & cosmetics, Degree, Lifebouy, Lux, Pears, O-tips, Rave, Suave products & Vaseline.

It is important that when you begin (and every so often) to boycott a company, you let them know you are doing so. Here is the contact information for companies new on the list—if there is more than one name, simply copy to each. Each letter can say basically the same thing –that you will no longer purchase their products -do business with them– shop at their store—until they stop sharing their profits with Planned Parenthood. UNILEVER—Mr. Anthony Burgmans, Chairman, Unilever N.V. Weena 455, P.O Box 760, 3013 AL Rotterdam, The Netherlands & Mr. Niall FitzGerald, Chairman, Unilever PLC, Unilever House, Blackfriars, London, EC4P 4BQ, UK & Mr. Charles B. Strauss, Unilever United States Inc., 390 Park Ave., New York, NY 10022 & Mr. John Rice, Unilever United States Inc., 390 Park Ave., New York, NY 10022. SYMANTEC— Mr. John W. Thompson, President & CEO, Symantec Corp., 2033 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, CA 95014-2132; SMITH & HAWKEN—Mr. Barry Gilbert, CEO, Smith & Hawken Ltd., Hamilton Landing, Ste.100 , Novato, CA 94949; PFIZER—Mr. Henry A. McKinnell, Jr., Chairman & CEO, Pfizer Inc., 235 E. 42nd St., New York, NY 10017-5755; OFFICE DEPOT—Nr, N. Bruce Nelson, Chairman & CEO, Office Depot Inc., 2200 Old Germantown Road, Delray Beach, FL 33445; KENNETH COLE PRODUCTIONS— Mr. Kenneth D. Cole, Chairman & CEO, Kenneth Cole Productions Inc., 603 W. 50th St., New York, NY 10019.

NOTE: THIS IS A PARTIAL LIST. MORE CONTACTS WILL APPEAR IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS.

The Dubuque County Right To Life, Inc. Board of Directors is seeking nominations of individuals interested in serving on the board. Elections to the Board are held annually in November. The term of office is three years. Meetings are held monthly on the third Thursday at 5:00 P.M. Please submit names to Colleen Pasnik, Executive Assistant, DCRTL (563) 556-5960 before October 15th.

It's September! And, as usual, we'll be back at the Cathedral for our regular monthly meeting. However, the Center is not available so we will meet in the St. Raphael room, located in the basement. You will still enter through the usual door, cross the room to find the stairs. Someone will be available to direct you. Please come, because we have a great program planned. Ann Fagerlind, one of our new speakers will share her talk,
 "Contraception: What You Don't Want to Know!"
 You won't want to miss her eye-opening presentation! We will start at 7:00 P.M.
 (If you're able to bring treats, please call the office.)

Our candidate survey for the local school board elections was sent out to all four candidates. It is due back by August 31st. The election will be on September 14th. There are two seats available. Call our office for more information.

We will be sending our survey to the candidates for the November election after August 25th, the filing deadline. The educational guide will be printed in our October newsletter.

Reminder: if you are not registered to vote, do it today!!!



Leaf Ride for Life—Our 4th Annual event will be on Sunday, **September 26th**, starting at noon. Please plan on joining us for a fun filled afternoon. Gather up family members and friends to join you and start getting pledges now. Maybe a little friendly competition will spark some interest. Challenge someone to a race—either distance covered, money collected, time to complete the route, number of people you can get to join us—whatever you can think of. **REFRESHMENTS—PRIZES—FUN—FELLOWSHIP**
 Pledge sheets were enclosed in your last newsletter but are still available at our office and at the Bike Shack 3250 Dodge Street, Dubuque. Call for more information.

Join pro-life Dubuque area residents as we participate in the 15th Annual National **LIFE CHAIN** on Sunday, October 3rd from 2:00—3:00 P.M. Locally, we will start with a short program @ 1:45. Meet us at the corner of Bluff & Highway 20. You do not have to pre-register; we will have the signs. This is not a picket. It is a time for prayer and meditation and a chance to be a visible witness for life. There is no cost to you. Mark your calendar and plan to be there.

Now is the time to plan to attend the **MARCH FOR LIFE** in Washington, D.C. The Iowans for Life bus will leave on Saturday, January 22 and return on Wednesday, January 16th. Cost remains \$250. Call DCRTL for more information (563-556-5960).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Prepare coffee & treats for our monthly meeting on September 2
- Help out with the Leaf Ride for Life—help with promotions, 'man' a station, etc. (9/26)
- Offer to help at your church on Lifesaver Sunday (October 2&3); Help out with the LIFE CHAIN (October 3)
- Help sell tickets to the Younkers Benefit Sale; work at the sale (November 20th)
- Help organize March for Life bus participation

MORE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE IN OCTOBER!! (and always)

BETTER THAN OLYMPIC GOLD: CHOOSING LIFE OVER GLORY

June 17, 2004, BreakPoint with Charles Colson commentary; Copyright Prison Fellowship Ministries (excerpts) "An athlete with an excellent chance for an Olympic medal won't be participating in this summer's games in Athens. She has decided it's more important to follow faithfully her Biblical beliefs. Britain's top hurdler, Tasha Danvers-Smith . . . married her coach Darrell Smith last fall and the couple devoted full time to honing Tasha's skills. . . . Both sensed that she was in the best condition of her life, and 2004 could be her year for the top medal. But something wasn't quite right. . . . In early May a physician confirmed she was nine weeks pregnant. An Olympic medal is more than the proverbial "fifteen minutes of fame." . . . Their hopes for financial security were riding on an Olympic victory this summer. . . . The couple knew that all Tasha needed to do to get back into the hurdling business quickly was to visit the local abortion provider. After all, "it wasn't the right time" for a baby -- not convenient. . . . But Tasha recalls, ". . . this line from the Scriptures kept coming into my head: 'For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?' For me, the whole world was the Olympics. At the same time, I felt I would be losing my soul." . . . Darrell points out that missing the 2004 Olympics needn't be the end for Tasha's athletic career. He said, "We will definitely prepare for the Commonwealth Games in 2006" and hope to participate in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. . . . Whether or not she wins medals in a future Olympiad, Tasha has already exhibited a strength of character that is more enduring than an Olympic medal, and she provides an example of what it means to see life and then act on it from a Christian point of view -- and just when I wondered if there were any heroes left. Thank you, Tasha."

