



Best Friends  
Alex and Barbara

# LAKESHORE LIFE NEWS

## Casey Miller Wins Pro-Life Oratory Contest



Casey Miller was a repeat winner of the Tri-Cities Right to Life High School Pro-Life Oratory Contest held March 29 at First Reformed Church in Grand Haven.

Also competing in the 22nd annual contest was Katelyn DePrekel, who placed second. Both contestants are juniors at Grand Haven High School and members of St. Patrick's Church.



Miller's message that abortion is a choice that leads to pain and sadness was supported by studies of post-abortive women. She ended with an invitation for all to speak up for life. DePrekel's speech also focused on the reality that abortion hurts women and highlighted the positive outcome of adoption, using her own family as an example.



Left to Right: Casey Miller gives her presentation. Katelyn DePrekel and Casey Miller relax after the competition. The judges evaluate the competitors.

Five local residents served as judges of the competition: Fr. Vince O'Malley, Director of St. Lazare's Retreat Center; Pastor Doug Bytwerk, Spring Lake Baptist Church; Mary Cassleman, Business Manager of St. Mary's Catholic Church; Vinka Soljan, former teacher; and Becky Eminger, Director of Lakeshore Pregnancy Center.

## Save the Date for Annual Focus on Life Dinner



Mary VerWys, Director of Garden of Hope Ministries, will be the keynote speaker of this year's Focus on Life Dinner to benefit Tri-Cities Right to Life and Right to Life of Michigan.

As a sidewalk counselor for over 20 years, VerWys stands outside of the abortion clinics in Grand Rapids and

attempts to change the hearts and minds of those going inside, all in an effort to rescue women, men, and babies from the irreversible decision of abortion. VerWys is the author of *Wednesday Mourning*, a journal of the grace of God at work outside of abortion clinics.

The Focus on Life Dinner will be Tuesday, October 25, at Spring Lake Country Club.

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## The President's Prayer

"I am pro-life." Are you ever reluctant to make this statement publicly? You know in your heart you are right but are afraid of someone else's reaction. Guess what — you are in the majority!

Several national polls have discovered the same result, with even Gallup calling the pro-life position "the new normal," stating that this is "a real change in public opinion." As recently as 1995, Gallup found a 56-33 split in favor of the pro-abortion position, so these latest findings represent a major shift in public opinion. This is great news and demonstrates that we are winning the hearts and minds of our fellow citizens!

There are many reasons for our success, beginning with prayer and ending with prayer. And in between there is educational outreach, enhanced ultrasound technology, courageous testimonies of post-abortive women, pro-life legislation,

availability of pregnancy resource centers, *40 Days for Life* prayer campaigns, exposés of Planned Parenthood, to name just a few successful initiatives.

### FIND US ON FACEBOOK

*We now have a Facebook page!*

*Search for Tri-Cities Right to Life and "like" us.*

*View photo albums from events, be notified of upcoming events, and post comments to share with other pro-life people in the tri-cities area.*

Lord, thank you for this encouraging news as we rebuild a Culture of Life. Embolden us to share our convictions so that all may come to revere Your precious gift of Life!

Have a blessed summer,

Lisa Peters  
President

## Lakeshore Life Salutes ... Alex and Barbara



*Left to right:* Alex and Barbara are a blessing to the parishioners of St. Patrick's Parish.

Those who frequent the Family Center at St. Patrick's Church in Grand Haven will recognize the smiling faces of Alex Thelen and Barbara Bingham. Alex and Barbara volunteer for both the CREW middle

school and LifeTeen high school youth programs. Their involvement is a great blessing to all involved.

According to the National Down Syndrome Society, there are more than 400,000 people living with Down Syndrome in the United States. Life expectancy has increased dramatically in recent decades — from 25 years in 1983 to over 60 years today.

Alex, 21, and Barbara, 25, have been best friends for more than 17 years. Tri-Cities Right to Life is grateful that they agreed to be "cover girls" for this issue.

## Upcoming Events

### ♥ LifeWalk 2011

Saturday, June 11, 8:30 a.m.  
Central Park in Grand Haven  
[www.lpccenters.com](http://www.lpccenters.com) • 616-842-7510  
Help raise money at this fun, family-friendly event to benefit Lakeshore Pregnancy Center.

### ♥ Moms and Babies Station

Saturday, August 6  
Lakeshore Pregnancy Center  
700 Washington Ave., Grand Haven  
Refreshments will be available for moms who need to take a break during the Coast Guard Parade.

### ♥ RTL of MI Annual Conference

Saturday, September 24  
Lansing  
Register at [www.rtl.org](http://www.rtl.org)  
Attend the 38th annual conference with keynote speaker Phill Kline, former Kansas Attorney General.

### ♥ 40 Days for Life

September 28 — November 6  
Heritage Abortion Clinic  
320 East Fulton Street, Grand Rapids  
[www.40daysforlife.com/grandrapids](http://www.40daysforlife.com/grandrapids)  
Join this peaceful vigil and pray to end abortion in front of West Michigan's busiest abortion clinic.

### ♥ Focus on Life Dinner

Tuesday, October 25, 6:00 p.m.  
Spring Lake Country Club  
17496 N. Fruitport Road, Spring Lake  
Mingle with local pro-life people at this annual fundraiser. Cost: \$35.

### ♥ Pray to End Abortion

Saturdays, 8:45 a.m.  
Women's Medical Services  
863 E. Apple Avenue, Muskegon  
Pray the rosary together in front of Muskegon's abortion clinic.

### ♥ Tri-Cities Right to Life Meetings

2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m.  
St. Patrick's Family Center  
920 Fulton Street, Grand Haven  
Meetings are open to the public.

## Local Students Attend Right to Life of Michigan's Legislative Day



*Left to Right:* Ryan Richert, Sam Leidel, Attorney General Bill Schuette, Anne Leidel, and Mary Richert give a thumbs up to pro-life legislation.



*Left to Right Front Row:* Ryan Richert, Sam Leidel, Anne Leidel, and Mary Richert. *Back Row:* Lisa Peters, Senator Arlan Meekhof, and Representative Amanda Price.

A group of area students accompanied Tri-Cities Right to Life Board Members Peggy Boismier and Lisa Peters to Right to Life of Michigan's Annual Legislative Day in Lansing.

They joined almost 400 others from across the state to learn about key pro-life initiatives for the current legislative session, and then had the opportunity to discuss pro-life issues

over lunch with State Senator Arlan Meekhof and Representative Amanda Price.

Right to Life of Michigan has developed more than 20 bills to set limits on abortion, secure conscience rights, and promote a pro-life culture.

Current bills supported by Right to Life of Michigan include Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, co-sponsored by

Meekhof, Abortion Insurance Opt-Out, Dignified Disposition of Human Fetal Remains, Pre-abortion Ultrasound Requirement, Parental Consent Law Amendment, and Ban on Research Using Aborted Fetal Tissue.

For more information on pending state legislation to protect vulnerable members of the human family, visit [rtl.org/legislation/pendingstate](http://rtl.org/legislation/pendingstate).

## Alternative Pro-Life Giving Options

Pro-life people are very generous. Many donate to organizations that search for cures to debilitating diseases. Unfortunately, donations to some organizations can end up supporting research that destroys live human embryos or could end up in the hands of Planned Parenthood, America's foremost provider and promoter of abortion.

Fortunately, there are some organizations using donations in ways that respect the sanctity of all human life. Here are some organizations of which we are aware:

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Parkinson's Disease  
Thomas Hartman Foundation  
72 West Main Street  
East Islip, New York 11730  
[www.hartmanfoundation.org](http://www.hartmanfoundation.org)

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Breast Cancer Prevention Institute  
9 Vassar Street  
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601  
[www.bcpinstitute.org](http://www.bcpinstitute.org)

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Diabetes  
The Iacocca Family Foundation  
867 Boylston Street, 6th Floor  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116  
[www.iacoccafoundation.org](http://www.iacoccafoundation.org)

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Spinal Cord Injury  
Dr. Jean Peduzzi Nelson  
8137 Scott Hall School of Medicine  
Wayne State University  
540 E. Canfield Avenue  
Detroit, Michigan 48201  
[www.med.wayne.edu/anatomy](http://www.med.wayne.edu/anatomy)

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Auto-Immune Disorders  
Richard Burt, M.D.  
Northwestern University  
Feinberg School of Medicine  
To contribute, e-mail Kate Quigley at [k-quigley@northwestern.edu](mailto:k-quigley@northwestern.edu)

For more information visit [www.stemcellresearchcures.com](http://www.stemcellresearchcures.com).

Tri-Cities Right to Life  
Post Office Box 943  
Grand Haven, MI 49417

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See story page three ...



**~ YES, I WANT TO HELP SAVE LIVES! ~**

**Please renew my membership to Tri-Cities Right to Life and Right to Life of Michigan.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Options:**

\$10 Student / Senior Citizen

\$15 Individual

\$20 Family

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation

As a member, you will receive Tri-Cities Right to Life and Right to Life of Michigan newsletters.  
Your membership also ensures that Tri-Cities Right to Life remains a visible presence in our area.

**Make Your Check Payable To Tri-Cities Right to Life  
P.O. Box 943, Grand Haven, MI 49417**

*Your contributions to Tri-Cities Right to Life are not tax deductible.*

## Lakeshore Life News

**A Publication of  
Tri-Cities Right to Life**

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## Our Board

### President

Lisa Peters

### Vice President

Ev Fennema

### Secretary

Peggy Boismier

### Treasurer

Nellie Kuzma

### Members at Large

Laura Alexandria,  
Cheri TerHaar, Vicki Tober

## Our Mission

- To raise public awareness about the issues of abortion, embryo destructive research, euthanasia, and assisted suicide.
- To be a community resource for area churches, schools, and individuals about pro-life issues.
- To educate legislators and to promote pro-life legislation at the state and federal levels by grassroots lobbying.
- To support pro-life candidates for public office as endorsed by Right to Life of Michigan's political action committee.