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Dedicated to the preservation of all human life from fertilization to natural death.

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GTARTL Winter Newsletter

Grand Traverse Area Right To Life

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FOCUS ON LIFE DINNER 2024

"You can't be too prolife"- Seth Dillon

Monday, October 7th was a spectacular evening full of our lovely guests (775 of them!), delicious food, entertainment and lots of laughs! We are so thankful to everyone who came out that evening to support us.

Seth's presentation visually showed us his rather interesting work of social media and the satire world of the Babylon Bee, and laid the framework to his ultimate takeaway- defending the sanctity of life with free speech. His experience with censorship showed how the media can easily stifle our prolife voices. He ended with 'Five Imperatives for Fighting the Culture War': **Securing the Right to Speak; Defending Reality; Aiming for Victory, not Compromise; Winning Back the Culture; and lastly, Courage is Contagious!**

Seth left us with courage and a challenge to join in the battle for free speech and life. *You can't defend life if you don't have free speech!*



*Your generous gifts that evening raised \$10,500 for the Teens for Life and over \$95,000 for Right to Life of Michigan!



Local Contacts

GTARTL Board of Directors

Kammie Richardson, President; Dcn Tim Webb, Vice President; Mary Mulvany, Treasurer; Mary Lingaur, Secretary; Dana Olm, Jozell Rexroat; Colleen Stephenson; Devin Petricca & Rachel Petricca
Members at Large: Lisa Miller, Pete Miller, Donna Daciuk & Sharon Husted

Office Staff

Emily Hollabaugh-Director of Operations
 Mary Ann Korson-Bookkeeper

Right to Life of Michigan Representative

Barbi Aumiller (989) 370-3445

Upcoming

January- Billboard Drive
 January 19th-Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
 March 17th- High School Oratory Contest (Contact office for details!)
 April 24th- Wine & Witness Event
 May 13th- Legislative Day Lansing

Annual Membership Meeting:
Tuesday, February 18, 6 pm
This serves as an official notice to all GTARTL members of this meeting at which board members will be elected. All members are invited to participate.

COMING IN 2025! DR. BEN CARSON

Mark your calendars for Monday, October 6, 2025 for our Focus on Life Dinner with Dr. Ben Carson! Dr. Carson is a champion for life in many ways- a neurosurgeon, recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, author and presidential primary candidate in 2016. Tickets will go on sale in April of 2025!

"As a surgeon, I have operated on infants pre-birth. I assure you that they are very much alive."



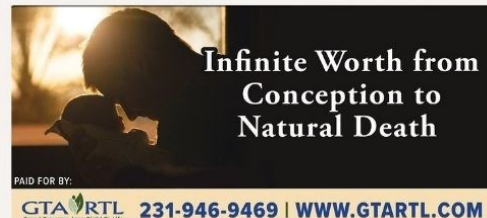
ELECTION RESULTS

Thank you Michigan voters! Our Michigan House of Representatives has been flipped to a prolife majority! As a country we have also defeated the most pro-abortion candidate in history, Kamala Harris. Great wins for our state, nation and for LIFE!

Ninety-one percent of our State House endorsed candidates won their races, leading to the new prolife majority. RLM-PAC endorsed candidates won 87.4% of the 262 races in which there were endorsements. Endorsed candidates also won 100% of the races for US House of Representatives (7 of 7), with our own US Rep Jack Bergman winning his seat in the US House. The 7th Congressional District in Michigan, which is in south central Michigan, was flipped to a prolife seat- US Congressman Tom Barrett. Nationwide there were even greater wins- Florida, South Dakota, and Nebraska defeated their pro-abortion ballot measures in their respective states and West Virginia defeated their ballot measure on Physician Assisted Suicide. Many lives will be saved because of the strong prolife leadership and voters in those states. There is much work to still do, but we can breathe a little easier now, knowing we have a check on our pro-abortion Governor, Senate and Supreme Court for the next two years. Legislation such as a repeal of Parental Consent for abortion and Physician Assisted Suicide is a determination of they won't easily let go of. Congratulations to everyone and we can be assured that **IT DOES MATTER TO VOTE and to VOTE PROLIFE!**

BILLBOARD DRIVE 2025

We once again need your help this January for our annual billboard drive! This visible outreach tool in our community is so important- we can never forget the unborn or the many other life issues. Local churches will be partnering with us for this annual fundraiser, so be sure to look out for it at your church in January! If you would rather donate directly to us, that is a great way to make a difference. Scan the code below to make a donation today!



Scan Me!

FIRST "BABY OF THE YEAR" 29 YEARS LATER!

After the Focus on Life Dinner this fall, Chris & Donna Miller reached out to us to let us know that they had attended the dinner and that their son, Ben, was our first ever "Baby of the Year" and had just had his 29th birthday! After birth, Ben was diagnosed with Aicardi-Goutieres Syndrome, which effects about 400 families world-wide at this point, it is a rare, usually early onset in childhood, inflammatory disorder most typically affecting the brain and the skin (neurodevelopmental disorder). When Ben was born, the syndrome was so rare, that the Millers were only the second family in the US with it (Ben's brother, Jack, 32 years old, also has Aicardi-Goutieres Syndrome). The family traveled to Italy for a conference on the syndrome in the early 2000's and met Dr. Aicardi.

Both men have lived far past life expectancy, which is usually the teen years, depending on severity. But, they have had some very close calls, because with this syndrome, any set back can make the individual's system worsen. Both receive 24-hour nursing care in the home and are on ventilators to help them breathe easily at night.

Donna says, "Ben definitely has an opinion about things, he has a sense of humor and can tell us what he wants with eye movements. We have developed a chart that helps with that and gives us a chance to communicate with him easier." Ben is shown with the bear he received when he won the "Baby of the Year" contest back in 1996 at our Focus on Life Dinner.

Ben has wonderful nurses that truly care for him and his brother, and a mother and father who believe they have value. "They have value, like everyone", says Donna. (Not shown is Ben's cat, Donk, who likes to sit on his lap and keep him company).



Ben with the bear he won 29 years ago. Baby of the Year was a contest done for many years at the Focus on Life Dinners.

NORTHWESTERN MI FAIR BOOTH

We hope you visited us at the NW MI Fair in early August! We had a great week of educating the public on life issues. Information was available on many topics, post-abortive help, prenatal development, physician assisted suicide and more. Face painting for the kids was of course the big hit, and our prolife t-shirts also went very fast! We are so happy that the prolife message is getting out there in such a visible way- on a shirt! But, we do think the biggest success story was that of a mother who, last year visited our booth. She was very early on in her pregnancy and she came to our booth and told the volunteers she was ill and was feeling worried about what was going to happen. Our wonderful volunteers prayed with her that night and one year later- on the same day of the week- to the same volunteers- she stopped by the booth to say thank you, along with her new baby! A beautiful story that gives us all hope in our mission.



Prolife Merchandise is available at our office!

- Prolife T-shirts: \$20**
- Prolife Baseball Hats: \$20**
- Prolife Water Bottles: \$5**
- Prolife Children's Books: \$3**

Call us or stop by to take a look!



Our Teens for Life working hard at face painting all week!

GRAND TRAVERSE AREA TEENS FOR LIFE

A new school year means new members in our Teens for Life groups, new ideas, new leadership and a great year ahead for these prolife students! St. Mary TFL and St. Francis TFL both started out the year with coordinating and planning their roles at our Focus on Life Dinner and speeches from the two presidents, Cathryn Mikowski (shown speaking) and Cecilia Balog.

Both groups are planning for a year of helping mothers and fathers in need- from purchasing a new car seat for a mother at Hope House of NW MI to "decking Dressers" for Thrive Medical Clinic (and some other jobs for us in the office!). We also have great news- we have two new groups getting the ground work done to start up in our area! One at Central High School and one at NMC College!

