

# CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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*Established 1981*

**January 2012**

## **Reflections on 2011**

by Cecelia Cody, Administrative Director

So much that has happened in the past year at California Right to Life Educational Fund. The first thought that comes to mind is that nothing would be possible without the contributions of so many throughout the year, including the multitude who donate through payroll charity deductions, from the large donation checks to the “widow’s mite” donations. Only God knows the sacrifice made to make these donations possible. As good stewards, we strive to make sure every dollar is wisely expended in our efforts to protect all life from fertilization to natural death.

In addition to the monetary contributions, many hours are donated, from the students who coordinate pro-life clubs at their schools and staff our mall tables, to the “parental chauffeurs” who drive the students to and fro, to a gentleman in Maryland who is part of our corporate boycott “Mustard Seed Project” letter-writing campaign who distributes our monthly “Mustard Seed” e-mail information to over 1,000 people. He told me it takes him several days each month to get the message out. He has also appeared in the media including EWTN to publicize the Mustard Seed Project. (If you are not part of this effort, or would like more information, please call our office or send us an e-mail and we will send you information and/or add you to the mailing list.)

I would also like to thank our webmaster who uploads the newsletter to our website each month, and donates the cost of maintaining our domain name and all the other costs of having a website.... It just happens, all thanks to the donations of time and treasure by the webmaster and family.

And I would be remiss if I didn’t express a special thank you to the board who provide the ongoing executive direction, and especially Brian and Beth Hockel, who edit the newsletter and are involved in the day to day management of California Right to Life Educational Fund.

## **A few milestones of the past year....**

- We regularly receive phone calls and e-mails from students in fifth grade through graduate school, as well as “Lifetime learners” who discover our website while searching the internet. The students are often requesting assistance for a school project, (including in one case a Master’s Thesis), or for further information on a life issue addressed in one of our newsletters. (Are you aware that all our past newsletters are posted in the archives of our website [www.calright2life.org](http://www.calright2life.org)?) Inquiries come from not only California, but also as far away as Ohio, New Orleans, West Virginia and our western neighbors in Hawaii. One example of a type of call we receive is when a pediatrician is recommending the Gardasil vaccine to prevent HPV virus, as part of a high school sports physical.
- We have been working on developing a stronger network with the various pregnancy counseling organizations. Just today I received a phone call asking, “How much do you charge for an abortion?” My response: “We are not a clinic; we are more of a library type resource. However I can refer you to someone who can help you!” POP QUIZ: What phone number do I most often give them? (Answer in box on next page.) Hopefully you have memorized the number. Contact our office if you would like some business size cards to carry in your wallet with the number. Everyone needs to have this number memorized and available at all times... anyone might be in a situation where they could save a pre-born life by knowing this number and being a witness for life, from the office water cooler to the family holiday dinner table.
- We continue to be part of the Californians Against Assisted Suicide, protecting the vulnerable disabled and elderly of our society. [www.caagainstassistedsuicide.com](http://www.caagainstassistedsuicide.com)
- Each fall we participate in several corporate charity fairs, showing the employees how their

contributions will be used, as well as educating them on the various life issues. This year we handed out over 150 precious preborn models, numerous precious feet pins, and hundreds of dollars worth of literature. Several people came up and commented, "Oh you are the lady with the baby models." Personal note: Over the years I am finding more and more people support our efforts and fewer who challenge or refuse to listen to our message. Even at the corporate charity fairs we are evangelizing the culture.

- Each month, we publish our newsletter mailed to over 350 people, and then posted online on our website. We also maintain an e-blast network, wherein we inform our members of current events, exciting news and occasionally legislative issues that require immediate attention. We average one e-mail blast a week, some weeks more, some weeks none. The newsletter has limited space and a long lead time, but using e-mail we can keep you informed of major items on a more timely basis. If you are not part of our e-network send us an e-mail at [callife@calright2life.org](mailto:callife@calright2life.org) and we will add you to the distribution list.
- And perhaps our greatest achievement... the YOUTH have invaded and taken over of our information tables at shopping malls, and even more exciting is seeing them come forth and organize and facilitate the pro-life clubs at their schools. Providing literature, silicon "awareness bracelets," precious preborns, precious feet pins and other materials to school groups and at our information tables continues to be one of our major expenditures. As reported in previous newsletters, for about 55cents - the cost of a precious preborn 12 week model – we know of at least one "precious preborn life" has been saved!

2011 was a good year for California Right to life Educational Fund. May 2012 build on these milestones and bring us closer to the time when EVERY innocent life will be respected from fertilization to natural death.

#### Pop Quiz Answer:

**Do you know someone who might be considering abortion?  
Make sure they get the facts first!  
A LIFE depends on it...  
1-800-395-HELP (4357)**

## Stewardship Report

Board of Directors

As part of our efforts in good stewardship, we share with you briefly how your donations were used in 2011.

Our only source of funds is your ongoing donations. We receive no government subsidy or assistance from other organizations. In 2011 we received almost \$33K in monetary contributions, of which \$5K was special donations (estates and other non-routine donations). Almost \$9K was from the various payroll charity drives. The remainder of our budget was from private donations coming each day in the mail.

An important statistic that is being asked more and more is the percentage of expenses for **Administration and Fund Raising... ours is only 8.5%** This category includes photocopies, postage for thank you notes, a portion of printing and mailing the monthly newsletter, envelopes and other office supplies as well as time spent by our one employee preparing required governmental reports. The remaining 91.5% goes for **"Program Expenses."**

**10% of expenditures are "Counseling"** including the phone bill to be available 24/7 for individuals and families facing life issues, from the "How much do you charge for an abortion" call on New Year's Eve 2011, to the family calling late at night because the hospital/doctors are recommending "letting Grandma die with dignity." We assist the family in discovering all their options. In 2011 we worked with Life Legal Defense Foundation as a loving son navigated the perils of a university hospital and negotiated for the care for his 92 year old mother.

**6% of the budget is for new purchases and storage of our library materials.** Looking for a video, cassette tape, DVD or book on a life issue? Chances are we have a copy in our storage unit library.

The reminder of our cash outlay (over 75%) is devoted to fostering a pro life mentality through “**Education.**” The purchase of literature and other pro-life materials (Precious preborns, precious feet and hands, awareness bracelets, bumper and square stickers etc.) distributed at our information tables and provided to student pro-life clubs and for student classroom presentations requires several thousand dollars each year.

We have one employee, Cecelia Cody, the friendly voice at the other end of the phone 24/7. She does it all, from coordinating the monthly newsletter (she is always looking for authors to write articles), ordering supplies, and as requests come in, shipping to students and groups doing information tables. She schedules and as she says “snoopervises” the youth at mall tables, fields media calls and finds speakers for media interviews; which in 2011 meant doing most of them herself! (She is always eager for others to volunteer to assist in this facet...contact her at 925-944-5351 for more information about this critical effort.) If there is a need she tries to fill it. She likes to say there is a cadre of volunteers, and she couldn't exist without their efforts; however, we know she keeps the ship afloat, working for well below even the non-profit industry average compensation rate.

Several years ago we closed our brick and mortar office, put our library and supplies inventory into a self storage unit, and the office phone became a cell phone which Cecelia carries 24/7. Within a month of closing the physical location and creating the “virtual office” we realized the wisdom of this decision, California Right to Life Ed Fund is much more “available” with the cell phone. Over 85% of the calls come in during “non-office hours” mainly evenings and weekends, as students tend to be in school most of normal business hours. And perhaps more important is late night call of a mother scheduled to abort in the morning, when we are able to direct her to 1-800-395-HELP to learn her full range of choices. If that message were to be picked up off an office phone the next morning, it might be too late!

## Wonderful and Precious Life

By Anonymous

I was with some friends over the Christmas break, watching the classic movie *It's a Wonderful Life*. I was struck by the powerful pro-life message of this movie. Even if you have never seen the movie, the story's lesson is one you know well. The importance of

the life of one human being, to another person, to a family and community, and to our nation reaches far beyond our ability to see or measure. We are all called to recognize and assert this fact; it is imperative and a hedge against the great evil of the “Culture of Death.”

The startling and unique power of one person is surely a lesson that points to the indispensable, irreplaceable job role you are playing in converting others and our entire nation to one that protects its most precious gifts. YOUR wonderful life is changing others' lives.

The conversion of a nation is the sum of millions of conversions—some dramatic, some quiet. Many of the millions of “revolutions of the heart” come in a startling moment; some are the result of daily incremental conversions spanning years. Each one is a response. Right now, the pro-life movement is ripening into a successful human and civil rights movement because, one by one, individuals are responding to your love, your message about the irrefutable truth of the humanity of the unborn child. Those conversions spark what Martin Luther King called “the fierce urgency of now.” It's a waking up from a deep slumber, seeing the horror and using every personal gift and talent to end it.

At the end of *It's a Wonderful Life* the main character George comes home and recognizes the precious value of his “wonderful life.” May each of us recognize the precious value of our lives and that of all others from pre-born to last stages of life, and continue our efforts to bring all those we meet and interact with to see the precious value of every human being “from fertilization to natural death.”

## Calendar of Events

See [www.calendarforlife.org](http://www.calendarforlife.org) for the most up-to-date listing of activities and events happening in your area. Have you visited the website lately? It is totally “remodeled” to be even more user friendly and informative.

**Saturday, January 21, 2012**

**8<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for Life**

**Civic Center Plaza San Francisco**

*New venue and new route this year!*

The Rally will be held at Civic Center Plaza from 12:30 – 1:30 pm. Our confirmed speakers include: African-American pro-life activist Mrs. Lori Hoye; obstetrician/gynecologist Dr. Vansen Wong; the

Reverend Clenard Childress, Director of L.E.A.R.N.; and Ms. Jacquie Stalnaker, a post-abortive woman and *Silent No More* Regional Coordinator.

After the Rally (at 1:30 pm), we will begin walking from Civic Center Plaza and will process down Market Street to end at Justin Herman Plaza at the Embarcadero. The Walk from Civic Center Plaza to Justin Herman Plaza is approximately 1.8 miles.

More info: <http://www.walkforlifewc.com/>

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Standing Up 4 Life Walk in Oakland: “The Impact of Abortion In The Minority Community”**

FRIDAY January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (12 Noon to 2 PM)  
Oakland City Hall One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza

We walk because abortion in the Black community is a form of genocide. We walk because abortion in Black America is the civil rights issue of our day. We walk because abortion does violence, both physically and emotionally, to men and women, to their children, and to their families. For more info:

<http://www.issues4life.org/events.html>

**Prayer 4 Life:**

**A Celebration and Memorial Service**

FRIDAY January 20<sup>th</sup> (7:00-9:00 PM)

The Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland  
Come join with Bishop Salvatore Cordileone and other religious leaders as we come together as one faith community to celebrate the sacred gift of life on the eve of the Walk for Life. For more information visit [www.oak4life.org](http://www.oak4life.org) or contact John Watkins at 510-267-8379.

**WHO IS CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE?**

This is the newsletter of **California Right to Life Education Fund**, a 501-c-3 organization established to educate the public about pro-life issues. Donations to the EDUCATION FUND are **tax-deductible** and can be sent to P.O. Box 4343, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-0343.

California Right to Life **Committee, Inc.** is a 501-c-4 organization providing information on legislative issues affecting the right to life, and pro-life political advocacy. **CRLC, Inc. is not permitted**, under IRS regulations, to offer a tax deduction for donations. \$24.99 annually is requested for a subscription to the CRLC legislative email updates list and can be sent to 1920 Monument Blvd #309, Concord, CA 94520.

Both are affiliates of American Life League, headed by Judie Brown, and share the same “no-exceptions, no excuses” beliefs and the same dedication to promoting the Culture of Life, respecting all innocent human life from the single-cell stage to natural death.

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