

Life Voices

A Newsletter of the Pregnancy Support Center of Alternatives.Yes

June 2014



**Pregnancy Support Center of
Alternatives.Yes**

***Empowering Women to
Choose Life***

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*Happy Mother's Day &
Happy Father's Day to all
our parents who chose
Life for us and the
precious infants we serve
each day.*

*Donations in honor or in
memory of moms and dads
may be mailed to:*

*Alternatives.Yes
6 Frank Gallo Lane
Connellsville, PA 15425*

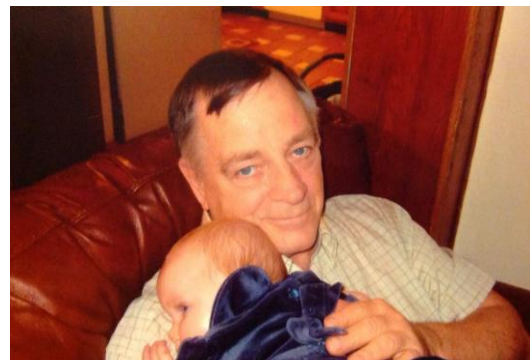
Living and Dying with Dignity, A Reflection of My Father

I hope all the moms out there had a wonderful Mother's Day, and I wish a very Happy Father's Day to all the dads out there, including all the young men to come into our center each week. They are looking for support and a good life for their babies. The staff here hope and pray that these young fathers are doing everything they need to do to be a good dad and make an imprint in their child's life. How does a father make an imprint? My father made many imprints in the lessons he taught my four siblings and me, including a strong work ethic, the value of a dollar, discipline, and the importance of education. We were modestly poor by most standards, but Dad was a devoted father, and he sacrificed his own wants and needs so that his children had good food, a warm home, nice clothes, and a few extras. He respected us and let us make our own decisions, offering advice and guidance as warranted. Any time any one of us needed something, he was there. One of the most important lessons he may have taught me was given with his death just one year ago. His death gave me a deeper understanding of the complete sanctity and value of all life, not just at the beginning of life, but also at the end. He was diagnosed with leukemia, and though he tried his best to fight it, God had other plans. Dad, weakened and frail, accepted his fate after a two-month fight and came home to die. Many people die alone or die angry with the world. My dad didn't die alone, and he did not die angry. The love he shone us throughout our lives was reciprocated to him in his end. In his final weeks he was surrounded by my mom, *all* five of his children, their spouses and his grandchildren. So many extended family members and loved ones lovingly came by to visit. He made a point to tell each and every person that he loved them. We took turns with the feeding, cleaning, medications, and just keeping company and holding his hand. There was a big campout in the living room with all the family at his side. He was in such deep pain, but he shared beautiful life stories, and he held on *to comfort us*. He truly died with dignity and surrounded by love. I pray that the young fathers and mothers who enter our building will love their children the way my dad loved his. I pray they give their children respect. And I pray that event he weakest among us live, And die, with dignity, value, and love.

God Bless You All,

Andrea Pritts

Executive Director



2014 Pro-Life Contest

Life is a Precious Gift

by Brent Ferris, 1st Place
8th Grader at St. John the Evangelist Regional Catholic School

Life is a Precious Gift

There are five freedoms in the First Amendment, Freedom of Religion, Speech, Press, Assembly and Petition; there should be a sixth, freedom to live.

Life is a precious gift...

Life is the most precious gift from God, and it should never be taken for granted or taken from you in any way, especially through abortion, because those babies do not have a voice to tell anyone their choice.

Life is a precious gift...

Pro- Life activists believe that life begins at the instant of conception. The Roman Catholic Church believes that human life must be respected and protected from the moment of conception. From the first moments of his life, a human being should be recognized as having the rights of a person among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to live.

Life is a precious gift...

The abortion death toll in the United States of America this year since January 1, 2014 is over 42,000, abortions since 1973 is over 50 million.

Life is a precious gift...

Life is a precious gift, look around you; you wouldn't have your family, your best friend, your precious children if we all decided on abortion. There are many other options instead on abortion, such as adoption or abstaining.

Life is a precious gift...

One meaning of life is the physical, mental and spiritual experiences that constitute existence, a living being especially a person.

Life is a precious gift...

“Man’s life comes from God, it is his gift, his image.” In every child which is born and in every person who lives or dies, we see the image of God’s glory. –“Pope John Paul II”

Life is a gift – accept it. Life is a song – sing it. Life is a promise – fulfill it. Life is love – love it.

Full List of 2014 Pro-Life Contest Winners

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2014 Pro-Life Contest sponsored by the board of directors at Alternatives.Yes Pregnancy Support Center. Winners represented the following schools: Southmoreland High School and Middle Schools, St. John the Evangelist Uniontown, Geibel Catholic Junior High, and Conn-Area Catholic School. Congratulations to everyone.

6-8th Grade Essay Contest

1st Place: Brent Ferris, 8th Grade,
St. John the Evangelist Regional Catholic School

Honorable Mentions:

Kaylee Farino, 8th Grade, Southmoreland Middle School
Christina Garsteck, 7th Grade, Geibel Catholic Junior High
Haley Miller, 7th Grade, Geibel Catholic Junior High School
Madison Willson, 6th Grade, Conn-Area Catholic School
Jacob Zekir, 8th Grade St. John the Evangelist Regional Catholic School

9th - 12th Grade Multimedia Contest Winner:

Vayda Farino, 10th Grade, Southmoreland High School



THANKS, WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU.....Gifts Received from Dec 5,

Special Memorial Gifts Received

- In Memory of mom Janice Dillon.... from Brian & Amy Dillon & Family
- In Memory of Jerod Miller.....from Alternatives.Yes Board of Directors
- In Memory of Jerod Miller..... from John & Joan Benyak
- In Memory of Jerod Miller..... from Kathleen Schurer
- In Memory of parents Alex & Rose Wisnewski..... from Kathleen Schurer

Other Wonderful Miscellaneous Gifts

Baby Shower, Giving Tree, and Special Collections Baby Gifts St. John the Evangelist Uniontown Christian Mothers Shower....Trinity Lutheran Church of Connellsville Christmas Gift Giving.....Christian Mother's Group of the Connellsville Catholic Churches Baby Jesus Christmas Party Gifts.....Conn-Area Catholic School Students Giving Tree baby items.....The Catherine von Bora Class at St. John's Lutheran Church baby item gift exchange.....

Other Unique Giving.....

- Community Ministries.....Newborn Layette Packages
- Bob and Bernadette Edwards.....Masses, Novenas, Prayers and Candy for Clients
- Connellsville Presbyterian Church Christmas Nativity Event Donations
- Connellsville Church of God Women.... Mother's Day Gifts & Spiritual Books
- Carolyn Shelky..... homemade baby blankets and stuffed bears
- Michael & Toni Chovanec.....United Way Campaign Funds & lots of baby clothing during an end of season shopping spree

Financial Gifts

A total of \$12,858 was received from the following donors.....

- Anonymous
- Buchanan Church of God Monthly Gift
- Calvary Assembly of God Women's Ministry
- CME Engineering Cares
- Connellsville Church of God Tithing
- Cherry Tree Alliance Church Easter Offering
- Everson Evangelical Monthly Gift
- St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church in Connellsville
- Holy Name Society of St. Pius X Roman Catholic Church in Mt. Pleasant
- Knights of Columbus Monessen Council #954

14 individual donors



CME Engineering Cares Gift

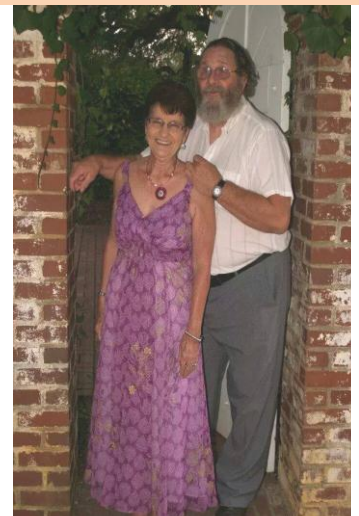
The employees of CME Engineering LP in Greensburg donated \$7,500 through the CME Cares Program where staff come together to help others and give back to their communities. Each employee gave a contribution, and then co-owners Michael Walker and Sean Isgan each matched the employee total. They invited Alternatives.Yes to a luncheon where a formal presentation took place. It was a wonderful day, and we are blessed that CME Cares about families and newborns.

R.I.P. Jim Haggerty

Jim was a dear friend, supporter and volunteer of the center since the beginning of our existence over 25 years ago. He was largely responsible for the set-up of our beautiful pantry. He always worked with a smile, and he ever said no. He is shown below with his lovely wife and center board member, Betsy.

Jim, you will be missed.

Thank you for being so good to us.





Find us on
Facebook

GRANT MONEY TO ESTABLISH INFANT CPR & CHOKING CLASS

The Community Foundation of Fayette County (CFFC) just awarded us a grant of \$5,000 through an anonymous donor of The Charity Fund. In the grant proposal process we requested the money to help us strengthen our very popular 'Earn While You Learn Pregnancy, Parenting and Life Skills Education Program'. A recent survey among our clients showed that most clients wanted an infant CPR class in our curriculum, and this money will allow us to purchase the necessary manikins and teaching manuals. Volunteer Barb Mulich, a nurse from Ruby Memorial Hospital, will begin teaching the classes once a month. Remaining funds from the grant will help us purchase other curriculum updates as well as the baby and home supplies used as incentives in our education program.

THANK YOU CFFC & ANONYMOUS DONOR!



90000114
Our United Way of
Westmoreland County #

Alternatives.Yes PSC
6 Frank Gallo Lane
Connellsville, PA 15425

Needed: Volunteer Pregnancy and Parenting (one-on-one) Class Leader

Twice monthly:

Wednesdays 1 pm - 4 pm or

Tuesdays 9 am - noon

Begin training in your choice of August or September.

If you believe in the sanctity of life, join us here at Alternatives.Yes. For those who want to see our clients not only get through a crisis pregnancy but go on to thrive, we are the place for your talents and support.

At Alternatives.Yes it is a joy to present life and to promote life. A nursing, teaching or counseling background is helpful but not required. We will train you. Call us at 724-628-5555 or email apritts@zoominternet.net.

This is a publication of **Alternatives.Yes**, located at 6 Frank Gallo Lane, Connellsville, PA 15425. Phone 724-628-5555. Alternatives.Yes is a non-profit, 501(c)(3), charitable organization. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, origin, sex, age, income, or disability.

Mission:
The Mission of Alternatives.Yes is to help those facing pregnancy and to provide life-affirming services that protect and enhance their lives, their children, and their families through pregnancy and beyond.

Visit our website at
www.pregnancy-support.com.
Editor: Andrea Pritts

Like our Newsletter? Pass it on to a