

Rally for Life, Austin, TX



This January marked the heartbreaking 40th anniversary of legalized abortion in America. As always, the Houston Coalition for Life lead the protest outside the doors of Planned Parenthood's annual event, the luncheon "celebrating" this horrible anniversary. Many people showed up to join us in letting passersby know of the tragic event occurring inside. We also sent representatives to Austin to join the annual pro-life march at the Texas Capitol, and ran into many friends as we listened to our governor and Attorney General speak at the Rally for Life!

Spring 40 Days for Life



We were excited to have Shawn Carney, 40 Days for Life Campaign Director, speak at our prayer vigil site on Ash Wednesday. This first day of the Spring campaign had a beautiful beginning with dozens of people gathering around, ashes on their foreheads, to hear Shawn's encouraging words.

We gave away copies of the new 40 Days for Life book to participants in this opening vigil, signed by Shawn!



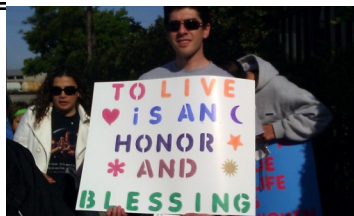
PPGC on 290 - The Power of Prayer Vigils

For more than a year now there has been an ongoing prayer vigil on Wednesdays outside the Planned Parenthood on Hwy 290. Just recently this location has shut down on Wednesdays, so the prayer warriors maintaining the vigil moved their time to Tuesdays. For the past few weeks, the facility has remained closed on Tuesdays AND Wednesdays! Great work, faithful prayer warriors!

New Planned Parenthood Location Open



Towards the end of April, Planned Parenthood of the Gulf Coast opened a new branch in Spring. Before the doors were even open, the community was organizing to take a stand against it. The first vigil organized by the Houston Coalition for Life at the new location saw dozens of Spring residents turn out in peaceful prayer.



The Spring campaign was a great one - we had 43 different churches and groups sign up to cover time slots, along with many individuals who came out regularly.

Six of those churches and groups were joining us for the very first time! We are so grateful for God's blessing and all of your efforts as we watch this peaceful, prayerful vigil continue to grow. The next 40 Days for Life campaign will be September 25-November 3, so email dorothy@houstoncoalition.com to join as soon as possible!



Houston Coalition *for* Life

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

Dear Pro-Life Friends,

Do you remember any year such as this, when the pro-life movement in Texas has seen so many victories?

And for this first time that I can remember, Planned Parenthood of the Gulf Coast (PPGC) has had a very bad year!

They just recently announced the closure of three of their facilities: Huntsville, Lufkin **and the Bryan-College Station abortion center**. This is huge... the Bryan-College Station location is where 40 Days for Life began, and it is the center that Abby Johnson managed.

PPGC also just recently agreed to pay \$4.3 million to settle the fraud case brought against them for overbilling the Medicaid Program. Hopefully this is eye-opening for many of those who have supported them in the past.

Earlier this year Planned Parenthood in Texas was kicked out of the Women's Health Program (WHP), and this is having a tremendous impact on them. PPGC claims women will have nowhere to go, but simply by going to the state website for the WHP program and entering the zip code of our own massive Planned Parenthood, *439 other health providers* are found.

And last, but certainly not least: the pro-life omnibus bill HB2 that Governor Perry signed into law last month is truly a victory for the women and children of Texas! It bans abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy, requires that all abortion facilities meet the same standards as an ambulatory surgical center, that the abortion doctor have admitting privileges at a hospital within 30 miles, and that the doctor personally administer the entire regimen of the abortion drug RU486 to the patient.

Adding insult to injury, we are parked next to PPGC's mega-facility six days a week offering free pregnancy tests, free ultrasounds and Christian Counseling to the women entering.

Our numbers through June of this year (even though we were out with a mechanical problem for a while) are 977 visits to our mobile crisis pregnancy center with 331 positive pregnancy tests and 303 moms choosing to continue their pregnancy, Praise God! We had 297 negative pregnancy tests and the other visits were mainly for follow up ultrasounds.

I would like to share with you a story we received today from one of the pregnant women we were privileged to serve:

"Life wasn't so put together at the time of my pregnancy, but because I put faith in front of my fear, I now have this perfection of a son, Arian. On July 21, 2013 I gave birth to a healthy little boy! He has stolen my heart. With all that I've gone thru in my life, being a mother is the most AMAZING & REWARDING part of it. Thank you for everything you guys do, y'all are changing lives & bringing beautiful new ones into the world." - letter from a Mom



With every testimony we receive and baby we see we are so grateful to have been available to these moms. We are literally brought to tears when we see these little miracles that God created, so precious and deserving of love.

Would you like to be a part of this important work? The number one way you can help is by getting involved in our Stand & Pray ministry. This may be one of the hardest things you have ever done but once you get started, it will surely be one of the most rewarding. The graces you receive through your prayer and sacrifice of standing outside an abortion facility are truly innumerable. We know that when people are present in prayer and offering of alternatives that hearts are changed and lives are saved from the horror of abortion.

Another way you can help is by your financial support. We have our Run/Walk for Life 2013 coming up and it is a great way to raise money for our mobile crisis pregnancy center.

With just a little effort you could sponsor our mobile crisis pregnancy center for a whole day! All of the details are below.

In Christ Who Is Life,

Christine Melchor

Christine Melchor
Executive Director



New this year...**5K Run or Two Mile Walk!**

You can choose to do a two mile walk OR a 5K run - and help keep our mobile crisis pregnancy center on the road!

We will have the walk and the run mapped out on Heights Blvd. which is one block from the church.

The number one walker or runner will receive an Apple iPad...
NEW THIS YEAR...number two walker or runner will receive an Apple iPad mini!

The number one church or group will receive a table for ten at our 2014 Benefit Dinner!

PLUS if you can't do the walk/run on September 21st you can do the walk or run wherever you like and whenever you like!

Are you excited? We sure are, so register now to join the fun!

Visit www.houstoncoalition.com to get the details to sign up!

Also, we're on Twitter now, so help us spread the tweets! Our handle is @HCL_prolife and the event hashtag is #LivesDependOnUs.

“Big Blue Bus” Update...More Babies!

As we mentioned in our newsletter at the end of 2012, our mobile crisis pregnancy center has now been on the streets long enough for us to start seeing some of the sweet faces of babies saved by the grace of God, and through your generous support!

We’ve even watched a few babies growing up, since their moms return more than once with friends. If you were at our Benefit Dinner this past March, you heard one of our moms, Brittany, share her story and introduce you to her precious little girl, Amina Marly. Look how much that little cutie has grown up!



As we always say, there is no price-tag on the ability to help save lives, but every day the bus goes out, it costs money. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to help support this important work. Every little bit helps, and God makes it go a long way!

Here are just some of the incredibly beautiful “bus babies” we’d like you to meet:



A Note from one of our Moms:
“Thanks for emailing me! Here is a picture of our sweet little girl! She was born May 16...She is an amazing baby!! She is quiet and hardly ever makes a fuss. She has been smiling since 5 weeks and cooing and giggling for about 2 weeks now. Thank y'all for helping me choose to keep her. She means the world to me!!!”



Adventures in Austin - by Dorothy Richardson

Well, July was a little crazy. I know many of you have heard the stories of riots in the Capitol, orange-wearing pro-aborts planning to throw bricks or bottles of human waste, and so on. I saw some wild things myself, and many times the presence of demonic influence seemed so palpable. But the experience I had in Austin was full of many things, and thanks be to God, the main thing I took away was not the ugliness we’ve heard so much about. A quote I saw recently summed up how I felt about my time in Austin:

“God’s goodness is here for us as well. We find it in His daily care and love, especially in times of hardship. But we have to ‘get in the game’ to see it. If we’re checked out of life, not spending time in prayer, or not actively seeking to recognize God’s goodness, we’ll miss it.” - Sheila Mangum

I wasn’t surprised about the anger, violence, and crudity displayed by those who shamelessly advocate abortion: I’ve been to enough prayer vigils to be pretty well-acquainted with their behavior. In fact, I was surprised that ANYONE was surprised - what do we expect people who want abortion on demand to be like, anyway?

I was blessed throughout my time in that very tense atmosphere to feel the near Presence and protection of Christ. If I learned nothing else during my time in Austin, (and I actually learned a lot!) the whole trip would have been worth the conviction I was given that no matter what we’re going through, God responds to our prayers with His goodness and loving care. He shields us from evil, and changes our hearts.

As far as what I saw there - for that, I’ll share some pictures. I hear they’re worth more than many words, anyway. :)



The singing, joyful pro-life crowd waiting for the House hearing on HB2 to begin, July 2



Left: Christine with HCL volunteers Right: the overflow rooms where we spent most of July 2



Some of the **amazing** DPS officers who kept everybody safe. They did a fantastic job, stayed cheerful and were fair with all. Can’t say enough good things about them!



Left: With my friend Veronica from Texas Right to Life! I like to hang out with the cool kids. And behind us...



Right: Just a fraction of the tremendous line waiting to testify at the Senate hearing for HB2 on July 8.



There was a pro-life rally that same day - keynotes Mike Huckabee & Michelle Duggar drew quite a crowd!



My favorite sign from the rally. We had a few groups of orange-wearing abortion advocates, but DPS kept things running smoothly.

July 9: House debate on HB2. Rep. Senfronia Thompson handed out wire coat hangers and wielded knitting needles to illustrate her claim that the bill would send women to back alley abortionists. Drama, drama...but not a drop of logic in sight.



One of the high points of my week: the Eucharistic procession from St. Mary Cathedral to the Capitol. Dozens of people kneeling on searing concrete in the midday sun.

Senators Dan Patrick & Donna Campbell supporting Senator Glenn Hegar as he carried the bill through the Senate floor debate, July 12. Great pro-life heroes!



Things got a little crazy as it got close to midnight and the bill's final passage - we ended up “sheltering in place” in the office of the very generous Rep. Bryan Hughes, with Students for Life. Good times...