



Dubuque County
Right To Life, Inc.

LIFE TIME

FEBRUARY 2026 VOLUME 29 NUMBER 2

Dubuque County Right to Life cordially invites you to our 32nd annual

Life DINNER



Thursday, April 9, 2026

at the Peosta Community Center - 7896 Burds Road, Peosta

Our 32nd Annual LIFE Dinner is just a few months away, and we cannot wait to share an evening with you to celebrate LIFE as we give thanks for 2025's success and look forward with hope to more pro-life victories in the Tri-State Area.

Join us on Thursday, April 9th, 2026 from 5pm to 8:30pm at the Peosta Community Center (note the change in venue) for delicious food, an excellent keynote address (see below for more details), and a night to honor Life.

An official invite will be coming by mail. You can RSVP by calling the office at 563-556-5960, or emailing us at dctrl@dctrl.org.

The deadline to RSVP is March 23rd.



About our Keynote Speaker: Mayra Rodriguez, Former Planned Parenthood Director

Mayra Rodriguez is the former director of the largest Planned Parenthood clinic in Arizona. She worked for Planned Parenthood for 17 years, managing several affiliates and receiving the Employee of the Year award in 2016. She felt she was living the American Dream, until she began to notice and report instances of critical safety and health-related violations including incomplete abortions, falsification of patient records, illegal conduct, unreported statutory rape, severe injuries by abortion and high complication rates with a specific abortionist. She was fired in October 2017, after which she filed a wrongful termination lawsuit. In August of 2019, a jury of her peers unanimously awarded her \$3 million in damages done by Planned Parenthood.

Come hear Mayra share her story of going from one of abortion's strongest supporters to a pro-life advocate, defending the lives of vulnerable pre-born children.

FEBRUARY 2026

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Contact Us:

2205 Carter Road
Dubuque, Iowa 52001
(563) 556-5960
dctrl@dctrl.org
www.dctrl.org

Office Hours:

Mon - Fri: 9am - 4pm
Weekends: Closed

Dyersville Office:

1657 15th Avenue S.E.
Dyersville, Iowa 52040

Dubuque County Right to Life, Inc. is a non-profit, non-sectarian, education organization dedicated to preserving and fostering respect for human life from conception to natural death. We educate the public about the dangers of abortion, euthanasia and infanticide.

February 2026

Thursday,
February 19

- Board of Directors meeting

Thursday,
February 26

- Holy Hour for Respect Life - 7pm
*St. John the Baptist Church,
Peosta*

March 2026

Monday,
March 2

- Deadline to apply for the DCRTL High School Scholarship: *In-person 4:00pm CST or online 11:59pm CST*

Thursday,
March 19

- Board of Directors meeting

Monday,
March 23

- Deadline to RSVP for Life Dinner

Wednesday,
March 25

- Mass for Life - 5:15pm
*Cathedral of St. Raphael,
231 Bluff Street, Dubuque*

Thursday,
March 26

- Holy Hour for Respect Life - 7pm
*St. John the Baptist Church,
Peosta*

Praying outside of the abortion facility

Every Thursday morning, Arthur Gilloon and other DCRTL members carpool down to Iowa City to pray and offer life-affirming options to the mothers entering Emma Goldman abortion facility. They leave by 5:45am and return to Dubuque by 12 noon. They have open spots in the car. If you would like to join them on any Thursday, give our office a call (563-556-5960) by Wednesday (day before) at 4pm to sign-up.

WISH LIST

13-gallon trash bags

30-gallon trash bags



A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Great news - The new website has been launched!

Thanks to your financial support, our revised website has launched. You helped make a place where people in our community can go online to learn, share, and find help.

Here's what your support made possible:

- Sharing fetal development with animated video and pictures depicting the development that a child undergoes in various stages of pregnancy.
- Explanation of what abortion is, and using an animated short video created by Live Action along with the testimony of previous abortion doctors describing the abortion process.
- Local resources for pregnant women and families on where they can find the help they need.
- More tools to help someone learn the pro-life message and how to get involved

If you haven't seen it yet, please visit: www.dctrl.org. If you notice anything that could be improved, I'd love your feedback.

The website project and moving forward

This update started more than three years ago. At first, the goal was just a fresh look. Then it grew into a larger project, including building new pages that an educational group like ours truly needs.

I'm sorry it took so long, and I'm sorry you didn't get updates along the way. Going forward, you can expect timely updates when projects take longer than expected. When the timeline shifts, I'll put a note in our newsletter so you know where things stand.

Thank you to the people behind it

Thank you to the dedicated volunteers and staff who wrote and shaped the content. And a special thank-you to Sara McDonald for pulling it all together into one voice and for helping create a functional layout.

Most of all, thank you for being the reason this resource exists. The website will be serving people in our community from learning about abortion, to finding resources when struggling in pregnancy or parenting.

And thank you, generous supporters, for your financial gifts toward this project, and your patience in getting the new website launched! This will be a great resource for our community, so thank you for making this happen.

In gratitude for your commitment to the pro-life cause,

Augustine



MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS



In Honor of:

Laurance & Darlene Krapfl.....Eben & Lindsey Krapfl
 Ed & Conchi McDermott.....Patrick McDermott
 Jean Mescher (90th birthday).....Her seven children

In Memory of:

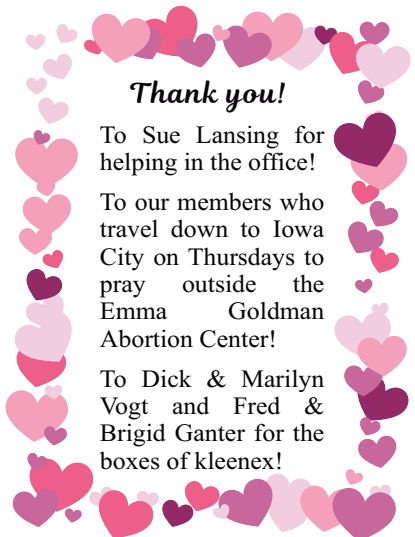
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 Ruth Fransen.....John & Ellen Markham
 Gabe Goken.....Phil & Mia McDermott
 Anne (Gindorff) Heinz.....Terry & Dee Schilling
 Dave & Bev Jasper.....Bill & Jill Bell
 Lillian Jasper.....David Brunkan
 John Muenster.....Katy Kieffer
 Betty Rausch.....Rick & Jodi Simon
 Alice Reimer.....Ken Reimer
 Irene Scherrman.....Dick & Bev Anstoetter, Darla Benda,
Dr. Virgil & Marian Bourek, Dale & Arlene Fangmann,
Kim Halton-Clausen, George & Bonnie Heisler,
Brad & Elizabeth Heying, Beth Jensen, Ed & Mary Kluesner,
John & Sue Lukasik, John & Ellen Markham, Dick & Jean Mescher,
Mike & Judy Meyer, Dan & Barb Nicholson,
Emmett & Mary Ann Scherrman, Tom & Beth Simpson,
Timothy & Joyce Singsank, Mike & Patricia Thies
 Ted Schuster.....Renee Schuster
 Regina Stoll.....Ron Stoll
 John & Myra Welsh.....Dr. David & Eva Stabenow

Remember Your Voice is Powerful!

The family of Mrs. Irene Scherrman wants to remind you that you can be a powerful witness and advocate for the pre-born to your loved ones. As her grandson witnessed in his eulogy, Mrs. Scherrman lived her life showing her grandchildren that all life – from conception to natural death – is sacred. We have the privilege of being a voice for the voiceless, so let’s continue to persevere and remind our loved ones of the sanctity of life!

Special Thanks to Dan Lange and Lange Sign Group for the Installation of our Billboard

Dubuque County Right to Life wishes to offer our heartfelt gratitude to Dan Lange and Lange Sign Group for their installation of our new billboard in downtown Dubuque, and for their generous discount for their service! We appreciate your efficiency, your professional and beautiful work, and your willingness to help us with this project. We couldn’t be more pleased with the results, so thank you again!



Thank you!

To Sue Lansing for helping in the office!

To our members who travel down to Iowa City on Thursdays to pray outside the Emma Goldman Abortion Center!

To Dick & Marilyn Vogt and Fred & Brigid Ganter for the boxes of kleenex!



PRO-LIFE LEGISLATIVE, COURT, AND OTHER LEGAL NEWS

by Arthur F. Gilloon, DCRTL Board Member & Attorney



Dear Friends for Life-

Here is important news from Washington and around the nation.

Most of us are familiar with the Hyde Amendment. It was first passed on September 30th, 1976, after being proposed by Illinois Republican U.S. Congressman Henry Hyde. It prohibits federal funds from being used for abortions in Medicaid, Medicare, and other federal programs, with exceptions for life of the mother, rape, and incest. Over the years, it has been reauthorized as part of spending bills that fund the government. The Hyde Amendment is not a permanent law and must be reconsidered each year as Congress hands out federal money. As this column goes to print, the U. S. Congress is debating how the Hyde Amendment should apply to any modifications or extension of the Affordable Care Act (known as “Obamacare” or the ACA), which became law in 2010.

Generally, Republicans vote in favor of the Hyde Amendment and its accompanying protection for taxpayers who don’t want their tax dollars hurting women and killing unborn babies. Democrats generally oppose the Hyde Amendment.

President Trump reportedly made comments in January suggesting Republicans in Congress should “... be a little flexible on Hyde” when negotiating with Democrats about the Affordable Care Act and abortion funding. The House has sent a bill to the Senate on the ACA for consideration, but it is seen as one that could increase the amount of tax dollars funding abortion. Fortunately, Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson stated on January 7 that “We are not going to change the standard that we’re not going to use taxpayer funding for abortion. I’m just not going to allow that to happen.”

Most other Republican lawmakers in Washington seem to be standing firm on retaining the Hyde Amendment in any extension or modification of the ACA. Rep. Mark Harris (R-NC), said, “All the folks I hear from are very committed to Hyde....The Speaker, I think, is very committed to Hyde. So I don’t envision anything coming to the floor that would in any way impede the protection of life”.

The Hyde Amendment has saved countless babies from being killed in the last 50 years and has been ruled constitutional by the U. S. Supreme Court. It needs to continue. If you have the opportunity to make your voice heard regarding the Hyde Amendment, the ACA or similar debates, please do so.

In other news, and as reported in last month’s newsletter, New York Governor Kathy Hochul was expected to sign the physician-assisted suicide bill into law. She did so on December 17, 2025. New York is the 13th state to allow doctors to give medication to people who want to kill themselves. We must be on our guard as similar laws likely will be proposed in Iowa at some point in the future.

The Iowa Legislature started its 2026 session on January 12th. We will monitor it for items of interest.

Well, that’s it for this month. Please watch for news of all of this in the Press, on TV, and on social media. DCRTL will keep you informed so you can express your pro-life views regarding these matters whenever and wherever possible.

Arthur F. Gilloon





Mass for Life – March 25, 2026

Join us for our annual Mass for Life on the Feast of the Annunciation to pray for the protection of the pre-born and to celebrate the gift of Life. **The Mass will be held at the Cathedral of St. Raphael (231 Bluff St, Dubuque, IA 52001) at 5:15pm.** All our welcome to attend, and we hope to see you there! More details to come in the March newsletter.



2026 Scholarship Contest



Attention all graduating high school seniors! Our annual scholarship contest for 2026 is upon us. This is an opportunity for you to express your pro-life views to compete for a scholarship for college. See below for more details!

Who: Graduating high school seniors who plan to attend college

Scholarship Amount: Up to \$10,000 is available to be awarded between applicants at the discretion of the judging committee.

Expectations: Students must submit a written copy of an original speech (5-10 minutes in length) on the topic “Unpacking the Gift of Life When it is Most Challenging.” Students must also submit evidence of service hours logged in the cause of protecting human life. They must also submit one (1) recommendation letter describing individual commitment to some aspect of the DCRTL mission.

About the Topic: We firmly believe that Life — all Life — is a gift that should be celebrated, cherished, and protected in every stage and in every circumstance. It’s easy to see Life as a gift when those circumstances are going well, when they are filled with joy and happy memories. But what about when life is challenging or involves suffering? Students are encouraged to reflect on how life is still a gift, even when the beginning, middle, or end of that life is challenging. We encourage students to consider how we treat people with special needs, elderly patients nearing the end of life, or other circumstances the abortion industry often uses to justify abortion.

Where to submit: <https://www.dctrl.org/get-involved/events/scholarships/>

Deadline to submit: Monday, March 2, 2026 at 11:59pm CST. Finalists will be chosen by the quality of their written speech, service hours, and recommendation letter. Finalists **MUST** be available to participate in a speech presentation at the DCRTL office on Saturday, April 4th, at 9am.



Protect the Lives of Pre-Born Children as a Summer Intern

With the abortion pill becoming the most common form of abortion, women’s bathrooms and homes are the new abortion clinic. Pre-born children are dying through suffocation every day in Iowa because of this atrocious drug.

And it won’t stop until people encounter the reality of abortion. We need to bring the message of life and truth about the injustice of abortion to the people who believe it to be a form of “healthcare.” Only when we share the truth with charity can people’s hearts begin to soften to the little ones in the womb.

That’s why we invite young adults, ages 18-24, to consider applying to be a summer intern with Dubuque County Right to Life to make a lasting impact toward building a culture for LIFE! This is a full-time (40hrs/week), paid internship that runs from June 15 through August 14, 2026.

Join this mission to show our community that abortion is a violation of the most fundamental human right -- the right to Life.

Through extensive training and formation from experts in the pro-life movement, interns will gain the skills to have compassionate conversations about abortion. They will lay the foundation for the future of open and respectful dialogue about this issue in our community. By forming personal connections and sharing the truth with empathy, they will transform Dubuque.

I will be the first to admit that having personal conversations with people about abortion can be intimidating. But it’s also the most rewarding work I’ve ever done.

I’ve experienced powerful encounters in which hurting people began to see the pro-life perspective. Their guards came down and they received the truth about abortion. Witnessing this transformation in people makes me realize that changing culture begins with meeting people where they are, listening to their stories, and sharing the truth with them.

Now is the time to be a catalyst for making abortion unthinkable. Hearts and minds will change. Support for abortion will decrease. And lives will be saved. If you or someone you know is interested in this opportunity, scan the Interest Form QR code below to connect with us and learn more.

Contact us today to learn how you can be transformed this summer as you live not simply to earn a paycheck, but to serve the noblest mission: protecting the lives of pre-born children.

To building a culture of life,
Naomi Weiss

P.S. Spots are limited to ten interns! We are reviewing/accepting applicants continuously as we receive them. Apply today to become a part of this mission by scanning the Application QR Code below.

Interest form



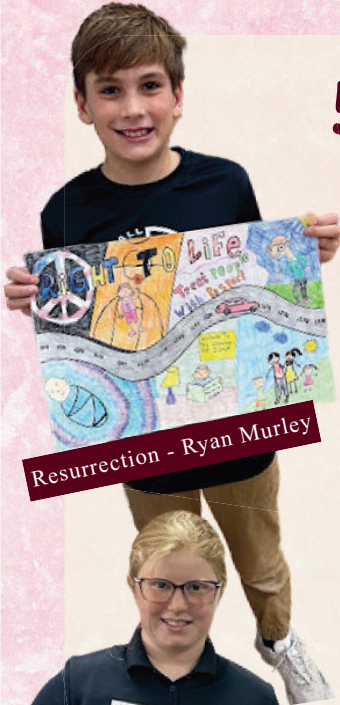
Application form



5TH GRADE POSTER CONTEST

Last month, we showcased the beautiful posters created by the first, second, and third place overall winners of our 5th Grade Poster Contest.

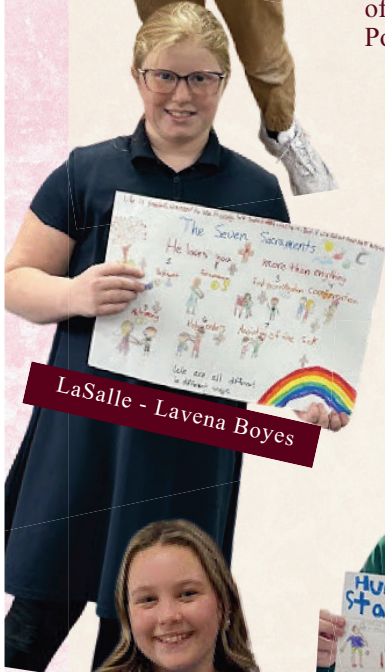
This month, we wanted to include the first place winners from each school. Thank you again to the school and students who participated in this contest to promote LIFE!



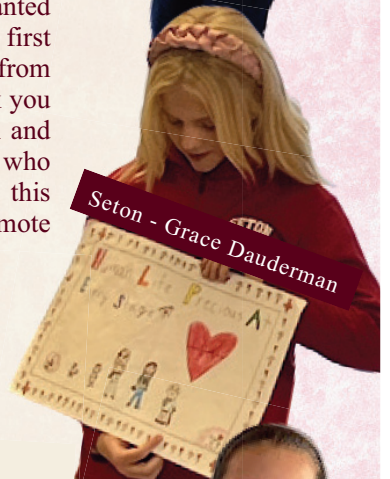
Resurrection - Ryan Murley



St. Columbkille - Clare McClure



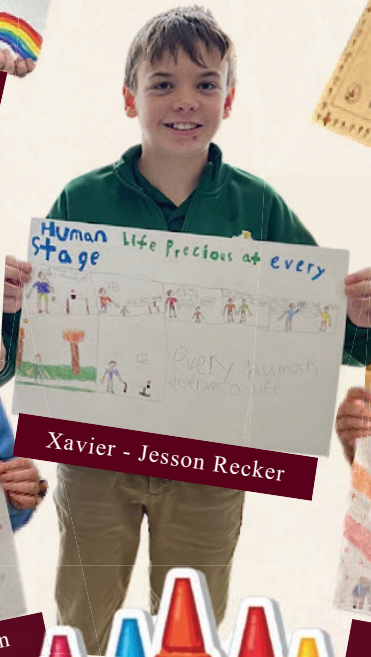
LaSalle - Lavena Boyes



Seton - Grace Dauderman



Aquin - Ruby Kolpin

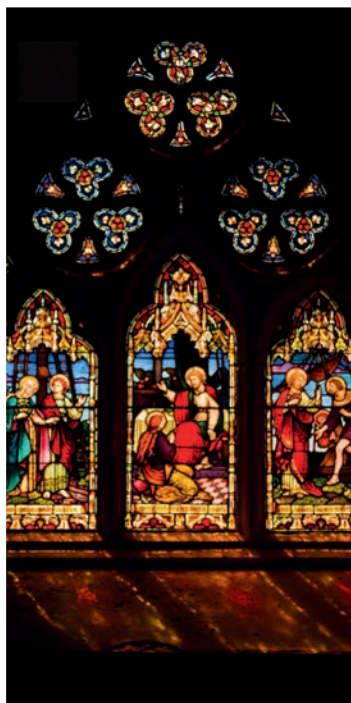


Xavier - Jesson Recker



Our Lady of Guadalupe - Hadley Fuller





Join the Prayer Partners to Intercede for DCRTL and our Upcoming Projects

As we continue to defend the rights of pre-born children, we are aware that this fight involves a spiritual battle. Thank you to everyone who already prays for an end to abortion, as well as for Dubuque County Right to Life as we seek to make abortion unthinkable through your support!

In the New Year, we are forming the Prayer Partners, an intentional prayer group whose goal is to pray for Dubuque County Right to Life and its upcoming projects throughout each calendar month. We need at least 31 people (though we'll take as many people as are interested) – one person to pray on each day of the month.

If you're interested, email Judy Tigges at dctrl@dctrl.org and she will let you know which dates are available for you. If you have any questions, feel free to ask Judy! Thank you again for your prayerful support for this noble cause.

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ENJOY LIFE!

"If people spent an hour a week in Eucharistic Adoration, abortion would be ended."
+Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta



If you would like to know more about being a regular adorer at the **Power of Prayer Adoration Chapel**, or if you are willing to sub occasionally, please contact Melissa Noel, 563-564-6365 or powerofprayerchapel@outlook.com

Catholic Parishes of the Emmaus Pastorale:
St. Patrick, Coleburg; St. Mark, Edgewood; St. Joseph, Elkhart; St. Mary, Strawberry Point; and Sacred Heart, Volga.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you."
Jeremiah 1:5

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"How very much I desire the salvation of souls!"

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John 25

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*Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.
Jer. 1:5*

Nowhere on earth are we more
welcomed or loved than by
Jesus in the Eucharist.

Blessed Mother Teresa



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and Arnie Honkamp**

Joyce Honkamp



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*Dr. David &
Eva Stabenow*



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IN YOU!**

Bill & Jan Frye

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In Loving Memory of:

Bud Portz

&

Mary Mormann



*"It is the right of every pregnant
woman to give birth...and the right
of every child to be born."*

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