

## 40 Days for Life - Fall 2014

Houston Coalition for Life would like to send a resounding "Thank you" to all 40 churches and groups and to all of the individuals who united to pray for an end to abortion during the 2014 Fall 40 Days for Life Prayer Campaign in front of the largest abortion facility in the Western Hemisphere!



This year's theme — "The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not over come it" (John 1:5) — was

magnanimously displayed through the sacrifices and the prayers of all who were fasting and praying for an end to abortion. Those who were able to pray on the sidewalk in front of the abortion facility, stood as a witness—like a candle carrying the Light of Christ— calmly offering the hope, the clarity and the warmth of compassionately-presented truth as given to us through grace of the Holy Spirit! These prayer warriors, baring Christ's Light by their presence, provided an opportunity for each girl to SEE people who could help her out of what could be the darkest moment of her life. As a result many women stopped to obtain information from us, even if it only constituted a brief exchange, a brochure handed out, a coupon for a free pregnancy test and free ultrasound on the Big Blue Bus. Though we may never know the extent of the lives saved or affected, we did have over 275 visits to the Big Blue Bus.



It takes a lot courage to step out of our comfort zone and offer assistance directly to the individuals who drive into the parking lot of this huge facility. Still, several new groups join us in standing as a witness to the dignity of every human life— born and unborn. They came to pray for a conversion of hearts and the ending of abortion. Some individuals, who had never been out to pray on the sidewalk before, stepped forward to calmly and gently offer assistance directly to the girls about to pass onto the property where the real war on women is being waged. Perseverance in offering the love of Christ and practical solutions to these girls, was only made stronger because of the prayer warriors who accompanied us in prayer and fasting from their home and from the over 290 different 40 Days for Life locations with whom we united internationally from Sept 24th through Nov 2nd.



Even still, after 40 Days is over we have individual volunteers and more groups requesting sidewalk counselor training and returning to the sidewalk to pray for these girls because we realize more girls are still going into the abortion facility. Year round we want these girls to know that they are not alone and these children are not abandoned during what could be the darkest moment of their lives. To get involved, email: [Theresa@houstoncoalition.com](mailto:Theresa@houstoncoalition.com).

## March of the Surviving Youth: You can dampen our face but not our spirit!



Despite the pouring rain, **over 300 people:** youth, young adults and those who are young at heart united in the bi-annual March of the Surviving Youth on Oct 11th! "Speak Life," the theme of this years event, communicated the value of life and desire for abortion to be ended!

Smiles beaming from this soaked group revealed a love of life that they wanted to communicate.



This public demonstration, organized by the Catholic Organization of Life, consisted of Mass, a concert, dynamic speakers and a prayer march to the abortion facility.



Remembering unborn youth, aborted since 1973.



For Houston teen prolife action: [thecoolhouston.shutterfly.com/](http://thecoolhouston.shutterfly.com/)

# Houston Coalition *for* Life

...ending abortion in Houston, peacefully and prayerfully.

Dear Pro-life Friends,

As I write to you I am very excited to tell you that we are putting Baby Blue on the road this week!

She is finally ready and so are we!

The week of November 17<sup>th</sup> we will take Baby Blue to the late term abortion facility at 2505 N. Shepherd. We will offer everything we provide in our Big Blue Bus: free pregnancy tests, free ultrasounds and Christian Counseling.

This particular mobile crisis pregnancy center of ours will indeed be "mobile," and we will be able to take her to the other five open abortion facilities in Houston. As we await the decision of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals on the final aspect of House Bill 2, we pray that the bill in its entirety will go into effect. When that happens we will be down to two abortion facilities here and we will then have a mobile crisis pregnancy center parked next to both of them, Praise God!

We are so grateful to the family that donated this RV to us and also to all of the many generous major donors who made this project a reality. I am very excited to introduce you to Baby Blue; you can get a sneak peak by turning this page...

We know that when the people in prayer outside an abortion facility have the resources of a crisis pregnancy center at their fingertips that hearts are changed and lives are saved from the horror of abortion. And this is how we are winning this battle for the lives of the unborn and their mothers, one life at a time.

I also have great news for you about our Big Blue Bus. This year, as of November 13<sup>th</sup>, we have had 601 more visits than we did last year! The total so far to date for this year is 2351 visits with 1005 women having a positive pregnancy test and 933 continuing their pregnancy. Through the Grace of God that is 93%!

Our annual Run/Walk for Life is what keeps our Big Blue Bus parked next to Planned Parenthood six days a week and I want to extend a HUGE thank you to everyone who participated. Our top walkers and churches are recognized on the next page, the amounts they raised are incredible. Check out our #1 walker's total!

**I can't emphasize enough how important it is to have the resources of a crisis pregnancy center literally at the fingertips of the pro-lifers on the street.**

To demonstrate this, I would like to share a recent story with you: "Mother, where are you going today? Can I walk you to the door, please be very careful."



*This is what my 14 year old daughter said to me as I was leaving this morning and she had a very scared look on her face. I told her there was something I had to take care of. As I was pulling into Planned Parenthood I felt the need to stop for that lady out there in the driveway even though the other people were telling me not to stop. She told me I could get a free ultrasound in the bus."*

This women was sitting in our counseling room as she told me her story. She was from Africa, and had four other children. When she was much younger and unwed, she had had two abortions. Now even though she was married, she and her husband had decided they just couldn't have another child. All the same, she did want me to do an ultrasound.

When I began the ultrasound she did not want to look at the screen, but as I described her baby to her... she *finally* did look.

In her mind, she knew that if she looked her heart would melt...she knew herself well. As she looked at the screen, she began to cry and she asked me to pray with her. She revealed that she was a minister at a church and that it would be impossible to stand in front of the congregation and preach if she went through with this abortion.

*When she got up from the table, I got a very long and appreciative hug. She told me that the pro-lifers on the street were "angels" and that she would like to join us there one day soon.*

**This is how we are winning this battle for the lives of the unborn and their mothers, one life at a time!**

From all of us at the Houston Coalition for Life and our Board of Directors I would like to thank you so much for your prayers and involvement. Please continue to keep this work in your prayers.

With great anticipation, we await the birth of Our Savior and the dawn of a new year and we would like to wish you and your family a very Blessed and Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Christine Melchor  
Executive Director

PS. Be watching you inbox for information on our 2015 Benefit Dinner which will be held in April.



## Stories from the Street: from Nurse on the Big Blue Bus and from Volunteers on the Sidewalk!

It was a beautiful Friday in September when a 35 year old woman stopped on her way into the parking lot of an abortion facility and spoke with a male sidewalk counselor. During the conversation, she mentioned that she had \$300. The gentleman, who had come to pray on the sidewalk, pointed out that all the services on the Big Blue Bus were free.

Soon after she entered the Big Blue Bus, it became very evident to the nurse and the nurse's assistant that the young woman didn't want to be pregnant. They provided her with a free pregnancy test and free ultrasound. The nurse was able to record that 4-D ultrasound of her 17 week old baby; and she played the baby's response several times. The woman began crying as her heart opened up to accept the child inside her womb. She talked for a long time with the nurse and the assistant. By the time she left the bus, she had chosen life for her unborn child! All Praise to God!

—Cheryl Park, RN, Nurse Manager



Even on days when the weather looks terrible and for some reason the Big Blue Bus can not be there to provide a free ultrasound, it is amazing how God can use Prayer Warriors to inspire interaction that impacts a now changed heart and a life saved. During 40 Days for Life, a prayer volunteer spoke with a woman coming out of the abortion facility parking lot. The volunteer asked "Can I pray with you about anything today." The young woman looked down at her lap and said, "Yes, about this decision I am making to have an abortion." The sidewalk counselor asked her to pull over to the side so they could pray without blocking the driveway to the parking lot. "During their conversation, the girl revealed that she was Christian and was struggling financially. The volunteer began to pray and included a verse that had been put on her heart for that morning: Psalm 91. By verse 9-11, the young woman started to cry. The young woman left that day, saying she would choose life for her baby and she'd return for an ultrasound at the Big Blue Bus!

**Thank you to all the volunteers to come out to pray and offer help!**

## Update...Meet just a few of the 2014 Babies!

We wanted to share pictures of precious children whom we first saw through the ultrasound on our Big Blue Bus. They shine forth the joy, beauty, and potential life offers!



## 2014 Run/Walk for Life: Amazing Results!



Thank you for walking the road with us so that we keep our wheels on the road! We are excited to announce that we surpassed our goal raising: \$110, 108.43!!! We are so thankful for all of you who make Walk for Life a success! If you haven't yet been a part of this lifesaving fundraiser,

### OUR TOP TEN WALKERS ARE:

- |                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Karen Perez \$35,175.00   | 6. Max Volanski \$3,312.50     |
| 2. Allison Forse \$10,195.00 | 7. Rev. Mark Goring \$2,578.50 |
| 3. Sylvia Valdez \$7,600.00  | 8. Cheryl Park \$1,635.00      |
| 4. Anita Nelson \$6,023.28   | 9. The Tully Family \$1,326.00 |
| 5. Karen Davis \$4,030.00    | 10. Phocion Park \$1,266.00    |

### OUR TOP TWO CHURCHES ARE:

1. Church Our Savior Lutheran \$13,182.15
2. Our Lady of Walsingham \$8,250.00



### A Message from our #1 Walker in the 2014 Run/Walk for Life:

I love Walking for Life, because it's something I am passionate about. When I share with others that 90% of mothers choose life after seeing their ultrasounds, people say "yes"! I am bold, and unafraid. I ask everyone on my email list and Facebook year after year. I try to find new people every year to share the story of how the Big, Blue Bus saves babies lives. This is how we win this battle!



## Delivery, Direction, and Drive

Hello, Luke here. I've got wonderful news to share... Baby Blue is ready, and I'm a dad.

Just today, I saw her again on the ultrasound with my wife... she's so perfectly formed, wiggling around, safe and warm while the air around us gets chilly. As a father of a baby girl (who won't be born for a few more months,) it is my joy, but also my responsibility to plan for her future.

As development staff for an organization that saves babies and families, it is also my responsibility to plan for the future of other children by ensuring that we have a way to help them when they are most vulnerable, and make sure Houston Coalition for Life has the financial resources, tools, and personnel to keep helping mothers recognize the little miracles that they have, whether those miracles were planned or not.

A little over a year ago, I had the pleasure to announce that HCL was moving forward with Baby Blue, and now I can proudly say that we've had a safe delivery, and everything about our new mobile cpc is how we wanted... She is truly a wonderful, sophisticated tool, with a very important purpose. Regardless of the purpose, the sophistication of the tool, in order to be effective, it must be staffed, and there must be upkeep... the engine will not run without gas in the tank, for lack of a simpler way to put it.

This vehicle was designed for a long haul... and we estimate it will take just over \$500,000 to keep it operational over the next 5 years of service. Each year of service, Baby Blue could see just as many women as the Blue Bus has seen in 2014:

- 2351 visits including repeats
- 1401 pregnancy tests administered
- 1005 positive pregnancies
- 933 women who continued pregnancy

...and this is only as of mid-November.

It is your generosity that put these vehicles on the road. It is your generosity that will keep them there... it is your prayers, your love, your giving that lets our staff continue saving babies. Saving families.

Thank you for your support... please continue to be generous.

From our family to yours, Merry Christmas. Let's Roll.

**Luke Stuckey**  
Director of Development  
[Luke@HoustonCoalition.com](mailto:Luke@HoustonCoalition.com)



## Budget Projection for Baby Blue for the next 5 years (based on estimates of the Baby Blue RV qualifications and Big Blue Bus expenses)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	cume
Blue Bus Personnel	\$ 72,000	\$ 75,600	\$ 75,600	\$ 79,380	\$ 79,380	\$ 381,960
Baby Blue Supplies	\$ 6,200	\$ 6,262	\$ 6,325	\$ 6,388	\$ 6,452	\$ 31,626
Baby Blue Fuel	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,300	\$ 6,615	\$ 6,946	\$ 7,293	\$ 33,154
Baby Blue Insurance	\$ 2,997	\$ 3,057	\$ 3,118	\$ 3,180	\$ 3,244	\$ 15,597
Baby Blue Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 8,400	\$ 8,568	\$ 8,739	\$ 8,914	\$ 9,092	\$ 43,714
	\$ 92,997	\$ 97,161	\$ 97,745	\$ 102,129	\$ 102,756	\$ 506,050