

LIFE LINES

A Publication of

Rochester Area Right to Life Committee, Inc.
and the Education Fund

Fall 2014, Volume 1

Federally ubsidized abortion in Obamacare

When President Obama was explaining Obamacare to the American public, pro-lifers were concerned that plans for huge federal subsidies would subsidize abortion-covering plans with taxpayer money.

President Obama replied that “No federal dollars will be used to fund abortions.” Abortion-covering plans would require a separate payment from the client to pay for the abortion coverage itself.

That was then. This is now.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has produced a report indicating that the concerns of pro-lifers were valid.

Of those who signed up for plans on the government website, 87% used at least some kind of subsidy. No check was reported to have been made on whether the plans they selected covered abortion.

Furthermore, according to National Right to Life News, “not a single one of the 18 insurance companies that

are selling abortion-covering plans, and that responded to the GAO, actually were collecting a separate payment from enrollees for elective abortion coverage.”

In addition, the legislative language required states to make sure there were plans available to pro-lifers that did not cover elective abortion. That is not currently enforced either. According to the GAO, in five states - Connecticut, Hawaii, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Vermont - “every insurance plan currently sold on the exchange covers elective abortion.”

In other states — California, New York, Massachusetts, and Oregon — abortion coverage was the general rule, appearing in 92 – 98% of the plans.

The House of Representatives has passed a “No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion” Act that would help resolve the issue. Senator Harry Reid has prevented action on a similar Senate bill.

National Right to Life News, September 2014 issues.

Duck Dynasty’s cleft palate

Duck Dynasty’s Jase and Missy Robertson were told that their unborn child Mia had a cleft palate and would need surgeries after birth.

Someone asked Missy, “Was there ever a thought in your mind you might not follow through with the pregnancy?”

The answer? “Absolutely not. No. That thought never entered my mind. God gave each and every one of us life, as a gift. And each life has value and importance. And Mia has a special importance now in her life because of that.”

Mia has indeed had multiple surgeries and is today a ten-year-old that her mother says is “an example to so many people.” She is also the motivation for the Mia Moo Fund (www.miamoo.org), which is “to inform, inspire, and improve the quality of life for children born with cleft lip/palate.”

www.cnsnews.com/news/article/michael-w-chapman/duck-dynasty-s-missy-aborting-absolutely-not-god-gave-each-of-us-life

Please vote!

At the federal level, we need to pass the “Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act” and defeat the Senate Democrat’s “Women’s Health Protection Act”, which would be more accurately named the “Abortion Without Limits Until Birth Act.”

In New York State, pro-life forces are teetering. Cuomo’s allies are one seat away from a pro-abortion majority. They have 31, one vote away from a majority. If they get that majority, then Cuomo will pass the Women’s Equality Act WITH its abortion plank, and New York will truly be the early-and-late abortion capitol of the country.

Your vote matters. Vote your convictions. Vote for people who will find effective ways to help the unborn, the newborn handicapped, and the ill/elderly.

Vote! Please vote!



Remember Savita?

Fast news tends to mean emotional reporting that can produce hysterical reactions and counterproductive efforts at corrective actions.

Such was the case with Savita Halappanavar, who died in an Irish hospital of infection. She thought she was miscarrying and asked for an abortion, which Irish law does not permit. She died of infection after a week in the hospital.

The media went wild and claimed that her death was due to the lack of an abortion. As a result, the Irish law was changed, ostensibly to save further victims like Savita.

However, a recent report by Ireland's Health Information and Quality Authority "shows that Savita's death had nothing to do with the abortion law. It was caused by incompetence."

There were basic errors made in her care that failed to note the changes in her condition that warranted different procedures. As a review of her records shows, there were "a number of missed opportunities" which might have changed the outcome of the case. Nine of the people involved in her medical care have been disciplined.

BioEdge reports little effort by the media to correct the false impression they trumpeted to help get the abortion law changed. It reports a statement by Cora Sherlock, a solicitor and deputy chairman of Pro-life Campaign. She said, "Those who pushed the distorted version of the story hardest from the start have never bothered to set the record straight in light of all the reports that have contradicted their initial presentation of the case." She added, "These journalists and politicians were happy to hard wire a false account of what happened into people's minds and to this day they have no intention of disturbing their original narrative."

www.bioedge.org/index.php/bioethics/bioethics_article/11149

Sex-selection abortion

A new study reveals that: "Asian-born American parents with two daughters are significantly more likely to have a son for their third child." The only way that can happen is with sex-selected abortions.

Rachel Lu sympathizes with pro-abortion forces who counted on this study to confirm that sex-selected abortions don't happen in this country. The study shows instead that indeed they do happen, and in no small numbers. She wonders if the pro-abortion feminists may have to simply say that "...even if sex-selective abortion happens and is sort of distasteful, maybe a few hundred or thousand aborted daughters either way just aren't that big of a deal?" Not palatable feminism.

www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/news/2014/10/debunking-the-debunkers-sex-selective-abortion-do-happen-in-the-united-states

www.thefederalist.com/2014/09/18/the-united-states-has-a-femicide-problem

Moment of enlightenment

Words make a difference. They can make someone want to hear more. Or not.

Sandy Arena recently filmed her Life Ballet for an adaptation of the original abortion story. She said that the characterization as an abortion story made some people hesitant to talk about it.

She's calling the film version "Arise Sweet Sarah." When asked about it, she now says that it's a story of grief. And people want to hear more.



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RARTL is a single-issue, nonsectarian, pro-life organization that focuses on abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia, which are all immediate threats to innocent human life.

More data from India linking abortion and breast cancer

Twelve recent studies coming out of India all indicate an increase in breast cancer among women who had prior abortions.

India is a good country for gathering data on the link because the risk factors found in the Western world are generally not present in India. In India, women marry relatively young, they have a lot of children, they breastfeed, and they do not use birth control pills. Therefore the increased risk attributable to the other factors is not present and the increase is more likely to be due to the abortions.

The risk shown in these studies is quite variable, but consistently large. On the average, they indicate that Indian women with prior abortions have five and a half times the probability of developing breast cancer as those who did not have abortions.

It's one more piece of information that says women who have had abortions should be careful to have their exams on a regular basis.

It is reasonable for us as pro-lifers to suggest such precautions to women who might not have access to the risk information that is becoming increasingly clearer. We must always remember in such discussions that not everyone who has breast cancer has had an abortion, and not everyone who has an abortion develops breast cancer. We are talking about risk, not certainty.

www.pop.org/content/out-india-comes-yet-more-evidence-abortion-causes-breast-cancer

Since you asked When you know a baby is going to be born with a significant problem like Down syndrome, isn't it kinder to terminate the pregnancy than to let the child be born to suffer?

by Deacon Dennis Lohouse

When my wife became pregnant with our 5th child when she was 40 years old, the inevitable question came from our OBGYN: Should we do an amniocentesis to make sure the baby is OK? Our response was why? We would accept whatever child God gives us even though there was history in our family.

I had two cousins and an aunt who were born with Downs syndrome. Each was loved and treated as a full member of their families. They were each, in their own ways, beautiful and loving people, who lived full lives, and in two cases lived on their own.

The real question is, to whom are we being “kinder”? Isn't this question of selective abortion just another way of insuring our own comfort because we believe we will suffer somehow from the presence of a Downs child? For whose benefit are we really aborting such a child? It is an act of selfishness, just as sex-selection abortion is an act of arrogant selfishness, perpetrated on the unborn in a quest for perfection and convenience.

Surrogacy goes south

Potential customers in search of women to be surrogate mothers for their children are experiencing difficulties as India and Thailand, both favored locations, are now reducing opportunities for foreigners. International disputes have arisen in recent years with surrogate mothers refusing to abort possibly handicapped babies, and the biological parents refusing to pay for or accept disabled babies.

The poverty-ridden state of Tabasco in Mexico is now seeing an increase in surrogacy traffic. Surrogacy is legal in Tabasco, but only if done “altruistically.” Therefore, contracts between the two parties do not state that the surrogate mother is to receive more than coverage for her expenses, sometimes calling it “economic assistance.” The lack of documentation of terms leaves the door open to the abuses additional to those already documented in the surrogacy field.

However, the poverty of the area means that many women are available for surrogacy who would otherwise not consider it. As the Guardian reported, one surrogate mother said, “I can't think of any other way of getting my daughter out of the barrio.”

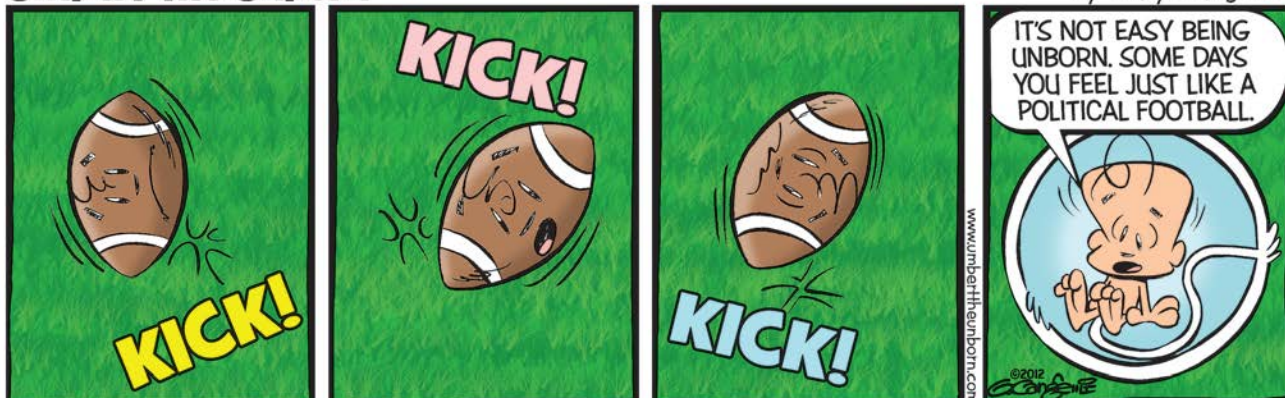
www.theguardian.com/world/2014/sep/25/tales-of-missing-money-stolen-eggs-surrogacy-mexico

Congratulations to Fred and Pat Amato

Pat and Fred Amato received the Leo Holmsten Human Life Award of 2014 at the dinner at the Hyatt on Friday, October 3. Over the years, Pat was involved with many pro-life organizations in the Rochester area, including her three years as ED for RARTL. Her contribution of pulling people together left the organizations she helped in a much stronger position. Fred, a Monroe County Legislator and eventually the only pro-life Democrat left in the Legislature, was a partner with Pat in most of the pro-life things she did. In addition, he spoke up and stood up for pro-life principles even when he paid a cost in his political life for doing so.

Congratulations to both Fred and Pat!

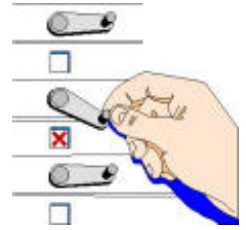
Umbert the Unborn



For almost 40 years American babies have been killed - over a million a year.

Protect babies, mothers, families, the disabled, the aged, and ourselves.

VOTE on Tuesday, November 4, 2014



The Rochester Area Right to Life Committee, Inc. Political Action Committees (PAC), in consultation with national and regional right to life representatives, based on candidates' voting records, and challengers' responses to questions about abortion and euthanasia - such as human embryonic stem cell research, cloning, Medicaid abortion funding, partial-birth abortion ban, parental notification of a minor's abortion - have determined the endorsed candidates below to be "pro-life" in their opposition to abortion, infanticide and euthanasia. We support their candidacies.

¹ = Recommended but not endorsed

NCE = No Candidate Endorsed

| County | Congressional District | State Senate District | State Assembly District |
|---|---|--|--|
| Erie | 26 NCE 27 Chris Collins | 63 NCE 59 Patrick Gallivan ¹ 60 Mark Grisanti ¹ 61 Michael H. Ranzenhofer | 141, 149 NCE 140 Robin Schimminger 142 Michael Kearns 143 Dennis Gabryszak 144 Jane Corwin 147 David DiPietro |
| Genesee | 26 NCE | 61 Michael H. Ranzenhofer | 139 Stephen M. Hawley |
| Livingston | 27 Chris Collins | 57 Catharine Young 59 Patrick Gallivan ¹ | 130 Robert Oaks 133 Bill Nojay 147 David DiPietro |
| Monroe | 25 NCE 27 Chris Collins | 55 CALL FOR UPDATE 54 Michael Nozzolio 56 Joseph Robach 59 Patrick Gallivan ¹ 61 Michael H. Ranzenhofer 62 Robert Ortt | 134, 136, 137, NCE 133 Bill Nojay 135 Mark C. Johns 138 Peterson Vazquez 139 Stephen M. Hawley |
| Niagara | 26 NCE 27 Chris Collins | 62 Robert Ortt | 140 Robin Schimminger 142 Michael Kearns 144 Jane Corwin 145 John D. Ceretto 146 Raymond W. Walter |
| Ontario | 23 Tom Reed 27 Chris Collins | 55 CALL FOR UPDATE 54 Michael Nozzolio | 131 Brian Kolb |
| Orleans | 27 Chris Collins | 62 Robert Ortt | 139 Stephen M. Hawley 144 Jane Corwin |
| Oswego | 23 Tom Reed 24 John Katko ¹ | 48 Patty Ritchie | 122, 128 NCE 124 Christopher S. Friend 130 Robert Oaks |
| Seneca | 23 Tom Reed | 54 Michael Nozzolio | 131 Brian Kolb 132 Philip A. Palmesano |
| Steuben | 23 Tom Reed | 58 Tom O'Mara ¹ | 132 Philip A. Palmesano 133 Bill Nojay 148 Joseph Giglio |
| Wayne | 24 John Katko ¹ | 54 Michael Nozzolio | 130 Robert Oaks |
| Wyoming | 27 Chris Collins | 59 Patrick Gallivan ¹ | 147 David DiPietro |
| Yates | 23 Tom Reed | 58 Tom O'Mara ¹ | 132 Philip A. Palmesano |
| MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE District 20 Ernest Flagler | | | |

Authorized and paid for by the Rochester Area Right to Life Federal PAC and the Rochester Area Right to Life State Political Committee
675 Ling Road; Suite 3; Rochester, NY 146. Not authorized by any candidate. Chairperson: Arnold J. Eckert; 585-621-4690

Come join us for RARTL's Annual Meeting 2014 Wednesday, October 22



6:00 PM Potluck supper and exhibits (doors open at 5:30)

7:00 Program

Featured speaker:

**Bill Nojay, Assemblyman District 133
and WYSL radio host**

Our Mother of Sorrows Church on
5000 Mount Read Blvd.,
Rochester 14612
Enter at the rear of the church.

No charge. All are welcome.

Can't bring a dish to pass?
Come anyway.
Can't RSVP? Come
anyway.

For questions or to RSVP, call 621-4690 or e-mail RARTL@righttoliferoch.org.

If you can bring a dish to pass at the potluck supper, please call Pat (621-4690) and let her know what you're bringing.

Stem cells and macular degeneration

Induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSC) were made from skin cells of a patient's arm and, after transformation into specialized eye cells, used to treat age-related macular degeneration (AMD). The cells were grafted into her eye. The patient is one of six recruited for the study in Japan.

It is a pilot study, intended to explore the safety of the technique developed by Masayo Takahashi. Researchers are interested to see how well these grafted cells integrate with the existing cells in the eye.

There are no human embryos killed in the process of creating iPSC cells.

www.newscientist.com/article/dn26220-stem-cells-used-in-landmark-therapy-for-failing-sight.html#.VCOI4BYX808

Memorial to Nazi's euthanasia victims

The Nazis didn't start out killing Jews. Their early targets included the mentally and physically handicapped. The Nazis killed them, using methods they would later perfect and employ in the death camps.

A memorial was opened in Berlin in September, to recognize the 300,000 victims who died in what the Nazis called their "euthanasia" program. The memorial is a "striking piece of modern architecture: a 30-metre-long wall of blue glass in the open air near the Berlin Philharmonic."

Germany's state minister for culture and media said, "We must denounce the inhumane distinction between a worthy and an unworthy life. Every human life is valuable - that's the message of this memorial."

www.bioedge.org/index.php/bioethics/bioethics_article/11132 <http://www.dw.de/gedenkst%C3%A4tte-f%C3%BCr-opfer-der-euthanasie-morde-r%C3%B6ffnet/a-17895643>

Not worth treating?

Michael Cook, the editor of BioEdge, summarized the case of a Belgian rapist and murderer, Frank Van Den Bleeken. Van Den Bleeken said that he could not control himself and considered himself too dangerous to ever be released. He therefore requested euthanasia because the thought of life in prison caused him considerable suffering. Cook illuminates what you might call "the back story."

"Strictly speaking, despite his horrific crime, Van Den Bleeken was not a prisoner but a patient. He was being held "at the Governor's pleasure" ... because he was mentally ill and a danger to society. Belgium's dysfunctional mental health system was unable to treat him, so Van Den Bleeken applied to be transferred to a Dutch prison with advanced treatment for sex offenders. When the Belgian government refused, Van Den Bleeken requested euthanasia.

"In short, Van Den Bleeken's suffering could have been cured, but it was either too expensive or too much bother for the Belgian government. As with most cases of euthanasia or assisted suicide, the real problem is that society has tossed its most vulnerable citizens onto a scrap heap."

Van Den Bleeken requested permission three years ago, but there is disagreement. The sisters of his victim oppose the euthanasia. Even Belgium's euthanasia expert is uneasy about the issue.

www.bioedge.org/index.php/tools/newsletter2013

www.bioedge.org/index.php/bioethics/bioethics_article/11154

Sandra Cano

She was the Mary Doe of Doe vs. Bolton, the companion case to Roe vs. Wade. She never wanted an abortion and actually ran away to avoid one. She was as badly used by the pro-abortion lawyers as Norma McCorvey was, and like Norma she also came to help the pro-life side of the fight. She died September 30 at the age of 66.

www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/news/2014/10/sandra-cano-rip www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/news/2014/10/mary-doe-of-doe-v-bolton-decries-decision-fights-for-life-at-nrlc-89

Mental activity in “vegetative” patients

A new study by neuroscientists Lorina Naci and Adrian Owen shows brain activity associated with moments of high suspense in normal people can be also found in some patients diagnosed as “vegetative.”

An 8-minute excerpt from an Alfred Hitchcock episode produced “attention” brain activity in normal volunteers, as measured by a relatively new technique called functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). During the film, the fMRI recorded higher brain activity in the regions that control attention and also documented that the activity built in intensity until the climax of the film. Researchers noted that the same excerpt produced similar recordings in a 35-year old man who had been deemed unresponsive since the age of 17.

Researchers said it meant that he was not only aware of the video but could also follow the plot. A second patient did not demonstrate the same responsive brain activity.

Researchers were hopeful that their technique could help to determine who is actually responsive, contrary to appearance.

www.lifesitenews.com/news/new-study-shows-some-vegetative-patients-are-mentally-active <http://science.howstuffworks.com/fmri.htm>

State laws are of primary importance

So why don't we just pass a Constitutional amendment defining unborn children as persons? Wouldn't that protect them everywhere?

Not quite. The Constitution is put into action by laws, state and some federal. For instance, not all killings are treated alike. State laws differentiate between a hit-man who takes money to kill someone's rival, a wife who in a moment of anger pushes her husband down the stairs, and an inebriated driver who accidentally hits and kills a pedestrian.

State laws would have to be written to uphold the Constitution's newly established protection of unborn persons, because none of the existing laws would really apply. Some states might choose to call abortion murder; these states would probably already have laws discouraging abortion. Other states, perhaps like New York, might treat it as no more serious than a traffic infraction.

The primary importance for protection of unborn babies still lies at the level of the state. We need pro-life legislators to help change the culture of death in our state. We need to change the attitudes by enacting laws requiring parental notification / permission for abortion in the case of minors, laws requiring waiting periods and informed consent, and laws prohibiting the bullying of pro-life pregnancy centers by unfriendly groups or local governments. When laws change, attitudes change gradually over time. We need to be (and are!) working now to change the laws.

March for Life in Washington, D.C., on January 22

Make your plans. Mark your calendar for January 22. You'll leave in the evening on January 21. You'll get back very, very late January 22 and you'll be **energized!**

Here is bus information to get you there and back:

St. Mary in Canandaigua had a bus last year and is likely to have one this year. However, no firm plans have been made. Contact Debbie DeMarco at (585) 248-2647 for information

St. John of Rochester – contact Janene Loughran at (585) 329-1974 or e-mail her at sjrprolife@yahoo.com. There will be a 9:30 prayer service, with a 10 PM bus departure.

Holy Spirit Webster – contact Sandy Giannavola at (585) 387-0993. Departure at 9 PM. Cost: \$35 per person.

Chemung County RTL - contact Steve Spaulding at (607) 739-9282. \$50 per person if received by December 15, \$60 after that.

St Pius X Chili (tentative) - contact Jan Armstrong (585) 293-1717.

Hope Christian Fellowship (new to our list) at 3495 Lake Avenue in Rochester. Contact Aurora Vega, at auroravega777@gmail.com or cell phone (585) 278-4413. Further details will be provided on contact.

Holy Apostles in Rochester – Fr. Tony Muggavero's special youth trip. Fr. Tony would appreciate any contributions that people are moved to make, since most of the students are not in a position to cover their own expenses. Call at (585) 254-7170.

Suggested prayers

Please become a **prayer partner**. Spend 5-10 minutes daily in prayer about life issues to provide a 24-hour prayer shield over our area. Join in the following monthly prayer themes:

October: That the mentally disabled of all ages will be accorded full human dignity.

November: That this November people will vote for leaders committed to protecting all innocent human life.

December: That fathers will be empowered to defend their unborn sons and daughters.

January: That God will bless pro-life volunteers with even more motivation and courage in the New Year.

February: That those experiencing unwanted pregnancies will not be deceived by the death-producing lies that surround them.

In Memory

Edwin 'Ed' Oftedahl

by Thomas and Jeanne Sweeney
Joan and Jed Hanna
Mary Lou Reifsnyder



Catherine and Kathleen Hoysic

by William J. Hoysic

Mary Ann Cape

Charles Anthony Jones

Sandra Cano "Mary Doe" of Doe vs. Bolton"



In Honor

Fred and Pat Amato,
LHHL Award 2014 winners

Events of interest to pro-lifers

October 22 RARTL Annual Meeting at Our Mother of Sorrows on Mt. Read Blvd., 6 PM supper, 7 PM program. (See details on page 5.)

November 7 Musical fundraiser for Embracing Options. 7 PM, hosted at the Brighton Presbyterian Church.

January 18 Mass for Life, celebrated by Bishop Matano. 2 PM at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Flower City Park.

Thursday, January 22 March for Life in Washington DC. Bus transportation available.

Saturday, March 28, 2015 Catholic Women's Conference "Body, Mind, and Soul" at Aquinas Institute <http://rochesterwcw.org/>

RTL MEMORIAL/HONOR TRIBUTE

You are welcome to remember an event/achievement or a deceased loved one with a memorial/honor/tribute, tax-deductible donation to the **RARTL Education Fund**. A card in your name will be sent to the family/person you designate; contribution amount is confidential.

Mail form & check payable to RARTL Education Fund to RARTL; 675 Ling Road; Suite 3; Rochester, NY 14612

Enclosed is gift of \$_____ in memory/honor

Of/for _____

(occasion) _____

My/our name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Please notify _____

Address _____

City _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Life-Lines Subscription – no charge

Would you like a subscription to Life-Lines? We can send it to you on paper or via e-mail. Please call (621-4690) or e-mail (RARTL@righttoliferoch.org) with your contact information. We need your name and street address and, if you would like it e-mailed, your e-mail address. Donations are gratefully accepted.

Snippets world-wide

Forced sterilizations in China: ramifications. The 2008 Sichuan earthquake killed thousands of only children whose parents had been sterilized by the authorities, and who were thus denied the opportunity to have more children."

www.pop.org/content/president-xi-jinping-stop-one-child-policy

Switzerland: Increase of suicide tourism by victims with treatable conditions.

www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/news/2014/09/switzerlands-suicide-tourism-by-victims-with-treatable-conditions-increases

Abortion chain "Whole Woman's Health" to open facility in New Mexico to skirt Texas' abortion restrictions. www.texasrighttolife.com/a/1340/Abortion-chain-to-open-facility-in-New-Mexico-to-skirt-Texas-abortion-restrictions

Reminder: RARTL will print out specific references for you if you do not have access to a computer. Call Pat at (585) 621-4690.

Rochester Area Right to Life Committee, Inc.,
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Rochester, New York 14612

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LIFE Runners at the 5K

There are different ways to promote pro-life thinking. Some people give speeches. Others make music or draw pictures. And some people run.

The George Eastman House Photo Finish 5K saw some pro-life visibility Saturday, September 27, when a three-person team from the Finger Lakes NY Life Runners showed up. This particular 5K encourages participants to raise money for the charity of their choice. The LIFE Runners, pictured below, wore shirts that said "LIFE Runners" and their chosen charity was Rochester Area Right to Life.



Results:

- Congratulations to Debbie Liana! She came in number 1 among the women with a 6:25 (minutes:seconds) /mile average.
- Ted Thull was number 5 overall, out of 1,201 finishers, with a 6:07/mile average
- Daniel W Mruzek was number 55 with 7:09/mile average

Team captain Dan Mruzek said: "Finger Lakes New York LIFE Runners was proud to run to support the great work of RARTL. Thank you, friends, for all you do to support the cause of life!"

He added that they raised \$505 for RARTL, and Debbie also donated her \$100 prize as #1 woman, for a total of \$605. Thank you, LIFE Runners.

Are you a runner? They would love to hear from you. Check out their facebook page www.facebook.com/nyfingerlakesliferunners.