

THE LUMINARY

Lighting the Way to a Pro-Life Louisiana

Pro-Life Pro-Love

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WINTER 2018

LOUISIANA



RIGHT TO LIFE

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Executive Insights

Benjamin Clapper,
Executive Director



With the Fall 2018 elections behind us we sit in a precarious position, but one that still offers hope to the pro-life movement. Let’s take a look.

U.S. Senate: Republicans added two seats, increasing their majority to 53 - 47. While this increase may be small, it is significant when it comes to the confirmation of judges. Two Senators are self-described pro-choice Republicans, leaving 51 Republican pro-life Senators with mostly consistent pro-life voting records. This cushion should provide more confidence for President Trump to nominate judges and justices who align even further with a strict constructionist philosophy. But the pro-life Republicans are still far shy of the 60-vote threshold necessary to break a pro-abortion filibuster.

U.S. House of Representatives: The Democrats took control of the House, and pro-abortion Rep. Nancy Pelosi has been nominated as Speaker. With this, the House becomes pro-abortion, stalling all action on life issues except judicial nominations (under the jurisdiction of the Senate). While losing the House is a disappointment, not having a 60-vote pro-life super-majority in the Senate puts pro-life legislation in jeopardy even with a pro-life House.

Supreme Court: With the recent confirmation of Justice Brett Kavanaugh, the pro-life

movement sits in a position not held since the early 1990s – a possible pro-life majority on the Supreme Court. Without a doubt this gives us reason for optimism, but even so there is reason for concern. Justice Thomas is the only member of the high court on record as willing to overturn Roe v. Wade. Chief Justice Roberts and Justice Alito have mostly sided with the pro-life cause, but their decisions have never been on the magnitude of overturning Roe. Justices Gorsuch and Kavanaugh are largely untested with major abortion cases. The key things to watch will be critical cases from Alabama, Indiana, and Louisiana making their way to the Supreme Court. How will this new majority decide?

All eyes are now on Justices Ginsburg and Breyer, the two oldest justices who have been reliable votes in protecting abortion. Will President Trump have a chance to nominate a new justice before the 2020 election? Many believe fundamental change cannot come to the court unless there is at least 6-3 pro-life majority. Only time will tell!

We are evaluating all these dynamics closely in Louisiana as we approach the 2019 legislative session. We are optimistic about the court cases Attorney General Jeff Landry is currently defending and look forward to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals and eventually the Supreme Court declaring our laws constitutional!

Pro-Life Gumbo

Need a Last-Minute Christmas Gift? Look to Us for Help!

Still looking for that perfect Christmas gift for that special someone? Look to us! All money raised goes to defending life in Louisiana through education, legislation, activism, and service.

- **Pro-Life Merchandise:** There are a number of items available at ProLifeLouisiana.org/Store, including our popular Preaux Life T-shirts, magnets and bumper stickers. You can also find the new 2019 wall calendars, and the new 2019 Louisiana Life March “LA Loves Life” themed T-shirt is now on sale. Other items are available, too!
- **Luminary Membership:** Consider giving a year’s Luminary membership as a gift. The recipient will receive The Luminary three times mailed directly to their home as well as an “I Stand for Life” member car decal and magnet. The recipient will also receive a letter detailing your gift, or we can get it to you to put under the tree! Visit www.ProLifeLouisiana.net/Member to order.
- **What better way to honor a loved one than by defending life, from conception to natural death?** Make an end-of-the-year, tax-deductible donation to Louisiana Right to Life in someone’s honor. We’ll send a certificate of donation to the honoree, or we can get it to you to go under the tree. Visit ProLifeLouisiana.org/donation.



Johnson, Burton Join Staff to Strengthen Pro-Life Movement

Kelly Johnson was named North Louisiana Director for Louisiana Right to Life in August, and Pastor Jonathan Burton joined the team as Associate Director of Louisiana Black Advocates for Life in November.

Kelly has been a spokesperson and leader for the pro-life and pro-family movement in Louisiana and beyond for nearly two decades.



She is a licensed pastoral counselor, a practicing member of the National Christian Counselors Association, and a certified teacher who has taught in the classrooms of some of Louisiana’s top public and private schools.

Kelly and her husband, U.S. Congressman Mike Johnson, live in Benton with their four children.

Pastor Jonathan hopes his connections throughout the greater New Orleans area and the state can help bring awareness to the problem of abortion that has plagued our communities, especially the Black community.



He is a former college and professional basketball player who retired early to start the non-profit Cross It Up, Inc., in New Orleans. The program is aimed at impacting the community through sports and community development programs,

including the NOLA Prep Alternative Adult Education program, that empower people to “Change” their lives and “Build” bright futures.

He and his wife, Brandy, the parents of two young children, are also in the beginning phase of a church plant, Regeneration Church, officially launching in the fall of 2019 in the upper Ninth Ward.

The couple live in New Orleans with their two children.



Pro-Life Informational Booth Reaches Thousands at State Fair

For the first time ever, Louisiana Right to Life hosted an information booth at the State Fair of Louisiana in Shreveport, and the results were extraordinary! The fair, held in Shreveport from Oct. 25-Nov. 11, 2018, attracted tens of thousands of visitors from all over the state and region, and a good percentage of those attending took the time to stroll through the exhibition area. This year, visitors were greeted for the first time with information celebrating the beauty of life.

Scores of volunteers assisted in staffing the booth. Our multimedia exhibit attracted a crowd and gave us a great opportunity to engage people in a friendly conversation about the dignity and value of every single human life. We also offered a large variety of resources, popular pro-life publications and unique souvenirs.

Among the most effective outreach tools we had was the life like 3-inch model of an unborn baby at 12 weeks. As we gave them a model to hold and keep, virtually everyone reacted with a sense of awe about the development of the unborn baby.

And the booth reached people of all ages and backgrounds, from little children marveling at the baby models, to teenagers discussing the reality of abortion and following us on social media, to adults committing to taking more action for life.

Upcoming Events

January 20
Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
ProLifeLouisiana.org/Sunday

January/February
Louisiana Life Marches
LaLifeMarch.com

February 22-24
PULSE Immersion Southeast
ProLifePulseLA.com

March 29-31
PULSE Immersion Greater NOLA
ProLifePulseLA.com

Looking Back at 2018



JANUARY

Thousands of Louisiana residents participated in Louisiana Life March events on three consecutive weekends starting in January in Baton Rouge, Shreveport-Bossier, and Pineville-Alexandria. The theme for the 2018 marches was Every Life Deserves a Lifetime.

LARTL hosted three PULSE Immersion Weekend events in 2018 in Baton Rouge, Covington, and Dry Creek and trained more than 150 students to become pro-life leaders in their schools and communities. The weekends were filled with information and fun.



FEBRUARY



MARCH

"I Lived on Parker Avenue," a short adoption documentary produced by Louisiana Right to Life, was released online on March 8. Film director Philip Braun, producer Benjamin Clapper, star and documentary subject David Scotton and other guests joined Gov. John Bel Edwards and First Lady Donna Edwards at a red carpet premiere at the Louisiana Governor's Mansion prior to the release.

The annual Bowties for Babies: A Southern Soiree Benefiting Life was held in April at the Capitol Park Museum in Baton Rouge. It benefitted the Advertise for Life project, which funds online and Pandora advertising that directs women in crisis pregnancies to a pregnancy resource center. Adoption advocate Hays Town (with wife Gay) was honored with the 2018 Leadership for Life Award.



APRIL



MAY

Henry Nguyen of Abbeville, left, is shown with LARTL's Shanon Snyder, chairman of the state oratory contest for high school students held each in May in Baton Rouge. Nguyen won the state title and went on to win the national oratory contest at the National Right to Life Convention in the summer. Contratulations, Henry!

More than 60 high school and college students from around Louisiana gathered in Baton Rouge in June for the 2018 PULSE Leadership Institute. Students learned how to be pro-life leaders in their schools and communities during a week filled with local and national speakers, on-site training, field trips, including to a local nursing home, and fun.



JUNE



JULY

Louisiana Black Advocates for Life State Director Dr. Kathy Allen tells a crowd at a July Dinner for Life in New Orleans East about the threat of a new abortion clinic trying to open in the area. The New Orleans East community also held a prayer rally in 2018, praying for peace, not abortion, in the area.

Louisiana Right to Life hosted a sold-out pro-life prayer breakfast in Shreveport in August to support pro-life efforts in North Louisiana. Another prayer breakfast was held in Pineville in November, bringing together pastors and others to pray for women and their babies in our state.



AUGUST



SEPTEMBER

LARTL Executive Director Benjamin Clapper presented a Pro-Life Persuasion crash course at Lakeshore Church in Covington in September. This was one of several crash courses presented during the year by staff members to requesting groups around the state.

For the first time ever, LARTL hosted an information booth at the State Fair of Louisiana in Shreveport, held in October and November. A large group of volunteers manned the pro-life booth, which offered a large variety of resources, popular pro-life publications, and unique souvenirs. Thousands of people visited the booth during the three-week event.



OCTOBER



NOVEMBER

The fifth Chers Bébés: Acadiana's Soirée for Life was held in November in honor of Dr. James and Mrs. Kathleen Godchaux and the late Wayne Frederic. Mr. Frederic's wife, Rosemary, accepted the award. The event benefits the Dr. Zerber Benvenu and Dr. William Smith Fund for Acadiana Pro-Life Education, which funds pro-life education of middle and high school students across Acadiana.

PULSE teams, like this one in New Orleans, are holding Christmas celebrations this month. These smaller groups of high school and college students in specific areas of the state meet regularly to discuss high school activism projects and resources and host a variety of events. There are currently five active PULSE teams.



DECEMBER



LEGISLATURE

The 2018 Louisiana Legislature passed a diverse package of seven life-protecting bills, including LARTL's flagship legislation, HB 449, the Adoption Option Act, and all were signed into law by Gov. John Bel Edwards. LARTL's Alex Seghers (shown) and others testified in favor of the bills in House and Senate committees during the session.



PRESENTATIONS

Youth Programs Co-Directors Krista Corbello (shown) and Alex Seghers were busy spreading the pro-life message and building a new pro-life generation in 2018. They gave more than 130 pro-life presentations to nearly 11,500 students of all ages in Louisiana during the year.



VOLUNTEERS

Louisiana Right to Life is thankful for the many people who volunteered to promote the pro-life message at events, with fund-raising activities, and in other capacities during 2018. We couldn't do without people like Arline Mistretta (shown), who helped us collect 9,722 diapers during the April Poo-Dat Diaper Drive at New Orleans and Baton Rouge.



Sarah Zagorski
Special Projects Director



Saints Cheerleader Turns Her Experience as Young, Single Mom into a Ministry

Sarah Bass Hopes Her Story Inspires Others Choose Life, Set Goals for Future Success

Sarah Bass is a high school teacher with a post-graduate degree, leads a pro-love ministry called Embrace Grace, and spends many hours a week practicing and performing with the Saintsations, the cheerleading and dance squad that performs at New Orleans Saints football games.

Eight years ago, when she discovered she was pregnant a week after her 19th birthday, Sarah had no idea what the future held. But thanks to family and friends who helped, and her own will to keep pushing forward, she has accomplished more than she ever thought possible. And she did it all with her beautiful and energetic daughter Evelie in tow.

When Evelie (Evey for short) was born in December 2009, the Saints were just over a month away from winning their first Super Bowl. Sarah couldn't have imagined then she'd ever have the opportunity to dance on Sundays in the Dome. Dancing was always her passion, but at that point she couldn't imagine herself ever performing again.

The truth is, Sarah couldn't imagine herself finishing school or being able to pursue a career that she loved. She had a loving and supportive family and circle of friends, but she still felt alone.

When Sarah was three months pregnant, the father of her child walked away. She felt alone, ashamed and depressed. "I had sweet friends who stood by my side, I had parents who helped every way they could, and I had a community that wanted to love on me and my daughter," she said. "But truly I just wanted someone to walk up to me, look me in the eyes, take my hand and say, 'Hey, I know what you're going through. I've been there, too, and I'm not going to let you do this alone.'"

She searched unsuccessfully for that kind of support for several years. Finally, when a childhood acquaintance who was pregnant and confused reached out to her, she felt God telling her: "That girl you've been looking for all these years to help young moms, you never found her because I was busy making her in you."

Sarah immediately searched for a ministry to provide emotional, practical and spiritual support for single, young women who find themselves in an unintended pregnancy. She found Embrace Grace, and with the blessing and help of her church, she started the program.

Through Embrace Grace she has the opportunity to give mothers what she never had when she was pregnant. "I feel like today's culture is very much, 'you got yourself into this mess, so get yourself out of it,' or 'you did this to yourself, so you're on your own.' But how can we say that when an innocent child's life is involved? I don't believe that children are mistakes," she said.

Sarah's Embrace Grace group meets at a church in her hometown on Wednesday evenings. Free childcare is provided, and Sarah and other moms bring their children with them. It is a place where moms can feel accepted and most importantly never alone. They also meet outside of church for dinners or special events, and their children get along great. Sarah said Evey loves the babies and considers them her siblings.

"There has been an overwhelming amount of love for the young moms and moms-to-be who have come through our doors," she said. "I am blessed by all the moms and

by the church members who have a heart for them. It's so close to my heart because for years I desired a place to feel comfortable, accepted and loved when I was pregnant and a young mom, but I never truly found one."

Sarah's pregnancy wasn't an easy time. She was still a teenager trying to go to school, and she felt the constant stares and faced the constant questions from people close to her who thought she'd be better off without a baby. "I can't say that I was pressured to have an abortion, but I do believe it was implied through subtle remarks," she said. "When I began announcing my pregnancy there were a few people in my life who said things like 'well, you need to not be pregnant' or 'you can't have that baby.'"

Abortion was never an option. But when some people close to her told her having a baby would ruin her life, Sarah did wonder if she could be a good mom with so much going against her.

She didn't find the kind of support that Embrace Grace has brought others, but people did step up to help. For instance, a family friend watched her daughter for a low price so she could return to school, and she was able to take her daughter with her to her job at a dance studio after class. And her parents always encouraged her and watched Evey during late nights at the library.

With their help, and the inspiration of her daughter, Sarah persevered. In 2013 she graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Education. Then, after much research and grant writing, she created and was hired to run the first dance program at her old high school. And this past July, after "sleepless nights, last minute papers, crying to my daughter, asking her to make herself some dinner, and telling myself it will all be worth it," she received a master's degree in education.

Sarah knows what the young mothers in her ministry go through, and she acknowledged that the negativity young parents face does not end after the child is born. She said people would seemingly stare at her longer when she was in public with her daughter, likely because they saw how young she was. This cultural stigma is what often drives young moms into abortion facilities.

"It breaks my heart to think that babies' lives are lost because of others' opinions on young, single moms," she said. "My life has been absolutely amazing, better than I ever could have imagined. And it's because I did choose life for my child, and my community chose to love us as well."

Sarah has goals set for that future, both career-wise and with her ministry. She wants a farmhouse with enough room to take in young moms who need a safe place to stay with their babies. She wants to share her and Evey's story with as many young women as possible and inspire other pregnant teens and young, single moms to choose life, and once they do to remember that just because they are taking care of another human doesn't mean they have to push all their dreams and goals aside.

"There was a lot of doubt and fear in being a young mom, but there was also a lot of motivation and determination," she said. "I began writing to my daughter when I was pregnant, telling her all the goals and dreams I had for us. This changed my way of thinking and goal setting. I didn't realize all the dreams I had until my daughter became a part of my life. She's the reason I push to live a life that I have dreamed of. I know I wouldn't be the woman I am today if I didn't have her."

What is Embrace Grace?

Amy Ford and Salina Duffy founded the non-profit ministry Embrace Grace in order to inspire churches to love on single and pregnant young women and their families.

Most churches advocate life and discourage women from getting abortions, but once a brave and courageous girl chooses life, many times the church steps away and has nothing to offer her for support. This ministry's purpose is to provide emotional, spiritual and physical support to young pregnant women, especially those facing unplanned or crisis pregnancies, and single moms.

It is easy to start a group in your church, and Embrace Grace can provide a free starter guide you can present to your pastor. Visit <https://embracegrace.com/start-a-group/> to learn how to start a group!

Sarah with some of her Embrace Grace moms





Amy and Emma



Amy and Will Blackwell and their children.



Sandy Cunningham,
Communications Director

Prayer Saved Amy Blackwell’s Daughter from Abortion

Now She's Sharing Her Story, Praying for Other Moms and Babies at Abortion Facility

Amy Blackwell was depressed. She’d been down so many wrong roads in her life, and she was tired of the continual hurt. She had a family, but she still felt alone.

Then she found out she was pregnant. She sang to her baby. She talked to her. But what should have been a joyous time in her life wasn’t. She was pro-life – always had been, but what little bit of self worth she’d once had was nothing but a distant memory. There were fights filled with abusive and angry words. She was urged to have an abortion. She felt hopeless. Finally, she snapped.

“I removed myself from myself, if that makes sense,” she said. “I had no feelings or emotions. I had to be that way because of what I was agreeing to do. I called an abortion clinic in Shreveport, Hope Medical for Women. I drove myself to my appointment.”

When she arrived at the facility and parked her car, an older man standing on the sidewalk out front caught her attention. She didn’t know it then, but in that moment, that man changed her life.

"The law says you have to have an ultrasound before an abortion can be done, so I knew I had to go twice. I went to my first appointment. I drove up into the back of building, and when I got there I looked over to my right, and there stood an older man facing the street. I saw him, but he hadn't seen me. I went to look at him again to make sure he wasn't looking, and now he was looking. Staring right at me. I put my head down in shame.

I was thinking 'I can't go in with him looking at me.' He stood there holding what looked to be a rosary. I can still see his face. I could see the heaviness in his heart for me. I know he was praying for me. I saw his mouth moving, and I felt the Holy Spirit moving inside of my walled heart. The man finally turned away, and I ran inside."

Amy shook away thoughts of the man when she opened the heavy, brown metal door and walked in. It was an old building, and she thought she smelled mold. As she waited for her name to be called, she noticed the young girl sitting beside her. Her leg was shaking. She was nervous. For a split second, Amy thought, “She’s killing her baby.” Then the emotion disappeared. She returned to shutdown mode.

"It was time. I went back, got up on the table, and this gray-haired lady did the ultrasound. I told her I couldn't look, and she said, 'Don't worry. You don't have to look.' Then they took me into a room with a TV to watch a video of the procedure, and I said with a loud voice, 'I CAN'T WATCH THAT.'" Again, she said I didn't have to watch.

I then went to talk to that so-called doctor. He asked me why I was doing this, and I kept saying, 'I can't do this.' I was a mess, and he saw that. So then he asked how many kids I had, and I told him two. His exact words were: 'Oh, two is plenty.' I'll never forget how easy it was for him to say that."

When Amy left the doctor’s office she looked to her left. A door was open down the hall, and someone was gathering up blue paper sheets that were covered in blood. A cold chill swept over her body, but once again, she shook it off. Then she proceeded to the reception desk to schedule her final appointment. When she returned, she’d have an abortion.

It was 2011. Amy lived in Mount Enterprise, Texas, and drove the hour and a half to Shreveport alone for her abortion consultation. Only her friend Jamie knew she had decided to go, and she was shocked. Amy had convinced herself this was the only option, but she didn’t want anyone else to know.

When the time came to return to Shreveport, she asked Jamie to go with her and drive her home. Jamie refused. But Amy was desperate, so she told Jamie she’d find a stranger on the side of the road to go with her. Jamie finally agreed.

"I picked her up from work, and she had pages of my baby's stages of development in her hand. For the next 20 miles she never took a breath. She reminded me that somewhere, tucked deep inside me, was the Amy who did not believe in abortion. But I was zoned out, and my hands were firmly gripping the steering wheel. 'Don't think or feel. Don't think or feel.' That's what I was telling myself."

But then, before they even made it out of Texas, Amy broke down. She pulled over and cried. She knew God had used Jamie in that moment to make her see the horror of what she was doing. She knew the man on the sidewalk had prayed for her. She knew God was answering his prayer.

It took four years for Amy to tell anyone other than Jamie she’d visited an abortion facility. Finally, early this year, she went public with her testimony, posting a video on her Facebook page titled “My Almost Abortion Story.” A few months later she was shopping in Shreveport with a friend and decided to return to the place she’d gone seven years prior to end the life of her daughter.

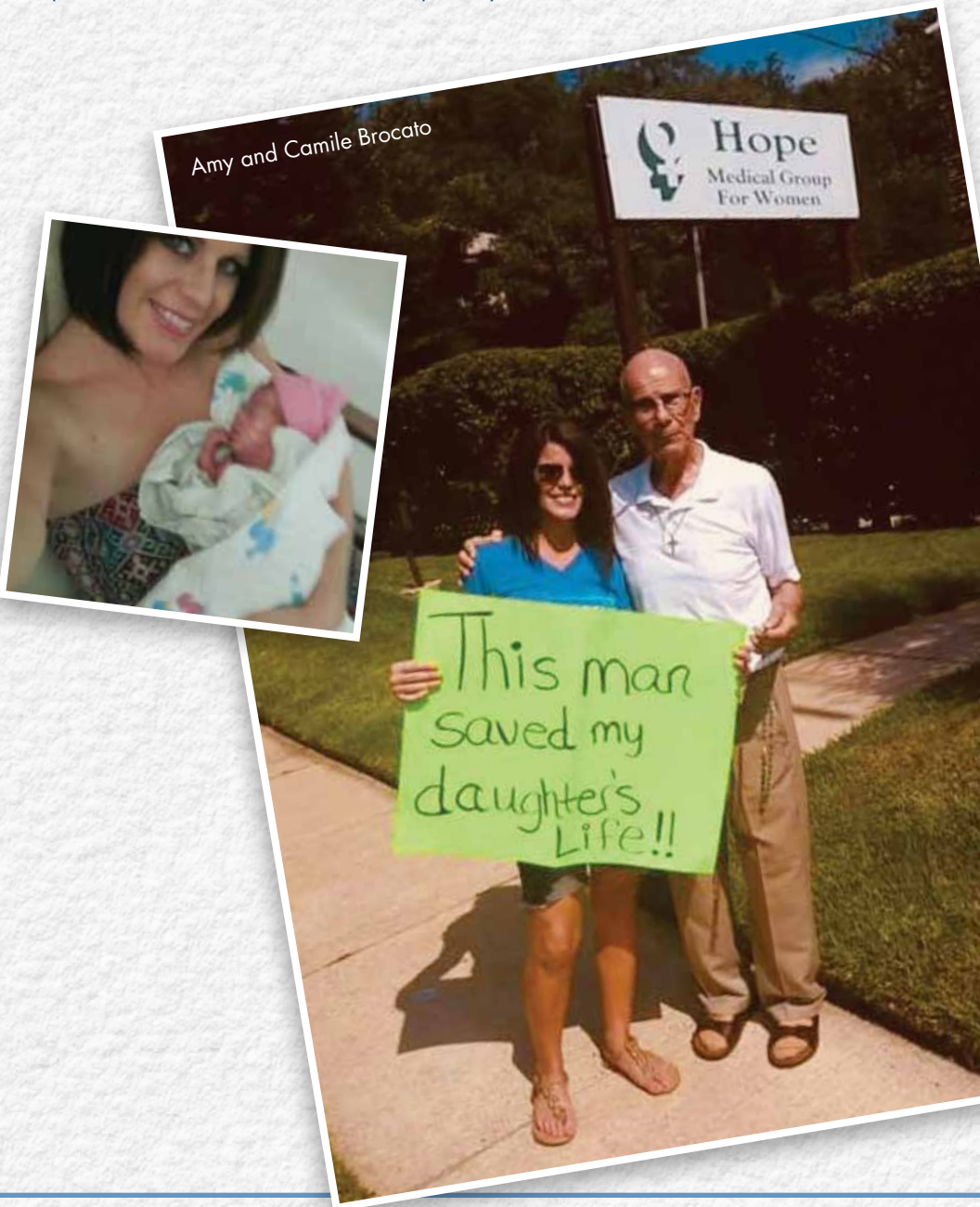
That trip to the abortion facility led Amy to connect with a group of sidewalk counselors and ultimately with Chris Davis, who watched her video and knew exactly who the man was that she saw praying for her in front of the clinic.

On July 14, “after seven years of thinking of him and loving him for his part in my daughter’s life,” Amy and 7-year-old Emma Grace met Camille Brocato in front of that abortion facility to thank him for his prayers. He also got to meet Emma Grace, a precious fruit of his labor.

Brocato prayed on that sidewalk every day except Sunday for eight years. At 90, he’s not able to do it anymore, so at least once a month Amy travels to Shreveport to take his place.

She’s healed now, and she uses her past to reach others.

"God hasn't brought me through what I've been through just to get comfortable. That's why I stand at the abortion clinic. That's why I am there for those who are like I once was, depressed, hopeless, shameful and feeling undeserving of His love. I stand there and think maybe someone will see me, and God will use my presence to work on their minds. And just maybe, one 'Emma' can be saved."



Amy and Camille Brocato



Save Your Life or the Life of a Loved One

Learn About Advance Directive
and Power of Attorney

What is an Advanced Directive?

Advanced Directives, sometimes referred to as a Living Will, are legal documents intended to clearly state your moral and ethical values with regards to medical-decision making in the situation that you are unable to communicate your own wishes. They are commonly presented to those in medical settings, especially prior to a surgery.

How Does it Effect You?

Advanced Directives were created to ensure that another person or group of people will be making medical decisions for you if you become incapacitated by an injury or an illness. While these documents can be effective when prepared properly by the patient and interpreted properly by medical staff, they can be problematic at times. Advanced Directives are brief documents that often do not take into account the complexity of various situations that may arise in medical situations. Because of this, the directives outlined may be too simplistic to apply to a challenging situation, yet the medical staff must still abide by them. In addition, the patient completing the advanced directive may not be contemplating these various situations as well. For example, a categorical denial of nutrition and hydration may not take into account the need for temporary application after an accident. Without extreme care, these documents can be interpreted to permit the withholding or withdrawal of ordinary treatment and care, including food and fluids, even when the omission will be the direct cause of death. Simply put, Advanced Directives could be the deciding factor if you are allowed to live or die.

What Do We Recommend?

First and foremost, we suggest designating an individual that you trust with medical power of attorney in the event that you are unable to communicate your own wishes. You should have thorough conversations with this individual about your needs and wishes and then mutually sign a Medical Power of Attorney declaration, which both of you should keep copies of. Documents such as Advanced Directives and Living Wills should always be secondary to an actual person who knows you well and understands your values. Contact our office or visit our website for a copy.

Still, if you feel strongly that you would like to have an Advanced Directive, we suggest National Right to Life's "Will to Live" document. This document complies with the laws of Louisiana and ensures that no one has been given the authority to approve of the direct and intentional ending of your life. This document will protect you and also your agent serving as power of attorney from being subjected to pressure to authorize destructive actions. These document can be downloaded by going to our own website at www.ProLifeLouisiana.org/medicalethics or by calling us at 1.866.463.5433.

Get a Plate and Save Unborn Babies!

Help Mothers-To-Be Get the Help They Need

Have you seen a Choose Life license plate on the road? Do you have one on your vehicle? If not, please consider making the switch. For each two-year Choose Life plate issued by the state of Louisiana, \$50 goes to agencies working with mothers who are considering adoption for their unborn babies.

The Louisiana Choose Life License Plate program, managed by Louisiana Right to Life, has distributed more than \$450,000 to pro-life pregnancy centers, adoption agencies and other family organizations since its inception in 1999.

Court challenges held up permanent sales of the plate until 2006, and grants have been awarded regularly since 2008. That year 10 agencies split \$20,000. In 2018, 21 qualifying agencies received grants totaling \$36,750.

This year's recipients are:

- A Pregnancy Center and Clinic, Lafayette
- Access Pregnancy and Referral Centers, Metairie
- Acorn Adoption Agency, Mandeville
- Beacon House Adoption Services, Baton Rouge
- Care Pregnancy Center, Shreveport
- Caring to Love Ministries, Baton Rouge
- Catholic Charities, Diocese of Baton Rouge
- Cenla Pregnancy Center, Alexandria
- Community Center for Life, Gretna
- Crisis Pregnancy Help Center of Slidell
- Crossroads Pregnancy Resource Center, Thibodaux
- Family Life Federation – Pregnancy Problem Center, Baton Rouge
- Heart of Hope – A Sanctuary for Women, Keithville
- Hope Restored Pregnancy Resource Center, Bourg
- New Life Crisis Pregnancy Center, Leesville
- Restoration House Pregnancy Resource Center, Hammond
- The Women's Center of Lafayette
- The Women's Help Center, Baton Rouge
- Volunteers of America of North Louisiana, Shreveport
- Woman's New Life Center, New Orleans
- Women's Resource Center, Natchitoches

According to the state statute, 50 percent of the money organizations receive must be used to provide for the material needs of expectant mothers considering adoption, such as clothing, housing, medical care, food, utilities and transportation. The remaining money can be used for counseling, training and providing pregnancy testing.

While the women helped with grant money are thinking about adoption, some ultimately choose to parent, thanks to the love and support they received from the agencies supported by the Choose Life grant.

Will you help these and other agencies by getting a Choose Life plate?
Visit www.ChooseLifeLA.org for more information.

From Conception Until Natural Death,
CHOOSE LIFE!





Matthew Seymour and TJ Burgess shared information about their group at the Jazzed For Life! event in New Orleans.



Organization Hopes to Give Men Entry Point into Pro-Life Movement

PULSE Students Join Together to Found National Men for Life

National Men for Life is a pro-life non-profit organization founded to create a point of entry for men to join the fight to protect and expand human rights from conception to natural death. The group believes that real men shouldn't refuse to stand up for women and children, exploit women, or run away from fatherhood.

A prominent part of its foundation is its non-partisan and non-sectarian subscription to the belief that life should be protected at all stages. The group opposes all forms of human injustice and violence happening in society, primarily focusing on opposing abortion, assisted suicide and euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, and the death penalty. Along with its opposition the group seeks to proactively address pornography and human trafficking, poverty and homelessness, racial injustice, and fatherhood.

TJ Burgess founded the organization in August after he noticed a void in the pro-life movement. The term "no uterus, no opinion" has seemingly successfully made men's roles in pro-life issues become passive, and many men have taken back seats to the crisis surrounding women and children. Burgess felt there were no prominent organizations or resources to help men more fully understand their role in the fight for human equality. He teamed up with Jacob Acosta and Matthew Seymour to start the organization as a legitimate non-profit, and Alexandra Seghers and Ashlen Sandoz were added to the board of directors to provide a continued balance of perspectives as the organization grows.

TJ and Matthew met in 2016 at a PULSE team meeting, a dinner organized monthly by Louisiana Right to Life to gather local high school and college students interested in growing in their pro-life beliefs. Through persuasion trainings, activism sessions, community-based service projects, and Immersion weekends, PULSE spawned their passion to join the fight for human equality.

TJ and Jacob worked together as youth programs interns over the summer at Louisiana Right to Life, and the internships brought them additional insight on how to plan events, coordinate activities, and lead students to be voices for life in their communities.

Some of the group's biggest challenges so far have been initial business registration, opening a bank account, and discussing some the organization's core ideals and principles. But with the guidance, support, and assistance of LARTL Executive Director Benjamin Clapper and Alex Seghers, Youth Programs Co-Director, leaders have surpassed these challenges and moved forward successfully. As high school and college students, these are such valuable skills to build!

The group has already gained the support of many popular pro-life advocates and tabled at the Archdiocese of New Orleans Respect Life meeting, Jazzed for Life! There, they provided pamphlets on the negative effects of pornography, buttons that read, "Fatherhood begins in the Womb," and blue and white chocolate candies molded into the shape of bowties.

TJ, Jacob, and Matthew hope National Men for Life becomes a prominent organization in the pro-life community and hope to establish state chapters in the next few years. In addition, they plan to begin speaking at conferences and continue to table every chance they get. Along the way, they are formulating various educational and service-oriented projects in order to enhance the mission of their organization and start being effective now.

They plan to create resources for men on various topics, including, "Fatherhood, Men: Your Role in the Family," "Men: Your Role in your Child's Life," "Men: What can you do?", and more. They will eventually begin to do presentations on these various topics as well.

National Men for Life is now looking for the moral and financial support to move forward and begin accomplishing great things for the pro-life movement. Check the group out at NationalMenforLife.org, or email info@NationalMenForLife.org, for more information and to get involved. You can also follow the group on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @NtlMenforLife.

- TJ Burgess



TJ Burgess
President, Executive Director



Jacob Acosta
Vice President



Matthew Seymour
Treasurer



Alex Seghers
Officer, Advisor



Ashlen Sandoz
Officer, Advisor

Pro-Life Persuasion Tip: Recognize **VALUE** and **BE FRIENDLY**.

It is important that as a pro-life person you be willing to have conversations with others, even those you do not know well, about the subject of abortion. How else are we going to change hearts and minds if we don't share the truth of life?

But in that desire, we often forget that those who disagree with us, from the stridently pro-abortion leader to the apathetic family member, are as valuable as the unborn child.

No matter who they are, we must be friendly when having a discussion if we are able to change the person's heart and mind.

Trust us, by remaining calm and respectful, you are bound to have a more productive conversation and have a great chance of changing someone's mind. How we communicate our message is just as important as the message itself!

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SOUTH

BATON ROUGE
SAT., JAN. 26, 2019 | 10AM

NORTHWEST

BOSSIER/SHREVEPORT
SAT., JAN. 26, 2019 | 10AM

NORTHEAST

MONROE/WEST MONROE
SUN, JAN. 27, 2019 | 2PM

CENLA

PINEVILLE/ALEXANDRIA
SAT., FEB. 2, 2019 | 10AM

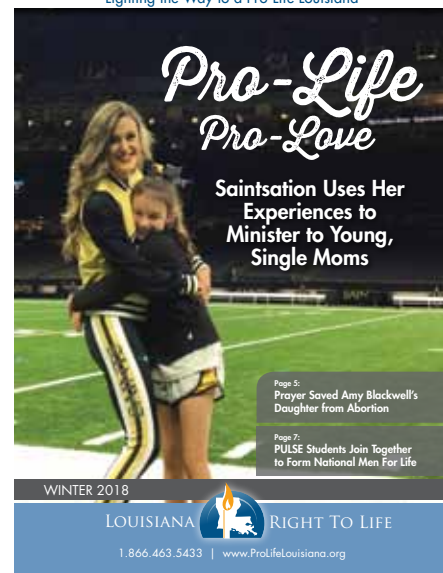


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Lighting the Way to a Pro-Life Louisiana



The Luminary is a publication of Louisiana Right to Life, the state's premier pro-life organization founded in 1970 to restore the right to life in Louisiana through education, legislation, service, and activism. Louisiana Right to Life is a non-partisan and non-sectarian organization.

Currently running three times a year, *The Luminary* is received by our Luminary Members, Churches and Groups. To order additional copies, call or email us at info@prolifelouisiana.org

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