



Erie County Right to Life

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Find us at: <http://www.eriecountyrighttolife.org>
Summer 2023

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at:
eriecountyrighttolife@gmail.com

FUN IN THE SUMMERTIME

It's almost Summer, and for ECRTL that means the opportunity to spread our Pro-Life Message at the Erie County Fair and several area festivals!! With YOUR help, we plan to have our ECRTL Booth at SIX Festivals and the Fair this summer!! We hope YOU will carve out time on your calendar to spread the Pro-Life Message with us this summer! Training in presenting the Pro-Life Message and the latest Ohio legislative info will be provided to all volunteers.

Where we hope to be with our Booth this summer:

Vermilion Fish Festival—June 16-17

July 4th Stars and Stripes Celebration, Sandusky

Berlin Heights Basket Festival—Aug. 4-5

Erie County Fair, Sandusky—Aug. 8-13

Milan Melon Festival—Sept. 2-4

Wooly Bear Festival, Vermilion—Oct. 7

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU RIGHT NOW...because we need to register for booth space at these events ASAP! We need to know how many people are willing to help staff our Booth at each festival and at the Fair.

Please text or call Kim Johnston, Festivals/Fair Chairperson at 419-271-3086 (you can leave a message) with the festival(s), the Fair, and the dates that you can volunteer at the ECRTL BOOTH!! OR send an email with that info to:
eriecountyrighttolife@gmail.com.

Do it TODAY!!!!

ECRTL Prayer Brunch 2023

Saturday October 7 is this year's date for the **Erie County Right to Life Prayer Brunch**. Guest Speaker will be **Allison Stump**, who is the **Students for Life Coordinator for the Diocese of Toledo**. In her work throughout the northwestern Ohio Toledo Diocese (which includes Erie County), Allison assists the Diocesan Director of the Office for Life and Justice in establishing, maintaining, and cultivating relationships with youth leaders from parishes, as well as teachers, campus ministers, and influencers from around the Diocese to create opportunities to train, equip, and evangelize the youth and millennial generation with the Gospel of Life. Allison works with youth in both Catholic and public schools.

More details to come! This is always a informative, prayerful event, and a good opportunity to get together with other Pro-Life people from our area. Mark **October 7** on your calendar today!!

ECRTL Movie Night

Continuing with our education outreach, ECRTL held another Movie Night on Sunday May 4. Several ECRTL supporters gathered at The Villa on East Perkins Ave. for a showing of the movie *The Matter of Life*. The documentary "unravels the complexities of the abortion issue through science philosophy, history, and powerful personal stories". If you missed this event, you can view the film at home at this link: <https://tubitv.com/movies/696795/the-matter-of-life>

<https://protectwomenohio.com/>

This new pro-woman, pro-parent group is dedicated to defeating Ohio's extreme anti-abortion amendment. It is a coalition of many pro-life groups, including Erie County Right to Life. The group has produced three videos, to date, designed to educate the public about the reality of the proposed anti-life, pro-death amendment. All three videos are being aired on area TV outlets. You can view the videos, and lots more information about the work of this coalition at their website:
<https://protectwomenohio.com/>

***Special ELECTION Tuesday August 8**
to add an amendment to the Ohio Constitution that would require a 60% majority vote to amend the Ohio Constitution. **Please VOTE!!**
And please consider voting FOR this amendment.

****DECLINE TO SIGN****

As we reported in our last issue, the anti-life, pro-death forces have begun the process to enshrine abortion in an amendment to the Ohio Constitution through a ballot initiative. The group needs nearly 430,000 signatures from registered voters in Ohio by early July, in order to place the ballot initiative on ballot this November. *Please do not sign any petition presented to you concerning “The Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety”!* Petitions have been circulating in Erie County. Proponents of this proposed amendment will tell you that it is for the good of women, that it is all about women’s rights, and that it is necessary to protect women’s health needs are met in our state. None of that is true!

To read the text of the proposed abortion amendment, go to:

<https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/getattachment/cf27c10f-b153-4731-ae9e-e3555a326ed9/The-Right-to-Reproductive-Freedom-with-Protections-for-Health-and-Safety.aspx>

To find out what the proposed amendment really says, go to:

<https://www.declinetosign.us/> and <https://www.createdequal.org/ohio/>

NEWS from Our Local Pregnancy Resource Centers*

Abigail Pregnancy Services, 3900 Laylin Rd., Norwalk, offers free pregnancy tests, abortion education, and confidential support for those with an unexpected pregnancy. Call: **(419) 668-9500**

Big Summer News

Abigail’s 2nd Annual

“It’s 5 O’Clock Somewhere Fun Raiser”

will be Thurs. July 20,

**at St. Mary Marblehead Hall,
505 E. Main St., Marblehead**

**For ticket info:
equalitybeginsinthewomb.org**

Heartbeat of Sandusky, located at 3423 Columbus Ave. in Sandusky, continues to offer lay/peer counseling, maternity clothes, children’s clothes up to size 4, starter packs for newborns, baby food, as well as a 24-hour-Hotline, 800-712-HELP (4357). All services are free and confidential. Please contact Director Mattie Sparks at 419-625-9511.

A message from Mattie Sparks: *Greetings to all. We all know that our battle has just begun and there will be more obstacles to come. One of the thoughts we have always held is to form relationships. When a bond is established before a family is in crisis, they are more apt to come to us as a source of support.*

Our "Stepping Up To Success" group is one of the ways we have found to be successful in helping us reach out in the community. This group was a vision that I had many years ago and was just waiting for God to send another person who would share that vision and be passionate about it. Little did I know it would be my friend Beth Frank.

"SUTS" started in 2009. It started out as a pro-active, empowerment group for young ladies 6th-12th grade. After the pandemic we had to scale back. During that time we realized that we needed to start a little younger and decided that we would incorporate 5th grade. Due to lack of funding for this program and a shortage of help for this program, we had to also reduce the grades.

You may be wondering what this has to do with Pro-life. We instill in these young people the importance of self-respect, giving and valuing themselves as well as others. As a result we have seen first hand how it has impacted many of their lives. We have had young ladies who participated in our group come to us when they were pregnant. Many of them shared how they were being pressured to not carry their child to term. Because of the relationship bond we formed, they knew they could come to us and receive unconditional love, emotional support, and encouragement as well as material assistance. Just remember--our fight has not even come to full force yet. Let’s continue to pray for each other. Mattie Sparks, L.S.W., M.A. Counseling Executive Director, Heartbeat of Sandusky

UPCOMING EVENTS

ECRTL General Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month. The summer ECRTL meeting will be **Monday June 12, Monday July 10, and Monday Aug. 8 at 6:30 p.m.**, at Calvary Baptist Church, Family Life Center, 1810 E. Perkins Ave., Sandusky. **PLEASE COME!!! All are welcome!!**

*****Tuesday August 8, SPECIAL ELECTION for an amendment to the Ohio Constitution that would require a 60% majority vote to amend our state Constitution*****

***Ohio March for Life Fri. Oct. 6, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Ohio Statehouse, 1 Capitol Square, Columbus, OH 43215**

***ECRTL Prayer Brunch, Sat. Oct. 7, 2023, watch for details**

***Sandusky-Huron Knights of Columbus 3rd annual Walk for Life to support Abigail Pregnancy Services and Heartbeat of Sandusky, Sat. Oct. 21, 8 a.m. at the Sandusky Sailing Club**