



*you are invited to our..*

30th Annual

# Life Dinner

**Thursday April 4th, 2024  
5pm - 8:30pm**

**Grand River Center (500 Bell St, Dubuque, IA)**

**Keynote Speaker:  
Mark Houck**



Mark Houck is the Founder and President of The King's Men, Inc. He is an author, activist, and internationally known motivational speaker who developed in 2004 a highly successful ministry to help others become better leaders, protectors and providers. As a former All-American collegiate athlete and high school coach, Mark has drawn on his personal pursuit of excellence in sports to encourage and mentor thousands across North America and Europe. Through his seasoned life experience as a human resource manager, youth counselor and high school teacher, Mark brings practical insight and wisdom to all his presentations. Mark is a husband and father of 7 children. He has a B.A. in Human Resource Management from Catholic University and holds a Master's degree in Education from Holy Family University.

**Official invite to come by mail in February. You can RSVP by calling the office at 563-556-5960, or emailing us at [dctrl@dctrl.org](mailto:dctrl@dctrl.org)**

## February 2024

Volume 27, Number 2  
Published Monthly

### Office Personnel:

Augustine Payne  
*Executive Director*

Shauna Peterson  
*Outreach Coordinator*

Grace Van Petten  
*Outreach Associate  
(part-time)*

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### Contact Us:

2205 Carter Road  
Dubuque, Iowa 52001  
(563) 556-5960  
dcrtl@dcrtl.org  
www.dcrtl.org

### Office Hours:

Mon - Fri: 9am - 4pm  
Weekends: Closed

### Dyersville Office:

1657 15th Avenue S.E.  
Dyersville, Iowa 52040

Dubuque County Right to Life, Inc. is a non-profit, non-sectarian, education organization dedicated to preserving and fostering respect for human life from conception to natural death. We educate the public about the dangers of abortion, euthanasia and infanticide.

February 2024	
Thursday, February 1	Praying at the Emma Goldman Abortion Clinic in Iowa City - EVERY Thursday. Meet at DCRTL Office at 5:45am to carpool. Call day before to sign up.
Monday, February 12	Celebration of Life Rally, Washington, D.C. Informational Meeting. 7:00pm. DCRTL Office.
Thursday, February 15	Board of Directors meeting
Friday, February 16	Equipped for Life Refresher & practice. 9:30am. Coffee provided. Please register in advance.
Tuesday, February 20	Equipped for Life Refresher & Practice - 6:30pm - Zoom
Wednesday, February 21	Celebration of Life Rally, Washington, D.C. Informational meeting. 7:00pm. Beckman High School, Dyersville.
Thursday, February 22	Holy Hour - 7:00pm St. John the Baptist, Peosta
Monday, February 26	Deadline to apply for the DCRTL High School Senior Scholarship. In-person 5:00pm CST, or online at 11:59pm CST
March 2024	
Thursday, March 7	Equipped for Life Refresher & practice. 12:00pm. Lunch will be provided. Please register by March 6th.
Friday, March 15	RSVP deadline for Life Dinner
Thursday, March 21	Board of Directors meeting
Thursday, March 21	Holy Hour - 7:00pm St. John the Baptist, Peosta
Saturday, March 30	Pro-Life Scholarship speech contest. 9:00am. DCRTL Office.
Sunday, March 31	Happy Easter!
April 2024	
Thursday, April 4	30th Annual Life Dinner - 5:00pm - Grand River Center





## A NOTE FROM AUGUSTINE PAYNE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Supporters,

Though it is bitter cold outside along with an abundance of snow as I write this, April will be here before you know it, and we will be together for our 30th Annual LIFE Dinner down at the Grand River Center. We are excited to announce that Mark Houck will be our keynote speaker this year. You may recall from previous newsletter reports that Mark was prosecuted under the FACE Act by the Department of Justice and FBI for protecting his 12-year-old son from the intimidation of an abortion clinic escort. More information on Mark and the event can be found on the front page.

*Note: It is not a typo that we are getting together this year on Thursday, April 4th, for our LIFE Dinner. An official invitation will be coming in the mail in February.*

Another item in relation to events is that we are having informational meetings for those who are interested in attending the Celebration of Life Rally in Washington DC in June. Please see page seven for more information.

We are also excited to announce that we have hired Shauna Peterson to fill the Outreach Coordinator position! Shauna is a wonderful addition to our team and I can't wait for you to meet her. You can learn more about her on page six. Feel free to stop by the office to introduce yourself; we always love to see our members.

For those who regularly attend our Mass for Life on March 25th, due to Easter being early this year, the feast of the Annunciation, which normally falls on that date, has been moved to Monday, April 8th, this year. We will plan the Mass to coincide with the change in the feast day this year.

With Trisomy 18 being in the news due to the case in Texas, I cover that in more detail on page eight. I hope you find it informative and helpful for your own knowledge, but also, should family or friends bring it up in conversation, you have information that the general media will never tell you. If there are topics you would find helpful in future issues, reach out to our office with your questions or suggestions.

I hope you are all doing well!

*Augustine Payne*

### **Iowa Mom Opens a Thrift Store to Help Families Adopt**

Brittany Berrie recently opened a thrift shop out of her own garage in DeWitt, Iowa, called The Adopted Closet, with all proceeds going to help families afford the costs of adoption. This was inspired by her experience adopting her 11-year-old daughter Gracie.

Though Gracie had been in Brittany's care since birth, the cost of the legal fees to officially adopt Gracie were prohibiting Brittany from going through the process. Last November, Brittany's generous cousin offered to pay these fees so the adoption could finally go through. To pay this kindness forward, Brittany and her mother held a garage sale, donating items and directing all money raised to cover another family's adoption costs.

The positive response led Brittany to make The Adopted Closet an ongoing thrift store operating out of her garage three days a week. So far, they have raised enough to cover adoption fees for a local family with two foster children. Brittany hopes to someday expand to a storefront location and continue assisting more families seeking to adopt. Her story highlights how one selfless act can inspire ongoing generosity and change lives.

*Kim Schwartz from Texas Right to Life covered the story and can be found at <https://www.nationalrighttolife.org/2023/12/iowa-mom-opens-thrift-shop-to-fund-adoption/>*

# MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS



## In Memory of:

Doug Crosby.....Dr. Gary Soderberg & Dr. Loretta Knutson  
 Jerome Feldman.....Rachel Feldman  
 Les Feldman.....Patricia Heiderscheid, John & Ellen Markham,  
 .....Harold & Darlene Scheiltz  
 Joan Feldman.....Patricia Heiderscheid, John & Ellen Markham  
 James & Marguerite Gilloon.....Don & Peggy Brown  
 Jim Golby.....Dr. Virgil & Marian Bourek  
 Gloria Hein.....John & Janet Berns, John & Ellen Markham  
 Daniel Koetz.....Andrew & Nicole Koetz  
 Lyl Pfeiler.....Darla Benda & Family, Mark & Sara Eisbach, Patricia Heiderscheid,  
 .....Kim & Katharine Kueter, John & Sue Lukasik, Noreen Ruden,  
 .....Sheila Ruhl family  
 Herb Recker.....Neil & Linda Hoeger  
 Joe Wachtel.....Dr. Virgil & Marian Bourek, John & Colleen Myers  
 John & Myra Welsh.....Dr. David & Eva Stabenow

## In Honor of:

Margaret Becker.....Evelyn Clemens  
 Tony & Jeanita Grebner (*Merry Christmas!*).....Clarence, Allison & Ryan Grebner  
 Laurance & Darlene Krapfl.....Eben & Lindsey Krapfl  
 Madonna Portz.....Kevin & Joan Hedrick  
 Beth Simpson (*Birthday*).....Dr. Virgil & Marian Bourek  
 St. Therese the Little Flower.....Don & Carla Averkamp

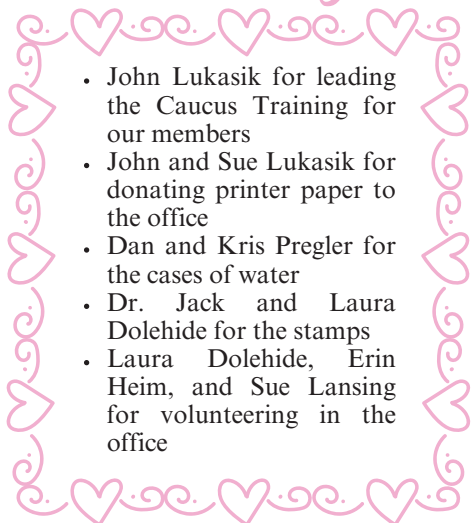
## Wish List Postage stamps

### Praying outside of the abortion facility

Every Thursday morning, Art Gilloon and a couple other members carpool down to Iowa City to pray and offer life-affirming options to the mothers entering Emma Goldman abortion facility. They leave by 5:45am and return to Dubuque by 12 noon. They have open spots in the car. If you would like to join them on any Thursday, give our office a call (563-556-5960) by Wednesday (day before) at 4pm to sign-up.



thank you



- John Lukasik for leading the Caucus Training for our members
- John and Sue Lukasik for donating printer paper to the office
- Dan and Kris Pregler for the cases of water
- Dr. Jack and Laura Dolehide for the stamps
- Laura Dolehide, Erin Heim, and Sue Lansing for volunteering in the office



## PRO-LIFE COURT & LEGISLATION UPDATE

by Arthur F. Gilloon, DCRTL Board Member & Attorney



Dear Pro-Life friends—

Last month's newsletter reported on cases pending in the state courts of Arizona, New Mexico, Wyoming, and Idaho. I have no news from the first three, but there is news from Idaho.

First, some background. Way back in 1986, the United States Congress enacted the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) to ensure public access to emergency room medical care regardless of the patient's ability to pay. On July 11, 2022, after *Roe v. Wade* was overturned by the US Supreme Court decision in the *Dobbs* case, the Biden administration issued an administrative ruling requiring emergency room doctors to perform abortions even if doing so would conflict with Idaho's law protecting preborn children from being aborted. The Biden administration lawyers argued that any hospital receiving Medicare funds is required to provide emergency care, including abortions, even if the state's law would prohibit it.

Idaho has just such a law, called the Defense of Life Act. The Biden lawyers have now sued Idaho to stop this pro-life law.

As the case made its way through the court system, various judges put the Idaho pro-life law on hold by issuing an injunction against it. But on Friday, January 5, 2024, the United States Supreme Court issued an order lifting the lower courts' injunction and resurrecting the Idaho pro-life law. This means that Idaho emergency room doctors will not be required to perform abortions as the case is briefed in the U.S. Supreme Court. Oral arguments are expected in April 2024 with a ruling in June. This is a major pro-life legal victory, because it will stop abortions in the ER rooms in Idaho and won't force ER doctors to perform them against their will.

In national news, the U.S. House of Representatives voted on January 18th to pass H.R. 6918, the Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act. This law was proposed by Minnesota Republican Representative Michelle Fischbach to stop President Biden from defunding pregnancy resource centers (PRC'S) which are vital to helping women facing unintended pregnancies. By way of background, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides \$16.5 billion annually to support assistance activities for needy families. In the Fall of 2023, Biden's Department of Health and Human Services proposed a rule that could prevent states from giving TANF money to PRC'S. The bill passed in the House with all Republicans voting for it and all Democrats voting against it. Just like slavery, the abortion issue divides our representatives in Washington. Republicans were against slavery and now favor life, and Democrats favored slavery and now favor death to the preborn. For more on this, check out this link:

<https://www.lifenews.com/2024/01/18/house-republicans-pass-two-pro-life-bills-to-help-pregnant-women-unborn-children/>

In Iowa news, a bill has been introduced that would protect maternity homes from being zoned out of residential neighborhoods in the way that Mary's Inn recently was prohibited from moving into a Dubuque residential neighborhood by the City of Dubuque zoning board of adjustment. Republican legislator Shannon Lundgren has introduced this measure, which treats maternity homes like homes for the disabled and veterans' homes, protecting them from city zoning ordinances that would exclude them from living among residential neighbors. This is a good thing, as society needs to support, help, and accept women in unintended pregnancies who are choosing life.

In other Iowa news, in an effort to strengthen our state law, a study bill is being considered in the Iowa legislature that would define an unborn child as a person, and thus make killing that "person" a crime. Iowa law currently penalizes a criminal who "ends a pregnancy" against the mother's will (e.g., by an assault), but it needs to be

*Continued on page 6*

## Pro-Life Court & Legislation Update

...continued from page 5

strengthened to recognize that such an assault doesn't just hurt the mother and end a pregnancy. There is a second crime against a living person....i.e. the unborn child who is killed. Unfortunately, this bill would not change Iowa's abortion law. DCRTL will report further on this as news develops.

That's all for now, but keep reading, viewing, and learning about legislation and court cases that affect the culture of life in our city, state, and country. DCRTL will help you do just that.

Arthur F. Gilloon

### Welcome Shauna!



Hello y'all, I was born in San Antonio, Texas, and raised in the south. Growing up in a culture with a diversity-filled atmosphere helped me to love people from all backgrounds and cultures.

With 15 years of experience in youth programs and ongoing experience in young adult programs, I feel passionate about helping the greatest people on this planet, who are often the most undervalued and vulnerable. Youth and young adults aren't our future; they are our now.

In the face of great sorrow, I feel more passionate than ever to help those struggling with unexpected pregnancies make the first step towards life. I believe fervently that the best way to help those consumed with the weight they are carrying is to carry some of the load. Choosing life doesn't always feel as simple as a checkbox for "Pro-Life" or "Pro-Choice"

Sometimes that answer is filled with sorrow, abuse, poverty, and the unknown, and I believe my responsibility on behalf of Dubuque Right to Life is to do more than speak truth; I am called to advocate for those in need, to be a support to the weary, and to share love with each person who feels the weight of making the choice towards life.

I look forward to meeting each of you in time and continuing to build (with you) a place of light and hope in a time when it is most needed.



## High School Senior Scholarship Contest

**Available to:** Graduating high school seniors who plan to attend college.

**Scholarship Amount:** Up to \$10,000 is available to be awarded between the applicants, at the discretion of the judging committee.

**Expectations:** Students must submit a written copy of an original speech (5-10 minutes in length) on the topic "Advancing Pro-Life Ideas to Next Generations: Goals and Strategies."

Students must submit evidence of service hours logged in the cause of protecting human life. Students must submit one (1) recommendation letter describing individual commitment to some aspect of the DCRTL mission.

Please go to [www.dcrtl.org/scholarships](http://www.dcrtl.org/scholarships) for more information and to apply. The deadline to apply is Monday, February 26, 2024, at 11:59pm CST.

Finalists will be chosen by the quality of their written speech, as well as logged service hours, and the recommendation letter.

Finalists must be available to participate in a speech presentation at the DCRTL office on the morning of Saturday, March 30, 2024.

## Equipped for Life Course



The Equipped for Life Course provides a fresh approach to the dialogue about abortion. Equal Rights Institute developed this method from thousands of conversations with pro-choice people. We want to continue to introduce this approach to our members. The seminar will help you have charitable dialogues with anyone regardless of their religious or political beliefs.

Each meeting will include learning the topic of the day, time for discussion, and practicing with fellow pro-lifers. If you can't attend a certain day during the course, we have a plan for you. The topics we will cover are: Habits of Highly Ineffective Pro-Lifers, Practical Dialogue Tips, Trot Out a Toddler, The Biological Case for the Unborn, The Philosophical Case for the Unborn, The Question of Rape, and Bodily Rights Arguments.

This is FREE and kids are welcome.

### Upcoming training sessions are:

- Two Saturdays - March 2nd & 9th - 9am - 1pm (2 sessions - Lunch is provided)

## Equipped for Life Refresher and Practice

Several people have attended our Equipped for Life training seminar. Most times, people would like more practice time and or discussion time to go deeper on a particular topic. Below are times that we will be offering a refresher where we will discuss YOUR questions and or practice the topics of YOUR choosing. If you have any questions on what this will look like, please reach out to us.

- **Friday, February 16th** – 9:30am – 11am – Coffee will be provided.  
*Please register ahead of time.*
- **Tuesday, February 20th** - 6:30-8pm Online/Zoom (NEW)
- **Thursday, March 7th** – 12pm – 1:30pm – Lunch will be provided.  
*Please register by March 6th.*

*NOTE: There is an additional online offering on Zoom.*



## Celebration of Life Rally

DCRTL is hosting a bus trip in June for the Celebration for Life Rally in Washington D.C. on June 22nd.

**Who:** Anyone who would like to attend.

**When:** Thursday, June 20 (evening) - Sunday, June 23

**Why:** *To participate in the Celebration for Life Rally to mark the day (June 24) Dobbs v. Jackson decision was handed down from the Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade decision which made abortion legal in the whole United States.*

**Cost:** \$450 per person

**For those interested in attending, we are having two informational meetings:**

- **February 12th at 7pm - DCRTL Office (2205 Carter Rd, Dubuque, IA)**
- **February 21st at 7pm - Beckman High School (1325 9th St SE, Dyersville, IA)**

Note: If you can't make the informational meeting, but would still like to attend, please reach out to us.

## Diving deeper into Trisomy 18

Last month, we briefly covered the Texas case that involved Kate Cox and her family seeking abortion for their child who was diagnosed with Trisomy 18. As was mentioned, Kate's doctor would not say that it was in her best medical judgment that Kate's life was at risk.

Aside from that, we had news media sources and people who call themselves pro-choice or pro-life think that a diagnosis where it is proven that the child has a poor survival rate past birth is a justifiable reason for an abortion. The news media ran the claim that children with this condition have a low survival rate in order to gain the empathy of the viewers that she should have been allowed to abort. Aside from the fact that most people do not know the cruelty of the abortion procedure needed to end this child's life (Dilation & Evacuation Abortion, sometimes shortened to D & E abortion), we are going to take a deeper dive into the diagnosis of Trisomy 18.

In Trisomy 18 (sometimes referred to as Edwards Syndrome), a child has three copies of chromosome 18 instead of two. Common phrases that are typically associated with the condition based on older medical studies are lethal, fatal, or incompatible with life.

In an interview with AAPLOG (American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists), Dr. Martin McCaffrey, Professor of Pediatrics at UNC Chapel Hill in the Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, stated that there are three paths for parents with this diagnosis. 1) Comfort care 2) Hospice care 3) Palliative care (The doctor acknowledges that there is a life-altering condition, but will administer care that may even prolong life). According to Dr. McCaffrey, comfort care and hospice care are very similar and common for hospitals (it usually includes warmth, medicine for pain, and emotional support for the family). The majority of the babies who go down the path of Comfort Care or Hospice Care pass away in the hospital.

Note: Every baby with this condition is unique, so survivability is also based on the child's unique medical conditions and the severity associated with it.

### Good news from recent medical studies and initiatives.

One of the common conditions experienced by babies with Trisomy 18 is a variant of a heart condition. Based on the previous belief that death was fast approaching for these babies, heart surgery was hardly ever conducted. In 2017, a study conducted by Stanford University School of Medicine and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, found that heart surgery more than doubled (from 33% to 67%) the chance of survival and hospital discharge.

According to Live Action, The Detroit Free Press reported that the University of Michigan's Mott Children's Hospital states that "taking an aggressive approach to treatment, 90% of babies born with Edwards syndrome can go home from the hospital, and their five-year survival rate can reach close to 77%."

Both of these studies demonstrate that when receiving the best care in response to their condition, babies have a better chance of being discharged from the hospital and living a longer life.

As I mentioned last month, receiving this diagnosis, or any diagnosis for a child, is hard. People who find themselves in this situation need support and someone to walk with them. A few resources that may be beneficial for someone in need of support are: Be Not Afraid (Benotafraid.net) - a non-profit that exists to support parents carrying to term following a prenatal diagnosis. SOFT (Support Organization for Trisomy). Facebook support groups for Trisomy 18 (or the particular diagnosis received) are some places that are walking with families during these tough situations.

The starting point for a child who has a condition should be on the same level as a child without the condition: Feed them, clothe them, comfort them, and regardless of how long they will live, killing them is not an option and should not be legal.

### For further reading:

Woodward, Aylin. *Newborns with Trisomy 13 or 18 Can Benefit from Heart Surgery*, Stanford Medicine, 17 Oct. 2017, [med.stanford.edu/news/all-news/2017/10/newborns-with-trisomy-13-or-18-benefit-from-heart-surgery.html](https://med.stanford.edu/news/all-news/2017/10/newborns-with-trisomy-13-or-18-benefit-from-heart-surgery.html).

Flanders, Nancy. *Fact Checking the Fact Checkers Regarding Lila Rose's Trisomy 18 Social Media Post*, Live Action, 22 Dec. 2023, [www.liveaction.org/news/fact-checking-checkers-trisomy-18-lila-rose/](https://www.liveaction.org/news/fact-checking-checkers-trisomy-18-lila-rose/).



*(The Ambassadors along with family members took hand decorated Christmas Cookies to Teresa's Shelter and then went to Stonehill to sing Christmas Carols to the residents).*

**If you are in high school and interested in joining, or want to learn more, contact Augustine Payne at [apayne@dcrtl.org](mailto:apayne@dcrtl.org) or 563-556-5960.**

Ambassadors for Life meet once a month on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 6:15pm to 7:45pm, with dinner provided. The Ambassadors for Life three pillars are Activism, Formation, and Fun. By participating in the Ambassadors for Life, you will not only be helping build a culture that respects LIFE, but with the life experiences, you will also have things you can talk about in future job, college, and scholarship applications.

## Ambassadors for Life

The Ambassadors for Life was started by Dubuque County Right To Life, Inc. (DCRTL) to get high school students involved in the pro-life cause and give them an opportunity to gain leadership experience that they will take with them and build upon for the rest of their lives. If you are a high school student who is pro-life and wants to make an impact, join us.

## A New Maternity Home in Iowa



Up until now, Mary's Inn ([www.marysinmaternityhome.org](http://www.marysinmaternityhome.org)) has been the only maternity home in eastern Iowa. "Cradle of Hope" opened a Mother's Home in Mount Pleasant, Iowa (about an hour south of Iowa City). With acreage, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and fully furnished, the home will provide housing for pregnant, homeless women and will have an on staff "House Mother" who is a Registered Nurse. According to the article, there are about 400 maternity homes established throughout the United States.

<https://pregnancyhelpnews.com/iowa-pregnancy-help-center-opens-mother-s-home>

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Jeremiah 1:5

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Jesus exclaimed to  
St. Faustina,

*"How very much  
I desire the  
salvation of  
souls!"*

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*Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.  
Jer. 1:5*



*All life is precious!*



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