

## So who's hateful?

In Cheryl Foster's "Hateful acts" letter in Sunday's Trib she states that Pro-Life Waco executive director John Pisciotta hates women. I don't see how attempting to save a woman from the grief that she will suffer sooner or later following an abortion is hateful.

If you do not believe me, contact the Brave Women of Operation Outcry Silent No More [www.operationoutcry.org]. These post-abortive women tell their stories of the devastation abortion has caused in their lives.

Ms. Foster states that shutting down Planned Parenthood will cut off access to birth control and reproductive health care for thousands of Central Texas women. Yet 14 free clinics exist in the Waco area for women's health care and, yes, Planned Parenthood is not one of them. Go to freeclinics.com to learn more.

If Planned Parenthood was concerned about women's health, they would stop doing abortions. Ms. Foster talks about putting the rights of a potential person above the rights of a woman as being hateful. But what about the rights of that potential person? Abortion offers no rights to that defenseless person.

And Ms. Foster says Mr. Pisciotta lies about facts. I contend that Planned Parenthood is steeped in lies and deception.

**Doel Garcia, Morgan, Texas**

I'm saddened at the hateful words directed at John Pisciotta of Pro-Life Waco. I applaud him for his dedication and service. I have never witnessed him or other pro-life members engaging in the hypocrisy she claims.

Volunteers with Pro-Life Waco are motivated by love, not hate. They know that the decision to choose life is difficult in many situations, but they must stand up for truth — that God is in charge of the beginning and end of life, not us. They also know and profess that there is grace and forgiveness available for people recovering from abortion. Anyone with zeal for an issue can make some mistakes, granted, but I know personally that the leader of Pro-Life Waco thinks carefully about the tone of his speech and the battle he is leading.

Mr. Pisciotta and the Pro-Life Waco volunteers pray, pray and pray again for all involved in this issue. I urge you to have a reasonable discussion with Mr. Pisciotta and you will see the love of Christ in his eyes, not hatred. I have witnessed hatefulness from the pro-choice side as well, but I am not about to condemn the entire faction. We cannot hate someone who simply hasn't seen life through God's eyes. We want them to be released from ideological captivity.

**Kristen Cook, Waco**

## NOVEMBER 28, 2015

### Pro-Life Waco shows respect

Regarding Cheryl Foster's letter about Pro-Life Waco executive director John Pisciotta being contentious, a woman hater and hate-filled: Nothing could be further from the truth.

I started volunteering after videos revealed the depths to which Planned Parenthood and the abortion industry have sunk. John loves all people and instructs new volunteers that all people are God's children and made in his image. We have to remember this when out in the public and people feel all kinds of freedom of expression, both supportive and obscene.

The pro-life movement is about defending the right of the defenseless, unborn to the basic right to life. I stand next to women who volunteer to direct young moms to real health care, hous-

ing, food, parenting and other classes, all the many resources (some public, some church) provided in our community. Rules of public square demonstrations are quickly explained to newbies: We may not obstruct sidewalk traffic. We may talk with anyone who wishes to talk or ask questions. We must always be ready to offer God's forgiveness and healing restoration. We must ignore rude, abusive pro-choice protestors and be respectful of all people.

More than half of all Pro-Life Waco volunteers are women. Some are mothers, grandmothers or single. Some have had abortions; some have kept or opted for adoption. To my surprise two plainclothes nuns are among our numbers. John respects and honors us all and always thanks us for our efforts. And he, obviously, is the biggest volunteer of all.

**Ann Garrison, Pro Life Waco volunteer,  
Waco**

Friday, Nov. 27, 2015

### Erring on side of life

I wonder how letter writer Cheryl Foster [Nov. 15] would feel about abortion and John Pisciotta if she believed, as Pisciotta apparently does, that an aborted fetus is not merely a "potential person" but a real human being created in God's image and likeness and endowed by God with value, worth and dignity? This is the underlying difference between them about abortion. I suspect if Ms. Foster believed what Mr. Pisciotta

believes, she would be on his side in the abortion debate. At least I hope so.

In the meantime, when proof of either belief is absent, the lingering question is simply this: Should we err on the side of safety, assuming fetuses might be human beings, or should we err on the side of "choice," assuming fetuses are not human beings?

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Nov. 25, 2015

### Pisciotta a hero

Regarding Cheryl Foster's letter about Pro-Life Waco executive director John Pisciotta: It mentioned the word hate so many times in reference to Pisciotta, I was surprised. I have worked with Pisciotta several times and no one ever yelled anything inappropriate at anyone. We ask people if they would like to talk with us but never force ourselves upon anyone.

Planned Parenthood does provide women with birth control, but most of the time patients see a mid-level practitioner instead of an actual doctor. Women could get better care from seeing an ob/gyn doctor who could provide birth control without pressuring them to have an abortion. I can say that women are pressured to have abortions at Planned Parenthood because it happened to a friend of mine. She went in for an ultrasound and was pressured to get an abortion, a decision she now deeply regrets.

Pisciotta is not putting the rights of a "potential person" above women's rights, but he is speaking for the innocent babies. He is also caring for the women by trying to save them from health complications and the emotional scarring that comes with knowing they took their child's life. In my years of working with Dr. Pisciotta, I have never heard him say anything derogatory or hateful.

People in the pro-life movement do understand the situation, are truthful and are courageously speaking up for innocent babies. John Pisciotta is not a hypocrite but a hero.

**Anne Myers, Waco**