

An Affiliate of Right to Life of Michigan
Serving Grand Haven, Spring Lake, and Ferrysburg

SUMMER 2020 / ISSUE 42

LAKESHORE LIFE NEWS

Brianna Wynne, MD
New grad & pro-life doc
making a difference!

Election Year Billboard Campaign Begins on a Highway Near You



Above: Billboard designed by an ad committee of Tri-Cities Right to Life Board Members to kick off their Get Out The Vote effort.

GOTV sounds like a new television station, but it's actually an acronym you'll be hearing a lot in the next few months. GOTV = **Get Out The Vote** and in this crucial election year, that's precisely what we must do between now and the Nov. 3rd general election. There was no time to waste, so we started with a cute baby, coined a relevant phrase and pointed passersby to a link where they can generate a custom pro-life voting guide! It took our ad committee just three meetings— two virtual and one in-person, to arrive at the above results. Isn't it amazing what team work can accomplish?! This is one way your financial support becomes a literal, visible sign to the masses— in this case, providing

valuable information just in time to help voters literally save lives with their votes. If you like what you see, please consider donating to this newest billboard campaign using the enclosed envelope, or our new online form here:

<https://Give.Cornerstone.cc/TCRTL>



Focus on Life Dinner
SAVE the DATE

Is it on your calendar?! October 15th, 2020 at 6pm is our next benefit dinner. Pastor Christopher Thoma will be the inspiring keynote speaker for the evening. From its start, 2020 has been a banner year for spotlighting the need to save lives; but many injustices give

us pause. The endangerment of the elderly in nursing homes, as well as abortion clinics being given a pass to conduct business-as-usual, are just two of many remaining to be investigated. Pastor Thoma's rousing call to both his congregation and audiences alike energizes them to get and stay involved in moral issues. He regularly engages with executive, legislative, and judicial leaders at the local, state and federal levels, and is a frequent guest on local and national radio programs along (Cont. on pg. 3)




Pastor Thoma

Fresh Look — Fresh Outlook

Sometimes a fresh look can usher in a fresh outlook, too. This is in no way a plug for 'The Whitmer,' that DIY new style you got because you searched 'how to cut your own hair'. No, 'fresh' during stay-home looked more like a cleared calendar as event after event was cancelled. Our own Legislative Day is one example, along with an inaugural event to support single moms; but what we *gained* was a chance to reprioritize. With a new sense of what matters most, many spent more time with family or engaged online with new learning resources. Some cleared out clutter then found there was nowhere to donate it all, but, aaahh, the fresh look was... "refreshing". Enter—the word behind our newsletter's new look: **This** was replaced with **green** which says Summer! Growth! And **GO!**

You see, just as things were starting to feel a little more normal, the news

on Monday June 15th hit pretty hard. All of our work for six months last year collecting signatures for the dismemberment abortion ban seemed to be in jeopardy. Previous citizens' initiatives to bypass former Governors' promised vetoes had succeeded, so this was an unfamiliar, unwelcome feeling. Then, thankfully, it happened — that moment when, not only a light goes on, but it is paired with the energy to actually follow through. It was a drive. To go harder at this fight. To do more. BE more. I'm not sure the source of the push, but I am going with it. Riding the wave of motivation. Today you are seeing a symbol of my fresh outlook in the form of a refreshed newsletter. And I hope you like it, along with any inspiration it may bring. By the way, I'm Theresa Giacalone, the newly installed President of Tri-Cities Right to Life. I was happy to receive the torch passed on by Mary Bilski after her 

two-plus years of excellent leadership in this role. We thank Mary for her dedicated service; and I ask you for your prayers for TCRTL as, together, we face whatever impedes our progress. Find some fresh inspiration in these pages and then 3- 2- 1- **GO!** Let's help put some pro-life wins on the scoreboard!

Theresa G.

PS: I would love to hear any pro-life ideas you may have! Email:

TheresG@TriCitiesRightToLife.org



(Mike, cont.) daughter to abort after learning of a birth defect. This all happened in quick succession. Then the church bulletin listed an upcoming ministry fair where a TCRTL ad jumped out at me. I had to say to myself, 'He is trying to tell me something'. And I have been so happy to be part of this group." Since pro-life organizations are not funded by the federal government (like Planned Parenthood is to the tune of half a billion dollars per year), they rely more heavily on volunteers. "Mike has the ability to see clearly what needs to happen," said Theresa Giacalone, TCRTL President. "Upon learning of the recent challenge in the dismemberment ban, for example, his first reaction was, 'We've got to put a stop to this. What can we do?' Asking a question is where turning intent to action begins." Many have spent a near lifetime honing skills and experience that can be transferred to a new role defending life. Giacalone added, "Where a former career and heart for the pro-life cause intersect is a powerful place." Thanks, Mike, for volunteering on the Board of Directors for Tri-Cities Right to Life, helping make decisions that will impact generations to come.

Interested in turning your skill set into a life-saving retirement path? Please reach out, and check this column each quarter for a new story highlighting a board member living the pro-life life.

Meet Mike



Above— Walkers for the 2020 Memorial for the Unborn pose for a picture before departing to the service. This was Mike's first time attending. Photo credit: Suzi McAbbe

After a successful career with Meijer Corporation, Mike Lewis found himself retired in our beautiful resort town, with his wife, Carol. He also found it intriguing how a series of events kept leading to one conclusion: that God was trying to tell him something about getting involved with defending Life.

Mike grew up in a small town near Pittsburgh, PA attending Catholic schools through graduation. Back then, he says he was merely

practicing his faith but not really seeking knowledge of it like he is today. "Last year, I remember listening to the Catholic channel on Sirius, which I did only occasionally, and the guys who produced *Unplanned* were telling their story of how difficult the movie was to complete. Very interesting! Then right after that, stories on abortion kept hitting me in the face. There was the news regarding Iceland aborting their Down Syndrome preborns, and even a friend thinking it was okay for his

Petition Drive Update

When Right to Life of Michigan announced the tragic news that the 2019 petition drive was in danger, word spread quickly and people immediately got busy with prayer. Just three days later, the update from Lansing was being called miraculous! The deciding board, comprised of two Republicans and two Democrats voted UNANIMOUSLY to allow a second sample of petitions to be evaluated in consideration of banning dismemberment abortions in our state. More here: <https://rtl.org/end-dismemberment-petition-drive-sample/>

Pastor Thoma (cont.)

with consistently contributing to magazines, newspapers, and providing content to various theological and political outlets. He is deeply involved in issues pertaining to the relationship between the Church and the public square, and in 2017, was awarded a distinguished fellowship from Salt & Light Global Wilberforce Academy for his many contributions toward engaging the cultural worldview of the day via citizen statesmanship. Rev. Thoma is married to Jennifer and they have four children. Learn more by scanning here 



To Do List

♥ Get **dinners to go** from Knights of Columbus. Support their funding of an ultrasound machine! Fridays 5-7, fish or ribs. At 1416 Washington Ave. Grand Haven. Just \$10!!

♥ **Volunteer to GOTV** — get out the vote! Call or email: Info@tricityrighttolife.org 616-201-7813

♥ Visit **2ndVote.com** to see if who you support supports what **YOU** do!

♥ **Tri-Cities Right to Life Meetings**
Generally held on the 2nd Tues. each month at 7:00 p.m. See our website for location and time updates. TriCitiesRightToLife.org
Open to the public.

♥ **RLM Annual Conference**
Thurs., Sept. 24, 8:15am Eagle Eye Golf & Banquet Center in Bath Twp., MI. See more & register at **RTL.org**

♥ **Focus on Life Benefit Dinner**
Oct. 15th at Trillium Event Center 17246 VanWagoner Rd.
Doors open at 6pm.
See front page on keynote speaker.

♥ **40 Days for Life - GR**
Sept. 23 — Nov. 1, 2020
In front of Heritage Clinic at 320 East Fulton St. Grand Rapids
40daysForLife.com. Help end abortion with peaceful prayer/fasting.

♥ **Culver's Night of Sharing**
Tues., Nov. 10th, 5 to 8pm
Your meal supports TCRTL! Dine-in or drive thru. We serve YOU and garner 10% of the profits. Win/win!

FRONT COVER:

Pro-life doctor, Brianna Wynne, has graduated from her residency and continues making a difference for Life! Read her inspiring story at:

TriCitiesRightToLife.org/blog/

JUNE 21 — by Sabrina White

June 21 should just be a regular day,
but she didn't know just how much she would have to pay.

She found herself pregnant but didn't think she could make it,
on her own, out in the cold, with no place to go.

Her parents said, 'Go get this problem fixed.'
They didn't think she would be fit to raise this child by herself.

So, she put her heart on the shelf
and made the appointment to end their disappointment.

That day she walked in, feeling so afraid, that she was making a huge mistake that would be marked in her mind, like the stopwatch of time.

As she walked in, the shame started to show,
the tears that she had held back for so long started to flow.

She didn't want to do it, but she was pulled toward the pit,
by those who didn't have the courage to commit,
to a future without murder.

Those who would do anything to further their cause,
in any way without pause.

What could she do, to whom could she turn,
one who would not spurn her request, but help her through her duress.

Who is that person? It could be me, it could be you.

So, let us reach out a loving hand
so that others will know where we stand.

That we will defend those who are left to fend for themselves,
against the wolves of the world, who keep saying,
"Take the easy way out, ignore the devout."

In a world where speaking is a must,
let us be the ones they turn to for hope, and trust.



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Tri-Cities Right to Life

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Phone: 616-201-7813
E-mail: info@TriCitiesRightToLife.org
Website: www.TriCitiesRightToLife.org
And find us on Facebook.com/



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 organizations about pro-life issues. To educate legislators and to promote legislation by grassroots lobbying. To support pro-life candidates for public office as endorsed by the Right to Life of Michigan PAC.

Our Board Members

Jean Wolniakowski
Sabrina White ▪ Vickie Tober
Cheri Ter Haar ▪ Ron Streng
Pastor Wayne Muri
Charlene Lozicki ▪ Mike Lewis
Diane Janusch-Johnson
Michelle Ciccantelli ▪ Dominic Ciccantelli
Linda Doublestein
Mary Bilski ▪ John Bilski
Denise Simcik — Secretary
Madonna White — Treasurer
Open Seat — Vice President
Theresa Giacalone — President

Do you know how we support Life?

There are positive alternatives to abortion. Let's come together so we can share who we are and how we help those in need.

August 13th, 7-8 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1416 Washington, Grand Haven

Beverages and light refreshments will be served. Question or comments? Please call Mary 616-935-2012, Jean 616-638-4967 or Diane 616-846-4906

To attend, call/text Jean at # above or email jeanwolniakowski@gmail.com

In search of ...

... office space! If you or someone you know has an **office for rent**, please contact me. It can be small as long as there's a shared conference area for conducting meetings, connecting with community, sharing advocacy materials, and hosting educational speakers. Please call or text 616.201.7813 with any leads.

Thank you!

Theresa Giacalone