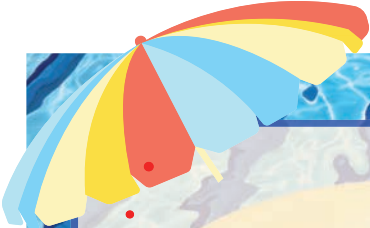




Dubuque County
Right To Life, Inc.

LIFE TIME

JULY 2025 VOLUME 28 NUMBER 7



DCRTL POOL PARTY

You are invited to join us
for an evening of swimming, fellowship, and celebrating life!

**Sunday, August 3, from 5 - 7pm,
Sutton Pool (1900 Hawthorne St, Dubuque, IA)**

- The pool, water slides, and changing room will be available to us, and there will be lifeguards on duty! Bring your favorite food, snacks, and non-alcoholic beverages! We only ask that you do not use glass containers for safety. We look forward to a night of fun and community, and we can't wait to see you there!
-



SUMMER PICNIC

**Thursday, August 7th
5:30 - 8pm
Asbury Park - Wagner Pavilion**

Come enjoy great food and fellowship at our annual summer picnic! We will provide the main course for dinner, but please feel free to bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share! We plan on eating around 6pm and look forward to celebrating LIFE with you at this fun and enjoyable gathering for all ages!

July 2025

Volume 28, Number 7
Published Monthly

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Communications Associate

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Digital Outreach Assoc.

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Weekends: Closed

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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.

July 2025

Wednesday - Sunday, July 2 - 6	• John Deere Classic Tournament Week
Friday, July 4	• Happy Independence Day! <i>DCRTL offices closed</i>
Tuesday - Saturday, July 8 - 12	• Generations for Life Summer Camp - Bean Farm
Tuesday - Sunday, July 22 - 27	• Dubuque County Fair booth
Thursday, July 24	• Holy Hour for Respect Life - 7pm St. John the Baptist Church, Peosta
Thursday, July 31	• Board of Directors meeting

August 2025

Sunday, August 3	• DCRTL Pool Party, 5-7pm, Sutton Pool <i>(1900 Hawthorne St., Dubuque)</i>
Thursday, August 7	• Summer Picnic, 5:30-8pm, Asbury Park
Friday, August 15	• Deadline to submit names for Memorial for the Unborn
Thursday, August 21	• Board of Directors meeting
Thursday, August 28	• Holy Hour for Respect Life - 7pm St. John the Baptist Church, Peosta



PLEASE NOTE:

Office hours July 7th - 27th

July will be a busy month for the DCRTL staff members! Much of our work will take us outside the office this month. As a result, **we will be shortening our office hours to 9 am - 12 pm from July 7th through July 27th.** Thank you for your understanding during this busy season while we work to promote LIFE in our community!



A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AI is helping get around the pro-life laws in order to have an abortion.

What did ChatGPT say when prompted with a question from a 14-year-old girl who lives in Tennessee and is looking to get an abortion without her parents' knowledge? According to an article by Leif Le Mahieu on June 19, 2025, the AI system not only offered suggestions on how to get around Tennessee's pro-life laws with crossing state lines, as well as connecting her with pro-abortion sources online to have the abortion pills shipped to her house, but also offered emotional support for having an abortion and formulated a message to be sent to the abortion pill peddler's while listing the steps to do it without being detected.

Testing it out myself through Claude AI (another AI platform similar to ChatGPT), when another prompt was put in that "What if she's unsure about whether to have an abortion, what should I tell her," one of the top things listed was "Encourage professional counseling: Organizations like Planned Parenthood offer options counseling that helps people think through all possibilities - parenting, adoption, and abortion - without pushing toward any particular choice." AI would continue to suggest that she should consider her life circumstances and that "there's no 'right' answer."

When inserting into the prompt that the woman is pregnant but against abortion, that is when the results from AI lean more pro-life.

While AI can have positive benefits of accomplishing tasks faster, if not guided by virtuous people who know what is right and wrong, it also can be used to promote and have an abortion.

This is why we must work to not only make abortion illegal, but also change our culture so that our fellow neighbors know that abortion takes the life of an innocent human being. Then, when culture is formed properly and people go to AI, they will be able to find help that does not include killing their child.

Two major initiatives that DCRTL undertakes in trying to change our culture are happening in July. We will be hosting our 2nd Annual Generations for Life Summer Camp and going to the Dubuque County Fair to do outreach. In past years, we have had hundreds of conversations at the Fair with people who are on the fence or in favor of abortion. Please keep us and our efforts in your prayers as we seek to change hearts and minds on abortion.

I hope you have a great Independence Day weekend as we celebrate the freedoms we have been blessed with in this great nation. We will continue to advocate that everyone, born and pre-born, has an equal right to life. Without the right to life, none of the other rights matter.

For Life,

Augustine Payne

Le Mahieu, Leif. "I've Got Your Back": Read ChatGPT's Chilling Instructions To Young Girl Seeking Covert Abortion." The Daily Wire, 20 June 2025



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Marlene Burgmeier.....	Dick & Jean Mescher
Chris Gibbs.....	Dave & Ellen Grevas
Larry Griffin.....	Ed & Mary Kluesner
Ruth Hartig.....	John & Sue Lukasik
Wilma Hilby.....	Patricia Heiderscheit
Mary Konrardy.....	Virgil & Marian Bourek, Dr. Jack & Laura Dolehide, John & Sue Lukasik, Ellen Markham, John & Colleen Meyers
Thomas Lucas.....	Ruth Lucas
Robert McLaughlin.....	Virgil & Marian Bourek, Dr. Jack & Laura Dolehide, Centralia/Peosta Volunteer Fire, Bob McLaughlin Memorial
Ken Nurre.....	Roger & Darlene Osterhaus
Carol Pfeiler.....	Louise Pfeiler
Msgr. Ernest Pizzamiglio.....	John & Colleen Meyers
Lou Ann Schmerbach.....	Patricia Heiderscheit
Steve Schute.....	Dick & Jean Mescher
Theresa Stecklein.....	Roger & Lynn Gibbs
Jerome Urbain.....	Virgil & Marian Bourek, Denny & Janet Gansemer, John & Sue Lukasik, Dick & Jean Mescher, Tom & Beth Simpson
Robert Whiteman.....	Dcn. Steven & Christine Whiteman

In Honor of:

Joan Gaul & Jean Kramer (<i>twin sisters, 90th birthday</i>).....	Ed & Mary Kluesner
Fr. John Haugen (<i>retirement</i>).....	Kathy Petitgout
Fr. Mark Osterhaus (<i>retirement</i>).....	Kathy Petitgout
Jesse & Karen Steger.....	Bryson & Amy Winsky

FATHER'S DAY MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

In Honor of:

Rod Chapman.....	Dick & Jean Mescher
Bobby Fangman.....	Dick & Jean Mescher
Steve Frank.....	Dick & Jean Mescher
John Gallagher.....	Dick & Jean Mescher
Mike Hartkop.....	Dick & Jean Mescher
Dick Mescher.....	Jean Mescher
Matt Mescher.....	Dick & Jean Mescher
Mark Mescher.....	Dick & Jean Mescher





PRO-LIFE LEGISLATIVE, COURT, AND OTHER LEGAL NEWS

by Arthur F. Gilloon, DCRTL Board Member & Attorney



Dear Friends for Life-

The Iowa Legislature has finished its 2025 session, so I will focus on news from around the nation and the world. However, I would like to announce that both the Baby Olivia bill and the non-discrimination against new moms and pregnant students bill were signed by Governor Kim Reynolds!

NATIONAL NEWS

In Washington, DC, the House Judiciary Committee has voted to pass House Resolution (H.R.) 589 out of committee and onto the full House for a vote. This bill has 39 sponsors in the House of Representatives, and would repeal the federal FACE Act (“Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances”). Following its passage in 1994, this federal law has been misused by the federal government to prosecute peaceful abortion protesters and sidewalk counselors around the country, threatening them with 11 years in federal prison if convicted. Mark Houck, DCRTL’s guest speaker at our 2024 LIFE Dinner, was the victim of one of these prosecutions, even though all he did was protect his 12-year-old son from an assault by a male death chamber worker who was escorting women in and out of the clinic. Hopefully, the full House of Representatives in Washington will support the repeal of the FACE Act.

More good news in the U.S. Senate. The Senate Finance Committee has agreed with the House of Representatives’ version of the overall finance bill, which would defund Planned Parenthood. Currently, Planned Parenthood receives about \$2 million per day in federal funds. As proof of abortion being Planned Parenthood’s number one moneymaker, PP clinics in Iowa continue to close in spite of receiving these federal funds...which also shows that Iowa’s heartbeat law is working. More expectant moms in crisis are choosing life, more babies are being saved, and fewer women are being harmed by abortion in Iowa and across the nation. Hopefully, this legislation will wind its way through the U.S. Congress unchanged, and we will see the end of Planned Parenthood, Inc.

Now, news from the United States Supreme Court. The nine Justices have agreed to review the case of First Choice Women’s Resource Center v. Platkin. First Choice is a faith-based pro-life crisis pregnancy center in New Jersey. Matthew Platkin is the New Jersey Attorney General. Platkin served an “investigatory” subpoena on First Choice, demanding that its five pregnancy centers reveal the identities of nearly 5000 donations, and produce up to 10 years of internal, confidential documents. The subpoena was issued without any complaint from a New Jersey citizen. It was simply a follow-up to Platkin’s reaction to the Dobbs decision, which overruled Roe v. Wade. Platkin had been openly hostile to pro-life citizens after the Dobbs decision, complaining that First Choice and other pro-life pregnancy centers should be shut down because they did not provide or refer for abortion. He even signed an open letter after Dobbs pledging to take legal action against pro-life pregnancy centers.

After receiving the subpoena, First Choice sued in federal court to stop Platkin and quash the subpoena, arguing that the baseless subpoena infringed on First Choice’s and its donors’ First Amendment rights. Platkin, fearful that First Choice had a better chance of winning the case in federal court, sued First Choice in New Jersey STATE Court, hoping to keep the case from eventually reaching the U.S. Supreme Court. His plan has now failed because the Supreme Court has agreed to review the case. Hopefully, the Supreme Court will agree that such a baseless subpoena is unconstitutional under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, which protects everyone’s right to express themselves with their donations and associate with organizations that share their pro-life views.

Continued on page 6...

STATE NEWS

Physician-assisted suicide (PAS) is currently allowed in the District of Columbia and 11 states: California, Hawaii, New Jersey, Vermont, Colorado, Maine, New Mexico, Delaware, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. On June 9, 2025, the New York State Senate voted to make New York the 12th state to allow physicians to prescribe drugs to kill their patients. The New York Assembly had already voted to approve PAS, so the New York State Senate vote sends this bill to the governor of New York for signature. On a brighter note, secular media has begun to condemn assisted suicide. The Wall Street Journal published an editorial on June 11, calling New York’s PAS proposal a “mistake.” In it, they ask for New York Governor Kathy Hochul to veto it. They eloquently describe assisted suicide as an abdication of the responsibility to care for the dying with dignity. To read the full editorial, visit New York’s Assisted-Suicide Mistake - The Wall Street Journal.

Of interest, on the same day New York approved this pro-euthanasia bill, the American Medical Association (AMA) voted at their annual meeting in Chicago to reaffirm its opposition to physician–assisted suicide. Wow. This is important because the AMA meeting was attended by approximately 700 elected delegate–doctors, representing more than 250,000 United States physicians, residents, and medical students. In a final ironic twist, the AMA physician delegates continue to favor abortion on demand.

(Note re Iowa: Pro death forces have tried to pass bills entitled "Our Care, Our Options Act" to allow doctors to prescribe suicide pills for their patients. Thanks to the Republican majority, these proposed laws have made no progress, and assisting someone’s suicide remains a crime and a Class C felony.)

WORLD NEWS

According to the Wall Street Journal “the House of Commons passed a crime-bill amendment to prevent women in England and Wales from being criminally punished for having an abortion.” However, it is worth noting that English law already provided for abortion on demand. This is because abortion is allowed up to 24 weeks and beyond if the woman's life is in danger or her physical or “mental” health is at risk. Years of such legal language have shown that using “mental health” as an exception results in abortion on demand. We all know women deserve better than abortion, and pro-life people around the world are ready to help them in ways that do not include killing their children.

Thanks as always for reading this column. Stay informed and educated on the Life issues. Dubuque County Right to Life, Inc. will help you do just that.

Arthur F. Gilloon



**THANK
YOU!**

To Laura Dolehide, Sue Lansing, and Marian Bourek for volunteering at the front desk!

To our members who travel down to Iowa City on Thursdays to pray outside the Emma Goldman Abortion Center!

To those who donated diapers and baby wipes to help Tala Lenz with her Junior Service Project benefiting Mary’s Inn!

To Kathy Petitgout for donating postage stamps!

To the anonymous person who dropped off bottles of water!

To Al Schroeder from Big River Networx for helping out DCRTL with setting up a new computer in the office!

Thank you to our “Life Supporter”
2025 Life Dinner sponsor:



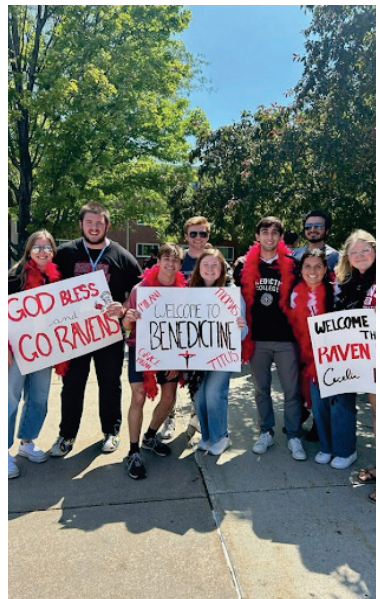
Email Changes in the Office

We want to remind our members and supporters that, beginning July 1, the reception@dcrtl.org email will be deactivated and no longer in use. If you need to contact the DCRTL office, you can email dcrtl@dcrtl.org, which will remain active. You may also email individual staff members if you would like to speak with them directly. The staff and their respective emails are listed below:

Augustine Payne, Executive Director.....apayne@dcrtl.org
Molly Strohmeyer, Digital Outreach Associate.....mstrohmeyer@dcrtl.org
Naomi Weiss, Communications Associate.....nweiss@dcrtl.org

GRACE IS HEADED TO KANSAS!

Grace Day (formerly Grace van Petten) just shared with DCRTL that, as a FOCUS missionary, she will be serving for two years at Benedictine College in Atchison, KS! Grace said that “as a missionary at Benedictine College, I am extremely excited to get to know the students and to meet them each where they are at!” She explained that, as she was an athlete while studying at Loras College, she will have a particular focus serving student-athletes. Grace admitted that “I often faced struggles prioritizing my faith” while balancing school and swimming. FOCUS missionaries helped her overcome this struggle, guiding her to start her own Bible study on her team. Grace said “I am thrilled to now provide this same support to students and to share the hope of the Gospel with everyone I encounter on campus!” DCRTL is so excited for Grace as she embarks on this journey; please keep her and her husband, Brian, in your prayers as they prepare for this important mission!





DUBUQUE COUNTY FAIR

TUESDAY, JULY 22 - SUNDAY, JULY 27

The Dubuque County Fair is weeks away, and DCRTL is looking forward to hosting TWO booths this summer! We are bringing some new features to our educational booth, including videos, prizes, and a new display. It will continue to display our fetal-development models to educate people on life in the womb. Visit us from Tuesday, July 22 to Sunday, July 27, where we will also hand out 12-week fetal models, pens, candy, magnets, and more! Our second booth is our dialogue table, where fair-goers will have the opportunity to vote on “Should abortion remain legal?” They can also engage in conversation about abortion with DCRTL staff and volunteers.



VOLUNTEERS FOR GENERATIONS FOR LIFE SUMMER CAMP

We still need volunteers for our Generations for Life Summer Camp! If you are interested in helping with meals, donating snacks or drinks, or becoming a camp counselor, we would love to have you! Your help allows the camp to run smoothly and for campers to have the best experience possible! Please call our office at 556-563-5960 to learn more, or email dctrl@dctrl.org. The camp is Tuesday, July 8 - Saturday, July 12. Thank you for considering volunteering!



UPDATING MEMORIAL FOR THE UNBORN



In September, we will be updating our Memorial for the Unborn at Mt. Olivet Cemetery to commemorate the pre-born babies whose lives were lost either through stillbirth, miscarriage, or abortion. If you lost a child, grandchild, niece, nephew, or baby close to your heart, we invite you to submit their names to us so we can honor and remember them on our Memorial at Mt. Olivet. The Memorial continues to be a place for parents, relatives, and friends to mourn, pray, and remember their loved ones. We honor their God-given dignity and recognize their value. To submit a name to add to the Memorial, please email dctrl@dctrl.org with the following information: Baby’s Name, Date of Loss, Your Name, Mailing Address, Phone, and Email. We ask that you send them by Friday, August 15 in order to have the names added in September.

LIFE Dinner Recap—from a First-Time Attendee’s Perspective

Thank you to everyone who attended the LIFE Dinner in support of DCRTL and the pro-life cause! And thank you also to everyone who extended warm welcomes and gracious hospitality to me as a new employee of DCRTL, as well as a first-time LIFE Dinner attendee. I look forward to meeting everyone in my time here.

From a first-time attendee perspective, I thought the Dinner was inspirational and energizing, to say the least. To see so many people gathered for the same purpose and goal—to defend life from conception to natural death—renewed my own commitment to see an end to abortion through the promotion of a culture that celebrates, rather than destroys, life. Witnessing the joy and enthusiasm in our members and supporters likewise proved a powerful testament to me that the cause for life succeeds only when we persevere in hope, joy, and compassion that transforms hearts.

Two things in particular deeply moved me at the dinner. Firstly, the president of Ambassadors for Life, Tala Lenz revealed to me the impact DCRTL has on young minds and hearts, while also reminding me that we need to continue to help youth encounter the truth about abortion. I consider it a privilege to have joined an organization—with members and supporters—that seek to make this a reality. But I am also struck by Jason Jones’s reminder that we are the people who can stand between the violence of abortion, and a woman and her pre-born child.

After witnessing the large-scale support and determination to protect life among both you who attended the Dinner, as well as those who could not make it but remain dedicated members to DCRTL, I am confident that we can protect the most vulnerable among us. Thank you for welcoming me into this community. I look forward to working alongside you to make abortion unthinkable!

For Life,
Naomi Weiss



 <p>Pray for an end to abortion. <i>In Memory of Larry & Renee Friedman</i></p>	 <p>(563)556-5250 or (563)557-3123 www.partnersofclarityclinic.com 3365 Hillcrest Road Dubuque, IA 52002</p>	 <p>JOHN DOLEHIDE, D.O. Urology, Medical Associates 563-584-3490 Dubuque, Iowa</p>
<p>In Loving Memory of: Bud Portz & Mary Mormann</p>	 <p>1991 2013 FOUNDATION</p>	 <p>BIRTHRIGHT <i>"It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth...and the right of every child to be born."</i> 221 West 9th Street, Dubuque, Iowa 563-556-1991</p>

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and before you were born I consecrated you."
Jeremiah 1:5

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