

Donation Ideas for Supporting RIRTL

Remembrance Gifts – Many donors choose to honor a loved one with a gift that thoughtfully expresses your love for the deceased and for the gift of life they have been to you. Remembrance gifts also offer bereaved families the opportunity to invite others to make contributions in memory of the deceased. The following language may be used in obituaries: "In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to RI State Right to Life, 266 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02908."

RI State Right to Life Legacy Society – Friends of RI State Right to Life are invited to join our Legacy Society, a group of individuals who have included us in their estate plans. If you are considering including us in your will, we suggest the following language: "I give, devise, and bequeath to RI State Right to Life Committee, 266 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02908 (written amount or percentage of estate or description of property) for its unrestricted use and purpose." ☸

Thank You to Diocese of Providence

The RI Right to Life Committee offers its heartfelt thanks to Bishop Tobin for the \$5,000 donation he made on behalf of the Diocese of Providence. Part of this gift will be used toward our upcoming summer conference for training pro-life teenagers in Rhode Island. ☸

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Spring 2008

Right to Life
Rhode Island State Right to Life Committee
P.O. Box 28285
Providence, RI 02908

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Endowed by our Creator with the inalienable right to life...
We hold these truths to be self-evident. But not everyone does.

Right to Life
Rhode Island State Right to Life Committee

Right to Life News

Spring 2008

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2008 Election: Stakes Higher than Ever Progress on Local and National Levels Threatened

Rita Parquette, Executive Director

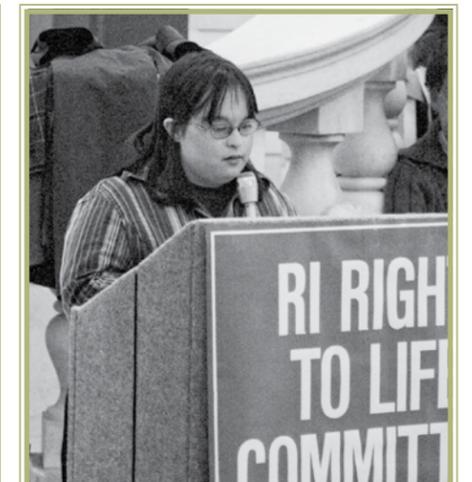
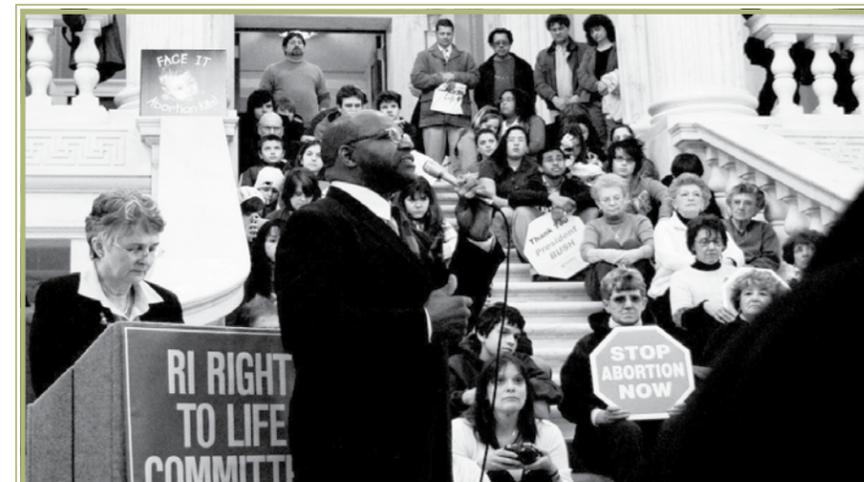
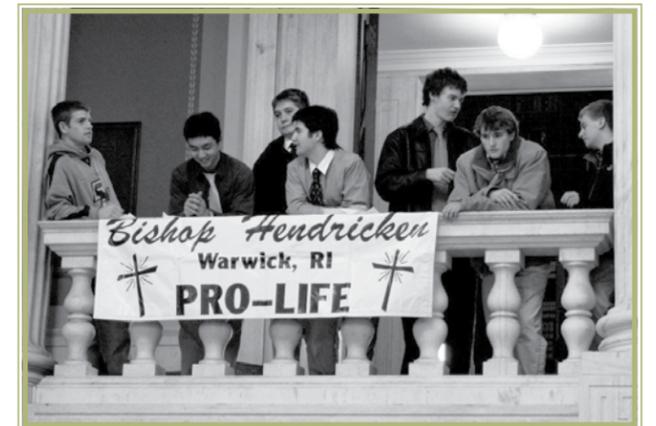
As candidate yard signs begin their journey from campaign headquarters to front lawns, and as thirty-second political commercials replace fast-food ads on television screens, pro-lifers are reminded of the two possible outcomes of this election: either the continued amplification or the sudden muffling of the voices of the unborn.

The progress realized during the last several years both on the national and local levels is something we can be proud of, but it is also something that can be overturned if we are outworked by groups like Planned Parenthood with the \$10 million dollars they have pledged to spend on this election. *Continued on page 2*

Right to Life Rally Fills State House Rotunda

Rhode Island Right to Life held its annual rally inside the State House rotunda on January 30, 2008. Nearly 300 citizens flooded the rotunda steps in all directions, standing for the rights of the unborn. The rally marked the 35th anniversary of Roe v. Wade and served as a public demonstration to lawmakers and the public that the pro-life movement in Rhode Island is active and passionate. ☸

Right: Representatives from the BHHS Pro-Life club overlook the rally. Below right: Megan Reynolds, a teenager with Down syndrome who pages for Sen. Goodwin, speaks in support of the intrinsic value of all human life. Below: Rev. James Turnipseed inspires the assembled pro-life advocates.



photos by Becky Miller/Gwyneth Dahler

Under pro-life President Bush, partial birth abortion has been made illegal, the annual number of abortions is the lowest since 1976, and two Supreme Court seats have been filled with pro-life judges. Here in Rhode Island we have ensured that no taxes go to the funding of abortion, and we have passed a parental consent law. However, there are still hurdles to overcome on both the state and Federal levels.

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A quick look at the records of the pro-abortion presidential candidates informs us of what type of presidency each would lead in respect to the sanctity of life. Barack Obama is rated 0% by the National Right to Life Committee for pro-life voting, and Hillary Clinton is no better, with a 100% record by the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) for her pro-abortion voting.

Here in Rhode Island we are still 5 or 6 votes short of passing a Women's Right to Know (WRTK) Bill in the RI House. The WRTK bill would provide a woman with information about fetal growth and development, possible physical and emotional side effects of abortion, and alternatives to abortion 24 hours before she could schedule an abortion. In order to pass this vital pro-life legislation, we need to elect those critical legislators in the 2008 election cycle. You can help us by donating to our PACs, becoming an RIRTL chapter member, becoming a member of RIRTL, and by voting pro-life!

In order to continue the progress we have made and to prevent pro-abortion rhetoric from becoming a political reality, we as pro-lifers must enter the arena in which their success and failure is determined: the political one. Recognizing this, RIRTL has taken the important first step of chapter development in an effort to build the grassroots. These boots on the ground will be the ones that walk us to victory this fall.

Pro-lifers must rise to the occasion in November, remembering that we are voting to protect the lives of the unborn, weak, and vulnerable as well as our own lives, for in sickness and/or old age, we will all be weak and vulnerable again just as we were before we were born. ♀

New Adult Stem Cell Sources Found

Becky Miller, Education Coordinator

Scientists have found a new sources of adult stem cells in menstrual blood and have also been able to "reprogram" skin cells to act like stem cells.

The menstrual stem cells, discovered by researchers at Medistem in Ariz., are called endometrial regenerative cells. Animal trials are underway to determine the cells' efficacy in treating diabetes, multiple sclerosis, and cirrhosis. It appears that the menstrual cells can give rise to more types of body cells than adult stem cells from other sources. The menstrual cells also seem less likely to cause tissue rejection.

Cell and Science reports that researchers have been able to make human skin cells pluripotent, meaning they can become any type of body cell. Scientists insert a set of genes into a skin cell and grow it in a culture that makes it act like an embryonic stem cell. This process produces flexible stem cells without destroying a human embryo.

Umbilical cord blood has also proven to be a valuable source of stem cells. Two-year-old Dallas Hextell's cerebral palsey was recently treated with his own cord blood stem cells, which his parents paid to preserve when he was born. ♀

Services Report

Peg Lavallee, Services Coordinator

Between January and March 2008, Right to Life Services distributed 11 bassinets, 18 containers of formula, 20 newborn packages (gowns, "sleep & plays," T-shirts, a heavy blanket, receiving blankets, bibs, washcloths, a sweater, hat, and bootie set, and diapers), 86 toddler clothing packages, 77 toiletries items, 48 packages of baby wipes, 78 packages of diapers, and 10 winter coats/snowsuits.

Right to Life Services eases the burden of about 1,000 mothers in difficult circumstances each year by providing material assistance and support.



Save the Date!

Chapter Formation Meeting
Thursday, April 24, 6:30 p.m.
RIRTL Headquarters, 266 Smith St., Providence

If you're interested in local involvement with the pro-life movement, please come to this informational meeting. See more about chapters in the article on page 2.

Walk a Thon
Early October

RIRTL's Development Committee, chaired by Brian Cavanagh and Pilar Tasca, would like to have as many volunteers as possible work on making this year's Walk a Thon a fundraising success as well as a huge pro-life statement in our capital city of Providence. Possible plans include a rally with a special speaker at the end of the walk. We need many volunteers to help plan and execute this important event! Call the office at 521-1860, and get involved in the ground floor planning.

Local Chapter Members Needed Throughout RI

Rita Parquette, Executive Director

Chapters are the lifeblood of the pro-life movement. Chapters give the statewide and nationwide pro-life movement a local presence. The two-fold focus of chapters is to educate and organize voters and to energizing the grassroots.

Many pro-life people in our state are simply waiting to be identified so they can become part of the movement. Chapters would help us to identify and educate these important pro-life constituents in order to affect pro-life public policy in our state legislature and the U.S. Congress.

Local chapters offer jobs for everyone. Some folks will be more comfortable working behind the scenes making phone calls or helping with mailings. Others can assist pro-life candidates identified by RIRTL's state and federal PACs by volunteering, as individuals, for their campaigns.

This is how political action works in America. The power that shapes public policy isn't handed out—it's taken firmly in hand by those who are willing to work for it.

At our initial chapter meeting in March, 16 enthusiastic pro-life advocates from all over the state showed up to learn more about chapter development. People at the meeting were so excited that they didn't want to go home.

One woman drove up to Providence from Westerly. She had never been involved in any pro-life event in her life, but she overcame her shyness and took that first bold step. She may not see herself as a warrior, but she is one. Warriors are not always outgoing and fearless; often they are just persistent and willing to step out of their comfort zones and be counted.

We need many more citizens to take that first small steps and learn how they can make a difference in Rhode Island.

Our next chapter development meeting will be held on Thursday, April 24, at 6:30 p.m. at our headquarters at 266 Smith Street, Providence. Please join us! The unborn, sick, disabled, and elderly need you. ♀