



# Pregnancy Center East newsletter

Volume 38, Issue 3

Serving the Community Since 1982

Fall 2018

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## I never thought I'd ever have an abortion until...

by Ciara\*

It's been a few years since my husband and I faced the biggest decision of our marriage. Looking back now, I hate to think how close we came to not having our little Nathan\*. After several miscarriages, we had finally been blessed with our first daughter, Leah\*, who was three at the time. The year had been a rough one for us. My husband had faced serious health problems that left us low on cash and high on stress. Yet, we were excited to find out that we were going to have a little brother or sister for Leah.

The first 16 weeks of my pregnancy passed with no problems, until at a "routine" OB visit, the doctor told us that our baby would have Down Syndrome. To say that we were devastated doesn't come close to describing the panic we felt. We didn't even know anyone with Down Syndrome, let alone know how to raise a kid with it. I am embarrassed to admit that *abortion* was the very next thought that jumped into our minds. After all, wasn't it our right? Who would judge us under these circumstances?

The next afternoon, I happened to see a billboard for Pregnancy Center East. It said, "Unexpected, unsure? A safe place for help." I wrote down the number and made an appointment as soon as I got home. My husband was doubtful that they could really help, but I talked him into coming with me. To our relief, we were met with compassion instead of judgment. We really had found a safe place to share our fears about the situation. Our Client Advocate gently men-



tioned adoption to us as an alternative to abortion. She told us that there were couples who were especially trained and approved to adopt babies with Down Syndrome. There were actually couples waiting to adopt a baby like ours!

## 67% of unborn babies with Down Syndrome are aborted in the United States.

The next week, we met with the adoption agency that PCE had recommended. The social worker showed us photo books of couples who had been approved to adopt a child with Down Syndrome. We had no idea that we would have a choice of couples to adopt our baby. Abortion quietly faded from our minds. In the following weeks, we met with one of these couples who explained that they

"felt called to parent a baby with these challenges." We were amazed at their courage and we became fast friends. A strange thing began to happen in our meetings with the possible adoptive couple. We drew strength from them and began to feel that we could keep our baby. They encouraged us to meet other families with kids with Downs. It became obvious to them that we were falling in love with the baby growing inside me.

Meanwhile, PCE continued to check in with us and support us the entire time. By the time our baby came, we felt nervous, yet hopeful that we could handle it. He was born without many of the heart problems that can come with an extra chromosome. We named him Nathan which means "Gift from God." Today, I can say that he certainly lives up to his name! He is our joy.

We thank PCE for being there for us in our darkest times and for the adoptive couple who helped us to believe in ourselves. (Footnote: The prospective adoptive couple went on to adopt a beautiful baby girl with Down Syndrome the following year.)

\*Pseudonym

# A Perfect Swing for *Golf Fore Life*

by *Debbie Durbin*  
Marketing Specialist

It was a gorgeous August day at the picturesque Terrace Park Country Club and a perfect day for the annual *Golf Fore Life* charity event. Over eighty golfers participated in the scramble tournament and enjoyed a delicious lunch and spectacular day of golf. Later that evening, another 100 guests enjoyed the lively 19th Hole Party with cocktails, dinner, and auction.

Dedicated *GFL* committee members Ed Donohoe, Bizzy Driscoll, Barbara Momper, Tom Pernik, Diane Rinaldi, Claire Cahill, Steve Rohde, and staff members planned the event. New this year was an online auction that added to the excitement and allowed those who could not attend to get in on the fun.

Thanks to the participants, generous sponsors, and in-kind donors, we raised critical funds for our mission to empower women and men with life-affirming alternatives to abortion when faced with an unexpected pregnancy. "It was a fantastic tournament! The pace was great, and it was awesome meeting up with old friends. The party afterward was a hoot!" commended John from a post-event survey.



*Heather Paparella, Susie Castellini, Clare Cahill, and Judy Williams*



*Mark Donohoe, Frances Donohoe, Mark Donohoe, Jr. and Ed Donohoe*

## Congratulations to the Winners

### 1st Place – Women's Foursome:

Heather Paparella, Susie Castellini, Clare Cahill, and Judy Williams

### 1st Place – Men's Foursome (13 under):

Mark Donohoe, Frances Donohoe, Mark Donohoe, Jr., and Ed Donohoe

### 1st Place - Mixed Foursome:

Dave Feck, Linda Boden, Tom Pernik, and Peggy Pernik

### Closest to the Pin:

Kim Gusweiler

### Longest Drive:

Women - Chrissie Rodhe

Men - Frances Donohoe

### Putting Contest:

John Garvey

## With Gratitude to our *GFL* Sponsors

### Golf Major Sponsors:

Marge & Charles J. Schott Foundation  
Edward Castleberry Williams Foundation

### 19th Hole Party Sponsor:

Donohoe Family Foundation

### Lunch Sponsor:

Geo. H. Rohde & Son Funeral Home

### Hole Sponsors:

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**MATCHING GIFT FOR #GIVINGTUESDAY**

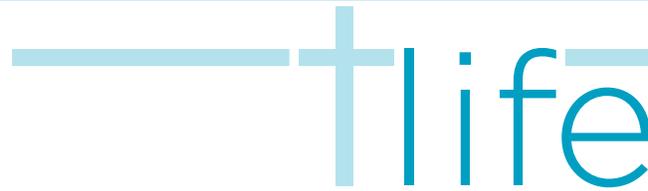
*GivingTuesday is the day to do good for charities, right after Black Friday and Cyber Monday.*

*We are looking for a donor or business to provide us with a matching gift.*

*Our matching gift sponsor will be named and highlighted for 24 hours to thousands of pro-life people through an email blast, multiple posts on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.*

**YOU WILL ALSO BE HELPING TO RAISE MONEY FOR OUR PRO-LIFE MINISTRY!**

*Please contact Tracy Green at 513-321-3100 or TGreen@PregnancyCenterEast.com*



**Dear Fellow Pro-life Friends of PCE,**

St. Pope John Paul II tried to warn us: “We are now standing in the face of the greatest historical confrontation humanity has gone through. I do not think that wide circles of American society or wide circles of the Christian community realize this fully. We are now facing the final confrontation between the Church and the anti-Church, the Gospel versus the anti-gospel. This confrontation lies within the plan of Divine Providence; it is a trial which the whole Church must take up.” (Karol Cardinal Wojtyla while visiting America, 1972)

With the Gospel of Life at our core, PCE stands as a bulwark of defense for the unborn children and their parents who come to know the love of God through us. Hope and not despair. Promises fulfilled to find a safe path forward in life for families. Our prayers are paramount; our collective generosity of service and funds keep the doors open!

But our shared mission also needs our votes! It is at the ballot box that we exercise our moral obligation to contain evil wherever possible, working to eradicate it! Select candidates who see this grave evil for what it is: “The moral gravity of procured abortion is apparent in all its truth, if we recognize we are dealing with murder.” (St. Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*)

**Faith in Action:** 1. Pray and fast. 2. Sign-up and volunteer to help with elections. 3. Contact Right to Life of Greater Cincinnati to help distribute free pro-life ballots, “How the Candidates Stand on Life.” 4. Share your “Vote Pro-life” message through social media. 5. Join others for prayer on the front lines at Planned Parenthood: *Forty Days for Life*, Sept. 26-Nov. 4.

**Confronting and Containing Evil:** Remember the children when you vote and pray. God is good!

**Jane Hoffman**  
Client Advocate and Board Member

**Volunteers Needed!**

- **Office Volunteer:** 3 hours a month. Knowledge of Microsoft Word/Excel would be helpful. Contact Debbie at 513 321-3100 or ddurbin@pregnancycentereast.com.
- **Grant Writer:** Contact Tracy at 513 321-3100 or tgreen@pregnancycentereast.com.
- **Uber Driver:** to transport abortion minded women to PCE. Contact Laura at 513 321-3100 or lcurran@pregnancycentereast.com.

**CHASTITY ON THE FRONT LINES**

**by Shayne Reno**  
Chastity Education Manager

It is officially fall, and there is an air of excitement in the Chastity Department as we return to the classroom for the 2018-2019 academic year! We have already visited our first school, and the teens have been such a shot of adrenaline to our program.

While the summer months were filled with much anticipation of what was to come, this anticipation was often accompanied by the weight of the task that lies ahead of us. This weight has the tendency to become heavier through our research of the current cultural challenges facing Chastity amidst the constant barrage of negative headlines regarding teen STDs, gender confusion, etc.



Even when talking to supporters, it seems that many are discouraged by the opposition facing our mission. I recall conversations explaining the role of a Chastity Educator being met with a shake of the head and the convicting statement, “You’ve really got your work cut out for you.”

While the enormity of opposition cannot be denied, being back among the youth has brought a renewed hope and vigor to our morale. The children we are privileged to speak to are not at all closed off to the message of Chastity, in fact, they are longing for it. They are longing for something real amidst all the distraction, isolation and emptiness presented to them by the culture.

This is our task. While sometimes it may seem daunting, at the end of the day, we have before us a beautiful opportunity to offer a vital lifeline of truth to the over 3,500 students we will address this year. This is not a mission that we take lightly, and so we humbly ask your prayers and support as we continue our work on the front lines.



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*Newsletter design by Janet Zack*

## Mount St. Mary's Partners through Apostolic Works

Since 2012, PCE has been very blessed to partner with Mount St. Mary's Seminary as part of their apostolic works requirement. Each year, four seminarians choose to volunteer weekly at PCE and are trained as mentors to counsel men facing an untimely pregnancy. They also gain hands-on experience ministering to families in need through our Material Assistance program.

Seminarian, David Morand, explains, "The seminary provides us with opportunities to head out into the community and assist people from varying walks of life. Whether we are teaching catechesis, conversing with the elderly, or guiding a young, scared, pregnant couple, we quickly come to see the need for Christ in people's lives, and how He is already working.



***Seminarians, Tony Sanitato and Ben Mersch enter PCE.***

My experience at Pregnancy Center East has shown me another side of ministry and has been very affirming in my call to be Christ to others. When working at a crisis pregnancy center, one must be prepared to dig deep into the truth of the human person and to do so effectively.

We seminarians spend two years at PCE



***Seminarians, David Morand and Stephen Hughes prepare for a client visit.***

if that becomes our assignment. I am very grateful to have had PCE as my apostolic work, and I have quickly learned that the people I meet here, volunteer, staff or client, teach me more about myself, life, and living the Gospel than I could ever expect or hope to return."