



iowa right to life

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Birth Control Clinics Targeting Your Junior High Schools

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www.iowaRTL.org

December 2009

New Hope for Post Abortive Women and Men



Melissa Ring of SaveOne speaks to workshop participants interested in leading Post Abortion Bible Studies to help women and men suffering from the after-effects of abortion.

DES MOINES—Iowa Right to Life is bringing a nationally-known Post-Abortion Bible Study program to Iowa to care for women and men suffering after an abortion.

"They may be silver haired or they may be 15, but they need you," said Melissa Ring, of SaveOne, who presented the workshop at St. Augustin's parish in Des Moines on October 17, to pro-lifers from around the state interested in leading Post Abortion Bible Studies in their communities.

The SaveOne program is ecumenical and has received rave reviews from both Protestant and Catholic communities. SaveOne

provides books for the Bible Study and each chapter focuses on one step in the healing process while applying God's Word.

The Bible Study groups usually have 5-7 people. The group can be for women only, men only or a combination. Men who have participated in the abortion process by pressuring a woman into an abortion, financing or driving a woman for an abortion are participating in post-abortion counseling in greater numbers.

One of the chapters is on forgiving others. Ring said this is especially important for women who felt forced into the abortion by parents, a boy-



Melissa Ring and husband Mark with Kim Lehman, President of IRTL.

friend or a husband. Ring, who herself had an abortion, said, "I didn't tell anyone. I didn't tell the young man. I think I told him I had a

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**Strong Sales
at IRTL's
Fall Book Sale**

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**Is He or
Isn't He?**

*Rick Santorum
visits the first
caucus state.*

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Above left: IRTL President Kim Lehman shares a lighter moment with Raccoon Valley Right to Life's Mary Merritt. **Above right:** IRTL's Jenifer Bowen shows the cornucopia of pro-life books, DVDs and CDs IRTL has to offer.

Below right: IRTL's friend Jason Jones, a producer of the movie *Bella*, made a surprise visit to the event. **Below left:** Dowling student Rob Sloma shows his support by helping prepare lunch for the event. Melissa Ring of SaveOne inspires the crowd.



Self-destructive behavior among women who have had abortions:

- 80% expressed feelings of "self-hatred"
- 49% reported drug abuse
- 39% began to use or increase their use of alcohol
- 14% described themselves as having become "addicted" or "alcoholic" after their abortions
- 60% reported suicidal ideation
- 28% actually attempted suicide, of which half attempted suicide two or more times.

(Source: *The Aftereffects of Abortion*, www.afterabortion.org/complc.html)

Post Abortive... Continued from Page 1

miscarriage. He was abusive and I didn't want to continue the relationship."

The most important and the most difficult chapter for Ring, when she first went through the Bible Study was on forgiving herself.

"I often went to the mirror and said, 'I hate you and I will never forgive you,'" said Ring.

Through the Bible Study, participants learn to deal with the stray emotions after an abortion, such as anger, depression and

"I often went to the mirror and said, 'I hate you and I will never forgive you.'"

shame. Confidentiality is stressed for both facilitators and participants in the Bible Study. Friendships develop through the study and group members often grow close and continue to have activities after the study ends.

Part of the healing process involves naming the child and writing a letter to the child. But Ring says they find comfort in knowing one day they will meet their children again.

"At the end, we celebrate," said Ring. Family members are invited to participate in the closing ceremonies.

Training Will be Offered Again in the Spring

Kim Lehman, President of Iowa Right to Life was pleased with the training session and the enthusiasm of the participants.

"We see the value of this and we are going to offer it again in six months," said Lehman. "We need to be there for the women who have been used by the abortion industry for profit and then cast off."

For more information, contact us at: iowa@iowaRTL.org or call 515.244.1012.

Birth Control Clinic Opens Near Jr. High in WDM

Venus Clinics Ads on ABC Family Channel on Saturday Morning

WEST DES MOINES—Venus Family Planning Services, a birth control clinic has opened a new location just three blocks from Stilwell Junior High School and Sacred Heart School in West Des Moines.

The new Venus location at 1211 Vine Street in West Des Moines was announced in the *Des Moines Register* on August 4, 2009. The clinic was re-located from Valley Junction.

Venus has another clinic on Euclid Avenue in Des Moines, just two blocks from Harding Middle School.

If the locations do not let you know who the birth control clinic is targeting, maybe their advertising campaign will. Venus ads have been seen on the *ABC Family Channel* on Saturday mornings, as early as 11:15 AM. How many parents are watching (or even monitoring) the *ABC Family Channel* on Saturday morning before noon?

Just like Joe Camel, Venus uses cartoon characters on its website (www.venusfamilyplanning.org) to make it attractive to children.

Click on an image that says "Young and Having Fun" featuring cartoon couple "Marc and Jen" on the Venus website and you read that Marc and Jen have "been dating for a few months and think they may be ready to take their relationship to the next level. Before they start a sexual relationship, Marc and Jen want to be sure

they plan."

The Venus website advertises: "FREE long-term, reversible birth control." Only it's not free—taxpayers are footing the bill. Venus clinics are funded by the U.S.



Venus clinic's website is attractive to children with cartoon figures, ala "Joe Camel."

Department of Public Health.

The Venus clinics are a service of "Visiting Nurses of Iowa," and promoted on the Iowa Initiative website.

Iowa Initiative is a huge contraceptive campaign funded by Omaha-based investor, Warren Buffett and led by former First Lady of Iowa, Christie Vilsack. In the last issue of the *IRTL News*, we uncovered how the Iowa Initiative had resurrected a failed 1960s advertising campaign to reduce teen pregnancy in Iowa.

As we mentioned in our fall issue, Iowa Initiative's campaign, called "Avoid the Stork," has a sleazy website that makes fun of Christianity and makes light of teen pregnancy.

Parents need to be aware of these clinics targeting their children. Like Planned Parenthood, their goal is to sexualize children at a young age, by exposing them to graphic sexual discussions (disguised as "Q and A"), promoting free birth control and downplaying the risks of sexually transmitted diseases.

To read more about the Iowa Initiative or for other past issues of the *IRTL News*, visit: <http://iowartl.org/what-s-new/irtl-newsletter/>



For the Birds: Venus clinics are promoted by Warren Buffet and Christie Vilsack's Iowa Initiative, and aims to curb pregnancy in Iowa with ads with a person in a stork costume.



Targeting children: The new Venus birth control clinic identified with the "A" on the right side of the picture opened near Stilwell Junior High School at the corner of Grand Avenue and Vine Street in West Des Moines and Sacred Heart School, which also has middle school aged students.

Calendar: Share Your Passion for Life in 2010!

There is so much to be done and so many ways to share your enthusiasm and passion for life! Here are a few:

March for Life Friday, January 22, 2010 Washington D.C.

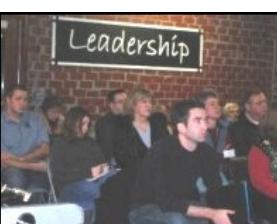


Recharge your pro-life batteries at this annual event on the anniversary of the Roe vs.

Wade Supreme Court Decision. It is an energizing experience—the crowd gets more numerous and younger every year. If you haven't been before, you need to go.

For more information, visit:
www.MarchForLife.org

Iowa Caucuses Saturday, January 23, 2010 Locations throughout Iowa 1:00 PM



It's time to get fired up for the 2010 Elections. Mark your calendar and get involved in the

political process! Pro-lifers are needed to do three things:

- 1) Go
- 2) Propose pro-life plank
- 3) Become delegate

More information coming soon!

Prayer for Life Monday, February 8, 2010 Iowa Capitol Des Moines 2:30—5:00 PM

Pro-Lifers from all over the state



come to the Capitol to show legislators our strength in numbers at this rally to commemorate the Anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision.

The keynote speaker will be Father Tad Pacholczyk (pictured), Director of Education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center and an expert on Stem Cell Research.

RSVP by calling 515.244.1012 or by email at: iowa@iowaRTL.org

40 Days for Life Kickoff Rally Tuesday, February 16, 2010 DM Diocese Pastoral Center 601 Grand Avenue Des Moines 5:30 PM

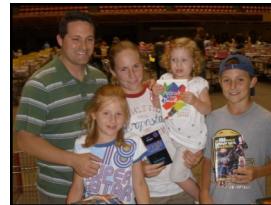


Iowa Right to Life is having a Kickoff Rally for the Spring 40 Days for Life. 40 Days is the peaceful prayer vigil that has been sweeping the nation. Participants pray outside local abortion clinics. Many babies have been saved and hearts of workers in the abortion industry have renounced abortion and turned to life!

For more information, visit:
www.40daysforlife.com/iowa

Pro-Life Book Sale March 24-29, 2010 (Closed Sunday, March 28, for the Lord's Day) KJY Events Center at 7 Flags 2100 NW 100th Street Clive

If you shop at that sale at the Fairgrounds, your money goes to the



abortion industry.
IRTL created this sale so book lovers could get better

deals on the same great books, movies and music, but shop with a clean conscience. Proceeds go to pregnancy centers throughout Iowa.

For more information, visit:
<http://iowaRTL.org/events/book-sale>

Pro-Life Oratory Contest Saturday, April 24, 2010 Walnut Creek Community Church

900-64th Street
Des Moines
9:00 AM—3:30 PM

The Pro-life Oratory Contest is back!



The contest is open to high school juniors and seniors. First Place winner receives \$350 and a

trip to compete in National Right to Life's Oratory Contest in Pittsburgh June 24-26, 2010.

For details, keep an eye on
www.iowaRTL.com **or call us at**
515.244.1012.

Perform Service Hours with Iowa Right to Life!

Volunteer for any of these events to earn service hours for school or for a Confirmation program. Or just do it because it is fun and the right thing to do!

For more information, contact us at: iowa@iowaRTL.org **or call** 515. 244.1012.

IRTL Book Sale Raises \$46,000 for Life

DES MOINES—Rhonda Phillips, IRTL Book Sale Director (pictured left with daughter Lindsey and granddaughter Annabelle) had plenty to smile about when the Fall Book Sale at Veterans Memorial Auditorium brought in \$46,000.

Thank you to all of our volunteers, book sorters, book drive organizers, donors and shoppers! Proceeds will go to pregnancy centers around the state to help pregnant women choose life.

We're doing it again in March 2010! See details on Page 6.

To volunteer or donate books for the Spring Sale, contact Rhonda at **515.205.8024** or rhonda@iowaRTL.org



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DONATE to IRTL ONLINE! For your convenience, Iowa Right to Life has added a way to donate online through Paypal. It's fast, it's free and it's secure! Visit: <http://irlc.org/about-us/donate/>

Pro-Life Briefs, Contests and More...

IRTL Offers New Pro-Life Doctors List

DES MOINES—Pro-lifers looking for a doctor can now browse through a list of pro-life doctors in Iowa on the Iowa RTL website. See the list at: <http://iowarl.org/about/pro-life-doctors-etc/>

If you would like to recommend a pro-life doctor, please send the doctor's contact information to iowa@iowaRTL.org or call us at 515.244.1012.

Planned Parenthood Tries to Silence Former Employee

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS—Planned Parenthood filed a restraining order against Abby Johnson, their former abortion center director who created a media storm when she quit after seeing an ultrasound image of the baby as it was aborted. District

Court Judge J.D. Langley refused the order on November 10.

Among the shady practices Johnson exposed was Planned Parenthood pushing employees to meet abortion quotas to increase Planned Parenthood's income.

Join IRTL on RAGBRAI

DES MOINES—IRTL had so much fun with RAGBRAI'ers last summer, we are putting together a team to go on RAGBRAI in 2010. Let us know if you would like to be on our team. Also, what should the team name be? Team Life? Happy Accidents? God's Gifts? Former Fetuses? Life on the Road? Any other ideas? Contact IRTL at 515.244.1012 or iowa@iowaRTL.org

Kim and Jenifer Hit the Road

DES MOINES—IRTL's dynamic duo

of Kim Lehman and Jenifer Bowen are coming to a chapter near you.

Muscatine Right to Life
November 16, 2009

North Lee County Right to Life (Madison)
November 30, 2009

Monona County Right to Life (Onawa)
December 2, 2009

Northeast Iowa Right to Life (Decorah)
December 16, 2009

Washington County Right to Life
January 5, 2010

Raccoon Valley Right to Life (Panora)
January 7, 2010

Delaware County Right to Life (Manchester)
January 20, 2010

For information on times and locations, please contact the local IRTL chapters.

Senate Takes Up Health Reform Battle

Washington D.C.—The controversial Health Care Reform Bill passed the House on Saturday, November 7, with some language prohibiting abortion, but the battle over the abortion language is far from over. Denial of treatment to the elderly or disabled is still an issue.

The Stupak-Pitts Amendment:

- 1) Prohibits the new "public option" insurance plan from covering abortion, except to save the life of the mother, or in cases of rape or incest.
- 2) Prohibits the use of new federal premium subsidies to purchase private insurance plans that cover abortion, except to save the life of the mother, or in cases of rape or incest.

What's next?

Senate to debate and vote on the bill: The Health Care Reform Bill will be debated in the Senate.

If it comes for a vote and passes, any difference in the House and Senate bills must be reconciled.

Conference Committee: Major differences in the House and Senate bills will be worked out in a Conference Committee with members of both houses. If the Conference Committee members agree, the bill returns to both houses for a vote. If the Conference Committee cannot come to an agreement, the bills may go to a new Conference Committee or returned to House or Senate Committees.

President's Desk: If the bill passes both houses, it goes to President Barack Obama's desk to be signed into law.

Please continue to contact legislators and fight against this bill! Find out more at www.iowaRTL.org

Is He or Isn't He? Santorum in Iowa

DES MOINES—Former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum sounded every bit like a Presidential contender, as he addressed the crowd at Walnut Creek Community Church October 1, although he would not yet confirm if he is running office.



Above: Sen. Rick Santorum shows Kim Lehman how to put up her dukes in the fight for life. Below: Lisa Bourne gives great direction on how to write letters to the editor.

Santorum was the featured speaker in IRTL's pro-life training event, where attendees learned how to lobby, write letters to the editor and respond to pro-abortion arguments.

