

Life LINK

Right to life of Central California

Fresno/Madera Chapter Vol. 20 No. 4 Winter 2006

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IT'S TIME TO START THE HEALING

WHAT'S WRONG WITH CALIFORNIA?

Twice in the last year, voters have rejected legalizing even the tiniest recognition of the human and moral significance of abortion: the proposition that at least one parent merely *know* - not even consent - before a minor girl gets an abortion.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

The likeliest answer lies deep in the hearts of the 14 million Californians between the ages of 18 and 75 who have been directly involved in an abortion.

AMERICA'S ABORTION CAPITAL

While California has only 11% of the nation's population, almost 25% of the 50 million abortions committed since 1973 have been done here. That's almost 12 million abortions!

Tragically as many as 45% are repeat abortions -- the mother's second, third, or fourth abortion -- so perhaps "only" 7 million adult California women have had an abortion. But for almost every abortion, there's both a mother and a father deciding to kill their child.

Add in grandparents who forced their daughters to kill their own grandchildren -- so "the family won't be shamed" - and teachers who helped students get abortions, or college roommates who got the money for the abortion, and "friends" who urged the abortion, and 14 million is a conservative estimate.

That's more than half of adult Californians!

ABORTION CHANGES YOU

But abortion changes you. It is a denial of the deepest maternal instincts of a woman, of the deepest paternal self-respect of a man. It also often involves betrayal of one's deepest moral and religious beliefs. (Christians, tragically, abort at not much below the national average.)

Abortion thus leaves deep, hidden scars -- even in those few who claim they never again think about their abortion once they leave the clinic. And the vast majority of these people don't want to hear about abortion at all. Indeed, they fear any mention of it - whether legal, social, or in the media.

BRINGING COMPASSION

Before we can change the law in California, then, we need to heal the hearts of millions of our fellow citizens. And that's what RLCC Fresno/Madera will be trying to do. Keep reading in this issue to find out how.

BILLBOARD TO GO UP IN JANUARY

Starting in January, RLCC is posting this billboard (See below) on Freeway 99 just south of American Avenue. It will face north, so you'll see it when driving south. But it will be on the opposite (east) side of the Freeway. It's a big, lighted sign, that tens of thousands of people will see daily. The contact web-site - www.Hope2Heal.net - will also be up and running in early January.

I thought
life would be the way it was before
abortion changes you

www.hope2heal.net Life Perspectives

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THIRD ANNUAL PRO-LIFE YOUTH ALLIANCE A SUCCESS

by Jonathan Keller, RLCC Youth Outreach Coordinator

RLCC was privileged to host the Third Annual State Pro-Life Youth Alliance, held September 29-October 1, 2006. This was the first year RLCC has hosted the event.

Held on the campus of Copper Springs Church in Clovis, nearly 100 youth from more than 10 different pro-life organizations across the state participated, including representatives from Sacramento, San Jose, and Los Angeles, as well as Fresno, Madera, Tulare, and Kings counties.

Dynamic speakers challenged attendees to speak up for Life. Rev. Clenard Childress from New Jersey spoke about the effects of abortion on minority communities, while Josh Brahm of Georgia Right to Life educated young people on how to articulate the pro-life position

clearly and thoughtfully.

Several break-out sessions and workshops gave practical training on public speaking, starting a new pro-life youth group, and witnessing on campus. And participants capped off the weekend by attending the Youth Rally for Life with Gianna Jessen on Sunday, October 1.



For more information on the Pro-Life Youth Alliance, or to listen to the breakout sessions or main workshops, please visit the CA Life website at www.CALife.net.

FIRST ANNUAL RLCC YOUTH SPEECH CONTEST TO ASK: 'WHAT DOES AN ABORTION COST?'

Right to Life of Central California will hold its first annual Youth Pro-Life Speech Contest this Spring.

Open to young people from ages 16 to 20, the contest will include three preliminary rounds: one each for our Fresno/Madera, Tulare/Kings, and Kern County Chapters. The winners will advance to the Regional Finals, to be held Saturday, March 10 at 6:00 p.m. during a spaghetti dinner at "Ground Zero" at Peoples Church (*Herndon and Cedar*) in Fresno. The Valley wide champion will win a \$500 scholarship, with \$300 and \$200 going to second and third places respectively.

The Fresno/Madera preliminary contest will be held Friday, February 16th at 6:00 p.m. at Valley Christian Center. The Chapter champion will win \$100, with \$50 for second place and \$25 for third.

The theme for this year's contest is: 'What Does an Abortion Cost?' All speeches, that is, must deal with the consequences of abortion, such as: the emotional or physical impact on women; the impact on the baby's father; the economic impact of 50 million lost workers, taxpayers, and productive citizens; the way abortion opens the door to other kinds of killing of the innocent, or the way legalized abortion has violated the nation's legal and constitutional integrity. Speeches must be from 6 to 8 minutes long.

For more information, contact Jonathan Keller at the Fresno office (559) 229-2229, ext. 14 or jonathan@rtlcc.org or Michael Seaward at the Visalia office (559) 732-5000 or michael@tkrl.org.

— *Yes, I want to participate in the RLCC Youth Speech Contest!* Please send me an entry form and a complete set of rules.

Name: _____ Age: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____



HUNDREDS LEARN OF ABORTION/BREAST CANCER CONNECTION FROM RLCC BOOTH AT FRESNO WOMEN’S CONFERENCE

Several hundred Central California women learned a great deal about the abortion / breast cancer (ABC) connection at the Central Valley Women's Conference held at the Fresno Convention Center in September.

RLCC’s Development Director Lori Krueger and Assistant to the Director Nicole Puentes “womaned” the booth for us, and both reported an extremely positive response.

“So many of the women were

unaware of the link between the abortion and breast cancer that our ABC display became a main focus of discussion,” Krueger reported. “We had so many women looking and talking around our booth. I know it was one of the most viewed exhibits there.

“We were located at the end of one long aisle of displays, so we were on a corner, and lots of women stopped on both sides to read the information on the display.”

“Many of the women also picked

up brochures with ABC information to take with them,” Puentes recalls. “You could tell they were very interested.

“All the women were overwhelmingly receptive to the information and appreciated Right to Life for having a booth. We couldn’t have gotten a better response.”

If you would like a packet of information on the ABC connection, call Lori Krueger at 229-2229 Ext 13, and leave a message with your name and address.

RLCC TAKING BUSES TO 1/20 'WALK FOR LIFE WEST COAST' WITH MESSAGE: "WOMEN DESERVE BETTER THAN ABORTION"

On Saturday, January 20th -- two days before annual national memorial of the Roe vs. Wade decision -- RLCC will be joining a new and growing California pro-life tradition: Walk for Life West Coast.

We will be organizing buses to attend what has become a Pacific coast version of the huge, annual Walk for Life in Washington, D.C. held every January 22nd. Walk for Life West Coast was organized two years ago by two inspired women from the Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco and by the national organization Feminists for Life.

And the message is consistent each year: 'Women Deserve Better Than Abortion.' It's a positive, healing message meant to reach those whose hearts are hardened by their own participation in a past abortion.

Although there were counter-protesters the first year (some of them shouting obscenities), the police were out in force to protect



the marchers. And last year, almost no counter protesters even showed up.

The Walk is two miles, so wear your walking shoes. RLCC buses will leave from the St. Anthony of Padua Church parking lot (Bullard & Maroa) at 7:00 a.m. (Interested Catholics may want to attend a special 6:00 a.m. Mass in the Church for those going to the Walk.) We will return by 7:00 p.m. that evening.

If you would like to ride the bus with us, fill out the coupon below

and mail it with your check or credit card information to us. Deadline for reservations is January 17th.

ALSO THANKS TO:

A couple of folks we forgot to mention in the last issue: **Open Door Ministries** for being one of our **Mother's Day Corsage churches**, and to **Pat Deets** for her donation.

YES! I want to join the Walk for Life West Coast

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Number in my party: _____ (x \$20 per ticket) = Amount included _____

Card Card Type: _____ Number _____

I promise to walk peacefully at all times and not react or respond to counter-protesters.

Signature _____