FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK—STEVEN BRODY

Why are you pro-life? Have you always been pro-life? Those are probably the two most interesting questions to ask someone. The answers are not always the same and can be extremely fascinating. A person’s journey to recognizing the sanctity of life can come as the result of a life-altering experience. Or it can simply come from time spent with a friend presenting the truth in a loving manner.

It may come as a surprise but I was not always pro-life. I thought I was, but not in the eyes of my college friends. I was first introduced to the abortion debate in class at UCLA back in the mid 1980’s (now you can start guessing my age). In that class, I was taught that it was acceptable to terminate a pregnancy up until the moment of sentience, which is when a person can feel pain. It sounded logical and so I believed it. I also believed it was ok to terminate the pregnancy for the three exceptions (rape, incest, life of the mother).

My college friends labeled me pro-choice because of my beliefs. When I sought leadership positions at a political level I was asked my position on abortion, and my conservative credentials were questioned. When I worked on political campaigns, I could not understand how supporters backed a candidate only because of the abortion issue.

My conversion began when a friend and I went to a San Diego Padres baseball game. My friend took the time to explain to me about the sanctity of life, and how it was wrong to terminate the pregnancy at any stage because that child was a gift from God. No matter the circumstances of its conception, that child was still conceived and should have the right to be born, just like all of us were given that same right by our parents. From that moment, my worldview changed and I began my journey to where I am today. It is truly by the grace of God that He could take someone with my background and lead me to the position I currently hold with this wonderful organization.

Consider the more recent example of Abby Johnson. Here is a young woman from Texas who truly felt she was helping women in need as director of her local Planned Parenthood. But her worldview forever changed when she was asked to assist with a surgical abortion. Abby had never witnessed an abortion before, but when she viewed through an ultrasound machine the baby’s life sucked out from the mother, she knew it was time to find a new line of work.

There are those of you who have always been pro-life, and there are those that arrived based on varying circumstances. But regardless of how we got there we are all one big happy family, fighting together to end the greatest civil rights injustice in the history of our country. Education. Dedication. Inspiration.

NO APRIL MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING—HOLY THURSDAY

This is no April Fool’s Day Joke. Our monthly membership meetings are always held on the first Thursday of the month. Because April 1st this year is Holy Thursday, the Board of Directors has decided to honor the significance of the week by not holding a meeting. We ask that you instead take time to reflect, pray, and celebrate the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus. Let this season remind us of the humbleness that one man did for the sake of humanity. As you appreciate the fact that one man laid down his life so others could be saved, let us work together in a Christ-like manner to save the lives of unborn children in our area.

EDUCATIONAL PICKETERS NEEDED: Our campaign against Planned Parenthood requires a constant presence outside the Dubuque facility. We need volunteers to stand outside every hour they are open. If you can spare an hour, please contact Ellen Markham at 563-580-1436, or email her at protestpp@mchsi.com. Please visit the website www.protestplannedparenthood.org.
Dubuque County Right To Life, Inc. does not endorse any legislation, candidate or political party. Our goal is to provide the public with information with which to make an informed decision.

**PRO-LIFE LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS:**

The addresses and phone numbers for your members of Congress are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U.S. Senate</th>
<th>House of Representatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Washington, D.C. 20510</td>
<td>Washington, D.C. 20515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 1-202-224-3121</td>
<td>Phone: 1-202-225-3121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capitol Switchboard toll free number: 1-888-723-5246</td>
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Contact the Food & Drug Administration (FDA):

5600 Fischers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857-0001
1-888-463-6332

World Headlines:

- Planned Parenthood Uses Teens to Distribute Injectable Birth Control in Rural Ecuador. ([CNSNews.com, January 21, 2010](http://www.cnsnews.com))
- Kenya Draft Constitution Contains Protection for Women, Unborn on Abortion ([LifeNews.com, February 3, 2010](http://www.lifenews.com))
- Russian Journalist Sparks Furor by Suggesting Infanticide for Disabled Newborns ([LifeNews.com, February 8, 2010](http://www.lifenews.com))
- Dutch Debate Ultrasound Use as Late Abortions Skyrocket ([LifeSiteNews.com, February 15, 2010](http://www.lifesitenews.com))

If you have any March for Life scarves, hats, or headbands you are no longer using, please return these items to your bus captain or the DCRTL office. Items will be used for next year’s pilgrimage participants. Recycle!

American Life League’s eighth annual National Pro-Life T-shirt Week is April 27-May 3! Every year, pro-lifers across the nation mark National Pro-Life T-shirt Day by wearing their pro-life T-shirts. This year, ALL is asking pro-life students to wear a pro-life T-shirt to class during the week. Everyone is welcome to participate. It is your legal right to wear a shirt with a pro-life message UNLESS you are bound by a uniform or dress code (in that case, you will need to get permission from school or work place authorities). To participate, you may wear any pro-life shirt you own. If you don’t own one, now is the time to buy! We have some shirts available on a first come first serve basis, or you can order from the American Life league at [http://americanlifeleague.stores.yahoo.net](http://americanlifeleague.stores.yahoo.net)

Does Your Business Have a Matching Gift Program? We have been blessed to receive contributions from businesses due to matching gift programs with their employees. Please check if your business has a matching gift program, and ask to have Dubuque County Right to Life, Inc. included. You’ll never know if you don’t ask.

Show Your Mother How Much She Is Loved This Year With Two Great Ideas! Mother’s Day Is Sunday, May 9th.

1. Participating churches in the Tri-State area will once again be providing Mother’s Day Roses with donations going to Dubuque County Right to Life, Inc. If your church is currently not participating and you would be willing to serve as the coordinator, please let us know and we’ll add you to the list.
2. If you would like to send in a donation to Dubuque County Right to Life, Inc. in honor of your mother, we will send out a lovely Mother’s Day card to her. Please provide us with her name and address, and we’ll take care of the rest.

Congratulations to Megan Helle from Cumulus Broadcasting for winning a DCRTL blanket at the Downtown Business PM on February 16th. Megan was one of many that stopped by our booth at the Hotel Julien. We wish to thank Connie Hardie and Sara Brehm for their outstanding job in being our pro-life ambassadors at this event.
BOYCOTT UPDATE:
The Boycott List identifies corporations that are boycott targets due to their support of Planned Parenthood (PP). It is published by Life Decisions International (LDI) after thorough investigation of the companies and confirmation that they have in fact funded PP. The CEO receives documentation of contribution, information about PP, and the opportunity to make PP ineligible for future support. More information about the CFP, visit [http://www.fightpp.org](http://www.fightpp.org).

**MD Skincare**—Operations: personal care (skin); Dennis Gross, M.D., Proprietor, MD Skincare L.L.C., 444 Madison Avenue, 8th Fl., New York, NY 10022 (888) 830-7546. www.mdskincare.com.

New to the "Dishonorable Mention" section, which identifies charitable organizations that are associated with Planned Parenthood and/or its agenda including embryonic stem cell experimentation:


PRO-LIFE BUSINESS OF THE MONTH: Every month we recommend businesses and organizations to avoid as listed above in our Boycott Update. DCRTL would like to begin promoting and recognizing pro-life businesses in the area. A nice start is by looking at our growing list of advertisers on the back of this newsletter. If you know of a business that clearly and strongly is a supporter of pro-life values and principles, please let us know. In this tough economy, let’s support our friends!

COMING TO DUBUQUE ON JUNE 5, 2010:
Dubuque County Right to Life, Inc. is sponsoring our first Pro-Life Conference. You will hear dynamic presentations on life topics that are in today’s headlines. Bring your questions and be ready for an educational day!

**Conference talks:**
“ProLife 101” by Connie Hardie
“Stem Cell Research” by Dr. John Dolehide
“Charitable Donations & Boycotting” by Patricia Bainbridge
“Pro-Life Lobbying” by Norm Pawlewski

Registration forms are available on our website: www.dcrtl.org or by calling 563-556-5960.

Mark your calendars!
Bring your friends & family members. There is always more to learn.

More information will appear in the May newsletter.
Our cable access shows can be seen on cablevision Channel 16. Watch for our upcoming locally taped programs, scheduled for Mondays @ 10:00 A.M., Fridays @ 3:00 P.M. and Saturdays @ 1:00 P.M. We now are able to present other programs on Cable Channel 15. The scheduled times for LIFE TALK NEWS are: Mondays @ 9:00 P.M., Tuesdays & Wednesdays @ 3:30 P.M. and Thursdays @ 2:00 P.M. The scheduled times for DCTRL Presents are Tuesdays @ 8 P.M. & Wednesdays @ 1:00 P.M. Please keep watching to get updated on life issues and events. Mediacom now has 24 hour programming so our shows will also make random appearances during the night and on weekends—so watch for our shows at other times than those listed above.

Dubuque County Right to Life, Inc—2205 Carter Road, Dubuque, IA 52001. (563) 556-5960. Office Hours are 9am–4pm. Board of Directors: Tim Duggan (Chairman), Leon Jensen (Vice Chair), Ann Williams (Secy), Jim Giese (Treasurer), Fr. Richard Schaefer, Dr. Mike Lattner, Dr. Jack Dolehide, Arthur Gilloon, Dr. Staci McKenaw, Sara Brehm, Liz Cushman, Bill Frye. Executive Director: Steven Brody, Executive Assistant: Colleen Pasnik. Email: DCTRL@dctrl.org. Website: www.dctrl.org

DCRTL’s WISH LIST:
- Stamps
- Printer ink cartridges Lexmark Z1300 or Brother toner cartridge TN-350 or Canon ImageCLASS D320
- Minolta MT 201A toner for copy machine
- Avery labels –5160
- Medium & tall size garbage bags
- Speaking engagements
- Volunteers
- Planned Parenthood out of Dubuque

WWW.JILLSTANEK.COM
(Honoring our LIFE Dinner Speaker)