

“An educational group for prolife nurses”

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“Yet embryonic stem cell research did not save me---cord blood research did. I am living proof that there are promising and useful alternatives to embryonic stem cell research and that embryos do not need to be killed to achieve medical breakthroughs.”

Nathan Salley, Testimony before US Congressional Committee, 2001

Michigan Student Nurse Wins National Nursing Scholarship



Chaunie Saelens, a nursing student at Saginaw Valley State University has been awarded a \$1000.00 scholarship from the National Association of Pro-Life Nurses.

The selection criteria for the scholarship is based on the student's essay, academic achievements, demonstration of leadership and participation in pro-life activities. Chaunie exhibited achievements in all of these areas, including working toward her BSN, interning with Feminists for Life of America, starting an on-campus pro-life organization and undertaking a summer externship in labor and delivery.

In writing her essay on “What Nurses Can Do To Promote A Positive Respect for Life” she noted that, “We must advocate for the true respect and hope that life entails. Our patients need to know that their lives do have worth, no matter how imperfect their bodies”.

The board of directors of Michigan Nurses for Life offers our sincere congratulations to Chaunie Saelens. *(Read Chaunie's essay on page 3.)*

Adult Stem Cell Recipient, Carol Franz

By Liz Townsend

As President Bush discussed his veto of an embryonic stem cell research bill and announced new initiatives to encourage ethical research June 20, he was joined by people saved by adult stem cell treatments. These survivors know firsthand that stem cells obtained without harming human beings can and do successfully treat many diseases.

The veto was Bush's second for an embryonic stem cell research bill sent to him by Congress. “If Congress really cares about patients instead of patients and pleasing lobbying groups,” survivor Carol Franz told NRL News, “it would focus on adult stem cell research. There is no reason to destroy life. No embryos had to die for me to get my life back again.”

Franz suffered from multiple myeloma (bone marrow cancer) when she received her first adult stem cell transplant in May 2003. The cancer attacked her bones so severely, they “looked like someone used them for target practice,” Franz said. (Continued on page 4.)

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

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President's Perspective: Looking Forward

Dear Colleague,

With all the items in the newsletter this issue and others being posted on our new and improved web site, there is really very little for me to say!

I am sure we are all looking forward to the holiday season and then comes the election season. We will have spring, summer and fall but the season for campaigning will begin right after the new year. There is a great deal riding on the next national election and I can't encourage you strongly enough to read critically, listen carefully and evaluate the candidates and their stands on those issues that are of importance to you. Your vote does count!

I mentioned our new and improved web site. If you have not visited MNFL, please give it a try. We are really excited about the new look and our opportunity to post new articles and events each month. It could not have been accomplished without the help of board members Linda Seng and Phyllis Sullivan and I thank them. If you have any ideas for the site, please e-mail us at info@mnfl.org and let us know.

To those of you who have been retired from active practice for a while, things have changed a lot in nursing. My daughter is a nurse at Henry Ford on Grand Boulevard and I am amazed at how much nurses are now responsible for and how critically ill their patients are. The bottom line is still that without well educated, well trained, compassionate nurses, health care delivery would be next to impossible—and hasn't that part always been true?! Everybody, give yourselves a pat on the back.

Americans United for Life recently published a state by state review of laws dealing with pro-life issues. The report examined legislation dealing with abortion, end of life issues, bioethics and the conscience rights of health care workers. Michigan was ranked the #1 Best State for Life. Our hard work does pay off. In order to keep that ranking, we will need to be prepared to work diligently to inform our friends, families and colleagues about the value of adult stem cell research and the dangers of embryonic stem cell research. There is much that will need to be done in that area next year and we will need your help.

A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us to all of you. Love Life!

Diane Trombley, President

MNFL 2008 Spring Conference

Plans are underway for Madonna University Catholic/Christian Nurses Association and Michigan Nurses for Life to collaborate on a spring conference at Madonna University in March or April of 2008. Contact hours in pain management are now required to renew nursing licenses in Michigan. The topic will be Pain Control and/or End of Life Issues. See our website for further information.

What Nurses Can Do To Promote a Positive Respect For Life: Advocating for Life

By Chaunie Saelens

During my nursing externship this summer in labor and delivery, I encountered a patient, who at 19 weeks gestation, was being induced due to the "gross anomalies" of the fetus. The situation posed a dilemma to my beliefs as a pro-life nurse, as the nurses spoke with such concern for the mother's situation that I felt torn between my positions as both a patient advocate and an advocate for life.

The answer to my dilemma came in hearing the incredible story of Jeannie Wallace French, past executive director of the National Women's Coalition for Life, who discovered that the baby she carried had severe neural tube and brain defects. After giving birth to a beautiful baby girl, Jeannie and her husband learned that their daughter's heart valves were a perfect match for two infants in critical condition. Jeannie and her husband soon realized that their new-born baby, born into this world with an imperfect body, had lived a beautifully perfect life.

"Mary's life lasted a total of 37 weeks, 3 days and 6 hours. In effect... Mary was born dying... Our daughter, living less than a day, saved the lives of two other children. Which of us, even after decades of living, can make the same claim?" Jeannie asked (Wallace, J.F., 1996).

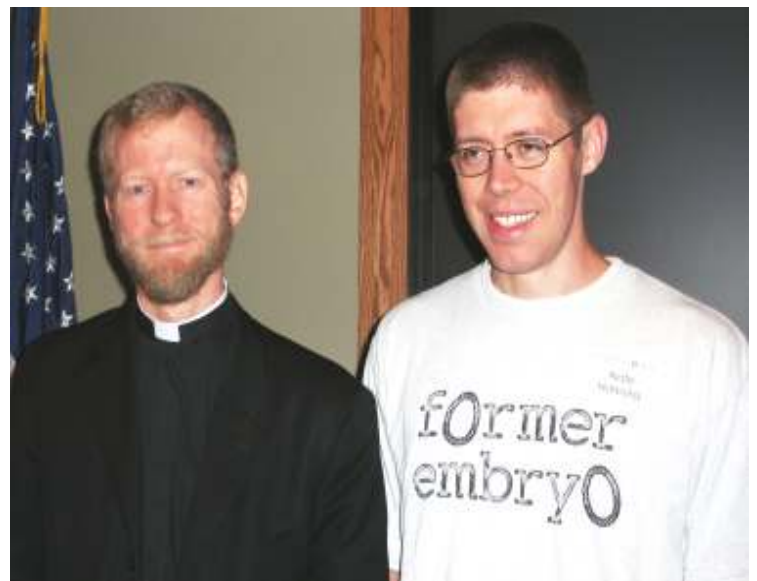
Jeannie's story left me in awe and bolstered my conviction to support life as a nurse. I realized that the situation I had faced during my externship had been a perfect example where the nurses could have supported the patient in choosing life, giving hope with a story like Jeannie's. As pro-life nurses, our duty to advocate for our patient goes beyond medical treatment. We must advocate for the true respect and hope that life entails. Our patients need to know that their lives do have worth, no matter how imperfect their bodies. To truly advocate for our patients, we must advocate for the worth of life in all its forms.

Fall Conference Receives Excellent Reviews

Participants who attended the September 8, 2007 Michigan Nurses for Life Conference gave uniformly enthusiastic evaluations. Topics were "Stem Cells Save Lives: What's the Debate?" and "HPV and the new HPV Vaccine". Comments included: "great speakers, excellent information, came away with increased knowledge about topics".

Fr. Tad Pacholczyk, who also has a PhD in neuroscience from Yale, spoke on the differences between adult and embryonic stem cells and the ethical and moral issues involved in their use.

Dr. Daniel Greene, a local board certified OB/GYN physician, described the HPV virus in depth and discussed the benefits and risks of Gardasil as a cervical cancer vaccine for girls, teens and adult women.



Fr. Tad Pacholczyk with seminarian, Nathan Harburg of Sacred Heart Seminary.

The audience asked many pertinent questions; nurses, student nurses and the general public attended the morning conference at the Franco Center at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital.

Adult Stem Cell Recipient, Carol Franz By Liz Townsend

Carol Franz, subject of this article, was one of Lifespan's guest speakers at their Pro-Life Breakfast on November 10th.

Continued from page 1. Once chemotherapy destroyed her cancerous immune system, doctors at Syracuse Upstate Medical Hospital gave Franz cells obtained from her own blood. The cells traveled through her bloodstream into her bone marrow, establishing a new, cancer-free immune system.

Franz remained free from the myeloma for three years. When one of her frequent blood tests showed signs that the cancer might be returning, she received another treatment with adult stem cells in 2006.

Since the treatments, Franz said that she has been called to spread the truth about stem cells—that adult stem cells are saving thousands of lives right now and that human embryos do not have to die in order to advance medical science. As part of her mission, she spoke at the National Right to Life Convention and at other gatherings, has written many letters to newspapers, and started a web site, www.carolfranz.com.

"The Lord allowed me to be an advocate and to speak up to help people save their lives with adult stem cells," she said.

Franz wears t-shirts that proclaim, "Adult Stem Cell Survivor," and has given away many others that state, "Adult Stem Cells Saved My Friend's Life." "I'm bringing one of the shirts to the White House to give to President Bush," she said.

Bush invited Franz to stand next to him during his speech. "I'm also up here with Carol Franz; she has whipped cancer twice by using adult stem cells," Bush said. "In other words, adult stem cells have saved her life. She's a determined woman who believes strongly that there are different alternatives available to use stem cells other than those which are created as the result of destruction of human life."

Other adult stem cell survivors also attended the speech in the East Room of the White House, including Doug Rice. When doctors told him in November 2005 that he would die of congestive heart failure in three months, Rice decided to travel to Thailand for an adult stem cell transplant.

In a procedure known as TheraVita, blood is drawn from the patient, shipped to a laboratory in Israel and processed to obtain heart stem cells, and then sent back to Bangkok where the cells are injected back into the patient. The procedure is not yet available in the United States, although trials are currently underway.

Despite the enormous cost and long plane ride, Rice made the trip in January 2006. Before the treatment, Rice's ejection fraction—which measures how well the heart pumps blood—stood at 11% (the normal rate is over 50%). Three weeks after he received the heart stem cells, his

ejection fraction increased to 28%, Rice told NRL News. The fraction is now 40%, and the cells continue to grow in his body.

"I used to sleep sitting up and couldn't walk more than 50 feet," he said. "But now I walk all the time."

In addition, as the stem cells spread throughout his bloodstream, they have improved the function of other organs. "My diabetes is getting better," Rice said. "My kidneys were in bad shape, but not anymore."

Rice's experience with adult stem cells has also inspired him to act, traveling to speak to various groups and establishing a web site, www.douglastrice.org. He approaches the issue from a scientific basis. "Embryonic stem cells don't work, have never worked, and may never work," he said. "But adult stem cells work today. If I depended on embryonic stem cells, I'd be dead today."



Continued from page 4. Rice pointed to the hundreds of thousands of people around the world who have already been treated with adult stem cells. But because the media focuses so much on embryonic cells, many people who could be saved by adult cells are not even aware that such treatments are available.

"I care about the over 500,000 people who die each year of heart failure," Rice said. He lost his sister, who couldn't afford to go all the way to Bangkok, and his mother to the disease. "We need to get people treated, and adult stem cells are what work." *National Right to Life News, July 2007*

Umbilical Cord Blood Donations in Michigan

In Michigan, cord blood donations are accepted through hospitals in the Michigan Community Blood Bank service area and in areas that help support the cord blood bank through fundraising. These areas include Bay City, Clare, Grand Haven, Holland, Midland, Muskegon, Niles, Saginaw, St. Joseph, Traverse City and Zeeland. More information about the Michigan Community Blood Bank is available at www.miblood.org or 866. MIBLOOD. The National Marrow Donor Program lists on its Web site, www.marrow.org, five hospitals in the State of Michigan that collect cord blood for public cord blood banks that are part of the national network. Those hospitals and their contact information are listed below.

Hutzel Hospital - Detroit
J.P. McCarthy Cord Stem Cell Bank

Providence Hospital - Southfield
J.P. McCarthy Cord Stem Cell Bank

Huron Valley Hospital - Commerce Township
J.P. McCarthy Cord Stem Cell Bank
Call: 800.Karmanos
www.karmanos.org/cordblood

Oakwood Hospital Medical Center - Dearborn
CORD: USE
Call: 407.667.4842
www.corduse.com

Saint John Hospital & Medical Center - Detroit
Cryobanks International, Inc.
Call: 800.869.8608
www.cryo-intl.com/enroll_donate.html

Cord Blood Bank Collects Umbilical Cord Blood--- Stem Cells Only!

Stored for transplant use, these lifesaving cells are NOT the same as embryonic stem cells.

GRAND RAPIDS: Recent news reports about legislation on funding for embryonic stem cell research have prompted a flurry of questions in regard to Michigan Community Blood Centers Cord Blood/Stem Cell services. Here are the facts:

- Our Cord Blood Bank **does not work with embryonic stem cells.**
- Donated umbilical cord blood, which our Cord Blood Bank collects, is rich in stem cells, the "parent" cells of all other blood cells. The Cord Blood Bank processes umbilical cord blood to extract the stem cells, then stores them in a frozen state.
- Stem cells stored in our Cord Blood Bank are available to transplant centers throughout the US and around the world, for patients with life-threatening diseases such as some forms of leukemia. So far, 22 patients (including 4 in other countries) have received a second chance at life because of umbilical cord blood stem cells from Michigan Community Blood Centers Cord Blood Bank.
- The Cord Blood Bank at Michigan Community Blood Centers, the first in our state, opened in 1999.
- Each unit of donated cord blood costs about \$1000 to process and store. Extensive testing determines the tissue type of each donated unit of cord blood. This information is included in two worldwide databases and also is available through direct search from our Cord Blood Bank.
- There is **no charge** to donate cord blood to our Cord Blood Bank.

The Cord Blood Bank is supported through **charitable contributions**. For more information or to make a donation, e-mail Michigan Community Blood Centers Development Office or phone 616.233.8600. "Originally published at www.miblood.org July 2006. Reprinted with permission from Michigan Community Blood Centers November 2007."

Michigan Nurses

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Check out MNFL's newly redesigned
web site at: www.mnfl.org

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!

2008 Prolife Events

RTL-LIFESPAN Christmas Cards

For information
about purchasing
Christmas cards
contact one of
the LIFESPAN
offices below:

Detroit:
313.640.8534

Livingston:
810.220.5433

Oakland/Macomb:
248.816.1546

Wayne West/Downriver:
734.422.6230



SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2008, 2 – 3 PM RALLY FOR LIFE

Stand up! Speak Out!
Be counted on the side of LIFE!
On the Madonna University campus
Schoolcraft and Levan, Livonia, Michigan
Outdoor Rally: Please dress warmly!
Sponsored by RTL-LIFESPAN.
For more information call: 734.422.6230



**Your purchase supports prolife activities
throughout the year.**