



425 N. Findlay St • Dayton, OH 45404  
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# NEWSLETTER

## Winter 2022

## 50 Years of Protecting LIFE!

50 years ago this May, a group of concerned citizens officially formed the Right to Life Society of Dayton. This was 1972, before Roe Vs. Wade, what were their concerns? According to our archives and after speaking with one of founders, this group recognized the growing threat of abortion.

The citizen meetings began in 1970, after New York State removed all penalties for abortion. According to one of the founders, Dennie Stieritz, “We did not want the same thing to happen in Ohio.” The original group was named the Miami Valley Right to Life Society. Their initial goal according to their membership form was to be “an effective, influential, action group when pro-abortion legislation comes up. We feel it is vitally important that we not be apathetic on this issue...”

On January 4, 1971 Representative Galbraith, a Democrat from the Toledo area, introduced an abortion bill as a rider on the NO Guilt Divorce bill. Action needed to be taken and this group went to work. A few of the folks had seen Dr. Jack Wilke on an episode of The Phil Donahue Show. They soon got in touch with Dr. Jack Wilke, the founder of Right to Life groups in Ohio, and on May 31, 1972 Dayton Right to Life was officially recognized as a pro-life group in the state of Ohio.

Unfortunately, the Roe Vs. Wade decision came out in January 1973 and by September of that year, the first abortion facility opened in Kettering on S. Dixie.

This year, Dayton Right to Life will commemorate our long-standing commitment to protecting life in the Miami Valley and our state. We will be having numerous events, culminating with our 50th anniversary gala in September. If you have any stories, newspaper articles, or memories of your

involvement with Dayton Right to Life, please contact Margie Christie, [mchristie@daytonlife.org](mailto:mchristie@daytonlife.org). We would love to hear from you. Here are some of our events scheduled for the year. Also—make sure you are registered online to get our updates and news. Go to [daytonlife.org](http://daytonlife.org) and click on the lime green “STAY CONNECTED” button on the top of the page.

## 2022 EVENTS

- JANUARY 23<sup>rd</sup>** full page ad in the Dayton Daily News
- FEBRUARY 26<sup>th</sup>** Open House: 10a.m.-12p.m.
- MARCH 28<sup>th</sup>** Speaker Alex Schadenberg “Protecting Life at the End of Life”
- MAY 26<sup>th</sup>** Founders Dinner: Legacy of Dayton RTL
- JUNE 6<sup>th</sup>** Golf Outing
- JULY 24<sup>th</sup>** Dragons Game
- SEPTEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup>** 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Event

*Other events include art show, raffle, youth events, and more.*



[daytonlife.org](http://daytonlife.org)

## Staff Update: Meet Kristina!



**Kristina Farmer**  
Director of Operations

My name is Kristina Farmer and I am the new Director of Operations for Dayton Right to Life. Previously, I was employed for fourteen years with a distribution company in various support and customer service roles. I have had a strong desire to work for an organization in

which I felt I was making an impact in the community while upholding my values. What better place to work than for an organization that is not only about saving lives, but also helping care for those lives!

Too often I hear from proponents of abortion that prolife advocates only care about women having babies. We are accused of not giving any thought about the baby once it is born. Dayton Right to Life proves that is false. Our mission goes beyond changing laws, it includes changing lives. I couldn't ask for a more rewarding job.

My first day at DRTL, I listened as Margie took a phone call from a mom needing help. Margie explained how the program worked in providing her assistance and let her know what documents she needed to get started as a client. The mom said she couldn't provide documentation. She and her child were homeless. Margie didn't turn her away; she worked with the mom to help her provide for her child. It still brings me to tears remembering that call. I can only imagine how scared she must have been for her child in trying to figure out how to provide clothes, food, and basic needs.

It is because of the generous donations of our supporters that we were able to provide this mom with clothing, blankets, formula, bottles, diapers, and many other items to help her and her child. We were also able to provide her with a list of contacts for other resources for food and shelter. Every time you donate, you are saving lives inside and outside the womb.

Ways to donate include:

- **Mailing a check to DRTL**
- **Visiting <https://daytonlife.weshareonline.org/ws/opportunities/> to donate online**
- **Shopping**
  - ⇒ Kroger Community Rewards Program
  - ⇒ Amazon Smile
  - ⇒ Dorothy Lane Market Good Neighbor Program
  - ⇒ Circle of Life
  - ⇒ goodshop
- **Donating new or gently used items**
  - ⇒ Drop off at DRTL
  - ⇒ Drop off at St. Michael's Custom Rosaries in Miamisburg
  - ⇒ Shop our registry at buybuy BABY
- **Volunteering (Sign up by visiting [daytonlife.org](http://daytonlife.org) and clicking the purple "VOLUNTEER" button on the top of the page.)**

Whichever way you donate (money, goods, or time) you are impacting the lives of those in need within our communities in the Miami Valley. It is not only appreciated by us, but we witness the relief and appreciation of your generosity from every one of our clients.

For more information, please visit our website at [daytonlife.org](http://daytonlife.org), like us on Facebook, or give us a call. I continue to look forward to working with, and for, our community.

## 2021 BY THE NUMBERS

### SOCIETY

**51** meetings with elected officials

**11** pieces of pro-life legislation facilitated

## FOUNDATION

**14** baby showers/**81** expectant moms

**10** educational events on  
life issues/advocacy

**23,673** diapers provided to families  
in need

**14-72** age range of those served  
in our pantries

**1,867** children served

Families from **13** different countries

has compiled a detailed list of those actions which oppose life, family, and religious freedom. It can be viewed at <https://www.fraction.org/bidenactions>.

In contrast to the radically pro-abortion tilt of the federal government, proliferers have achieved dramatic successes at the state level during 2021. At least sixteen states, including Ohio, restricted legal access to abortion in some way during 2021, while only six states expanded legal access. Texas's newly enacted Heartbeat Law, with its unique enforcement mechanism, has so far survived legal challenges up through and including the U.S. Supreme Court, and has reduced abortions in the state by about 50% in recent months. Other states enacting "heartbeat laws" included Idaho, Oklahoma, and South Carolina.



## 2021 – The Good and the Bad



As local pro-lifers now look back on 2021, we see a year of enormous disappointments but also huge successes. The bad news was primarily at the federal level, caused by the

horrific pro-death policies of the incoming Biden-Harris Administration. From his first day in office last January, President Biden has promoted pro-abortion policies and appointed radical left-wing bureaucrats at every level. Biden and the Democratic Party continue now to push the pro-death envelope, such as by supporting a 2022 budget that completely eliminates the long-time Hyde Amendment, which has banned the use of almost all federal funds to pay for abortions. A summary of Biden's actions, which have effectively erased all the pro-life gains made under the Trump Administration, is too long for this article. However, the Family Research Council

Hoping to capitalize on the Texas success, Ohio prolife legislators introduced a similar bill (HB 480) in November, known as the "2363 Act" in honor of the 2,363 children in the United States who are lost every day to abortion. Our local State Representative Jena Powell (OH-80), representing Darke and Miami Counties, is one of the cosponsors. Finally, we can celebrate the enactment of another Ohio prolife law (SB 157), signed by Governor DeWine on December 22. The so-called Born Alive Infant Protection Act creates safeguards for children who are born alive during a failed late-term abortion attempt by requiring the physician to take all necessary measures to preserve the health of the newborn child. SB 157 includes an amendment which prohibits abortion clinics operating with a "variance" (i.e., without a written transfer agreement with a local hospital) from using physicians on the public payroll as so-called "back-up doctors" in the event of emergency. Specifically, such doctors must "not teach or provide instruction at a medical school affiliated with a

state university or college, a state hospital, or other public institution.” This amendment applies to Martin Haskell’s Women’s Med Center, which has been totally dependent on Wright State Physicians, who are associated with a public university and medical school. We will be watching carefully to see what legal action may be taken by Haskell (and Planned Parenthood in Cincinnati, which is similarly impacted) before the law goes into effect in late March.

Also in 2021 across Ohio, sanctuary cities for the unborn were being debated by local city councils. On May 26, 2021, the city of Lebanon became the first city in Ohio and the 29th city in the nation to declare itself a sanctuary city for the unborn.

## ***Other State and Local News***

Locally, Dayton Right to Life continues its picketing campaign against Wright State Physicians for their legal support of Women’s Med Center. During 2021, we averaged about four hours each week (weather permitting) in various locations, primarily in Kettering and Oakwood. We have tracked a dramatic increase in “hits” on the “Wright State Abortion” website (<https://www.wrightstateabortion.com>), reflecting well over one hundred visits per month. We also joined many of our Ohio colleagues in RTLACO and other prolife groups around the country in publicly demonstrating for life on December 1. On that day, the Supreme Court held opening oral arguments in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, the legal case involving the Mississippi “Heartbeat” law. According to some prolife experts, the Supreme Court could well uphold all or most of the law, potentially overruling its own *Roe v. Wade* decision of 1973. While the Mississippi law is not particularly stringent as prolife laws go (it bans abortions after fifteen weeks), the case allows the high court to revisit *Roe*, which claimed to establish a constitutional right to abortion and prohibited states from banning the procedure before fetal viability, currently around 23 weeks.

In our Fall 2021 newsletter, we reported on the tragedy in Cuyahoga Falls, where the butchered

body of an aborted infant was found in a dumpster outside an abortion clinic known as the Northeast Ohio Women’s Center. Local proliferers immediately reported the incident to state agencies in Columbus. In early December, five months after the incident, the State Medical Board of Ohio informed them that their complaint against abortionist David Burkons, owner of the clinic, had been closed without action. This was despite the fact that Burkons has an unethical professional record which put his patients at risk and which resulted in a prior suspension of his medical license. The Right to Life of Northeast Ohio appealed this highly questionable decision and was recently informed by the State Medical Board that the investigation against Burkons has now been reopened. Separately, Dayton Right to Life and our RTLACO colleagues have sent more than one thousand emails to Governor DeWine, urging him to act on this outrageous incident. While the story continues on the Cuyahoga Falls tragedy, the lesson learned is that Ohioans must strictly and continuously hold their state government to account on life issues.



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**Gary Whitted**  
Board Chair

**Margie Christie**  
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