



Pregnancy Center East newsletter

Volume 38, Issue 2

Serving the Community Since 1982

Spring 2018

Trustees

Mark Collar
Edward J. Donohoe
William Ernst, CPA
John J. Garvey III, Esq.
Jane L. Hoffman
Mark Kleespies
Mary Krutko Massa
Barbara Momper
Edward O'Donnell
Mary Lee Olinger, MEd
Ginny O'Neill
Declan O'Sullivan, MBA
Elaine M. Parker
Lisa Pomerleau, MD

Advisory Board

Marlin Ach
Marcia Burke
Anne Burleigh, MA
Chris Burleigh
Matthew Byrne, Esq.
Clare K. Cahill
Elizabeth Clifford, MBA
Roberta K. Eddingfield
Rev. Earl Fernandes, STD
Henry Flowers
John H. Galla, MD
Rev. Matthew Gamber, S.J.
Thomas Geoppinger
Michael J. Gray, Esq.
Joseph Gromada, MD
Kathleen Hidy, Esq.
Anne Keefe
Ellen McCune
Anna Mitchell
Kerry Grote Mock
Joanne Neumann
Rosemarie O'Sullivan
Jeffery E. Parker
Stephen J. Rohde
J. Brendan Ryan
Rev. Ken Schartz
Peter Schmid, Esq.
Stephen Scholtes
Thomas Simons, Esq.
Rev. Jamie P. Weber
Monica Wenstrup
Rev. Barry Windholtz
Rev. Jason Williams
Medical Director
Eugene Burchell, MD

A Perfect Baby Who Only Knew Love

by Sifa Ndusha
as told to Debbie Durbin

In 2007, Hubert and I escaped war-torn Congo making it to a Ugandan refugee settlement with our three children. Four years later, we came to the U. S. We eventually settled in Cincinnati, where we both found employment. However, our trials were far from over. We were about to face a crisis of faith with a life and death decision, that would shake our entire family.

Last May, happily seventeen weeks pregnant, I went with Hubert to my doctor for a routine ultrasound. During the scan, the technician remained silent and then abruptly left the room. A geneticist came in carrying a medical textbook and explained that our baby had Trisomy 13. She opened the book to frightening pictures of babies with severe facial deformities. Never having heard of Trisomy 13, we questioned the cause of this condition. She explained that it happens randomly. We wanted to discuss possible treatment. The doctor said there was none and recommended terminating the pregnancy. She also warned that our baby would not live and could die at any time in the womb.

Shaken and confused, we were immediately referred to Planned Parenthood for an abortion and were instructed to ignore the protesters outside the building. I sobbed as the abortion was scheduled for the following week. As we left, a sidewalk counselor spoke to us. She compassionately listened to our situation and then sent us to Pregnancy Center East.

As soon as PCE received our call, the staff and volunteers began praying. Executive Director, Laura, felt led to call in staff member, Tracy, because she had lost a baby at birth, and it would



Sifa and Hubert cherish moments with Raphael.

be helpful to have someone there who could share a similar story with us.

Devastated and in shock, we arrived within the hour where warm hugs greeted us. A men's mentor was also waiting for Hubert. Tracy talked to us about the value of life. She explained that our baby would only know love, and that life depends on God alone. Tracy's story gave us comfort and strength.

Maureen, the sonographer, scanned me and told us that the baby was a boy. At that moment, we named him Raphael, which means "God is healer." As we left, I handed the abortion clinic brochure to Laura and said we no longer needed it, because now we had a plan we could live with. That day, we learned

the difference between killing and dying.

Over the next couple weeks, my doctor tried to persuade me to abort, even calling me at home when I was nearing twenty weeks, because time was running out for an abortion.

Throughout the pregnancy, Hubert and I regularly stopped by PCE for maternity clothes and an emotional pick-me-up. There, we found people who treated our son as a precious life.

Once we had decided to keep the baby, fear and confusion were replaced with joy and peace. Not that there weren't dark days, but there was a calmness that came by waiting on God's providence.

Continued on page 3

Thank You *Banquet for Life* Supporters!

by *Mark Kleespies, Banquet Chairman*

“Life is a Masterpiece,” the theme of this year’s *Banquet for Life*, set the tone for the evening that all life is truly a gift from God.

With over 700 people in attendance at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, the program began with the Invocation given by Rev. Earl Fernandes. The prayer included a blessing from Pope Francis, acknowledging the important, life-saving work of PCE. What a way to kick off the evening!

As dinner was served, Executive Director, Laura Curran, took the stage to announce a new, bold strategic vision for the creation of a first-of-its-kind Comprehensive Pregnancy Support Center. In one state-of-the-art facility, clients will have convenient access to all the services needed to confidently choose life for their unborn children.

Next, all were moved by an inspiring video featuring Megan Miller, a former client, who took us through her journey as a pregnant, single mother as she considered the ultimate decision for her unborn baby. With the help of PCE and Adoption Professionals, she ultimately chose open adoption. The audience gave a standing



Michelle Malkin on family, faith and freedom.

ovation to Megan, the adoptive couple, and their baby as they appeared on stage.

Our master of ceremonies, Thom Brennaman, then introduced us to the keynote speaker, Michelle Malkin, a syndicated columnist and #1 *New York Times* bestselling author. She explained how her family and faith have led her to be a true champion of freedom which has at its very foundation, the inviolable right to life.

The evening closed with a Benediction given by Rev. Matt Gamber.

A recap of the evening would not be complete without a mention of gratitude. First and foremost, we are thankful to all who attended and supported PCE’s mission to rescue unborn lives. Secondly, a big thank you goes to the Banquet Committee, who guided me through my first year as Chairman. They include



Sunday, June 3, at 1 pm for the 13 annual Cross the Bridge for Life across the Purple People Bridge to raise awareness for the sanctity of all human life.

Marlin Ach, Bertie Eddingfield, Bob and Sue Enouen, Henry Flowers, Rev. Matt Gamber, Tracy Green, Jane Hoffman, Anne Keefe, Jessica Kobunski, Mary Krutko Massa, Barb Momper, Jane Moore, Joanne Neumann, Mary Lee Olinger, Ginny O’Neill, Elaine Parker, Lisa Pomerleau, and Melanie Stewart.

Special Thanks to our Generous Angel Sponsors:

Seraphim Angel: Janet Fette

Cherubim Angels: William and Anne Burleigh

Throne Angels: Adoption Professionals, Drs. Nina and Sabino Baluyot & Family, Engineered Coating Solutions, LLC, Ohio Women for Liberty, St. Rose Catholic Church, and TQL Foundation

We also thank Ashley Mauro Photography, Enquirer Printing, Mark Krumme, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Prestige AV & Creative Services, Barbara Trauth, Tropical Foliage Plants, Inc., and Xavier University Students for Life.



GOLF FORE LIFE
Monday, August 13, 2018
Terrace Park Country Club
\$200 per person

includes golf, cart, lunch, dinner

and 19th Hole Party

Fun games and prizes

For more information www.supportpce.com



**Pregnancy Center
East**

STAFF

Laura Curran Executive Director

Tracy Green Director of Development

Maureen McDaniel Client Services/Sonography

Shayne Reno Chastity Education Manager

Debra Durbin Marketing/Communications Specialist

Jane Moore Office Manager

3944 Edwards Road, Cincinnati, OH 45209

513-321-3100 • fax 513-321-0112

PregnancyCenterEast@fuse.net

PregnancyCenterEast.com

SupportPCE.com

A Perfect Baby

Continued from the front page

Raphael's heart kept beating to 38 weeks!

On the day Raphael was born, a dozen specialists gathered at the hospital waiting for the delivery in case he survived. A Catholic priest stood by to baptize him. A photographer was also there. A monogrammed baptismal garment was made for him, by Joanne, a PCE volunteer. It seemed the whole world was waiting for his arrival.

Little Raphael was finally born alive. We dressed him in his custom-made gown; he was baptized and confirmed with Tracy as his Godmother/Sponsor. While still in my arms, I told the neonatal specialists in the room that we didn't want anyone to be sad. I explained, "I prayed for a miracle, and I received a miracle. A perfect baby boy. He only knows love, and it is all he will ever know. Our son will be with my mom in heaven today. She has waited 25 years to hold a grandchild." There was not a dry eye in the room. He lived just a few hours. Hubert and I held him until the next morning.

At my postpartum checkup, I noticed a silver framed photo of Raphael sitting on my doctor's desk. He told me that he had learned from Raphael's birth and brief life and promised to handle similar pregnancies differently in the future.

It makes me smile to recall how Raphael's short life changed people's hearts. How much hope he gave. How many lives he touched. I have a small stuffed bear that has Raphael's heartbeat recorded in it. A reminder of a life that was given a chance, through the kindness and faith of so many people.

Now Hiring: Chastity Educator

Qualifications: Pro-life, possess strong written communication and public speaking skills, committed to the Catholic Church's teachings on human sexuality. Bachelor's Degree preferred. Must be able to drive.

Primary Duties: Co-teach PCE's chastity education program, *In Control*, to grade school and high school students. Co-present *Theology of the Body for Teens* during the summer.

Salary: Fulltime with benefits.

To Apply: Email cover letter and resume to Laura Curran at pregnancycentereast@fuse.net.



Dear Fellow Pro-life Friends of PCE,

What a Spirit-filled *Banquet for Life* we shared! During the evening, we presented our Strategic Plan for PCE, reminding all of our goal: that abortion vulnerable mothers and fathers choose life and hope rather than abortion and despair, experiencing God's love through us.

Our Life-saving Challenge:

PCE must make choosing life easier than choosing abortion for vulnerable mothers and fathers!

Our Bold Vision:

Together, let's create the first of its kind Comprehensive Pregnancy Support Center for the abortion vulnerable! Imagine! In one state-of-the-art facility, clients will have immediate, convenient access to pregnancy and STI testing, ultrasounds, counseling and post-abortion healing, prenatal care, men's mentoring, material and job assistance, parenting classes, adoption and other social services. We want these expectant parents at risk for abortion to know they can

confidently choose life for their unborn child and succeed with the decision.

As always, it is together that we will make this bold vision a life-saving reality! Will you help to fund our needed 12,000 square-foot facility? We will buy or build. Do you already have such a building or lot in mind?

Of course, additional funds are needed for staff of the expanded service line, a delivery we'll provide in partnership with other established entities. Yes, moving and furnishing too! Maybe you are called to help increase our marketing budget to triple our advertising reach, raising awareness of the life-supporting options PCE offers.

Let's especially triple our prayers so that this powerful plan, inspired by the Holy Spirit, comes to fruition and reaches the most abortion vulnerable in our community. It's the right thing to do! Call us today. God is good!

Jane Hoffman

Client Advocate & Trustee

CHASTITY ON THE FRONT LINES

Theology of the Body for Teens Summer Classes

Who: 7 and 8 Grade Students: July 23 - July 24
High School Students: July 25 - July 27

When: 9:30am - 3:30pm

Where: Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center
5440 Moeller Ave, Norwood, OH 45212

Cost: Free! Meals included.

Pregnancy Center East and Ruah Woods are teaming up for a one-week offering for teens. Join presenters Shayne Reno and John David Kimes for reflection, discussion, and games, as we dive into the essence of what it means to be human and how we are called to love.

What to Expect: Identity. Love. Chastity. The world is a difficult place for teens, and it has become increasingly hard for parents and educators to help teens discover the truth about

their bodies, their sexuality, and their unique call to love.

In an age of "selfies" and egocentrism, *Theology of the Body* cuts through the noise to present an authentic view of the human person. It presents young people with the extraordinary story of their creation as unrepeatably individuals. But the program doesn't stop there.

Theology of the Body introduces teens to the truth that life is not, in fact, all about them. It is about going beyond themselves to be a sincere gift for others.

To register, please visit practicalpurity.com/tob-summerclass. Space is limited. Registration is on a first come, first served basis. So sign up today!



**Pregnancy Center
East**

3944 Edwards Road
Cincinnati, OH 45209

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
CINCINNATI, OH
PERMIT 6039

513-321-3100



PregnancyCenterEast.com
SupportPCE.com

Blog: thenewviewonsex.blogspot.com

If you wish to receive this newsletter via e-mail or if you wish to unsubscribe, please send your request with your name and address to jane@pce.org.

Newsletter design by Janet Zack

A Warm Welcome to New PCE Staff Members



Debbie Durbin

As PCE's new Marketing/Communications Specialist, **Debbie Durbin** is a Catholic pro-life activist with over nine years of experience in marketing and social media management for nonprofits. In her previous position at a nonprofit animal shelter, one of her videos went viral attracting global attention which helped many shelter pets find their forever homes.

The video of a homeless, wagging pup making his bed received over 1.5 million views!

Debbie will be creating life-affirming social media and marketing campaigns that will help raise community awareness, change hearts and save lives.

Debbie and her husband of 25 years reside in Dayton. They have four children, four grandchildren, three dogs and one cat.

For the past several years **Shayne Reno** has been blessed to witness to her Catholic faith, as Youth Minister at St. Margaret of York Parish in Loveland. She has lived in the Greater Cincinnati area all her life, attending Archbishop McNicholas High School, and graduating from Northern Kentucky University with a degree in Electronic Media and Broadcasting. She is currently pursuing a M.A. in Theology through the Athenaeum of Ohio.

Shayne explains, "I am very excited to be join-



Shayne Reno

ing the staff as Chastity Education Manager, serving on the front lines at PCE. I am truly humbled by God's call to spread His life-giving words of truth and authentic love to over 3,500 students a year through the *In Control* program." She and her husband of eighteen months reside in Maineville.