

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

FALL 2021 / ISSUE 46



Felicity rode in her Grandma's 'baby car' in our 1st Car Parade!

LAKESHORE LIFE NEWS

Where There's Gratitude, Discontentment, For a Time, Ceases



Find TCRTL videos at [Rumble.com](https://www.rumble.com/TCRTL)
 Search > Channel > TCRTL



Two photos above depict the Tri-Cities Right to Life annual event held this year on Sept. 23rd. The far-right image is included because it's a great example of the creative ways some people engage the culture for Life, and shows that both big events and artistic symbols can be equally effective. Who knows?! Perhaps the number of those inspired by that glowing in-utero picture while strolling through the pumpkin patch far exceeds anyone's expectation.

At the dinner, the theme of which is always *Focus on Life*, TCRTL's president, Theresa Giacalone, focused on two metaphors in her welcome message. The name of the venue, Trillium, was taken from the 3-petaled white flower, which she said reminded her of the three-way partnership between TCRTL, the volunteers/donors— some who were in attendance, and God Himself. This partnership involves prayer first, then regularly gathering in a huddle (a seasonally appropriate 2nd metaphor with football kicking-off everywhere) to hear the next play before taking the field. TCRTL's turf is the culture, of course, and under the auspices of

their parent organization— Right to Life of Michigan (RLM), they always have a plan because their statewide leaders do.

Giacalone passed the mic to the keynote speaker with an intro citing complacency as the biggest challenge while battling the culture of death, segueing with, "One person who does *not* have a complacency problem is tonight's speaker, Pastor Christopher Thoma." The next thirty-five minutes were filled with proof of his bold approach to engaging the culture in the public square. He received a standing ovation— his second after two consecutive years being featured at this event, returning by the popular demand of 2020 attendees.

Next, Randy Royston from RLM detailed the many reasons why now is the time to really get in the game to finally win it for Life. He lauded Texas' Heartbeat Bill and the Dobbs case soon before the SCOTUS starting Dec. 1st. The amicus brief RLM filed in the latter case makes their affiliates and all members/donors proudly part of this historic effort to hopefully reverse Roe v. Wade, et al.

Finally, the roses at each table were gifted to the ladies in the room as a re-

minder of the aforementioned three-member team, whose effectiveness is apparently being proven after post-event numbers revealed a record-setting fundraising amount! Thank you to everyone who made that possible! Let's, for a time, bask in contentment. [And will the prolife pumpkin sculptor please stand up? Thank you, too! Also grateful to Joyce Weaver for discovering this important artistic contribution to our cause... and then sharing it! The next play? Praying to change hearts! Please join TCRTL on Fridays to pray for each Justice on the high court, by name, and for wisdom. Thanks, Team!]



Event video soon.
 2021 highlights here ➡

IN THIS EDITION:

- Record Setting Event—Thanks!**
- Meet Mary!**
- November is National Adoption Awareness Month!**
- Board Elections—You're Invited!**
- Prolife HERO AWARD Winners!**

Right Into The Danger Zone

As an introvert, I'm not shy. I just get my batteries recharged by being alone, creating, or simply imagining. You know, as poet Emily Dickenson wrote ... 'dwelling in possibilities'! When I do, all the ideas come rushing in, of course; then, what's left to do but make it all happen?! Thus was our TCRTL Year 2021 — a tough one for those like me.

But what would have been missed had I clung to my inclinations, is the many wonderful people we met during our outreaches (who fully confirmed why we even make the PR effort at community events)!

Missed would have been the honking jubilation of car parade participants honoring the many events cancelled in 2020. Instead, here we were a year later, joining other community members with our theme: *Babies of 2020!* And oh my, was it cute!

Missed would have been the crowd's cheers as we passed by in our first-

ever Coastguard Grand Parade entry. It was so encouraging to hear "Yaaaay, babies!" and "Thank you for doing this!" as we walked the two-mile route.

Linda D. and I would have missed supporting Ramona as she grieved for her son, Michael, and apologized for "uncontrolled emotions"; rather, we were able to reassure with, "No, we are here for this. We're here for you."

As an organization, we would have missed helping a sister affiliate at their Unity Christian Music Festival booth. There, little kids, teens, and young adults— too many to count, swarmed our collective tent to test their knowledge in a quiz game, observe fetal models representing three progressing terms of gestation, then eagerly pick out a free one to take home. "Remember to name him or her," I reminded. If only the looks of awe and wonder on their faces could be adequately described. But they can't. It's one of those experiences

left to the imagination unless witnessed personally. What beauty we would have missed if there hadn't been so many who were willing to risk leaving their comfort zone.

Something I would *gladly* have missed is realizing just how many varied ways I could fail. There's no need (or space, thankfully) to recount them all, but some 'highlights' include an event nametag debacle, forgetting to give the speaker his check (hooked right on my clipboard so I 'couldn't forget', Lol), and mismanaging the pause during pledges causing a shortage of time to, well ... award the awards (see pg. 3). It could all be age-related or an early sign of burnout; OR, maybe without all the mishaps, a record dollar amount wouldn't have been raised. So, default: I'll be grateful, then content, as described on page one. Besides, with every error, I learn something new, and learning is one of my favorite pastimes (grateful again!).

Hopefully, all this transparency provides a nudge to continue stepping out of our comfort zones, surmounting the struggles, and keep dwelling in possibilities... no matter how dangerous it might feel.

Humbly grateful, *Theresa Giacalone*



When I met Andy, who would become my husband, we discussed our desire for a large family early in our relationship. God, however, had other plans. After we married, we discovered our family would be formed through adoption. Our prolife views were only reinforced as we heard people discuss abortion so casually as we longed to welcome any of those sweet babies into our lives.

We decided to pursue open adoption (which was rather new at the time), and met our 1st daughter's birthmother.

[Mary's fascinating story continues on our website [blog](#)]

To volunteer with TCRTL, just email or use our website contact form. And check this column each issue for a new story highlighting a member living the pro-life life.

Meet Mary!



Left- Mary Reck, TCRTL Board Member, adoptive mom, and grandmother of two.

when I had just turned 11 (go ahead, do the math; I'll wait). My Dad enlisted my help (I felt so grown up!) to go door-to-door distributing flyers to "Vote No on Proposal B" (which would have legalized some abortions in Michigan). Proposal B was defeated, but that time together with my father remains one of my most cherished memories of my Dad; he died a few years later.

In high school and college I researched abortion, figuring I must be missing something. How could anyone support the killing of babies? My search only reinforced my belief that if anyone honestly examines this issue, the only logical conclusion is that preborn individuals are human and alive. Defending them is a clear civil rights obligation. *(continues on right)*

Mary Reck is the next board member we'd like to introduce. The timing during National Adoption Awareness Month is ideal since she's an adoptive mom. And what a story! Here's the start of it in her own words— I began my journey into the prolife movement in November of 1972,

AND THE PROLIFE HERO AWARDS GO TO ...

Category 1: A ProLife Business. The award goes to Mr. Mark Knudsen, owner of Aquanotes, LLC. He boldly chose to take the steps necessary to put a percentage of the credit card processing fees his company pays toward good use by making them a way to fundraise for TCRTL. This program is still under development so we won't go into all the details here, but we definitely applaud the courage and tenacity it took to be our first *Cornerstone Processing With a Purpose* business partner. Thank you, Mark, for your leadership and fine example! TCRTL recommends MyAquanotes.com for some wonderfully unique gifts!

Categories 2 & 3: A ProLife Fraternal Organization & A Person Next Door. Both are fulfilled in one big team effort. Congratulations to our **Church Outreach Leaders and Participants** who worked long hours to plan, organize, and execute a large resale at the St. Patrick-St. Anthony church festival on Aug. 13, 2021! You not only raised funds for our cause, you also showed what's possible when our prolife communities-of-faith team up to MAKE IT HAPPEN! We thank you and are proud of the initiative, creativity and hard work you all invested. Members are: Mary Bilski— Chair, Joyce Weaver— Concept Person, & the volunteers from these participating churches: 2nd CRC in Allendale; Lakeshore Lutheran Fellowship & St. Mary's in Spring Lake; and Trinity Reformed, St. John's Lutheran, and St. Patrick- St. Anthony in Grand Haven! **Both awards will be presented at our Annual Board of Directors meeting** on Jan. 5th, 2022 at 6:30pm. The public is invited. Details on our website. ***Congratulations to all!***

In Memory of *Lee Haslick*

Lee is the late husband of our board Secretary, Marcia. We are so sorry for her and her family's recent loss. May Lee rest in eternal peace. Amen.

The Good-To-Know Section

Oratory contest: It's time to rally your favorite writers and speakers for our Second Annual Theresa Stevens Memorial Oratory Contest returning in March 2022 (& if you know someone who might be a good judge, please call or email).

Roe v. Wade movie! Have you seen it? Watch in the comfort of your own home or with a youth or bible study group. We have a limited number of DVDs for free rental or to purchase (\$12 ea). Invite friends & family so everyone learns the truth about this landmark case that could soon be overturned!

Explore RTL.org where you'll find resources to learn just about anything related to saving lives. You'll be surprised how much there is to know!

Advance our cause by supporting businesses who support US! **Great Harvest Bread Company** in Grand Haven provided incredible dinner rolls for our event. Please patronize **GREAT HARVEST**.

Want less mail? Just [email](mailto:) and ask for this newsletter in digital form. One benefit of digital is that hyperlinks to websites (in [blue](http://)) remain LIVE. So convenient!

If **tax deductibility** is important to you when donating to TCRTL, please make your check payable to: *RLM Education Fund*— **and write "Tri-Cities RTL Escrow Fund" on the memo line.**

<https://give.cornerstone.cc/TCRTL>


Giving Tues. is on 11/30

COVER inset: *Felicity, the granddaughter of a TCRTL board member, rode in Grandma's 'baby (Smart) car' in the 2021 car parade.*

To-Do List

♥ **Next Focus on Life Event**
Save the Date! 10-13-2022

at the Trillium Event Center
in Spring Lake

[Can't say too much yet, but it'll be BIG!!]

♥ **Share your story!** TCRTL is compiling a local speakers' list and producing short videos of prolife testimonies. If you have a story, please let us know and we'll make you famous— or at least help your experience help someone else :))

♥ **Volunteer with us!** Just call or fill out the contact form on our website.

TriCitiesRightToLife.org

616-201-7813

♥ **TCRTL Meetings Change**

Now held on the 1st Wed. of each month at 6:30 p.m. starting Dec. 1. Please check website for updates.

♥ **YOUR INPUT is NEEDED!**

What message would you like to see on our next BILLBOARD? Use the contact form on our website.

♥ **TCRTL Officer Elections**

Announcement: Nominees will be elected at the meeting on 1-5-22. All are invited to participate. For consideration, please call or email.

♥ **MEMORIAL for the UNBORN**
Jan. 29th, 2022! Watch our website for details, coming soon.

♥ **Special thanks to Jim & Marylou Marks** for leading the **40 Days for Life** campaigns these last several years!

♥ **DEC. 1st— Join Us in Prayer!**

As oral arguments begin in the **Dobbs case** before the SCOTUS, pray for each Justice by name.

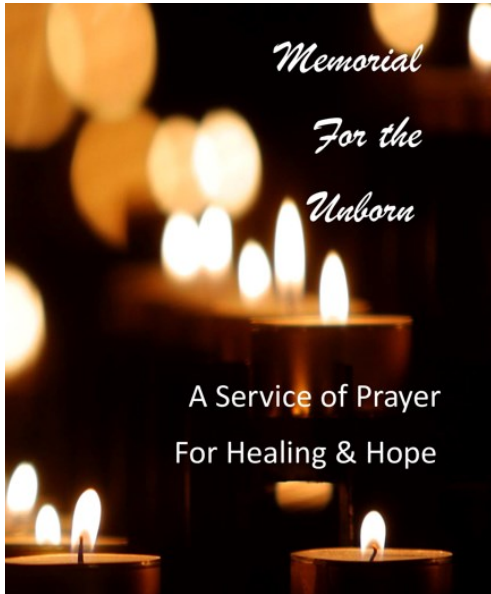
For the full story, which also promotes adoption, visit:

TriCitiesRightToLife.org/blog/

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NEXT TCRTL EVENT

More on pg. 3

Tri-Cities Right to Life

Mail: P.O. Box 943, Grand Haven, MI 49417
 Phone: 616-201-7813
 E-mail: info@TriCitiesRightToLife.org
 Website: www.TriCitiesRightToLife.org
facebook.com/TriCitiesRightToLife



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.

TCRTL Board Members

Jean Wolniakowski
 Sabrina White ▪ Vickie Tober
 Ron Streng ▪ Denise Simcik
 Mary Reck ▪ Charlene Lozicki
 Michelle Ciccantelli ▪ Dominic Ciccantelli ▪ Linda Doublestein

Marcia Haslick — Secretary
 George Maierhauser — Treasurer
 Madonna White — Vice President
 Theresa Giacalone — President

New Members Welcome!
 (One board seat opening in Jan.)

OCTOBER was

RESPECT LIFE MONTH
 also **Down Syndrome Awareness Month**
This pumpkin art seems to say "LOVE the UNBORN!"



NOVEMBER is

NATIONAL ADOPTION Awareness Month!

Remember this billboard?

Tell us what year it was displayed and win some merchandise!



tricitierighttolife.org

See adoption story on pg. 2