

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. Congratulations, 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 Soiree 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 Bienvenu 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.