



# LAKESHORE LIFE NEWS

Declan Curtis  
Born November 2011

## Focus on Life Dinner Draws Record Crowd



Left to Right: Sen. Arlan Meekhof, Casey Miller and Mary Verwys at the Focus on Life benefit dinner at the Spring Lake Country Club.

Tri-Cities Right to Life hosted its annual Focus on Life benefit dinner at the Spring Lake Country Club on Tuesday, October 25. More than 150 people were in attendance.

Lisa Peters, president, acknowledged Sen. Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive) for being influential in passing the Partial Birth Abortion Ban, which was

signed into law by Gov. Rick Snyder on October 11. The law was a great achievement for dedicated prolife people in Michigan who fought for 15 years to get it passed.

The keynote speaker was Mary Verwys of Grand Rapids. She has been a sidewalk counselor for more than 20 years. She reaches out to

women entering or leaving abortion clinics to offer prolife alternatives and emotional support.

Verwys is the director of Garden of Hope Ministries and has written the book "Wednesday Mourning," which highlights the sadness and hope that she has seen through this ministry. *(continued page 3)*

## Second Annual Memorial Walk for the Unborn



Walkers braved the cold winter weather in 2011 in the first Memorial Walk for the Unborn sponsored by Tri-Cities Right to Life.

The second annual Memorial Walk for the Unborn will be held on Saturday, January 21, at 10:00 a.m. Starting at First Reformed Church in downtown Grand Haven, the walk will proceed to St. Patrick's Church where an interfaith prayer service will be held.

All are welcome to remember and honor the 52,000,000+ lives lost since abortion became legal in 1973.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Prayer	2
Upcoming Events	2
Billboard Campaign	2
Focus on Life Dinner	3
H.S. Oratory Contest	3
Shout Out to ...	3
Membership Form	4

## The President's Prayer

This month marks the 39th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision. Thus, we begin the 40th year of legalized abortion in the United States. The death toll is staggering — 52 million unborn babies' lives lost to abortion.

Say that out loud: fifty-two million.

There is a biblical analogy as our nation has wandered, lost in this wilderness, for almost forty years.

But our movement, paralleling similar grassroots efforts in history, is strengthening year by year. For evidence of the growing strength, youth, and enthusiasm of the prolife movement, look for news reports of the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., on January 23 (you'll have to search alternative media sources) where hundreds of thousands will assemble.

Closer to home, please join us in downtown Grand Haven for the annual Memorial Walk for the Unborn on January 21, which includes a very moving interfaith prayer service.

### 2012 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

*Please complete and return the enclosed membership form.*

*Your membership makes this newsletter and local prolife activities possible.*

And finally, would you consider renewing your membership in Tri-Cities Right to Life? Please return the enclosed form and support our local prolife efforts, including the publication of this newsletter. Thank you!

God bless you for your commitment to life. Lisa Peters, President

## Prolife Billboard Campaign



Local prolife billboards were erected in January to commemorate 39 years of legalized abortion.

Tri-Cities Right to Life is sponsoring two billboards for the month of January to promote a prolife message during the 39th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion-on-demand in all 50 states.

To make a donation, please e-mail [info@lakeshoreprolife.org](mailto:info@lakeshoreprolife.org).

The names of the billboard sponsors will be listed on our website at [www.lakeshoreprolife.org](http://www.lakeshoreprolife.org) and included in next quarter's newsletter.

## Upcoming Events

### ♥ Memorial Walk for the Unborn

Saturday, January 21, 10:00 a.m.

First Reformed Church

301 Washington Ave., Grand Haven

All are welcome to participate in this walk to commemorate the 39th anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Prayer service at St. Patrick's Church begins at 10:30 a.m.

### ♥ LPC Open House

Monday, February 27, 5:30 p.m.

Lakeshore Pregnancy Center

700 Washington Ave., Grand Haven

Tour the center, listen to testimonies, and hear how Lakeshore Pregnancy Center is impacting the community.

### ♥ High School Oratory Contest

Monday, February 27, 7:00 p.m.

First Reformed Church

301 Washington Ave., Grand Haven

Contact: [info@lakeshoreprolife.org](mailto:info@lakeshoreprolife.org)

High school students are encouraged to enter this prolife oratory contest. Entry forms are due by February 13.

### ♥ Prolife Youth Award

Sponsor: Right to Life of Michigan

Contact: [info@lakeshoreprolife.org](mailto:info@lakeshoreprolife.org)

High school seniors may compete for a \$300 scholarship. Students must complete an application and write an essay on their prolife involvement. Applications are due by April 20.

### ♥ Pray to End Abortion

Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.

Women's Medical Services

863 E. Apple Avenue, Muskegon

Pray the rosary together in front of Muskegon's abortion clinic. Pray for the end of abortion and for the conversion of abortion workers.

### ♥ 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.

## Focus on Life Dinner Draws Record Crowd



Grand Haven High School senior Casey Miller reprised the speech with which she won the 2011 Tri-Cities Right to Life Prolife Oratory Contest. Her speech focused on the lifetime of physical pain and sadness that results when a woman chooses to end her pregnancy by abortion.

Local students Mary Richert, Sam and Anne Leidel, and Elizabeth Yanoschik provided lovely classical music at the start of the evening.

The annual benefit dinner is a fundraiser to help the Right to Life of Michigan Education Fund. The money raised is used to sponsor prolife television ads, provide speakers for events, sponsor youth



*Top Left to Right:* Talented musicians perform at the dinner; Fr. Bill Langlois and Lisa Peters talk during the reception; Prolife people mingle before the program begins.

activities, maintain a 24-hour hotline for women facing a crisis pregnancy, maintain an online presence through a website, provide educational materials, and offer outreach programs to minorities.

## H.S. Oratory Contest

Tri-Cities Right to Life will sponsor an Oratory Contest, which is open to all prolife high school students in Grand Haven, Spring Lake, and Ferrysburg. Contestants will give a five to seven minute speech in front of a panel of judges on one of several prolife topics: abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, or human cloning.

This competition is a great opportunity for young people to gain experience in public speaking and in defending the prolife position.

The first place contestant will win \$100 and will compete in the statewide High School Oratory Contest on Saturday, May 19.

To register for the contest, please contact [info@lakeshoreprolife.org](mailto:info@lakeshoreprolife.org) for an application form.

The deadline for applications is Monday, February 13. The local contest will be held Monday, February 27, at First Reformed Church in Grand Haven.

## Shout Out to ... the Knights of Columbus Council 2975



In full regalia, Knight Bill Bernesser enters the banquet room at the Focus on Life dinner.

The Knights of Columbus is an organization that is founded on four principles: charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. Through their Culture of Life program they work to educate,

pray, promote prolife legislation, and make contributions to prolife groups.

Locally, Council 2975 has donated the prize money for the Tri-Cities Right to Life High School Oratory Contest. Every year the Council supports the Focus on Life dinner where members present the colors and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Council sponsored a screening of "Blood Money: The Business of Abortion," a documentary presenting the stark truth about the abortion industry in America and its devastating effects on women. The

film is narrated by Dr. Alveda King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, and reveals the history of lies and cover-ups that led to the legalization of abortion in this country.

Council 2975 has also participated in the "40 Days for Life" campaign in Grand Rapids. These dedicated men pray at the vigil site in front of the abortion clinic during the night hours when it is often difficult for other people to be present.

The Knights of Columbus are unwavering in their defense of the unborn and in their support for life.

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
GRAND HAVEN, MI  
Permit No. 185**

Ultrasound baby from Fall Issue is born!  
See photo page one ...



**~ YES, I WANT TO HELP SAVE LIVES IN THE NEW YEAR! ~**

**Please renew my membership for 2012 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

### Mail

Post Office Box 943  
Grand Haven, MI 49417

### Phone

248-219-0182

### E-mail

info@lakeshoreprolife.org

### Website

www.lakeshoreprolife.org

### Facebook

facebook.com/LakeshoreProLife

## Our Board

### President

Lisa Peters

### Vice President

Laura Alexandria

### Secretary

Peggy Boismier

### Treasurer

Cheri TerHaar

### Members at Large

Patti Bernesser  
Ev Fennema, 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.