

CONNECTOR



LIFE ISSUES INSTITUTE, INC.
SERVING THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF THE PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT

Pro-Lifers Seize Momentum

By: Heather Gims

It's hard to believe that one year ago, we were in the midst of a highly controversial and heated presidential race. The 2012 election ushered in a second term for Barack Obama, the most pro-abortion president in our nation's history. Needless to say, the results were discouraging to the pro-life cause. Obamacare loomed in the future with its pro-abortion policies and anti-life measures for the elderly and chronically ill. It was clear that Planned Parenthood would once again have an ally in the White House to help secure over a half-billion dollars in taxpayer funding. In fact, Obama became the first sitting president to speak at a Planned Parenthood event. In his speech, he stated, "Planned Parenthood is not going anywhere." He also proclaimed, "God bless Planned Parenthood." There's no question where his loyalties lie. In the shadow of the 40th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the unfortunate truth was we would not see that deadly ruling overturned under President Obama. It appeared that pro-abortion advocates had all the right conditions in their favor.

However, appearances can be deceiving.

Their post-election celebrations were soon cut short. When the gruesome case of late-term abortionist, Kermit Gosnell emerged, it served as a catalyst exposing atrocities that put the entire abortion industry on trial. Inside this legal abortion mill, women were subjected to ghastly "back-alley" conditions, with unsanitary facilities, filthy and broken equipment

and body parts from aborted babies kept throughout the building. Gosnell was convicted of first degree murder in the deaths of three babies by severing their spines following botched abortions. He was also found guilty of involuntary manslaughter in the death of abortion patient, Karnamaya Mongar. His convictions forced pro-abortion advocates to try to defend the indefensible. They wanted Gosnell to be treated as an anomaly and this issue of public opinion on abortion to go away. But the revelations of this trial exposed that squalid abortion mills and illegal late-term abortions are more common than people think.

After the verdict, Planned Parenthood was backed into a corner and had to issue a statement, "This case has made clear that we must have and enforce laws that protect access to safe and legal abortion, and we must reject misguided laws that would limit women's options and force them to seek treatment from criminals like Kermit Gosnell." Although Planned Parenthood tried to separate itself from Gosnell, it faced its own allegations of negligent and fraudulent practices.

In Wilmington, Delaware, a Planned Parenthood facility sent five women to the hospital following botched abortions in just a five-week time period. Former abortion workers, Jayne Mitchell-Werbrich and Joyce Vasikonis described, "a meat-market style of assembly-line abortions where the abortionist refused to wear gloves, surgical instruments were reused without being cleaned, and 'bloody

drainage' remained on abortion tables between procedures exposing women to blood-borne diseases." This development raised an important concern—abortion-giant Planned Parenthood is supposed to represent the highest degree of abortion service providers, yet they're operating with corrupt practices and substandard care. By exposing these violations of care, Planned Parenthood is forced to do damage control. And that's not the kind of publicity Planned Parenthood wants.

Planned Parenthood is also feeling the pressure legally. Lawsuits against the abortion giant are popping up across the country. These cases not only threaten Planned Parenthood's public reputation, they are costing them financially. In a suit against Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast, former employee Karen Reynolds uncovered expansive and detailed Medicaid fraud through improper billing practices. The Texas Attorney General's Office determined Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast must repay \$4.3 million to resolve the Medicaid fraud issue. Similar lawsuits are also pending in Iowa and Washington. This pattern of fraud hasn't gone unnoticed by authorities. The Government Accountability Office announced in August that it would conduct an investigation of Planned Parenthood. In the last fiscal year, Planned Parenthood received a record \$542 million



THE GRASSROOTS ARE GAINING GROUND

LIFE ISSUES
Today



By: J.C. Willke, MD

Slowly, step-by-step, we are making progress in the pro-life movement nationally, and this is in spite of a deeply dedicated pro-abortion president. With him at the helm, having the power to veto, we can be sure that in the next three-and-a-half years we will not be able to pass any significant pro-life legislation. However, this does not prevent activity at the state level—and the states are busy.

The states are grassroots and reflect rather accurately the beliefs and sentiments of grassroots people. Legislation getting the most attention is that which stops abortion after 20 weeks. This is half-way through a 40-week pregnancy, measuring age from the first day of the last menstrual period.

In polls regarding a bill that protects babies at the half-way mark of pregnancy, you will find an intriguing answer. As of now, two-thirds of women are in favor of legislation to protect developing babies. Although abortion is touted as a women's rights issue, women's support of restrictions is at a higher rate than the percentage of men. We must consider that this is at the half-way mark, a continuing liability, but it is a giant step from ten or twenty years ago.

According to the CDC abortion surveillance report of 2009 (the latest statistics available), almost 9% of abortions take place at 14 weeks or later. It should be noted that the CDC figure (800,000) is known to be low because it relies only upon reported numbers from states. Some, such as California, are not required to report this statistic. It is generally accepted that 1.2 million abortions are performed each year. Translated into actual numbers, this means that of the 1,200,000 estimated abortions, over 108,000 are aborted at 14 weeks or later.

But what is so unusual about this? Abortion is legal in many countries in the world, including most of Western Europe. Oh, not so fast—across the world the US is only one of four countries that allow abortions after the half-way mark. Even European countries forbid abortion after the 20-week mark.

Recently, we have been presented with two frightening, horrible examples of what the 20-plus-week laws have allowed. One is in Pennsylvania. This was abortionist Gosnell who became a notorious figure for the dreadful crimes committed at his late-term slaughter house. Inhumane and disturbing acts against women and babies were revealed in testimony at his trial earlier this year. In the end, the jury found him guilty. He was convicted of murdering babies born alive following botched late-term abortions (as well as the death of a woman patient) and sentenced to life in prison.

An even more egregious example has surfaced in south Texas. Abortionist Douglas Karpen has been doing late-term abortions down there for years. We now have eyewitness accounts from those who worked at his facility, describing some pretty horrible stuff. The one that shocked even me was an abortion of a late-term baby where Karpen took the newborn infant and simply twisted the baby's head off of her body. He did this on more than one occasion. This of course is murder, plain and simple. His actions have been revealed and documented by employees who worked with him in this slaughter house. He is under investigation and will hopefully be prosecuted. Not surprising, there has been significant movement in the state of Texas with the passage of a bill to protect babies' lives during the second half of pregnancy.

As a physician who during my professional career delivered many babies,

I take great comfort in seeing this substantive progress toward ending abortion. I fully understand that it falls well short of our ultimate goal of protecting all innocent human life from womb to tomb. But we're succeeding in changing the heart of a nation. The other side realizes this and it terrifies them; and we're seeing evidence of it by their increasing radical behavior.

So the fight continues. As more and more extraordinary tragic cases are brought to light, public opinion is moving steadily in the direction of at least protecting the unborn during the second half of pregnancy. So, while our deeply dedicated pro-abortion president will not stop abortion-on-demand, nevertheless our states are free to do so to a limited degree. And increasingly, partly because of such tragedies as above, we are seeing a move in many of the states to at least protect babies at the half-way mark. It probably won't happen in New York; it probably won't happen in California; but it could very well happen in a great many other states. Let's hope this trend continues. 🌀



dollars in federal taxpayer funding. Now, through this federal investigation, we're hopeful they will be held accountable for how those dollars were spent. The findings could result in the passage of new legislation that would prevent funding from going to organizations that perform abortions. We should be encouraged; this is a pivotal time that may ultimately lead to the defunding

permit abortions after 20 weeks—Canada, China, North Korea and the United States. (I encourage you to read Dr. J.C. Willke's perspective in his column opposite this page.) In an effort to protect these unborn children, a bill was introduced in Congress called the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*. While the measure passed in the House, it's been impeded by the Senate and would face certain veto from President Obama. This piece of legislation was based upon the scientifically proven evidence that babies at that stage of development experience pain. (Although, research indicates babies can actually feel pain far earlier than

permit abortions after 20 weeks—Canada, China, North Korea and the United States. (I encourage you to read Dr. J.C. Willke's perspective in his column opposite this page.) In an effort to protect these unborn children, a bill was introduced in Congress called the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*. While the measure passed in the House, it's been impeded by the Senate and would face certain veto from President Obama. This piece of legislation was based upon the scientifically proven evidence that babies at that stage of development experience pain. (Although, research indicates babies can actually feel pain far earlier than

permitted and enacted their own fetal-pain abortion bans. This summer, the state of Texas took center stage with the passage of its bill banning abortions after 20 weeks. This was a hard-fought battle that exposed the worst in pro-abortion behavior. In the first session, after an 11-hour filibuster attempt failed, chaos broke out in the capitol gallery. The loud chanting mob was encouraged by none other than Planned Parenthood's president, Cecile Richards, who tweeted the message of "Make some noise—louder!" It was utter lawlessness, even escalating into violence. When a second special session was held, their efforts reached extreme desperation. In order to ensure a large and outspoken presence, Planned Parenthood decided to pay demonstrators. As much as \$1,300 to \$2,200 per month was offered for individuals willing to "expand global reproductive rights." Allegedly, Planned Parenthood also aligned with Occupy and the Socialist party in order to have bodies present to represent their cause. The result was radical and profane behavior from obscene signage to shouting "Hail Satan!" At least 12 protestors were arrested for dangerous and unlawful behavior. This stunt was an eye-opener for many, as it publicly showcased the extremism of Planned Parenthood and its cohorts.

five months.) According to University of Toronto neurologist, Dr. Paul Ranalli, the unborn child has more pain receptors per square inch and does not possess the pain suppressing mechanisms that infants and adults have. Consequently, a child aborted at 20 weeks is not only capable of feeling pain, but the experience is more excruciating than a child born at term or an adult. Unwilling to face the facts, abortion proponents deny the research and call it "insufficient evidence." The "pro-choice" position is not on the side of science and as a result, their base is weakening.

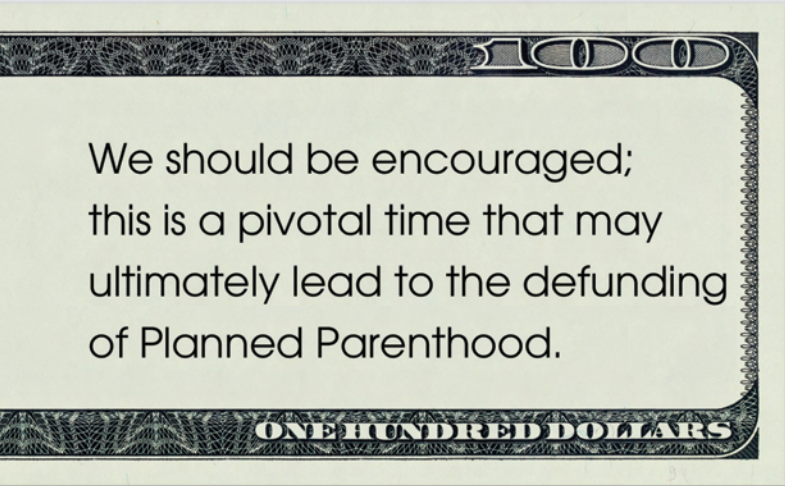
of Planned Parenthood.

In the meantime, states have taken the lead on forging new pro-life legislation. More pro-life laws have been passed and enacted in the past two years than in any other time period since *Roe v. Wade*. In fact, it's projected that 2013 is on pace to be a record-breaking year. Pro-life legislation is working. For example, the state of Nebraska reported that abortion rates fell to a 20-year low as pro-life laws took effect. Many of the laws are ensuring abortion facilities meet basic clinical standards. Others have required abortionists to have admitting privileges at local hospitals. These are measures that simply ensure quality of care, yet they are met with objections by pro-aborts. The truth is being exposed—many of these abortion facilities would rather close than take the precautions necessary to ensure their practice meets the basic health standards.

The evidence is building that, while abortion activists claim to be advocates of women's health, their actions reveal otherwise. Consistently, they'll choose to protect their abortion business over the lives of women and children. Their defense of late-term abortion has become more extreme. Only four countries in the world

Time and again, when challenged, pro-abortion advocates have proven to be disorderly, disjointed and desperate. In Michigan, pro-lifer Rebecca Kiessling shared with lawmakers how she was a child conceived in rape. As she advocated for pro-life measures, the pro-abortion legisla-

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We should be encouraged; this is a pivotal time that may ultimately lead to the defunding of Planned Parenthood.

While they continue to cling to the rhetoric that this is an issue of restricting women's rights, women's voices are increasingly pro-life. Polls consistently report that the majority support pro-life laws limiting abortion. One national poll reported that over 60-percent of women are in favor of restricting abortion after 20 weeks. In fact, women are more likely than men to approve these types of protections. The perception that women are supportive of abortion is a myth. As the disconnection between pro-abortion advocates and women grows, it can only further advance the pro-life cause.

Many states have taken the initia-



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FACING LIFE HEAD-ON EARNS THIRD EMMY®



Host, Brad Mattes, accepts the award.

The weekly, pro-life TV program, *Facing Life Head-On* was recently recognized with its third Regional Emmy® Award. The show received two nominations for excellence in Interview and Discussion Programs. This achievement is a testimony to the high quality, life-affirming programming the show produces.

The winning program entitled, *Teens Making Healthy Choices* features Healthy Visions, an organization that is breaking down barriers and helping teens face challenging issues including dating, sex and self-image. In this moving episode, several students share how Healthy Visions impacted, and in some cases even saved, their lives.

Host and executive producer, Brad Mattes accepted the award by honoring the success of Healthy Visions. He said, "There's no greater reward than the knowledge that young men and women are rejecting society's stereotypes and instead being empowered to make better life decisions." 🌀



Healthy Visions' Founder and Director, Carole Adlard with her husband, Ed.



Brad Mattes joined by Field Producer, Heather Gims and Editor, Dylan Cahall.



Chloe Kondrich from the Emmy nominated program, *Field of Miracles*.



Celebrating the win with Healthy Visions.



Facing Life Head-On received two Emmy® nominations at the 49th Annual Ohio Valley Regional Emmy® Awards ceremony.



The Healthy Visions team, Ed and Carole Adlard and Russell and Millie Proctor.

YOU CAN WATCH OUR EMMY WINNING PROGRAM
AND PURCHASE EPISODES AT...WWW.FACINGLIFE.TV



"BRO-CHOICE" BREAKS DOWN

Abortion advocates have long clung to the phrase “women’s rights” to monopolize abortion as only a women’s issue. Men’s perspectives on abortion have been largely discounted or even silenced. However, now those on the pro-abortion side have abandoned that philosophy in favor of a new catchphrase, “bro-choice.”

The bro-choice movement is a campaign started by the pro-abortion advocacy group, Choice USA. Its goal is to mobilize men to take a stand and “disrupt the dominant narrative that [abortion] is exclusively a ‘women’s issue.’” The movement calls on men to advocate for policy change (push the abortion agenda); challenge media messages (make abortion a men’s issue too) and change campus culture (encourage other men to be bro-choice). The campaign was widely embraced by NARAL, Planned Parenthood and other pro-abortion groups. In an article published by the abortion-friendly RH Reality Check, bro-choicer, Andrew Jenkins explains how enlisting men is essential for the future of “reproductive rights.” He emphasizes that this isn’t about “saving our mothers, sisters and daughters.” No, he considers that to be sexist. Instead, he insists that this is a matter of understanding men’s own self-interest. That selfish motivation opened the floodgates for what came next.

Men in favor of abortion embraced the bro-choice movement. And they certainly were outspoken about their “self-interests.” Bro-choice proved to become a gathering of crude and immature males only concerned with their ability to have casual sex without the consequence of becoming a parent.

Pro-abort blogger, Ben Sherman was troubled by the abortion restrictions enacted in his state of Texas. Petitioning

to other men, he wrote, “Your sex life is at stake. Can you think of anything that kills the vibe faster than a woman fearing a back-alley abortion? Don’t be surprised if casual sex outside of relationships becomes far more difficult to come by.”

On the website Upworthy, writer, Rollie Williams praises Oregon as “the best state to have sex in” due to its nearly nonexistent abortion restrictions. “Oregon is the only state that has completely closed its borders to abortion restrictions. Pretty cool, Oregon,” he remarks. He also criticizes Oklahoma for having the most abortion restrictions. His posting was originally titled, *Why Oregon Just Became the Best State to Have Sex In*, however the title has since been changed, most likely in an attempt to disguise his true motives.

Some of the most exploitive content comes from a blogger known only as “bacon” on the derogatory website Return-ofKings.com. He admits to having paid for more than one abortion in a piece called, *How to Convince a Girl to Get an Abortion*. His first approach is for the scenario where there’s been a relationship longer than a one-night stand. He patronizes the woman with these remarks: “tell her you want her to be the mother of your children one day” (even if that’s not true) and “if she has the abortion now, you will be able to plan your lives together so that everything is perfect.” Then, after she agrees and has the abortion, he blatantly says, “Dump her.” He calls it the “Hail Mary” because it’s difficult to execute.

His second technique, he deems “The A-Hole Method.” He suggests to, “channel your inner cold, unforgiving, unapologetic a-hole nature” and “tell her in no uncertain terms that you will not be a father to this child.” His next step is to “get

your car keys and drive her to the abortion clinic, pay for it and have her take care of it so you can both move on with your lives.”

His last option adds further insult to injury. In the “Wildcard Method,” the man is to say that his family carries a genetic disease. But he doesn’t stop there. He goes as far as to recommend taking pictures of persons who are developmentally disabled and passing the person off as a relative. He concludes with, “If this advice helps just one man from becoming a parent against his will, it was worth the writeup.”

There’s no concern for women at all, nor the physical and emotional pain that comes from abortion. What’s tragic is that these men who think abortion is the answer can actually sustain devastating harm as a result of abortion. Men experience significant guilt, grief and sadness, which oftentimes is repressed and can result in anger, aggressive behavior or substance abuse. Some may suffer from severe depression and think about or attempt suicide. Men’s relationships also experience negative effects with increased conflict or lack of intimacy. In most cases, relationships will not survive an abortion experience. Consequently, the aftereffects of abortion continue into relationships with new partners. Many men may suffer from these symptoms, yet not acknowledge they are connected to an abortion in his past. The denial may exist for decades, hindering his ability to find healing.

The bro-choice movement and its despicable behavior backfired on pro-abortion supporters. Rather than advance their cause, it has exposed a dirty hidden truth—abortion-on-demand gives callous men the freedom to use women for sex and avoid any responsibility. ●

tors literally laughed at and mocked Rebecca. It's despicable behavior in any context, but particularly disgraceful by elected of-

This is not a position that most Americans support, which only creates further detachment from the "pro-choice" stance.

The perception that women are supportive of abortion is a myth.



ficials. Pro-abortion activists have emerged with extreme positions that are alienating them from the mainstream population. They're advocating a position of "free abortion, on demand, without apology." It's not enough to have abortion legal. They want it unrestricted—available anywhere, any time and for any reason. And they want abortion completely funded by taxpayers.

It's obvious that those who advocate for abortion are losing ground, quite literally. Planned Parenthood has closed 24 facilities in 2013. Only 6 of the closures represent facilities that do medical or surgical abortions, which means that Planned Parenthood is consolidating its business. Instead of growing the number of facilities, efforts are now focused on build-

ing mega-abortion complexes to be more efficient and cost-effective. Nationwide, an estimated 42 abortion facilities have closed in 2013. This is the result of legislation, funding cuts, decline of business and a lack of doctors willing to do abortions. With our continued due diligence, these closures will mean the lives of women and babies are being saved.

Those in favor of abortion may have enjoyed victory in the 2012 presidential election and with the passage of Obamacare. Even so, they've been largely unsuccessful at advancing their cause. Abortion advocates have since faced major opposition and have not fared well. In fact, in many instances they're only hurting themselves with their actions. The battle to protect the unborn still rages and we must remain vigilant. Let's recognize the momentum that we have and continue to seize the opportunities on the horizon. 🌀

Heather Gims serves as Director of Communications with Life Issues Institute. In addition, she is Field Producer for the pro-life TV program, Facing Life Head-On and Editor of the Life Issues Connector newsletter.

Life Issues Institute Welcomes New Board Member



Life Issues Institute is proud to welcome our newest board member, Karen Mersino. Karen resides in Lapeer, MI with her husband, Rod, of 41 years. Karen is very involved in her community, serving as Chairman of the Board of Oxford Bank, Director and Treasurer of McLaren Hospital Lapeer Region and Director and Treasurer of Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan. She and her husband are members of Legatus and Karen is a Lady of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem. She and Rod are the parents of seven children (plus six wonderful children by marriage) and grandparents of 23 beautiful grandchildren (so far). 🌀

Karen Mersino



From the
CEO
Bradley Mattes

We Make an “App” for That

Now that we’re living in the age of smart phones and iPads, when a need arises, the answer can usually be found in the well-known phrase, “There’s an app for that.” It would appear that for every conceivable situation of a tech-savvy user, a helpful application has been deployed to benefit his life. With a similar goal in mind, *Facing Life Head-On*, our weekly television program on the life issues, can be considered your unconventional pro-life education “app.”

Seven years ago I had a dream of circumventing the liberal, pro-abortion media and providing a quality TV program that would reach a substantial segment of American society. Something that would be free of editing by TV producers whose priority was to further their political agenda that included abortion-on-demand without apology.

The format of the program allows our guests to share their stories of facing difficult decisions regarding the life issues and how they’ve dealt with the outcomes. We usually pair them with an expert in that particular field, which results in a heart-tugging and highly educational experience for our viewers.

Our target audience is women in their child-bearing years who are undecided or may not be with us when it comes to these critical life issues. Based upon viewer feedback, our soft, real-life approach has proven effective.

The program is **aired on a variety of networks** throughout the US and Canada. We have access to 95% of all American households (over 100-million), plus each episode **can be viewed at our website** or on YouTube, which is why we literally receive emails from around the world.

After seven seasons and three regional Emmy awards (as well as oth-

ers), *Facing Life Head-On* has built up an impressive and useful library of stand-alone educational, half-hour presentations. These can be used in a myriad of applications regarding pro-life educational opportunities. For example, the Legacy Institute in the Seattle area has incorporated some of our programs into their curriculum. A women help center in Ohio plays select episodes of *Facing Life Head-On* for their clients in the waiting room. Several pro-life organizations link specific episodes to their websites to underscore or further the educational experience of their visitors.

During the last election cycle, there was considerable heated debate surrounding the rape exception for abortion. One of our programs at the time **dealt with rape**. It proved helpful for many who needed aid in articulating this difficult issue, as well as introducing viewers to real-life people who have personally faced the question of rape and abortion—both from the mother’s and child’s perspective.

The film crew and I were on the scene during the **upheaval in the Texas legislature**. This episode removed the blinders of those who thought Planned Parenthood was a good organization. We exposed their radical behavior, deemed by many as satanic.

Facing Life Head-On took viewers to the other side of the globe in **Ethiopia**. We filmed the poorest of the poor, exposing the desperate need for Americans to share their wealth, quite literally to save lives. And we highlighted a home for pregnant Ethiopia teens whose society shuns pregnancy out of wedlock.

There’s a special place in my heart for individuals with Down syndrome, so we’ve produced several programs, two of which received Emmy nominations. **One in 2012** focused on students at a large

public school in Cincinnati who voted in a prom king and queen, both with Down syndrome. Also in 2013, **we featured Sean Casey**, a beloved former Cincinnati Reds baseball player, who was instrumental in building a ball park for children with special needs.

We introduced the world to a **Beijing Olympic medalist** who earlier, just before the Olympics in Athens, became unexpectedly pregnant and was faced with striving for gold or finding it right at home in the birth of her child.

Additional topics we’ve covered include adoption, pro-life youth advocates, post-abortion stress in women and men, abstinence and how the abortion industry **targets the Black community**.

We’ve tackled end-of-life issues and the link between abortion and breast cancer. I’ve had in-depth conversations with **former abortionists** and **babies who survived abortion** to experience life as teenagers, and adults now having children of their own.

There’s much more on the horizon for our film crew, including the psychological impact of abortion on siblings, suicide and help for women who’ve placed their babies for adoption.

I encourage you to look to these programs as your “app” for help with pro-life education. DVDs can be **ordered online** at our website, www.facinglife.tv. *Facing Life Head-On* is sponsored by Life Issues Institute, the only pro-life organization dedicated solely to education, and we strive for excellence in everything we do. By working together, we can reach millions more with the truth about the beauty of innocent human life—both in and out of the womb. 🌀



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STATES EXCHANGE

Online for Life

Every day, women and men are conducting Internet searches related to abortion. The organization, Online for Life, has made it their purpose to ensure a pro-life option appears in the search results. Abortion-minded parents are given the option to connect with life-affirming resources in their local area. Through a network of pro-life centers, they are provided with information about the risks of abortion and can also be shown an ultrasound. As a result, many choose life for their child. Since 2007, Online for Life reports saving over 1,100 babies from abortion.

Pro-lifers can engage with the Online for Life mission via an iPhone app. It offers a Life Map, where you can view the locations of their partner centers. A virtual sonogram is available, with images throughout all nine months of pregnancy. It also features a stories section with articles and videos about some of the lives

that have been saved because of Online for Life. It's a powerful testimony to realize these women faced social and financial pressures and thought abortion was the solution. Yet, once they received care and support, they recognized they were strong enough to choose life.

The notifications are what really set this app apart. You can sign up for Prayer Notifications, which means you'll be notified when a woman considering abortion in your area chooses to visit an Online for Life center. You can pray in real-time that she'll be open to the truth and have the courage to reject abortion. In addition, there are Life Notifications which are sent out any time a baby is rescued from abortion. You can rejoice in a life that was saved!

Online for Life is saving babies and families. To get the app or to learn more, visit www.onlineforlife.org. 