



Pro-Life Waco 2008 Year in Review

www.prolifewaco.org



Recurring Pro-Life Events



- 1st Sunday Life Chain
- 2nd Sunday Pro-life Gathering
- Tuesdays: Rosary for Life @ Abortuary
- Thursdays: Witness @ Abortuary

While the pro-life community of the Waco area is ready to respond to new challenges and opportunities, some events occur on a continuing basis.

The first Sunday of each month is **Life Chain Sunday** from 2 to 3 p.m. at the intersection of Valley Mills Drive and Waco Drive. We hold "G-rated" signs to present the reality of abortion to our community. One sign reads, "Honk if you're pro-life." We hear a lot of honking and see many "thumbs up" from the thousands of cars passing by.

For our **Second Sunday Pro-Life Gatherings**, an average of seventy pro-lifers come together at St. Mary's Parish Hall for a noon-hour meal, fellowship, and a meeting from 1 to 2 p.m. for education and action planning.

We began in September praying a **Rosary for Life** each Tuesday evening at 5:30 in the public right-of-way in front of the Planned Parenthood Waco abortuary. The address is 1927 Columbus Avenue. We have had from 5 to 25 come out on Tuesday evenings to pray for the women scheduled for abortions, for conversion of those who work for Planned Parenthood, and for the closing of this abortion facility in our community. We will pray the rosary each week except for the summer months of June, July and August.

Witness on abortion day is each Thursday morning while Planned Parenthood Waco administers surgical abortions at its Columbus Avenue abortuary. Christians stand and pray outside the abortuary and attempt to persuade women to flee their tragic appointments. Rev. Ronnie Holmes of Church of the Open Door takes the lead in this vital ministry. Our hope is to guide women away from their appointments with death and heartbreak.

1st Annual Pro-Life Super Bowl Party at Chef Giovanni's



In addition to praying and working for the Gospel of Life, pro-lifers also enjoy fellowship. John Pisciotta hosted the first annual Pro-Life Super Bowl Party on February 3. John served

meatball sandwiches and others brought a variety of delicious food.

The football game was very good and the commercials were so-so. The evening was not all about football. Many just enjoyed visiting. The large number of beautiful children enjoyed playing in the backyard and playing games around tables.

Terrific Speakers at our Second Sunday Events

We have had some outstanding speakers at our Second Sunday Pro-Life Gatherings at St. Mary's Parish Hall.



Baylor Philosophy Professor Dr. Francis Beckwith delivered a message in June entitled "How I Became a Defender of the Unborn." Dr. Frank has written widely on pro-life issues. This includes his 2007 book, **Defending Life**, published by Cambridge

University Press. In addition to providing his personal testimony, Dr. Beckwith also gave insights on how to answer some common challenges from abortion supporters.

In August we were fortunate enough to have a return visit from Molly White of Redeemed for Life Ministries in Belton. Molly shared her personal experiences with abortions and talked about the many post-abortive women who are coming to the healing forgiveness of Jesus Christ.



As recovery and reconciliation takes place, some of these women are becoming voices to defend the unborn and the mothers who are victimized by abortion.

In September, Pro-Life Waco was part of a 10-city statewide tour to build grassroots support for legislation for Choose Life plates in the 2009 session of the Texas legislature.

Russ Amerling, national publicity director for Choose Life License plates, laid out the game plan. Joe Pojman, Director of the Texas Alliance for Life, arranged the Texas tour and was with us for the Second Sunday event. Please check out www.txchoose-life.org.



In November, Carol Everett spoke on the topic of "How They Market 'Choice.'" Carol worked in abortion clinic management for over a decade and is the founding director of Heidi Group in Round Rock, Texas. Her message, based on insider

experiences, showed how the abortion industry, including Planned Parenthood, deviously promotes the early onset of promiscuity, which reliably increases the demand for abortions.

A Billboard Stir for the 2008 Race for the Cure

This is the fourth year that Pro-Life Waco has challenged disturbing entanglement of the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure and Planned Parenthood in Waco. There are two big issues. First, the Komen Foundation refuses to acknowledge the evidence that abortion is a risk factor of breast cancer. Second, approximately 20% of the Komen affiliates nationally make grants to the nation's abortion leader--Planned Parenthood. The grants amount to over a half million dollars annually. The Waco grant has been \$45,000 for several years. While the Waco grant is to be used for mammography, other Komen grants are virtually unrestricted. This is the case for the \$62,000 Austin Komen grant to Austin Planned Parenthood. Even if the grant is tied to mammography, we have long contended that the grant should be provided to a hospital rather than an organization that commits abortions. Planned Parenthood Waco is just a middleperson for the grant and does not perform a single mammogram at its facilities.

This financial "arrangement" polishes the image of Planned Parenthood while tarnishing the image of Komen. Why would a foundation dedicated to helping women survive breast cancer partner with the nation's leader in the abortion industry?



Pro-Life Waco took its challenge to a new level in 2008 by displaying the special billboard above in downtown Waco at the 1600 block of Franklin Avenue.

After the billboard had been on display for several days, the editorial board of the **Waco Tribune Herald** printed an editorial critical of the billboard on Easter morning.

The editorial worked to our great advantage. The **Waco Trib** printed a picture of the billboard so that thousands more Central Texans could see it. The editorial also triggered over two dozen pro and con letters on the billboard and the Komen/Planned Parenthood entanglement controversy. Of course, letters from our side were far superior.

The billboard resulted in stories and comments on blogs and pro-life news outlets.

We supplied the original billboard graphics to Colorado Right to Life and they revised for their specific needs and used it in their challenge to the Komen Race for the Cure.

Take Care Down There and 19th annual Nobody's Fool



Each year, on the occasions of PP Waco's Nobody's Fool youth conference, Pro-Life Waco presents a different challenge to this dangerous organization. In 2008, Pro-Life Waco challenged PP Waco to disavow their Washington sister affiliate's web site: TakeCareDownThere.org

When asked by a reporter about the site, PP Waco executive director Pam Smallwood denied that the site was a Planned Parenthood site. Of course, the reporter accepted her word and let it go at that. The content of the web site is too vile to be included here. The videos of this site are included in the PowerPoint presentation discussed next.

John Pisciotta develops presentation on how PP lures children into promiscuity

This is a presentation about Planned Parenthood that hardly mentions abortion. Abortion is the tip of the iceberg regarding the evil of Planned Parenthood. The title of this hard-hitting, adults-only presentation is "The Planned Parenthood Sexual Agenda and Vision for Children" The content is Planned Parenthood's own materials: MTV commercials, vile and disgusting web sites for children, the children's book **It's Perfectly Normal**, condom key chains, and more.

Presentations last year included Central Texas Fellowship of Catholic Men, Church of the Open Door, St. Jerome's in Hewitt, First United Methodist Church of Waco, and St. Mary's Church in Mexia.

If you would be interested in a presentation to an adult group, please contact John at 254-644-0407. There is no charge if you are in reasonable driving distance from Waco.



For the second year, Pro-Life Waco participated in the national movement called 40 Days for Life. The dates in 2008 were September 24 through November 2. The number of cities participating nationally increased from over 90 to over 140. This powerful pro-life outreach is dedicated to prayer, fasting, and repentance to help bring an end to abortion.

Pro-Life Waco's Mitch DeLaRosa took the lead for 40 Days for Life in Waco.



Several individuals, families, and groups prayed outside the Planned Parenthood abortion facility. This included the Baylor Bears for Life student organization pictured above.

The successful launching of the weekly Rosary for Life (Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.) was part of the 40 Days for Life.

"Super-Sized" Pro-life booth at Heart of Texas Fair

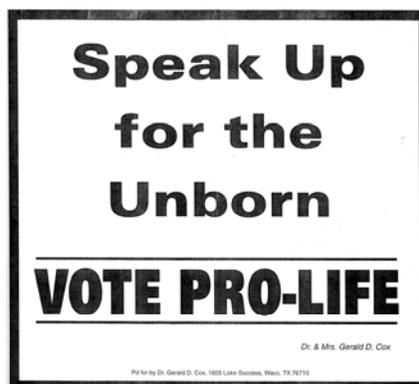


Pro-Life Waco joined forces with Doel Garcia and Waco Right to Life for another great booth at the Heart of Texas Fair, October 2-11.

This year, however, was different. We were able to double our booth size from 10'x10' to 10'x20'. The larger size made a huge difference, giving more display space and offering fair visitors the opportunity to take their time and browse our variety of materials.

The booth featured large pictures of life in the womb at various stages, pro-life and chastity flyers, pre-natal models and the ever-popular yellow balloons with the message "Smile, your mom chose life!" Well over 2,500 balloons were given to children and had quite an impact on the midway.

Half-Page Ads in the Waco Trib



This terrific ad was not placed by Pro-Life Waco. Rather, our good friends, Dr. Gerald and Julia Cox, placed this half-page add in the *Waco Trib* on the four Mondays before the November election. While the biased presidential debate moderators failed to bring life issues to the forefront, the Coxes brought strong pro-life messages to the voters of Central Texas.

Baylor's Bears for Life

Pro-Life Waco has also worked closely with the student organization Bears for Life. John Pisciotta is the faculty sponsor.

Here are some of the 2008 activities of Bears for Life:

- Hosted "Cultures of Death and Life in Recent Movies" This well-attended speech was delivered by Baylor's Honors College Dean, Dr. Thomas S. Hibbs.
- A 1200 pink and blue flag display for the January 22 recognition of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision. This number of flags corresponds to total surgical and RU486 abortions committed by Planned Parenthood Waco each year.
- Participated in national "Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity." Students wore tape over their mouths in recognition of the unborn denied the right and opportunity to speak for themselves.
- Questioned the way in which the Baylor Health Center assists pregnant coeds. This generated much discussion and controversy in Baylor's student newspaper, *The Baylor Lariat*.

Bears for Life is an affiliate of Students for Life in America. Students for Life in America recognizes college pro-life organizations for their activities and achievements each academic year. For 2007-2008, Bears for Life received the highest level of recognition.

36 to 12



Last year the score was 28 to 13. Waco pro-lifers (and allies in other cities and states) increased their dominance in letters to the editor of the *Waco Tribune Herald* and the *Baylor Lariat*. So many of you gave of your time and talent to carry our messages to this widely-read forum.

Some letters were well-placed single shots. Others were part of multi-letter debates. Ruby McCray triggered a flurry of letters by proposing that all pregnant women should be required to see a 4D ultrasound of their little one. Another debated developed over Planned Parenthood's local sex conference and the provocative web site for children launched by a Planned Parenthood affiliate. The biggest battle of words was triggered by our billboard challenging the Komen Foundation and local Komen's \$45K annual grants to Planned Parenthood Waco.

Moreover, our letters were so much stronger than those from the defenders of promiscuity and abortion. Let's keep writing for life!

Thank you to all who have

- prayed
- worked
- and financially supported the Gospel of Life in the Waco in 2008.

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