

# Life

# LINK

**Right to life of Central California**

Fresno-Madera Chapter Vol. 22 No. 3 May-June 2008

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## WHY SUPPORT RLCC THIS SUMMER?

**M**any pro-life groups take a portion of the summer off, since the pro-life "busy seasons" are around October and January. At RLCC, we're taking the opposite approach. With our spring events finished, we're rolling up our sleeves and getting busier than ever! Besides continuing our weekly "Life Report" podcast, informative letters to the editor, four educational websites, and free presentations, we're starting several new projects, including one never before attempted by a pro-life organization.

To start, we're re-launching **CA Life**, RLCC's youth outreach program. Twice a month, young people from across the valley will come to our Fresno office to receive pro-life training, pray for our nation, and work to restore respect for the Sanctity of Life. More than 1/4<sup>th</sup> of those under age 35 are missing today because of abortion, and we need today's youth to stand up for the next generation.

Along with CA Life, RLCC will help bring **40 Days for Life** to Central California for the first time ever. From September 24<sup>th</sup>-November 2<sup>nd</sup>, pro-lifers across the country will pray, fast, and hold peaceful vigils outside local abortion centers. More than 100 communities nationwide have seen wonderful results from **40 Days for Life** and we're excited to bring this outreach to the San Joaquin Valley.

Leading up to this fall campaign, we'll be writing letters to the editor and educational articles for our websites and newsletters. We'll also use the massive reach of **YouTube.com** and **GodTube.com** to further spread the pro-life message. For example, a fetal development slideshow made by RLCC's Education Director Josh Brahm is one of the most popular pro-life videos on the entire website and has over **200,000** views on YouTube! Visit [www.FresnoProLife.org](http://www.FresnoProLife.org) for more videos coming soon.

Finally, we're working on a totally new project to involve pastors and congregations in pro-life ministry. Sadly, many churches simply don't get involved in pro-life activities, whether out of fear, ignorance, or apathy. We hope this outreach will change that. It's something we've never tried before and has potential in ways pro-life groups have never seen. Stay tuned for more coming soon.

We have big goals for these upcoming months, but we need your help to meet them. Most non-profits experience a financial drought during the summer, and RLCC is no different. **Will you please partner with us?** Contributions are tax-deductible, and you can give with the enclosed envelope or even on our website ([www.FresnoProLife.org](http://www.FresnoProLife.org)) with your credit card!

Thank you for partnering with us to reach our valley with the truth about Life. **With your help, this summer can be RLCC's best yet.**



# STEM CELL RESEARCH: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



**By Josh Brahm**

It's being discussed in court rooms, board rooms, the halls of Congress and the classroom. You've probably even heard it discussed in the break room at work. It has played a part in recent Presidential debates. Christopher Reeve's death brought it back in the news. Nancy Reagan continues to fight for it, misusing her pro-life husband's death to further her case. Stem cell research is a hot topic that we should be informed about, so that we can defend our pro-life position. California passed Prop 71, allowing over 3 billion dollars for embryonic stem cell research, and nothing for adult or neonatal stem cell research. So what's the big deal about stem cell research? What are the facts that the liberal media is NOT telling us?

The first thing we must learn is: what are stem cells? Stem cells are the building blocks of life. In the first few weeks of life, our tiny bodies are filled with stem cells that multiply and eventually turn into dozens of different cells that our bodies need, like heart cells, bone cells, skin cells, etc. Scientists envision drawing from "lines" of stem cells - colonies of similar cells that can replicate for long periods of time to create new specialized cells for transplant into patients, to repair or replace tissues that disease and disability have damaged.<sup>1</sup> In other words, if John Smith has liver disease, theoretically a scientist could take stem cells and "steer" them to become liver cells, and treat Mr. Smith with them.

Where can you find stem cells? You can find embryonic stem cells in two-week-old human embryos. You can find neonatal stem cells in used placenta and umbilical cords after birth, and adult stem cells can be found in more than 12 places of our bodies, including our blood stream, bone marrow and skeletal muscle. So what's the problem?

The key to understanding the ethics of stem cell research is knowing the difference between embryonic stem cell research, and adult stem cell research. Allow me to explain.

Adult stem cell research is not controversial; no human being dies when these cells are collected.

Embryonic stem cell research on the other hand, kills the donor every single time. Leftovers from in vitro fertilization are taken, grown until they are 7-15 days old, then a scientist cuts the tiny human being down the middle, and extracts its stem cells, to be frozen and used later. There is absolutely no way to get stem cells from the baby without killing it. We're not only killing babies in the womb, now we're killing them in petri dishes too.



Embryonic stem cell research has not cured anything yet, partially because embryonic stem cells are harder to control than scientists first thought. Sometimes scientists can engineer the stem cells to become what they want; sometimes they can't. For example, a man in China had embryonic stem cells transplanted into his brain to cure Parkinson's, and while some of the stem cells became brain cells like they were supposed to, the others became hair and bone cells! The man died a painful death as bone tissue grew into his brain and killed him.<sup>2</sup>

While embryonic stem cell research has yet to cure one thing, adult and neonatal stem cell research has had the opposite results. Through adult stem cell research, diabetes patients have been off of insulin for over a year. Parkinson's patients have shown an average sixty-one percent improvement of coordination.<sup>3</sup> Twenty-three patients have regained their eyesight following adult stem cell transplants.<sup>4</sup> A patient with multiple sclerosis improved after being treated with adult stem cells from his own blood. <sup>5</sup> Even spinal cord injuries have been treated, and previously paralyzed people are walking with braces. <sup>6</sup> The list of over 70 different diseases treated goes on.

If embryonic stem cell research becomes accepted by our society, you should know that human cloning is the next logical step. (This point is proven by Missouri's Amendment Two, which is protecting research or "therapeutic" cloning in their constitution!) We often talk about being on a "slippery slope." We're not even at the top anymore. We're more like riding down the slippery slope in a toboggan that's been sprayed with Pam. We must act now to stop embryonic stem cell research; but before you can act, you must educate yourself about the issue. Contact the RLCC office for more info and research, and prepare to be a voice for the voiceless.

*For a printer-friendly version of this article complete with sources, visit [www.FresnoProLife.org](http://www.FresnoProLife.org)*

## CA LIFE SUMMER CAMP

### TRAINING YOUTH TO DEFEND THE INNOCENT

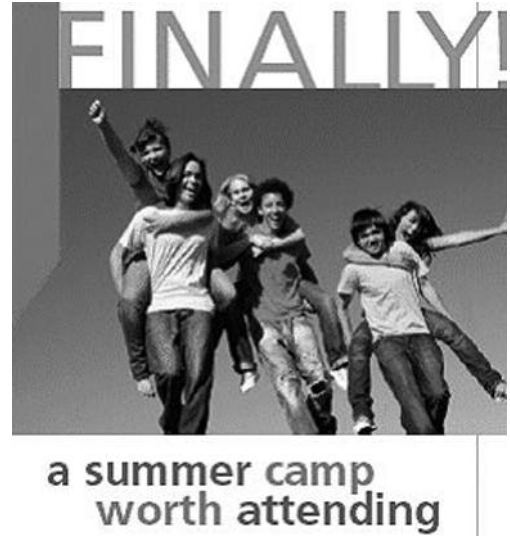
**When:** Thursday-Sunday, June 26-29, 2008

**Where:** Camp Oakhurst

**Website:** CALife.net

Thursday, June 26, marks the beginning of the first ever CA Life Summer Camp. This pro-life summer camp is tailored to youth who believe in taking a stand to defend the innocent.

The event will take place at Camp Oakhurst, a beautiful Christian camp with tons of recreational activities available, including: paintball, a ropes course, swimming, volleyball, a giant swing, rock climbing, and even a skate park. This camp is no ordinary summer camp; it will train you how to effectively defend a pro-life position and give you the leadership skills necessary to change our culture.



It's time to take a stand! Come to the CA Life Summer Camp and learn how you can change our culture and defend the innocent.



#### **Camp Highlights:**

- Develop leadership skills
- Network with other pro-life youth
- Learn how to articulate the pro-life message
- Great recreation, including: rock climbing, swimming, paintball, a ropes course and other great activities
- Guest speakers and training sessions

**Guest Speaker:** Alan Shlemon, Stand to Reason

## CONCIERTO POR VIDA

### A MARIACHI CONCERT TO SUPPORT RACHEL'S VINEYARD

**When:** Sunday, August 3rd, 2008: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

**Where:** Warners Center for the Performing Arts

**Tickets:** \$15.00 and \$10.00

**Entertainment:** Mariachi Santa Cruz, Mariachi San Joaquin, Mariachi Tenochtitlan and Mariachi Garibaldi.

**Benefitting:** Rachel's Vineyard - Organizing weekend retreats for post-abortive men and women, allowing them to go through the emotional and spiritual healing they need. Rachel's Vineyard is a ministry of Priests for Life.



Pro-choice advocates often say that pro-lifers only care about babies. But these retreats are just one way that we put our love, energy, time and money into caring for men and women that have been through an abortion experience.

## WALK FOR LIFE DRAWS ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD

More than 150 walkers showed up at Roeding Park for our 2008 Walk for Life. Thanks to everyone for their support! Special thanks to our Walk for Life Volunteers: Hannah Brahm, Julia Keller, Patty John, Brenna Ruiz, and the Fierro family for cooking the food. Thanks also to ??? for providing the music. Finally, thanks to all of you who showed up, especially all of our walkers:

Espee Abalos  
 Monica Aguilar  
 Jennie Aguirre  
 Jeanette Araiza  
 Michael Archuleta  
 Ashlee Armstrong  
 Jennin Avedisian  
 Silvia Bautista  
 Loren Blessing  
 Dr John and Romona Bonner  
 Rev Robert Borges  
 Pilar Borregon, R.C.M.  
 Josh & Hannah Brahm  
 Edgar and Mary Briseno  
 Curt Bruno  
 Chris Bruno  
 Audrey Buehner  
 Carl Buehner  
 Mark and Gina Burgess  
 Cambria Butcher  
 Albert and Sylvia Cantu  
 Gary Clark  
 Alex and Jennifer Contreras  
 Doroteo Contreras  
 Alicia Coria  
 Grace Crary  
 Ryan Cronin  
 Kelby Cross  
 Jesus Cuevas  
 Maria de Lourdes  
 Guzman  
 Ashley Del Rio

Kathy Ducas  
 Maria Elizondo  
 Claire Evangelho  
 Cathrine Evangelho  
 Alee Evangelho  
 Joelle Farrow  
 Victor and Yolanda Fierro  
 Richard Freitas  
 Toni Gallingwater  
 Al and Adelina Gamino  
 Corinne Gamino  
 Darlene Garcia  
 Christi Garza  
 Vida Gastelum  
 Toni Gillingwater  
 Victoria Goff  
 Adam Goff  
 Isabel Gomez  
 Julie Gonzales  
 Jesse and Julia Gonzales  
 Esmeralda Gonzalez  
 Aaron Guerra  
 Laura A. Gurries  
 Patti Hamilton  
 Bob and Claire Hamoy  
 Rene Hamoy  
 Jean-Pierre and Deanna Hannart  
 Stacy Harter  
 Jennifer Haupt  
 Maria Hernandez  
 Caren Hernandez  
 Gilberto and Juli Hernandez

Katy Hester-del Bianco  
 Cheryl Horn  
 Christine Juarez  
 Maureen Juarez  
 Jonathan Keller  
 Julia Keller  
 Robert Kiehl  
 Hailey Kinter  
 Jenny Kinter  
 Molly Knuffke  
 Kelly Lamb  
 Ben and Marie Lane  
 Lydia Ledezma  
 Albert H Leuschen  
 Angel Leuschen  
 Elizabeth Levine  
 Matt and Kara Lucas  
 Christian Lucas  
 Reuben Lucero  
 Rosa Lucero  
 Alejandra Manriquez  
 Rocio Manriquez  
 Manriquez  
 Monica Martinez  
 Rene and Carla Mata  
 Lupe Mejia  
 Rosie Mejia  
 Lalis Melendez  
 Rosa Mendoza  
 Serena Mendoza  
 Janelle Miller  
 Regina Mollet  
 Ben Mollet  
 Stephanie Munglun  
 Jose Munguia  
 Guadalupe Munguia  
 Irma Murphy  
 Reyna Murphy  
 Andrew Nemy  
 Jon and Charlotte Noy  
 Francisca Perez  
 Veronica Perez  
 Chris and Sue Anne Peters  
 Pamela Petty  
 John Petty  
 Emily Pintchett  
 Suzanne Price  
 Elizabeth Pritchett  
 Emily Pritchett  
 Stephanie Ramos

Jovita Rascon  
 Paul and Tina Ratto  
 Josh Reams  
 Susan Reams  
 Tony A Rios Rios  
 Cassandra Rios  
 Eloisa Rios  
 Ana Rodriguez  
 Krista Rodriguez  
 Luis Romero  
 Yvonne Romero  
 Adriana Romero  
 Lillian Rubio  
 Amber Sauls  
 Hannah Sauls  
 Rebekah Sauls  
 Ed and Gloria Schafer  
 Luke Scholar  
 Patrick Seames  
 Sienna Siddique  
 Antonio Silva  
 Janie Silva  
 Tom Slaven  
 Sasha Smith  
 Gary and Roxanna Stevens  
 Jessica Stone  
 Gordon Stone  
 Kathy Stone  
 Mia Summers  
 Tommy Summers  
 Katie Summers  
 Eric Swearingen  
 Ide Tarango  
 Nora Valdez  
 Christopher Valle  
 Alexis Valle  
 Walter Valle  
 Yvonne Valles-Romero  
 Debra Van Hoogmoed  
 Jon and Charlotte Van Noy  
 Carmen Vega  
 Douglas L. White  
 Marissa Winfrey  
 Vicky Xiong  
 Alex Young  
 Mary Lou Zasso  
 Kimberly Zasso  
 Arcelia Zuniga  
 Isaias Zuniga



## MOTHER'S DAY CORSAGES SAY 'THANKS MOM FOR LIFE'

**Our Mother's Day Corsages fundraising event was successful once again! We would like to thank all of the churches and organizations, and especially their faithful pro-life liasons who supported us in this effort!**

**Vanessa Bishel – Biola Congregational Church**

**Carlotta Wint – College Church of Christ**

**Lisa Rendondo – Cornerstone Assembly**

**Donna Lanier – Downtown Church**

**Janie Wenter – First Baptist of Selma**

**Lynn Brown – Fowler Presbyterian**

**Rod Johnson – Grace Bible Church**

**Hill Top Chapel**

**Yolanda Alvarez – Holy Family Catholic Church (Kingsburg)**

**Chris Peters – Holy Spirit Catholic Church**

**Chris Valdez – Knights of Columbus #840**

**Patrick Furlong – New Covenant Community Church**

**Eloise Banuelos – Open Door Ministries**

**Greg Paneco – Our Lady of Perpetual Help**

**Pat Quinto – Our Lady of Victory**

**Dawn Trogdon – Peoples Church**

**Rosemary Casey – Riverdale Assembly of God**

**Manuel Martinez – Sacred Heart Catholic Church (Fresno)**

**Mark & Gina Burgess – Shrine of St. Therese**

**Juan Lomeli – St. Anthony Mary Claret**

**Richard /Ed Cenci /Kersten – St. Anthony of Padua**



**Mariana Tovar – St. Catherine (Dinuba)**

**Molly & John Knuffke – St. Genevieve Catholic Church**

**Karen Lamb – St. Helen Catholic Church**

**Frank Borges – St. Joachim Catholic Church (Madera)**

**Gloria LeDoux (494-1737 wk.) – St. Joseph Catholic Church (Selma)**

**Maxine Machado – St. Jude (Easton)**

**Natalia Galan – St. Mary Queen of Apostles Catholic Church**

**Kristi Garza – St. Mary Catholic Church (Sanger)**

**Cynthia Taylor – St. Patrick Catholic Church (Kerman)**

**Darla Estrada – St. Paul Newman Center**

**Father David Reed – St. Paul of Tranquillity**

**Pat Connors – Mariposa Pro-Life**

**Carl Gregory – Merced United for Life**

**Sharon McCarthy – St. Joseph Catholic Church (Firebaugh)**

**Ed Santoro – Our Lady of the Sierra/Sierra Society for Life**

**Jose Munguia Jr.**

# 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF FOR LIFE HONORS JO ANN STEPHENS AT RIVERBEND GOLF CLUB MAY 18<sup>TH</sup>

On Friday, May 12th, we celebrated our 11th Annual Golf for Life Tournament at the beautiful Riverbend Golf Club. Last year our tournament was renamed the Jo Ann Stephens's Memorial Golf for Life Tournament in honor of a woman who gave unstintingly to both pro-life in general and RLCC in particular.



### RLCC would like to thank the following sponsors:

Event Sponsor: Electric Motor Shop, Spencer Enterprises

Life Sponsors: Ashwood Construction, Bone Construction

Major Sponsor: Campos Brothers Farms

Corporate Sponsors: Dalena Farms, DeMera DeMera Cameron, Der Manouel Insurance Group, Di Buduo & De Fendis, KDUV, Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno, Spano Enterprises, True North Properties, Jerry Logoluso CPA, Chuck Stephens Family

Tee Sponsors: American Press, Angelillo Partners, AON Risk Services, Asphalt Design, CARTS, DeBenedetto Fruit Co., Design, LTD, Diocese of Fresno, Dristas Groom McCormick & Swanton, Holy Spirit Catholic Church, I.W.S./O.A.D., Jay Chapel, Johnco, M.J Patrick Embroidery & Screen Printing, Me-N-Ed's, Nancy Hinds Hospice, Rabobank, N.A., Ray Brothers Transportation, Inc., RBC Dain Rauscher, Royal T Management, Sagaser, Jones & Helsley, Saint Agnes Medical Center, San Joaquin Memorial, Tuff Industries, V & N Field Service, Valley Chrome Plating, Whitehurst, Sullivan Burns & Blair Chapel, Thomas & Anna Ferdinandi, Nathan Magsig



### Special Thanks To:

Hannah Brahm  
Kyle Goddard  
Julia Keller  
Patty John  
Vanessa Ronk



### 2007 Golf for Life Committee:

Tim Bone, Jr.  
Josh Brahm  
Dr. Syl Bryan  
Molly Fagundes  
Jonathan Keller  
Lori Krueger  
Mike Patrick  
Steve Spencer

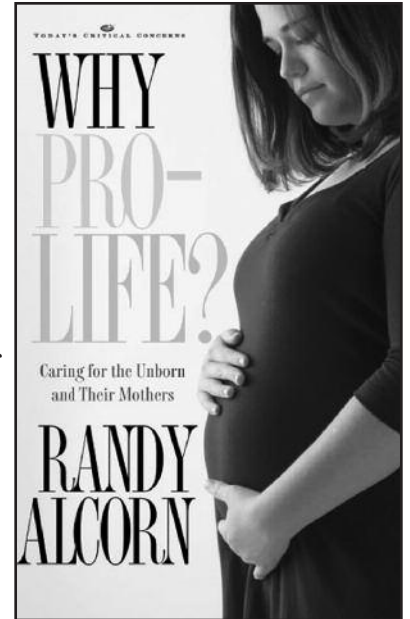


## JOIN THE 300 CLUB!

As you may know, RLCC receive no money from federal or state programs or grants. We rely entirely on donations from supporters like you to help women and children and spread the message of LIFE.

RLCC's 300 Club is a great way to do just that. Your tax-deductible gift of just \$25 a month (or \$300 annually) helps reach Central California with the life-affirming truth about adoption, abortion, and teen chastity. Just \$25 a month helps educate youth, save babies, and build a culture of LIFE.

As you can see below, we currently have 30 faithful members of the 300 Club, but we need your help too! **Will you please partner with us?** Our goal is 300 members by the end of this summer. As you may have read on page 1, we have many, *many* opportunities to reach our community, but **we simply cannot do it without you.** And if you join now, we'll send you a FREE copy of the great book *Why Pro-Life?* by Randy Alcorn (shown on the right).



To join the 300 Club, call our office at (559) 229-BABY or visit our website at [www.FresnoProLife.org](http://www.FresnoProLife.org) and click on the "Donate" button. You can even give online by credit card! Thank you for your ongoing prayers, concern, and support. May God richly bless you!

Neil & Marianne Angelillo,  
 Graciela Avilez,  
 Joseph & Pat Bishop,  
 Tim & Deborah Bone,  
 David & Jean Bonner,  
 Josh & Hannah Brahm,  
 George & Darlene Brazil,  
 Brian Cameron,  
 Mark & Janet Cameron,  
 Ross & Linda Caughell,

Saverio & Marie Chimienti,  
 Brian & Carol Dolan,  
 Mary Easton,  
 Victor & Yolanda Fierro,  
 Patrick Furlong,  
 William Hennrikus, Jr.,  
 Patricia Johnson,  
 Jonathan & Julia Keller,  
 Migran & Nelly Kutnerian,  
 Paul & Eleanor Laity,

Dan McDonough,  
 Dino & Susanne Orlando,  
 Jim & Sharon Patterson,  
 Steve & Michelle Rontell,  
 Judy Ruiz,  
 Delbert & Marilyn Spomer,  
 Thomas Spencer,  
 Chuck Stephens,  
 Doug & Therese Swineheart,  
 John & Doreen Wathen

## We've Been Busy!

***RLCC Fresno-Madera again reached thousands of people throughout California in the first five months of this year. Here are just a few of our many outreaches and activities from January through May:***

	Presentations	Est. Audience			
Church Services (English)	13?	x500	Media:		
Church Services (Spanish)	11	x318	TV	3	75,000
Youth Pro-Life	3	200	Newspaper Column	2	100,000
Youth Chastity	3	200	Podcast Episodes	14	1281
Booths	<u>1</u>	<u>10,000</u>	YouTube/GodTube Videos	<u>18</u>	<u>657</u>
	<b>54</b>	<b>14,185</b>		<b>37</b>	<b>176,938</b>



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## Right to Life of Central California

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**(559) 229-BABY (2229)**  
[www.FresnoProLife.org](http://www.FresnoProLife.org)

**Return Service Requested**

## SAVE THE DATE!

### June 26<sup>th</sup> - June 29<sup>th</sup>

What? CA Life Summer Camp  
Where? Camp Oakhurst

### September 24<sup>th</sup> - November 2<sup>nd</sup>

What? 40 Days for Life Campaign  
Where? Fresno Abortion Centers

### Sunday, August 4<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

What? Concerto Por Vida  
Where? Warnors Theater

## NEW EDUCATIONAL BILLBOARD LAUNCHES!

RLCC 's latest billboard launched started in early April. This year's campaign features a message targeted towards fetal development and education. The billboard, shown at left, show a beautiful baby, with the text: *"Heartbeat starts at 22 days. Brain waves start at 40 days. Life starts at conception. Choose life."*

This year's billboard is a "rotary" billboard. For the April and May the billboard was prominently displayed on McKinley Avenue just each of Peach Avenue in Fresno, near the airport. Look for the billboard at Each newsletter we will post an update on the billboard's current location, so you can keep your eyes open and tell your friends!

