

State Fair Shoes Filled with Life

We tried something new at the State Fair exhibit this year at the suggestion of one of our faithful supporters. When told there were still some shoes left over from the Walk for Life that weren't distributed to pregnancy centers, she said emphatically, "You've got to give them away at the State Fair." So give them away we did.



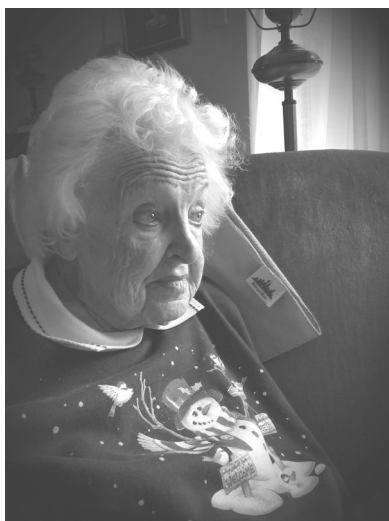
A basket set up on our display table caught the attention of numerous moms walking by with babies in strollers. Many steered over to get a closer look and those who did were offered a pair for their children and asked if we could photograph their feet.

The shoes were a big hit, needless to say, and many little feet went home with new shoes.

Thank you to all who contributed to this effort!



First Annual Dee Becker Memorial Tribute



Dee Becker, Founder of Delaware Right to Life

Please join us this year for the inauguration of the Dolores (Dee) Becker Memorial Tribute which will honor our founder at the tomb of the unborn in Cathedral Cemetery. The event will take place on Saturday, October 18, at 10:30 a.m.

While we have held memorial services at the Knights of Columbus memorial to the unborn many times in the past, from henceforth this October service will always be in memory of Dee Becker as well.

We will join the Knights of Columbus, who erected the memorial, in a prayer service, laying of flowers, and a short history of how

the gravestone came to be. Afterwards, all are welcome to join us at a reception just outside of the crypt/chapel area near the memorial.



Dee, in wheelchair, at Cathedral memorial to unborn in 2017.

State Fair Stories 2025

Volunteering at the State Fair may be one of the best ways to renew our hope and motivation for the pro-life cause. As thousands of fair-goers pass our display, we never know what seeds are planted just by us being there. With so much negative news, we wanted to share some of the stories from interactions with volunteers (named in the quotes) as a way of showing the difference our presence makes.

Three to four years ago, this woman (at the Fair) who had sadly had an abortion said **she is now pregnant with her daughter at 26 weeks and she goes to the Dover Pregnancy Center (New Day).** She accepted a pair of shoes.

Kathy Arnold



Karen was pregnant at 15, dropped out of school, and got married. After she had her daughter, she got her GED, got certified in IT and got a job at a hospital. She was often called in to talk to young women who had just given birth who were not married. Fast forward 50 years and while divorced, **she is thankful she has her only child. She couldn't imagine life without her.**

Donna Latteri

We had a woman come up to us at the fair who started by thanking us for being there. Then she said that 18 years ago she was in an abortion clinic waiting for her turn. She said "she wasn't a believer but felt something pulling at her and **it didn't feel right being there so she got up and left.**" Then she introduced us to her 18 year old son, a tall, handsome, smiling young man who was obviously very proud of his mom - and vice versa. What a wonderful testimony to Life! *Bill and Chris Gourley*

One story I would like to share from our 7/25 3 to 7 shift is about a lady who was about 35 years old who said that her mother, while pregnant with her, stopped at our booth at the State Fair and because she did so she decided not to abort her. **The lady said that she was alive because of our booth.** She was here with her 15 year old daughter and said that she similarly decided not to abort her daughter. *Bob Wolhar.*



Sue Cordie, Our Treasurer

Sue Cordie, our treasurer at DRTL, does double duty at the Wyoming Peach Festival on August 2, where she set up and manned our exhibit for the entire day. Sue also takes down the State Fair exhibit the week before and has been an important "behind the scenes" person in both these events. Sue also oversees our budget, finances, monthly statements, tax returns, and Paypal account. Thank you, Sue!

The Big Beautiful Bill and How It Affects Delaware's Abortion Business

By Teresa LoPorto

On July 4, 2025, the Big, Beautiful Bill was signed into law.

Among its many parts, section 71113 says, "No Federal funds shall be used to make payments to a prohibited entity for items and services furnished during the 1-year period...." starting on 7/4/2025, the day the bill became law. A "prohibited entity" is any healthcare nonprofit which received over \$800,000 in 2023 *and* provides *elective* abortions.¹ Planned Parenthood is not specifically mentioned, but it qualifies as a prohibited entity. Important note: Medically necessary abortions or those that occur because of rape or incest are still covered.

The Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America organization called the bill "a major step toward ending the forced taxpayer funding of the Big Abortion industry." Supporters have pointed out that women seeking reproductive care can still get it from other Federally Qualified Health Centers who will still receive Medicaid.²

However, since Planned Parenthood qualifies as a prohibited entity and no federal funds would be given to them for *any* of their services for 1 year, they filed a lawsuit on July 7th. On July 28th, U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani prevented the

withholding of Medicaid funds, ruling section 71113 is an unconstitutional "bill of attainder" which Merriam-Webster says, "*.... is a law that singles out individuals for punishment without a trial.*"

On July 29th, 22 states' Attorney Generals, Delaware's Kathy Jennings among them, and the District of Columbia also sued using similar arguments. Nationally, Planned Parenthood's CEO, Alexis McGill Johnson said about half of their clients pay with Medicaid and not receiving those funds would close about 200 of their clinics.²

Planned Parenthood of Delaware's 2024 Annual Report reports 20% of their patients used Medicaid/Medicare funds.³ Still, the loss of Medicaid funds would greatly impact Planned Parenthood of Delaware. In 2024, they received a little over \$1 million from the State of Delaware, primarily for "Medical Services".⁴ That \$1 million of Delaware's taxpayer dollars is approximately 20% of their 2024 total revenue of \$5,204,126, as well as 40% of their program services revenue.⁵

So, what happens now? As of right now, it's business as usual at Planned Parenthood of Delaware because of Judge Talwani's injunction and the Attorney Generals' lawsuit.

Cont. on p. 7



Lynn Mey, DRTL board member, speaks at the K of C Mass on Aug. 13 at St. Elizabeth's Church

DRTL was honored by the St Thomas the Apostle Knights of Columbus Council # 12374, during its second annual Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney

Bl. Fr. McGivney Mass for Life Recognizes Pro-Life Efforts

pro-life Mass at St Elizabeth in Wilmington on August 13. (Fr. McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, is a candidate for canonization.) Joined by several pro-life ministries from across Delaware, Fr. Roger Dibuo reinforced how critical the work is in protecting the sanctity of life. Representatives from various pro-life ministries, including pregnancy centers, Bayard House, and Rachel's Vineyard, were asked to come forward and be recognized by the Knights. Each group was given a dona-

tion by the St. Thomas Council.

A special thank you to Tom Nicastro for his leadership with the Knights in supporting our DRTL ministry with St. Elizabeth's High School students, which enters its second year this fall. MORE PIX ON PAGE 6



Pro-Life Heroes: Bill and Chris Gourley

By: Grace LoPorto



Bill and Chris Gourley at home in Wilmington.

Bill Gourley got involved in the pro-life cause when Roe V. Wade passed in 1973 and his children were toddlers. He calls Roe V. Wade “a disgrace, and the moral crisis of our times.”

His parish, Immaculate Heart of Mary in Liftwood, has a very active Respect Life Committee and Bill is co-chair. The committee publishes monthly articles on life issues in the parish bulletin, arranges speakers and other events during Respect Life month each October and often leads the rosary for an end to abortion.

Every June they run a baby shower to collect diapers, baby clothes and supplies, typically filling three SUVs with items for local pregnancy centers. Bill’s wife, Chris, is frequently involved in many of those activities. He’s also involved with the Delaware Family Policy Council, which he calls “an outstanding pro-life voice to our legislators.” He’s been to Dover a number of times to give pro-life testimony, either for or against proposed bills.

A regular at Planned Parenthood in Wilmington every Tuesday with Chris, Bill joins others in saying the rosary and offering help to the women going in for abortions. Sometimes, someone takes them up on their offer of help. A few years ago, Bill and Chris held a baby shower for that “saved” mother and baby at their house. He says, “It was great; a lot of people contributed to it.”

One of Bill’s passions is to reach young people and in 2017, he discovered Culture of Life Studies Program, developed by American Life League,

and led an effort to put the program in every Catholic school classroom, K through 12, in the Diocese of Wilmington. His efforts were featured in the ALL magazine and the program was accepted in Delaware.

Three years ago, to reach Catholic students who attend public schools, he started teaching 7th grade CRE classes at IHM. He dedicates at least one class to the beauty of the developing human baby and finds numerous ways to incorporate a prolife message throughout the school year.

Bill calls Chris his “cheerleader,” and says “I couldn’t do this without her.” Besides helping him with his other activities, she helps man the DRTL booth at the State Fair She even makes snacks for the seventh graders he teaches. “They don’t know her, but they love her baking,” he says.

His pro-life message to others? “I would say that if you’re a believer in Jesus Christ, but pregnant and scared about what to do, ask Him for guidance, and just listen. He will speak to your heart, and you will know. If you are not a believer, and you’re inclined to abort your baby, think about all the people in your life whom you would miss terribly if they were not there. Realize that this child you are carrying may be the greatest gift you will ever receive. If you are pro-life, committed to the cause, but frustrated by today’s anti-life culture,

pray hard and often for our nation. Be proud of your beliefs, and don’t hesitate to express them, but with kindness and understanding for everyone.”



Bill at the State Fair booth in 2022

Delaware Right to Life 2025 Fall Appeal



✂

Yes! I would like to support the work of DRTL by donating:
 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ other

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Donate online at www.derighttolife.org/donate
 Checks may be made out to: *DRTL Education Fund* and mailed to **DRTL, P.O. BOX 1222, Wilmington, DE 19899**

We rely exclusively on donations from members like you, as we are an all-volunteer organization. We are an educational 501c(3) and all donations are tax-deductible. Our focus is educating Delawareans about the life issues and here are some of the things we've done in the past year:

- Life affirming high school education at St. Elizabeth's with the aid of the Knights of Columbus
- Collaboration with pregnancy centers across the state
- Testified against pro-death laws in Dover such as assisted suicide and an amendment to put abortion as a "right" in our state constitution
- Participated in numerous community events
- Hosted prayer vigils and rallies at local abortion clinics to assist mothers and bring awareness of what goes on inside
- Hosted Life Chain, pro-life Marches, and rallies throughout the state .

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY
www.derighttolife.org/donate

A special thank you to all our donors, volunteers, board members, and supporters of Delaware Right to Life throughout the past year! We are grateful. Please help us keep the momentum going by DONATING to our Fall Appeal or consider becoming a monthly contributor via derighttolife.org/donate



Behind A Door of Hope Pregnancy Center

Since 1981, A Door of Hope Pregnancy Center has been a Christ-centered non-profit faithfully serving women and men to make life-affirming and healthy decisions, particularly about sex, pregnancy and relationships. All of their services are free and generously funded by individuals, businesses, and the local community.

Clients may receive free pregnancy tests, options consultations, ultra-sounds, parenting classes, and a host of social service referrals. As mother's progress through their education sessions, they earn credit toward baby clothes, diapers and other key essentials for their children found in the "Mom's & Babies Room" boutique.

While touring the beautiful facility located on Lancaster Pike in Wilmington, I was drawn to the loving tribute to Elizabeth Crossan, a volunteer who spent many hours supporting the needs of the Pregnancy Center. Her portrait welcomes new mothers to the "Mom's & Babies Room" dedicated in April of 2007.

It was an honor to spend the morning with the leadership team learning more about the life-saving impact A Door of Hope Pregnancy Center continues to make in our community.



Nicole Staz Advancement Administrator, in the Moms & Babies Room at Door of Hope in Wilmington.

Pro-Life Groups Honored by K of C at Special Mass



Britnee Finger, Tom NiCastro, of the St. Thomas the Apostle K of C council, and Lynn Mey at the post-Mass reception

Special thanks to all the Delaware Knights of Columbus councils who have so generously contributed to pro-life efforts in Delaware.



DRTL President Moira Sheridan with Fr. Roger DiBuo



*From L to R: SarahAnne Talley, Her Care Clinic office manager, Rachel Metzger, director, A Door of Hope, Tinisha Quail, director, Birthright of Wilmington, Lilybeth Otero, director, Her Care Clinic, Britnee Finger, director, New Day Pregnancy Center, Nicole Staz, advancement director, A Door of Hope
Not pictured: Sheila Dunne, Rachel's Vineyard and Stacy Brooks, Bayard House*

PPDel Fights BBB with Lawsuit

Cont. from p. 3

Whether the Department of Health and Human Services can enforce section 71113 in the future depends on whether the Supreme Court decides to take up the case when it reconvenes this fall. Previously, the Supreme Court said states had the ability to exclude Planned Parenthood from Medicaid funding, ruling that a South Carolina state law prohibiting them from receiving Medicaid did not violate the Medicaid Act's "any qualified provider" provision.²

Pray the Supreme Court takes up this issue and provides a decision as soon as possible. The Big Beautiful Bill says the withholding of Medicaid funds applies "... during the 1-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act..." The bill became law on July 4, 2025, so the one year ends on July 4, 2026. If an affirmative decision is reached by the Supreme Court late next spring, Medicaid would continue to pay for abortion as usual except, maybe, for a few days. Delaware's Attorney General, Kathy Jennings said, "The

costs of this lawless provision would be devastating, should it be allowed to go into effect. That's why we're going to fight it every step of the way."⁶ indicating prolonged lawfare is exactly what abortion supporters hope happens.

Footnotes

See section 71113 at:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1>

[Understanding The One Big Beautiful Bill And Abortion Access | ACE](https://www.ace-usa.org/blog/research/understanding-the-one-big-beautiful-bill-and-abortion-access/)

<https://ace-usa.org/blog/research/current-events/understanding-the-one-big-beautiful-bill-and-abortion-access/>

See page 4 at:

[2024 Annual Report](https://www.plannedparenthood.org/uploads/filer_public/b8/99/b8997f4e-0f93-4be5-af7-26657e808b2f/2024_annual_report_final.pdf)

https://www.plannedparenthood.org/uploads/filer_public/b8/99/b8997f4e-0f93-4be5-af7-26657e808b2f/2024_annual_report_final.pdf

In 2024 the State of Delaware gave Planned Parenthood of Delaware \$1,012,901.91, as seen at: <https://opencheckbook.delaware.gov/#/year/2024/explore/0/vendor/PLANNED+PARENTHOOD+OF+DELAWARE/1-row/departments>

Note: The figures above were reported for the fiscal year of 4/1/2023 - 3/31/2024

Planned Parenthood of Delaware's total revenue was \$5,204,126

1,012,901.91/5,204,126 = 0.1946, approximately 20% or 1/5

In Memoriam

To those stalwart pro-lifers we lost recently. May their souls rest in peace.

Steve Fillion

SAVE THE DATES:

September

- **Sat., Sept. 13—Day of Remembrance service at Church of the Holy Child, 2500 Naamans Rd., 10 a.m.**
- **St. Jude's in Lewes, 10 a.m.**
- **Sun., Sept. 14—Newark Community Day at UD, 11-3**
- **Thu., Sept. 18—PPDel fundraiser protest, Claymont, 5:30 p.m.**

October

- **Sun., Oct. 5—Life Chains: 1-2, Concord Pike, Wilmington 12-2, Dover 12-2, St. Jude's, Lewes 2-4, So. Bethany**
- **Sat., Oct. 18—Dee Becker Memorial Tribute, 10:30 a.m., Cathedral Cemetery, Wilmington**
- **Thu., Oct. 23—Day of Remembrance, 10 a.m., Holy Cross Cemetery, Dover**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK OUR WEBSITE:

www.derighttolife.org/calendar

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ALL EVENTS!



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