

Michigan Nurses For Life

1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G • Troy, Michigan 48084

February 2007

"An educational group for prolife nurses"

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"The Pro-Life Movement will succeed only to the extent that Pro-Life people are willing to be inconvenienced."

*Douglas R. Scott,
From "Bad Choices:
A Look Inside Planned Parenthood"*

SAVE THESE DATES!

Michigan Nurses for Life Mini Conference Saturday, March 10, 2007

Join Michigan Nurses for Life on Saturday, March 10, 2007 for a mini conference, "Pro-Life 101: Making Abortion Unthinkable". The conference will be held in collaboration with Crossroads Pregnancy Center and will meet at Five Points Community Church, 3411 E. Walton Blvd., Auburn Hills, Michigan, 2 - 4:30 PM.



The speaker will be Scott Klusendorf, co-author of "Making Abortion Unthinkable - The Art of Pro-life Persuasion." He is a apologist, speaker and debater who masterfully combines humor, passion and rock-solid reasoning into a dynamic presentation with dramatic impact. Scott is a graduate of UCLA and has appeared on Focus on the Family. He has also spoken at Stanford, USC, UCLA, John Hopkins and many other colleges and universities.

The cost for nurses interested in receiving 2.5 contact hours is \$15. The general public is encouraged to attend at no cost. Tinker Johnson, Health Education Manager at Crossroads Pregnancy Center, will speak briefly following Scott's presentation to apply his message to nursing practice. For more information, call 248.816.8489. Registration information on page 3.

MNFL / ECL Annual Conference Saturday September 8, 2007

Michigan Nurses for Life and the Educational Center for Life will hold their annual conference on Saturday, September 8, 2007 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac. Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk will be the keynote speaker with a presentation on Embryonic Stem Cell Research and Human Cloning. Father Tad is a nationally and internationally known expert on this issue. He holds a PhD in Neuroscience from Yale University and is the Director of Education for the National Catholic Bioethics Center. All are invited to attend.

Check our website at www.mnfl.org for further details or call the office at 248.816.8489.



Michigan Nurses



For Life

Our Purpose:

...To raise the consciousness of the nursing profession to protect all human life from conception until natural death

...To form an educated core of nurses who can speak for their profession by acting as a community resource for life issues

...To promote public education and awareness about life issues on both ends of the spectrum, from abortion to euthanasia

...To uphold and defend human life in all stages and conditions of development

Michigan Nurses For Life

Coventry Place - Suite G
1637 W. Big Beaver Road
Troy, Michigan 48084-3540

248.816.8489 - Office

248.816.9066 - Fax

Email: info@mnfl.org

Hours:

Monday through Friday
10 AM - 3 PM

Officers:

Diane Trombley, President
Mary Anne Barrett, Secretary
Alice Maher, Treasurer

Board Members:

Martha Jacobs
Margaret Joyce
Barbara Lubinski
Phyl Salle
Linda Seng
Phyllis Sullivan
Mary Lou Temple

Editor and Layout:

Susan Beardsley

MNFL Membership Renewal

Dear Colleagues,

*Below is a reprint of my letter, asking that you renew your membership in MNFL. Over one hundred of you have responded and we are SO grateful. I am hoping that by seeing it again, another one hundred of you will be reminded to renew! I'm an optimist and really believe that this can be done. **Please renew today!***

December is membership renewal month for Michigan Nurses for Life. By asking everyone to renew their membership in the same month, assists us in projecting what funds will be available for the coming year.

The results of the survey sent to you in October are pretty consistent. Most of you want a professional pro-life organization for nurses and are willing to support it by way of membership dues. However, most of the respondents said attending quarterly meetings presented problems of one kind or another and that they were unlikely to attend. The conference was another matter. Most of you said that you would attend a morning long, or even day long, conference, but preferred it in the fall rather than the spring. You were almost all in favor of our events conferring CEUs and would be interested in having them available online. Everyone read the newsletter and felt articles of greater length and depth would be welcome.

Well, we are going try to meet the desires of as many of you as we can. Reluctantly we are going to discontinue our quarterly meetings. No one on the board really wants to do this. We have had some outstanding speakers over the past several years but attendance seems to decline with each meeting. We hope to arrange two-three speakers at a fall conference to bring you the information so important to pro-life health care professionals. We are also going to expand our newsletter and include important articles, summaries of other articles and links and references for you to use in your particular areas of interest. We will investigate the online CEUs, but can't make any promises right now. CEUs will continue to be offered for the conferences. We will not be raising the yearly dues.

These are difficult times for pro-life people in general and pro-life nurses in particular. Laws are being passed all over the country that threaten our ability to uphold our pro-life principles and still feel secure in the practice of our profession. The new Congress does not appear particularly friendly to pro-life issues. The future for all of us is uncertain. The future of Michigan Nurses for Life depends in large measure on you. If we are to continue, we need your help. We need you to renew your membership and encourage other nurses to join. We need your help with the newsletter, with mailings and with planning the conference. We need your e-mail address to help cut down on mailing costs. In short, if we are to continue, WE NEED YOU!

Please renew today and then be ready to give us a hand if we call on you. Please help us to protect the lives of all of the patients entrusted to our care—young and old, born and unborn, handicapped or whole. Their future, and ours, depends on you.

Diane Trombley, RN, BSN, President

*In the rush of a 12-hour shift,
it's easy to lose sight of the humanity of our patients.*

Look Closer See Me

What do you see, nurses, what do you see?
Are you thinking when you look at me
A crabby old woman, not very wise,
Uncertain of habit, with far-away eyes,
Who dribbles her food and makes no reply
When you say in a loud voice—"I do wish you'd try."
Who seems not to notice the things that you do,
And forever is losing a stocking or shoe.
Who unresisting, or not, lets you do as you will,
With bathing and feeding, the long day to fill.
Is that what you are thinking, is that what you see?
Then open your eyes, nurse, YOU'RE NOT LOOKING AT ME!

I'll tell you who I am, as I sit here so still;
As I use at your bidding, as I eat at your will.
I'm a small child of ten with a father and mother,
Brothers and sisters who love one another;
A young girl of 16 with wings on her feet,
Dreaming that soon now a lover she'll meet;
A bride soon at 20—my heart gives a leap,
Remembering the vows that I promise to keep;
At 25 now I have a young son of my own,
Who needs me to build a secure, happy home;
A woman at 30, my young now grow fast,
Bound to each other with ties that should last.

At 40, my young sons have grown and have gone,
But my man's beside me to see I don't mourn;
At 50, once more babies play round my knee.
Again we know children, my husband and me.
Dark days are upon me, my husband is dead;
I look to the future, I shudder with dread.
For my young are still rearing young of their own.
And I think of the years and the love that I've known.

I'm an old woman now and nature is cruel—
'Tis her jest to make old age look like a fool.
The body it crumbles, grace and vigor depart,
There is now a stone where once there was a heart!

But inside this old carcass a young girl still dwells,
And now and again my battered heart swells.
I remember the joys; I remember the pain,
And I'm loving the living life over again.
I think of the years all too few—gone too fast,
And accept the stark fact that nothing can last.
So open your eyes, nurses, open and see,
Not a crabby old woman, look closer—see me.



*This writing was found in the bedside drawer of a
geriatric patient who passed away in a San Diego hospital.*

Michigan Nurses



For Life

Mini Conference
Saturday,
March 10, 2007

Registration Form:

Remit coupon with your payment to:

Michigan Nurses For Life
Coventry Place Suite G
1637 W. Big Beaver Road
Troy, Michigan 48084-3540
248.816.8489

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

General Public - Free

Students - Free

Nurses - \$15

2.5 contact hours offered

**Please register by March 5, 2007
using this mail-in coupon.**

Amount Enclosed:

\$ _____

Fee must accompany
registration form.

Please make check payable to:

Michigan Nurses For Life
Coventry Place Suite G
1637 W. Big Beaver Road
Troy, Michigan 48084-3540

See page 1 for conference details.



Volunteer Ultrasound Technicians Needed for Crisis Pregnancy Centers!

Many of the local Pregnancy Centers who offer free limited obstetrical ultrasound are continually in need of ultrasound technicians to volunteer their time.

AAA Crisis Preg. Ctr, Livonia
Contact: Peggy Roberts
734.425.8060

Crossroads, Auburn Hills
Contact: Tim Stickel
248.293.0070

Pregnancy Aid, Detroit
Contact: Julie Hage
313.882.1000

Pregnancy Helpline, Brighton
Contact: Chris White
810.494.5433

Mother & Unborn Baby Care has wonderful equipment, but not enough ultrasound technicians. Registered Licensed Nurses are qualified to train in limited obstetrical ultrasound. MAUBC is willing to cover the cost (\$1,000) for the right candidates who are serious about working with them for at least a year.

Contact: Michelle 248.559.7576.

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Down Syndrome and Abortion

By Susan W. Enouen, PE / Life Issues Connector / January 2007

If current trends continue, it may eventually become "unacceptable" for parents to continue a pregnancy knowing that their baby has Down syndrome. Recent US studies have indicated that when Down syndrome is diagnosed prenatally, 84% to 91% of those babies will be killed by abortion.^{1,2,3,4} This trend is not isolated to the United States. In England, a 2004 study showed that 94% of babies who were diagnosed prenatally with Down syndrome were subsequently aborted.⁵ When all Down syndrome babies are considered - those diagnosed prenatally as well as those only diagnosed with DS after birth - studies show that 26% to 37% of these tiny lives will be ended by abortion.⁶

An estimated 70% of all pregnant women in the United States will choose to have prenatal screening tests.* Certain screening results in combination can predict DS with up to 90% sensitivity,⁷ but they are not definitive. Women shown to be at high risk may then choose to have a cytogenetic test, either amniocentesis or chorionic villus sampling (CVS), to check for the extra chromosome that would indicate DS. As first trimester screening tests become increasingly reliable, more women are choosing CVS because it can be done in the 9th to 12th weeks of pregnancy, thus allowing an earlier abortion. It has been shown that the younger the unborn baby, the greater the likelihood that a woman will have an abortion for DS.² It should also be noted that in up to 1% of the pregnancies tested by amniocentesis, the baby is lost. CVS is even more dangerous as over twice as many babies die and a few are born with handicaps.

When a woman finds out that her unborn baby has Down syndrome, what is she facing? In a 2004 study out of Harvard Medical School, researcher Brian Skotko found that women in this situation felt anxious and scared when learning of the diagnosis, and about half felt rushed or pressured into making a decision about continuing the pregnancy.⁸ Their feelings may have been partially influenced by the doctor's approach. Most health care providers tend to assume that if a woman consents to prenatal screening or diagnosis, she is willing to discuss abortion as an option. Also, many doctors in these cases may see advantages in ending the pregnancy as soon as possible to avoid the medical risk to the woman of a late abortion. Combine this predisposition with the perceived "burden" of raising a child with Down syndrome, and many women could convince themselves that abortion is their most prudent "choice."

To counteract this effect, it is also true that doctors presenting the prenatal diagnosis can positively influence the outcome if they provide balanced information about DS. The same Harvard study found that mothers who chose to continue their pregnancy after a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome did so for personal reasons such as conscience and religion, but also because they had gotten information about Down syndrome, either in printed materials or from talking to a parent of a child with DS. However, most of the mothers felt that their doctors did not explain DS adequately and in a balanced fashion. They suggested that doctors and genetic counselors should convey consistent, accurate and sensitive messages about life with a child with DS, and that doctors, nurses and hospitals should

provide contacts with local DS support organizations.⁸

As helpful as many DS support organizations can be to parents of children with DS, some of the largest ones have abdicated any responsibility for reducing abortions of babies with birth defects. The March of Dimes, the National Down Syndrome Society, and the National Down Syndrome Congress all take a neutral stance on abortion, ostensibly because they don't want to judge or to tell anyone what to do. However, a neutral stance on abortion is not a neutral policy. It implies that the killing of these innocents is in the best interests of society, and can therefore be justified. Instead, these organizations need to take a stand in defense of all babies with Down syndrome, born and unborn. They could have an unparalleled influence on the current situation by putting a positive face on these unborn babies, whose humanity and inherent value to society shine through at the moment of birth. There is no telling how many precious lives could be saved if they did.

* Maternal serum tests measure the levels of certain substances in the mother's blood: alpha-fetoprotein (AFP), human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG), and estriol, and are combined with maternal age to calculate a risk factor for Down syndrome in a pregnancy. Another screening test, an ultrasound marker called nuchal translucency, measures the accumulation of fluids behind the neck of the fetus.

1 Forrester MB, Merz RD. 1999. Prenatal diagnosis and elective termination of Down syndrome in a racially mixed population in Hawaii, 1987-1996. *Prenat Diagn* 19(2):136-41.

2 Kramer RL, Jarve RK, Yaron Y, Johnson MP, Lampinen J, Kasperski SB, Evans MI. 1998. Determinants of parental decisions after the prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome. *Am J Med Genet* 79:172-174.

3 Caruso TM, Westgate MN, Holmes LB. 1998. Impact of prenatal screening on the birth status of fetuses with Down syndrome at an urban hospital, 1972-1994. *Genet Med* 1(1): 22-8.

4 Wertz, DC. 1997. The Impact of Prenatal Diagnosis on Down Syndrome, Anencephaly and Spina Bifida. GeneSage, GeneLetter. Accessed at: www.genesage.com/professionals/geneletter/archives/theimpact.html

5 The National Down Syndrome Cytogenetic Register 2004 Annual Report. Accessed at: www.wolfson.qmul.ac.uk/ndscr

6 Siffel C, Adolfo C, Cragan J, & Alverson CJ. 2004. Prenatal Diagnosis, Pregnancy Terminations and Prevalence of Down Syndrome in Atlanta, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia; Birth Defects Research (Part A) 70:565-571.

7 Grant SS. (Sept. 30, 2000): Prenatal Genetic Screening. *Online Journal of Issues in Nursing*, Vol. 5, No. 3, Manuscript 3.

8 Skotko BG. 2004. Prenatally diagnosed Down syndrome: Mothers who continued their pregnancies evaluate their health care providers. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 192, 670-7.



Band of Angels

Band of Angels was founded in 1994 by Cynthia Kidder, Rochester Hills, Michigan after her son Jordon was born with Down syndrome. The mission of the organization is to celebrate children with Down syndrome and support them in reaching their full potential, beginning with providing accurate and positive information about Down syndrome at diagnosis.

Visit the website:
www.bandofangels.com

MFF Issues Statement on HPV Vaccine Mandate

Michigan Family Forum / Forum Online / February 15, 2007 / Volume 5, Issue 6

Michigan Family Forum issued a statement this week clarifying the organization's position on mandatory human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccination for 6th grade girls. MFF is opposed to legislation or executive orders requiring the vaccination in order to enroll in school.

MFF has consistently supported the manufacturer's right to market the vaccine and believes every parent should have an opportunity to review information about the vaccine and make an informed decision for their child.

"We think the vaccine has the potential to help many women and we fully support parents, physicians, and young women making informed choices on this medical decision," said Executive Director Brad Snavely. "What we do not support is the state engaging in heavy-handed tactics to force parents into making medical decisions which they might not be ready to make for their child at this young age."

The American College of Pediatricians (ACP) also issued a statement this week voicing opposition to state mandates for HPV vaccination. "Excluding children from school for refusal to be vaccinated for a disease spread only by...intercourse is a serious, precedent-setting action that trespasses on the right of parents to make medical decisions for their children as well as on the rights of the children to attend school," said the organization in its statement. *View the full MFF statement at: www.michiganfamily.org*
View the ACP statement at: www.acped.org

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Office: 248.816.8489 Fax: 248.816.9066
Email: info@mnfl.org or visit us on the web at: www.mnfl.org

**REMINDER: If you haven't renewed
your MNFL membership, please do so today!**

If you would like to add or delete a name from our mailing list,
please contact Michigan Nurses For Life at 248.816.8489. Thanks!

2007 Pro-life Events

SATURDAY, March 24, 2007 from 9 AM – 12 PM

Healthcare and Immigration Meeting the Challenge: Compassion or Crisis?

Presented by The Detroit Guild of the Catholic Medical Association

Kresge Hall at Madonna University, Livonia, Michigan

Call Kathryn at 734.420.2784

For an application, visit the web site www.dgcma.org

MONDAY, MAY 7, 2007

Annual Mother's Day Dinner and Silent Auction

Sponsored by RTL-LIFESPAN & Educational Center for Life

San Marino Club – 1685 E. Big Beaver Rd., Troy, Michigan

Silent Auction at 5:45 PM / Dinner at 7:15 PM

Guest Speaker: Dr. Ray Guarendi

Dr. Ray is a father, clinical psychologist, author, public speaker and radio host. He's a member of Catholic Answers Speakers Bureau delivering talks throughout the country. He appears on regional radio and television shows in over 40 states.

For dinner reservations call: 248.816.1546

To donate items for the Silent Auction call: 248.816.8489

Auction donations are tax deductible.

