



Ashtabula County Friends for Life

JAN. 2020

P.O. Box 242, Geneva OH 44041
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www.ashcofriendsforlife.org
Visit us on Facebook

President's Note:

Please take note of the event dates below and mark your calendars. When sharing blessings around the Thanksgiving table, we were thankful for the progress that's been made in our courts and legislature to protect women, the preborn and the family. In the new year, **pray** we may we ever be able to exercise our freedom to gather and worship. Please continue or resolve to do your part to help promote the culture of life with the **volunteering of your time, the donating of your treasure, and your vote.**

Your FFL Board President,
Catherine Schmidt, (440) 466-6414

Coming Events (black ink = FFL events)

Jan. 11, 2020, 9A.M.: Erie ProLife Prayer Bkfst

Jan. 19, 2020 Sun.: Candlelight Vigil 2PM

Jan. 18: Cleve. March for Life

Jan. 24: March for Life, Wash DC

NEW! Jan. 25, Noon: Geneva March for Life; Info, call Ed Kurzanski, Knights of Columbus, 443-306-4979

Feb. 16: Lake Co. RTL Winter Life Event

Feb. 18, Tues. FFL substitute for Jan. reg. mtg. 7PM

Mar. 6/7: CleveRTL BABL Convention

Mar. 17, Tues. FFL reg. meeting 7PM

April 17/18--Th./Fri.: Mya Banquets, The Lodge

May 19: FFL reg. meeting 7PM

July 21: FFL reg. meeting 7PM

Aug.: Visit FFL's Asht. Co. Fair table –

Sept. 15:- FFL reg. meeting 7PM

Nov./Dec. (date tba) Celebrate Life Dinner

Special Guest at Celebrate Life Dinner

Molly Smith was the welcome guest at our Nov./Dec. Celebrate Life dinner. Molly is the President of Cleveland Right to Life, the Chairwoman of the Bringing America Back to Life Convention, Cleveland (one of the nation's largest pro-life/pro-family conventions), the host of the pro-life radio program "From the Median" aired in Northeast Ohio, Detroit MI, and Richmond VA, and a founder of Right to Life Action Committee. Molly has also served on numerous and diverse national non-profit boards such as the Catholic School Board of Newfoundland and Labrador, the National Pro-Family Canadian

organization REAL Women, Personhood Alliance, and was an advisor during the formation of the National Lawyers Association. Molly's vision and leadership has strengthened the rights of all human life from conception to natural death throughout Ohio and beyond. Molly lives in Bay Village, Ohio with her husband of 46 years and they have 5 married children, and 20 grandchildren. We welcome and appreciate her, especially for driving to Ashtabula County in the cold of winter! Thank you to those who brought items or donated money for Cleveland Right to Life's thrift shop, or Mya Women's Center, in the spirit of Christmas gifting.

January is Sanctity of Human Life Month and overflows with ways to be inspired in your faith and to be spurred on to more pro-life action:

47th MARCH FOR LIFE, Wash DC OPPORTUNITIES Fri., Jan. 24, 2020

(Individuals who want to attend in DC and need assistance should contact a FFL board member to apply for our limited number of riderships.)



Erie People for Life Buses:

One day trip , \$50 per seat if paid by Dec. 21, after is \$55. Includes a stop at the 2nd largest basilica in the world. 814-882-1333

Cleveland RTL: a more relaxing trip with an overnight Thursday night. Leave from and return to Cleveland location.

Right to Life of Northeast Ohio will be hosting a one day bus trip to the March for Life in Washington, DC; First come, first served basis.

Ashtabula Churches: have made their buses available to others when room is available (i.e.Lighthouse Baptist). Let FFL know of other buses, please. For more information on buses, contact FFL or search online.

Your Asht. Co. Friends for Life Officers

President: Catherine Schmidt, 440-466-6414

VP: Crystal Latimer, 440-466-7441

Treasurer: Phillip Schmidt, 440-466-6414

Corresponding Sec'y: Mary Ellen Blake

Recording Sec'y: -----can you serve?-----

Fair Liaison: Karen Rose

Knights of Columbus Contact: Nick Spano

42nd Erie Pro-life Prayer Breakfast Jan. 11th, 9AM



Dynamic special speaker this year is **Ryan Bomberger** whose theme is “no life is

meaningless,... no government, political party or individual can give us worth or take it away”. It has personal meaning for him being conceived in rape but birthed and adopted into a family of 12 siblings (most adopted). He and his wife are co founders of the Radiance Foundation. Contact FFL to carpool with our members or meet us at Erie’s Bayfront Convention Center at 9A.M. For tickets through FFL, prepay \$18 or order on your own online or by phone to Erie People for Life. 814-882-1333

Candlelight Vigil

Mark your calendar for Sunday, January 19th at 2:00PM at Zaback Williams-Ducro Funeral Home, 500 West Prospect, Ashtabula. The speaker will be Pastor Daniel Houck from Gateway Church sharing about the importance of adoption in his life. Many thanks to JP Ducro who has hosted this event for over a dozen years. Refreshments and tour of Mya Women’s Center across the street to follow.



Mya Women’s Center

In 2019, Mya Women’s Center spread the word they are here for women and their babies by participating in the Grape Jamboree parade and at the Covered Bridge Festival at the Root Road bridge. Mark your calendars for the 2020 banquets – **Thursday, April 16 or Friday, April 17, 2020.** (Please continue to avoid promoting them online in a pro-life or religious stance. Please don’t put their information on the web.) Our sincere condolences to Director Judy Christen on the passing of her husband, Glen, a dear friend to our members.

Amazon Customers

Instead of going to Amazon, log onto www.amazon.com and pick what charity you would like to support. Cleveland Right to Life is one of the choices. A percentage of every purchase you

make will automatically be donated to them from then on as long as you make your purchases through Amazon Smile

Ashtabula Library Update

Thanks to First Baptist Church Ashtabula (next to the Ashtabula Library) and FFL’s VP, Crystal Latimer, library patrons can enjoy free Christian and pro-life movies along with complimentary popcorn and beverages once a month. Unplanned and Gosnell were able to receive a wider viewing because of their efforts and thoughtfulness.

ODOH Reinstates Dayton License

Against ruling of Ohio Supreme Court

By Barry Sheets – Right to Life Action Committee of Ohio **Unbelievable** It is stunning and unbelievable that Governor DeWine’s Department of Health (ODH), led by his hand-picked Director Dr. Amy Acton, has done the unthinkable and handed abortionist Martin Haskell ANOTHER license to operate his death-mill in Kettering-after the Ohio Supreme Court just last month sided with the same ODH who moved to revoke his licensure, which they have been after now for three years and could finally do so this month. The Department of Health gave the new license along with a variance that allows Haskell to avoid needing a transfer agreement with a local hospital for when (*not if*) he once again injures a woman while killing her unborn baby.

1. Contact Attorney General's office and thank them for their 3 years of hard work, time, and travel defending the original license revocation on behalf of Ohio Department of Health
2. Call Director Acton's office 614-466-2263 asking her to explain why she wasted 3 years of the taxpayers money and the state resources to defend an order only to re issue a month later
3. Call Governor DeWine's office 614-644-4357 to make sure he is aware of Director Acton's decision and approves of the Director's use of our state's resources and tax dollars in this way.

Ashtabula County Fair More Than “fair”!

It was “Outstanding”... with lots of traffic and favorable comments.

Baby Emily and the fetal models are always the stars of the display.

The box of over 100 small baby models representing babies aborted in Ashtabula



County is always an eye-opener and sadden those who understand its implications. Our at-below-cost pro-life t-shirts sold out this year. Thank you to all the fair table volunteers including the Knights of Columbus who routinely cover the week’s nights, help with set-up and some of the booth costs. (If you would like to volunteer at any of FFL’s events, send us a note by email or on your donation form.)

On a Radio Show! Friends for Life and Ashtabula County Crisis Pregnancy Centers

We were invited to share what resources are available in our area with the public, broadcasted mainly in our Ashtabula area. I, Crystal and a representative from G.O., Ms. Bradley, enjoyed meeting and laughing with Sarah Shaver who miraculously was able to take a stammering group and make us sound intelligible. The show has been aired once and will be a few more times in the future on 96.1 FM on her Closer Look segment. We'll email you when, if we have your email address.

K Love Air 1

Donations Keep You "Ashtabula County Saavy"

Whether you send in a donation at this time of year - or whenever it's most convenient- you'll receive FFL newsletters covering local events, some state and national news, area volunteer opportunities as well as periodic email reminders. With our board being all volunteers, 100% of your dollars go to the FFL events and efforts you see listed in this newsletter. Thank you for sending FFL a portion of what God has provided to you to share in His work.

Please mail in the form with your contribution, payable to **ACFFL, P.O. Box 242, Geneva, OH 44041**

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Name(s)

Address

Email

Phone

Can you volunteer at events (let us know which) or serve as a "Church Contact" ?:

***Name of Church, Address,**

Phone, Email, Pastor's Name:

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FFL Display and Pro-Life Book Sale at LCRTL's 2019 Winter Life Event, Mentor →

FFL Board Member Writes Letters to the Editor

We are so appreciative of how our very own FFL Corresponding Secretary Mary Ellen Blake has used her talents as a writer to put truth and wisdom repeatedly into our area newspapers. Here is one example that ties in nicely with this year's speakers at our Candlelight Vigil and Erie People for Life's Prayer Breakfast.

Aug. 28, 2019 Gazette News

Mary Ellen Blake, Ashtabula

"The national debate about abortion continues, and it's a good thing. It challenges people to confront their position and think things through. Sometimes our passionate convictions don't hold up to scrutiny. I know this because my own position has evolved, as I've been willing to think about it.

Many people strongly oppose abortion, seeing it as the wanton taking of a life yet make the exception of babies born because of rape or incest. It seems compassionate, but think about it. Something doesn't compute. Baby murder (sorry for the blunt term, but that's the reality) is wrong. But it's okay to kill a baby for the sin of its father?

Rape is a terrible, traumatic experience, made worse if it results in a pregnancy. Some women find it difficult to love that child and for that they should not be criticized, but killing the baby only compounds the crime. If she would carry it to term, there are many people who would welcome the baby with open arms, through adoption, at no cost to the mother.

Is there any child of rape who says, "I'm sorry I was born"? I've talked to several adults who were thus conceived and heard only heartfelt thanks that their mother gave them life.

One famous person who came from such a background was the late great Ethel Waters, beloved soul singer of the '30's and '40's and gospel singer of the '50's, born to a 12-year-old girl who had been raped. Thank God the prevailing wisdom then was for life, not abortion, or what a loss that would have been!

God said, "Choose life, that your soul may live." Think about it. Abortion exceptions "for rape and incest" sounds compassionate, but is it really?"

(Ask Mary Ellen about her 2nd pro-life, pro-family novel hot off the presses, *The Awakening*.)

