Our Mission

Right to Life of Michigan is a nonpartisan, nonsectarian, nonprofit organization of diverse and caring people united to protect the precious gift of human life from fertilization to natural death.

We work on the behalf of defenseless or vulnerable human beings, born and unborn, within our identified life issues of abortion, infanticide, euthanasia and assisted suicide.

Our Daily Work

Education

The Right to Life of Michigan website, RTL.org, receives about 12,000 unique visitors a month. Visitors accessed our web pages more than 250,000 times in 2017. The site is updated weekly and includes information about every aspect of our prolife work: pregnancy help information, statistics and research about abortion and other prolife issues, a detailed directory of prolife laws in Michigan, candidate endorsements, events, merchandise, etc.

The Right to Life of Michigan News is published three times a year. It reaches a regular audience of about 40,000, and more than 200,000 during election season.

Our weekly Prolife Update e-newsletter has more than 22,000 subscribers. We also produce monthly e-newsletters geared toward leaders in our state’s faith communities and pregnancy help agencies. Many thousands of people are provided with daily prolife news and educational information through our social networking profiles and the RLM Blog.

Our three Educational Resource Centers serve literature and other resources to local prolife groups and the general public.

The Educational Fund provides interesting and informative speakers on life issues for our affiliates. Affiliates and Right to Life of Michigan hosted dinners across the state in 2017, educating thousands of people about our prolife priorities, from local volunteers and business owners to members of the U.S. Congress.

Right to Life of Michigan staff monitor statewide media coverage and provide timely responses to important developments on the local, state, national, and even international level. We strive to be an active voice for an issue that media and other institutions frequently attempt to ignore.

Youth Outreach

Our staff works closely with prolife leaders on college campuses, allies in Michigan, and our local affiliates. They strive to engage our prolife youth in our grassroots efforts at the high school and college levels, and sometimes even younger.

The Educational Fund sponsors several annual contests to showcase the talent of our prolife youth and awards scholarship money. Our annual Oratory Contest is open to all prolife high school students. Local contests are sponsored by Right to Life of Michigan affiliates across the state. Local contest winners compete in the state contest in May, and the winner of the state competition wins a trip to compete in the National Right to Life Jane B. Thompson Oratory Contest.

Our Outstanding Prolife Youth Award provides a scholarship each year for the most outstanding prolife high school senior in Michigan.

Our Youth Infographic Contest offers high school and college-aged youth a chance to display their knowledge and creativity.
Pregnancy Help

The 1-800-57WOMAN phone number forwards calls to CareNet, which operates a 24/7 hotline connecting mothers facing unplanned pregnancies or women struggling with abortion to pro-life pregnancy resource centers in their area for counseling and support.

Advertising on Google through the Educational Fund connects Michigan teens with an informational pregnancy help website, Teenbreaks.com. In 2017, more than 200,000 people saw our advertising and more than 22,000 were connected with pregnancy help information.

The Right to Life of Michigan website, RTL.org, features regularly updated listings of all pro-life pregnancy and adoption help agencies available in Michigan. More than 150 agencies are included on this list.

Support Services

Right to Life of Michigan’s support services aid the local affiliates with membership, educational projects, and fundraising campaigns. It is our continuing goal to initiate the growth of new Right to Life affiliate groups across our state.

Advertising

Another medium for educational messages is major statewide media. Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund was the first state pro-life organization to utilize major media advertising. Our innovative television and radio ads provide messages which connect our pro-life issues directly to households throughout the state.

Political Action

The pro-life movement’s effectiveness in protecting innocent human life relies heavily on electing lawmakers with a commitment to protecting the sanctity of life. Right to Life of Michigan Political Action Committee election endorsements are made without consideration of party affiliation and follow time-tested guidelines.

Legislation

The Right to Life of Michigan state legislative office works actively to coordinate efforts to increase legal protection for babies as they prepare to be born, as well as other threatened members of the human family. Our legislative team closely monitors pieces of legislation which may be in conflict with our goals.

The impact of thousands of pro-life grassroots citizen lobbyists is reinforced by the daily presence in the State Capitol of our legislative staff. A full-time lobbyist and additional staff work closely with the pro-life leadership in the Legislature every session. Our unique legislative strength rests in the unified effort of our local affiliates and the state coordinating body. This strength is acknowledged by our allies, and even by those who oppose our mission.

Financials

Right to Life of Michigan

- Total Income: $975,514
- Program Services: $2,239
- Other: $861,840
- Total Expenses: $1,175,801
- Fundraising: $48,770
- General: $238,957

In 2017, the total income was $975,514. 88% of that amount came from donations, 11% from program services, and 1% from other sources.

In 2017, the total expenses were $1,175,801, with 76% of that amount toward program services. 4% was devoted to fundraising, and 20% to general expenses. 2017 loss was offset by carryover from 2016 designated for the 2017 media buy.

Educational Fund

- Total Income: $2,517,229
- Program Services: $156,617
- Donations: $2,349,423
- Total Expenses: $2,091,095
- Fundraising: $206,622
- General: $350,597

In 2017, the total income was $2,517,229. 93% of that amount came from donations, 6% from program services, and 1% from other sources.

In 2017, the total expenses were $2,091,095, with 73% of that amount toward program services. 10% was devoted to fundraising, and 17% to general expenses.
Our Year in Review

January
January 22, 2017 marked 44 years of legalized abortion in the U.S., resulting in more than 57 million lives lost. Right to Life of Michigan affiliates across the state held local events to commemorate the date and the lives lost. Churches around the country utilized Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund’s bulletin inserts and other materials for their Sanctity of Human Life Sunday programs. Many proifers from Michigan traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the National March for Life. The March for Life received unprecedented media coverage in Michigan, and Right to Life of Michigan was quoted in national and international news coverage.

Shortly after his inauguration, President Donald Trump issued an executive order reinstating Ronald Reagan’s Mexico City Policy. The policy prevents U.S. Aid dollars from going to organizations that provide or promote abortions overseas.

The 30-minute documentary, “Life Uninvited”, aired on statewide television. The film was produced by the Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund and tells the story of four women. It addresses the issue of rape and abortion from the perspective of women who’ve lived it.

February
Right to Life of Michigan once again celebrated Black History Month and brought attention to the disparate impact abortion has on the Black community. We created four videos for social media to educate people about abortion in the Black community and encouraged them to get involved in our life-saving efforts.

March
Prolife citizen journalists obtained the autopsy report for Cree Erwin. Cree died on July 4, 2016, following a botched abortion at the Planned Parenthood Kalamazoo facility. The autopsy confirmed a botched abortion led to her death. To date, neither Planned Parenthood nor the abortionist who caused Erwin’s death have been held accountable.

April
Justice Neil Gorsuch was confirmed as the late Antonin Scalia’s replacement on the U.S. Supreme Court. The vacancy was the key issue in the 2016 presidential election. Had a radical pro-abortion justice been appointed to the vacancy, a block of five pro-abortion justices could have undone every prolife law approved since 1973. Justice Gorsuch has proven to be a fair, rule-of-law judge since his appointment.

The 2016 Michigan abortion report released by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services showed abortions declined 2.8 percent in Michigan in 2016. Abortions in the state are down 46.2 percent from their high of 49,098 in 1987.

Long-time Grand Rapids abortionist Thomas Gordon was fined and suspended by the State of Michigan for failing to disclose numerous criminal convictions to the state. His convictions include assault, domestic violence, and substance abuse. His brief suspension left Grand Rapids without an operating abortion facility for the first time in decades.

The annual Respect Life dinner was held on April 27 in Livonia. The keynote address was delivered by Lisa Kratz Thomas, who shared her post-abortive testimony. The event is co-hosted by Right to Life of Michigan and the Knights of Columbus Michigan State Council. The dinner draws about 500 guests every year.

May
In May, Right to Life of Michigan began honoring 50 years of prolife advocacy in Michigan. Grassroots prolifers and individuals and groups successfully opposed efforts to legalize abortion in the late 1960s and early 1970s. These grassroots prolifers eventually came together under the name Voice of the Unborn in 1972 to successfully oppose a ballot measure to legalize abortion. Following Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton in 1973, these groups formed Michigan Citizens for Life, today named Right to Life of Michigan.

Facebook shut down advertising on Right to Life of Michigan’s Facebook page without notice. After weeks of unsuccessful efforts to contact Facebook to reinstate our ad account, we posted about the situation on our Facebook page, garnering media attention. After fielding a call from the Detroit News, Facebook decided to reinstate our ad account without giving us an explanation.

On May 9, about 300 people gathered in Lansing for our annual Legislative Day. Prolife elected officials in Michigan’s legislature met with local prolifers leaders and volunteers to discuss the prolife legislative agenda. The featured speaker was Dr. Donna Harrison from the American Association of Prolife Obstetricians and Gynecologists, who spoke about the new abortion pill reversal process.
Eva Marie Solak from Gaylord Right to Life was named Right to Life of Michigan’s 2017 Youth Award recipient for her outstanding prolife efforts. Eva has been a prolife leader in her local community, and she has since gone on to an internship with national prolife legal group Americans United for Life.

The 13th Annual People of Life Reception to benefit our outreach in the Black Community was held on May 4 in Detroit. The keynote speaker was Fr. Prentice Tipton.

The 28th Annual High School Oratory Contest was held in Holt, featuring 26 finalists who won contests held by our affiliates. First place went to Christian Dresen from Warren-Centerline Right to Life.

June
Legislation to create a Choose Life specialty license plate passed with 25-11 vote in the Michigan Senate, and a bipartisan 65-43 vote in the Michigan House. Governor Rick Snyder sadly vetoed the legislation. The Choose Life plate would have benefited pregnancy help options in Michigan.

July
Right to Life of Michigan staff and leaders conducted a series of regional meetings around the state to educate our affiliate leaders and volunteers about important topics, including preparing for the next U.S. Supreme Court vacancy and a potential reversal of Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton.

Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund volunteers hosted an educational booth at the Metro Detroit Youth Day on July 12. About 35,000 young people attend this event on Belle Isle every year.

Three finalists in the Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund Youth Infographic Contest were shared on Facebook as part of the contest judging. Together, the three finalists’ entries were viewed more than 77,000 times. The winner was Lucy Bratton from Ann Arbor.

As the euthanasia movement extends its efforts to Michigan, we prepared and released new and updated educational materials on doctor-prescribed suicide and other end-of-life issues.

Euthanasia advocates were silent in Michigan since their effort to legalize doctor-prescribed suicide in Michigan met a crushing defeat at the hands of our prolife coalition in the 1998 election.

August
The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced that 200 babies have been surrendered under our state’s Safe Delivery of Newborns Law. Our Safe Delivery Law was first passed in 2000, and allows mothers to confidentially surrender their infants up to 72 hours after birth to an emergency service provider.

In an effort to address high abortion rates in the Metro Detroit area, Right to Life of Michigan awarded grants to four prolife pregnancy centers inside the city limits of Detroit. Additional projects are being developed and an ongoing close relationship has been established with the pregnancy help agencies in Detroit.

September
The 44th Annual Right to Life of Michigan Conference was held in Kalamazoo on September 21. Our two general session speakers, Sarah Zagorski and Mary Rathke, talked about their personal stories and the challenges in life prolifers need to address.

October
A widely-reported case in Sanilac County led to the first known court case involving Michigan’s Rape Survivor Child Custody Act. A judge wrongly granted joint legal custody of an eight-year-old child to a man convicted of attempted third degree criminal sexual conduct against the child’s mother. Custody was eventually revoked from the rapist, who had originally pled to the lesser charge of attempted rape.
The “car trunk abortionist,” Michael Roth, was convicted of three felonies. The convictions stem from his suspected practice of illegal at-home abortions. After a traffic accident in West Bloomfield, police uncovered drugs, medical equipment, and the bodies of aborted babies in the trunk of Roth’s car. The convictions have ended Roth’s long career as an abortionist in Michigan.

Right to Life of Michigan released a public statement in a conscience rights case in Oakland County. A mother had ethical objections to her child receiving a vaccine produced using tissue from an aborted baby.

November

Wexford-Missaukee Right to Life, an affiliate of Right to Life of Michigan, discovered that Facebook banned their ad account. Facebook told them to give up any hope of appealing their decision: “There’s no further action you may take here.” After we released a statement to the media criticizing Facebook, Facebook promptly restored Wexford-Missaukee Right to Life’s ad account.

The Centers for Disease Control released their latest national abortion report. A total of 652,639 abortions were reported to the CDC in 2014, a decrease of 11,896 from 2013. The report doesn’t include California, Maryland, or New Hampshire, but the continuing decline in states that report their numbers is encouraging.

Our Vida Preciosa (Precious Life) Reception to benefit prolife Hispanic outreach was held on November 11 in Westland. Latino prolife State Representative Shane Hernandez was the special guest speaker.

December

News broke that the U.S. Department of Justice has an active investigation into Planned Parenthood for human tissue trafficking. So far, Planned Parenthood has escaped legal scrutiny after undercover videos revealed their illegal practice of selling the organs and tissues of aborted babies.
Our Affiliates

Alcona Right to Life
Alger County Right to Life
Arenac County Right to Life
Barry County Right to Life
Bay County Right to Life
Berrien County Right to Life
Birmingham-Bloomfield Right to Life
Branch County Right to Life
Caledonia / Middleville Right to Life
Calhoun County Right to Life
Cass County Right to Life
Central Michigan Right to Life
Central Oakland Right to Life
Central Wayne County Right to Life
Cheboygan Right to Life
Chippewa County Right to Life
Clare County Right to Life
Clinton County Right to Life
Dearborn Area Right to Life
Delta County Right to Life
Dickinson County Right to Life
Emmet County Area Right to Life
Flat River Right to Life
Gaylord Right to Life
Genesee County Affiliate of RLM
Gladwin County Right to Life
Grand Ledge Right to Life
Grand Rapids Right to Life
Grand Traverse Area Right to Life
Grosse Pointe / Harper Woods Right to Life
Hale Area Right to Life
Hillsdale County Right to Life
Holland Area Right to Life
Huron County Right to Life
Ingham County Right to Life
Ionia Area Right to Life
Iosco County Right to Life
Iron County Right to Life
Jackson County Right to Life
Kalamazoo Right to Life
Lakes Area Right to Life
Lapeer County Right to Life
Lenawee County Right to Life
Livingston County Right to Life
Manistee County Right to Life
Mason County Right to Life
Mecosta / Osceola Right to Life
Midland Right to Life
Monroe County Right to Life
Montmorency Right to Life
Muskegon Right to Life
Newaygo County Right to Life
North Allegan County Right to Life
North Kent Right to Life
North Macomb County Right to Life
North Oakland County Right to Life
Northwest Macomb Right to Life
North West Oakland Right to Life
Novi Right to Life
Oceana Right to Life
Portland Right to Life
Presque Isle Right to Life
Roscommon-Crawford County Right to Life
Saginaw County Right to Life
St. Clair County Right to Life
St. Ignace Right to Life
St. Joseph County Right to Life
Sanilac County Right to Life
Shiawassee County Right to Life
South Allegan County Right to Life
Southeast Macomb Right to Life
Southern Downriver Right to Life
Tri-Cities Right to Life
Tuscola Right to Life
Upper Downriver Right to Life
Van Buren County Right to Life
Warren-Center Line Right to Life
Western Wayne Right to Life
Wexford / Missaukee Right to Life

Our Offices

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