

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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Spring 2011 40 Days for Life

Where were you on March 9, 2011? At 247 locations in the United States, Canada, Australia, England, Ireland, Spain, Belize, Armenia and Georgia people gathered for the Spring 2011 40 Days for Life Campaign.

40 Days for Life is a community-based campaign drawing attention to the evil of abortion through a three-point program of:

- ❖ Prayer and Fasting
- ❖ Constant Vigil
- ❖ Community Outreach

40 Days for Life takes a determined, peaceful approach to showing local communities the consequences of abortion in their own neighborhoods, for their own friends and families. It puts into action a desire to cooperate with God in the carrying the plan for the end of abortion in America.

The 40-day campaign tracks Biblical history, where God used 40-day periods to transform individuals, communities ... and the entire world. From Noah in the flood to Moses on the mountain to the disciples after Christ's resurrection, it is clear that God sees the transformative value of His people accepting and meeting a 40-day challenge.

The Spring 2011 campaign reports 487 babies "that we know of" saved through the presence of ordinary citizens, sacrificing a few hours of their time to stand and pray and "sidewalk counsel" women entering abortion mills. Since its inception in September 2007, through these coordinated efforts... **MORE THAN FOUR THOUSAND BABIES HAVE BEEN SPARED FROM ABORTION!** The current total is 4,082! California had a record 29 locations taking part in 40 Days for Life! We dedicate this issue of our newsletter to a few of these stories.

**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)**

It Takes a Village to Save a Child Sacramento Ca by Wynette Sills

Our first story is actually the culmination of the Fall 2010 campaign in Sacramento California.

We met Stephanie last fall at the Sidewalk in front of the abortion business located at Butano Drive. She already had four children, was full-time guardian for her niece, and didn't think she could afford another baby all on her own. With our help and by the Grace of God, Stephanie didn't keep her abortion appointment, and instead, chose LIFE for baby Khya, but that was just the beginning of this incredible journey.

In December, Stephanie had an ultrasound that showed that baby Khya would have a cleft lip. At first this was devastating news for Stephanie, especially as a single mom thinking about all the painful surgeries that might have to be done on her baby girl. The doctors and hospital suggested she abort her baby, but the pro-life community came along beside Stephanie and encouraged her to research the cleft lip problem. After a lot of prayers and research, Stephanie decided the cleft lip was a fixable, cosmetic defect that she and her baby could overcome, so once again she chose LIFE for baby Khya.

A few weeks later, Stephanie had a follow-up ultra-sound with higher resolution quality. The geneticist and perinatologist determined that baby Khya also had a very serious genetic deformity called holoprosencephaly, which is considered "incompatible with life" and she was not expected to live through the full-term pregnancy, as her brain did not develop adequately. (See <http://hpe.stanford.edu/about/> for more information on holoprosencephaly.)

Once again the doctors and hospital very strongly pushed Stephanie to have an abortion, to terminate baby Khya at 23 weeks of development, with the abortion appointment even scheduled for CHRISTMAS! It was a very difficult time for Stephanie, as the doctors told her that baby Khya would suffer and the UN-selfish thing to do would be to "terminate" her life.... according to the doctors, it would just be "easier on everyone" to take care of the "problem"! Yet, the Sacramento pro-life community

prayed and prayed for Stephanie and her family!

Once again, thanks to your prayers, Stephanie decided to choose LIFE for baby Khya! We've been going to doctor appointments with Stephanie and supporting the family all along the way. Tuesday April 12 at 3:45 am, I got a call from Stephanie saying, "I think I'm in labor!" At that early hour, Richard and JoAnn from St. Joseph's Parish Elk Grove picked Stephanie up and drove her, with contractions coming every two minutes, all the way to Roseville, where the hospital had been carefully chosen because it specializes in special-needs deliveries.

When Stephanie arrived, she was already 9 cm dilated. We didn't have a minute to spare! Just in time for delivery, Father Lee arrived and baby Khya was born, April 12th, around 5:30 am, at 37 weeks of pregnancy, weighing 6 lbs, 11 oz! Praise and thanks be to God! Father Lee was able to baptize baby Khya and the "Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep" (<http://www.nowilaymedowntosleep.org/>) photography ministry which specializes in providing keepsake photos to families who have "incompatible with life" pregnancy/deliveries was able to come and take some darling photos.

As I write this, baby Khya has lived on her own for FIVE days! Her big brothers and sisters have been able to see and hold her. She has the most perfect little hands and feet, with a plump little body and a full head of curly black hair. We are just grateful for every minute, every hour we have with Khya. Doctors do not know how long she may live, but we give thanks and praise for the miracle of her life. She has already touched so many hearts. She is very much cherished and Stephanie is the most courageous and loving mom I've ever met. Please keep praying for mom, baby, and family.

Mom Stephanie will be bringing baby Khya home from the hospital this Tuesday! This is a miracle we didn't really expect to experience, as the doctors kept telling us baby Khya was "incompatible with life," but she is now feeding from a bottle and doing GREAT! Please keep praying for her. Many of you have been praying for and supporting mom Stephanie, her family of five children, and baby Khya. All of you gathered around her, helping with expenses. We celebrated Christmas, birthdays, and especially Stephanie's baby shower together.

On the Move in San Francisco By Ron Konopolski

We just finished our third "40 Days for Life" vigil campaign, here in San Francisco. The past 2 years we prayed at 815 Eddy St., the headquarters of the former Planned Parenthood, now called "Golden Gate Community Health." Just a few days before our vigil was to begin, we heard that they were closing. At first they were going to try to raise \$800,000 and then reopen, but they would remain open for a couple of weeks to service any clients from their other 5 offices around the Bay Area that closed immediately.

Six abortion providers in the Bay Area closed for good, Praise the Lord! We give all the Glory to Him, but we like to think our fasting and prayers for the past 2 years had something to do with it.

We decided to go ahead with our plans to hold this year's vigil there, anyway. We prayed that they would not be able to raise the money and that they would close permanently. We also prayed in thanksgiving to the Lord for their closure.

**Since September 2007
... more than 4000
BABIES have been
spared from abortion
due to the efforts of
40 Days for Life!**

We added to our prayers and continue to pray that the Lord will obtain their building and turn it over to us so we can convert it into a refuge for women to keep their babies. This would be a Pro-Life refuge for women that would provide all the same services as Planned Parenthood and more, but would not

provide contraceptives or abortions. Besides, this building is large enough that with some remodeling we could even provide housing for those women who might need it.

After the first week of our vigil on Eddy St., we became aware that Golden Gate was closing completely. So we decided to move our prayer vigil to the Planned Parenthood that had just opened in Jan. 2011 at 1650 Valencia St. in San Francisco.

We started at PP on March 19, St Joseph's Feast Day. As we began our vigil there we discovered that they had not found an abortionist to hire yet, so we prayed that they would not find one. However, they were doing "Chemical Abortions" using RU-486, which in some ways is worse than surgical abortions.

We discovered an excellent brochure about RU-486, which tells all about the administration of this poison and the dangerous side effects for the women who take it.

Any woman reading this brochure would have to be insane to allow these chemicals to be put into her body. So we added to our mission of saving the lives of babies, to also save the lives of the mothers.

We began passing out these RU-486 brochures toward the end of March and in the first week had handed out over 100.

During this week a young African-American woman came up and was looking over the display of materials we had set up on the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood. I asked if we could help her, and she responded that she was considering an abortion. We warned her of the dangers of RU-486 and gave her one of the brochures. Then we told her about "Alpha Pregnancy" several blocks up Mission St. and all about what they could do to help her, along with their referral information. She was very grateful and took everything we gave her and left.

Later I spoke with the Director of "Alpha", about this referral. She said that in fact an African-American young woman had come to their office at about that time. We continue to pray that this baby has been saved from abortion.

A few days later as we were setting up our materials at 8 AM in front of Planned Parenthood, a young Hispanic couple came along. They had the wrong address, but were looking for Planned Parenthood. Once again we warned them of the dangers of RU-486 and gave them one of the brochures. Then we recommended "Alpha Pregnancy" and gave them their literature. They were very thankful and walked away. We have not seen them return to PP, so we pray that their baby will be permitted to be born as well.

On April 16, the last Saturday of the 40 Days, supporters of Planned Parenthood joined us on the sidewalk and set up a portable CD player with very loud and ungodly "music" and with signs asking passing motorists to honk if they "Loved PP." The noise was unbearable, but we persisted with our prayers and presence.

After a few hours, a policeman came along. He first spoke with them for a while. Then he came to me. He was very kind and asked how we were doing. I responded that we were OK, but that the noise was very disturbing. He said he was sorry, but there was nothing he could do about it.

Then he said, "If it is any consolation, when my mother was 16 years old, she was pregnant with me. She came to a place like this, but there was someone there like you praying there. This presence was enough to cause her to

turn around and leave. But then she went back again, and once again there was someone there praying, so this time she left and did not return again. If there hadn't been someone there praying, I probably would never have been born. Thank you for being here."

Needless to say, we were very touched by his testimony. It was a great encouragement for us. You can never know the full extent of the impact of prayer and fasting and how the Lord will use your presence for good. These experiences this year have certainly greatly increased our Faith and Trust in the Lord's answering our prayers.

The Southern Frontier Orange County

Volunteers spoke to a woman who had arrived at Planned Parenthood to schedule an appointment. "She was told by her doctor that her baby has deformities," said Alejandra in Orange County, "and due to her diabetes, her best option would be to abort."

She said that in her heart, that was not what she wanted to hear. But that's also what she was told by a second doctor. One of the doctors even said Planned Parenthood "would do a good job on her." The "job," of course, referred to abortion.

"After talking to us, she is now willing to give her baby a chance to live," said Alejandra. The woman was taken to a pregnancy resource center and then to see a doctor in Los Angeles who specializes in high-risk pregnancies.

"What a difference," the young mother said. "The people here are warm, caring and friendly. You are treated like a person -- unlike at Planned Parenthood."

Because she has diabetes, the specialist will continue to monitor her weekly so the baby has all the chances he or she deserves.

"Please keep her and her baby in your prayers," said Alejandra. "Praise the Lord for the opportunity he gave us to reach to this mom."

40 Days for Life – Napa Style By Margaret Crotty

The Napa Valley has just completed its 6th campaign of prayers and fasting, 24-7, in front of the local Planned Parenthood "*Health Clinic*."

Headed by Ron Maxson and Howard Haupt, about 300 faithful filled the long hours – special heroes and heroines were those who took the midnight – 3:00 a.m. shifts. (*Women are not allowed to take solo hours after dark.*)

This year, according to those interviewed, was especially challenging due to the number of stormy, cold days and nights, but two enthusiasts never let the stormy weather dampen their spirits. One said, “It was great!” Another bounced onto an especially stormy scene with, ‘I’m meeting a friend here: we’re going to say the stations.’”

One sight that is bound to be remembered by all who witnessed it – was a 16-year-old boy kneeling in a rainstorm, deep in prayer for the duration of his hour. Of note, also, was a loyal and effective counselor who formed the habit of introducing herself to every new escort with these words, “I respect the free will of all those who hold another opinion.” Surely, this cordial greeting raised eyebrows...and hopefully, consciences. On the scene two mornings a week were the Napa Valley’s “red umbrella ladies.” These women (and men who are always invited) have become a recognizable pro-life entity in the community. The red of their, practical-in-rain-or-shine, umbrellas are symbolic of the blood spilled in Planned Parenthood’s abortions, and inspired by the Holy Spirit’s red. From a practical standpoint, these red umbrellas can be seen blocks away to mark the infamous address on Jefferson.

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.

Calendar of Events

For the latest updates of events see

www.calendarforlife.org