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 18,000 unique visitors a month. Visitors accessed our web pages more than 400,000 times in 2019. 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 up to 600,000 during election season.

Our weekly Prolife Update e-newsletter has more than 20,000 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.

Our four 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 59 dinners across the state in 2019, 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 the spring, 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 (now Meme Match) offers high school and college-aged youth a chance to display their knowledge and creativity.
OUR DAILY WORK

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 prolife pregnancy resource centers in their area for counseling and support.

Digital advertising through the Educational Fund connects people with vital prolife information. Ad campaigns connect Michigan teens to an informational pregnancy help website, Teenbreaks.com; Detroit residents to pregnancy help services through our HelpintheD.org website; people looking for prolife information online and pregnancy help listings with RTL.org. In 2019, our digital ads were seen more than 620,000 times and more than 10,000 were connected with information through the target websites.

The Right to Life of Michigan website, RTL.org, features regularly updated listings of all prolife 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 prolife organization to utilize major media advertising. Our innovative television and radio ads provide messages which connect our prolife issues directly to hundreds of thousands of households throughout the state.

Political Action
The prolife 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 prolife 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 prolife 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.
Right to Life of Michigan

In 2019, the total income was $1,850,782. 93% of that amount came from donations, 6% from program services, and less than 1% from other sources.

In 2019, the total expenses were $1,278,602, with 73% of that amount toward program services. 6% was devoted to fundraising, and 21% to general expenses.

Educational Fund

In 2019, the total income was $2,066,009. 93% of that amount came from donations, 6% from program services, and less than 1% from other sources.

In 2019, the total expenses were $1,827,208, with 70% of that amount toward program services. 12% was devoted to fundraising, and 19% to general expenses.
January

January 22, 2019 marked 46 years of legalized abortion in the U.S., resulting in more than 59 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 our Educational Fund’s resources for their Sanctity of Human Life Sunday programs. More than 900 people traveled with Right to Life of Michigan affiliates to Washington, D.C., to participate in the National March for Life. Vice President Mike Pence addressed the crowd in person.

Following the March for Life, terrible hit pieces ran in most major media outlets attacking a Kentucky student who attended the March for Life, Nicholas Sandmann. We contacted all major Michigan media sources that ran with the false story, asking for explanations, apologies, and accurate follow-up stories. Not a single outlet was willing to apologize for defaming a minor teen.

Buoyed by midterm election successes in some states, pro-abortion elected state officials around the country sought to enact radical pro-abortion legislation to allow completely unlimited abortions. On January 22, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo signed one such bill into law, and ordered the World Trade Center to be lit up pink in celebration of abortion.

February

President Donald Trump directly mentioned abortion in his State of the Union address, calling for a national ban on late-term abortions.

The Protect Life Rule was finalized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The rule stopped Planned Parenthood from cheating the Title X family planning law to use tax dollars to support abortion. The Trump Administration was the first to ever successfully partially defund Planned Parenthood domestically.

We called on U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters to support the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. The legislation to increase protections for children who survive botched abortions was filibustered by pro-abortion senators.

Online digital advertising began for HelpintheD.org, our website aimed at connecting abortion-vulnerable women in Detroit to pregnancy help and other free or low-cost resources.

March

The Trump Administration closed a loophole in the Mexico City Policy, which forbids tax dollars from being used to provide or promote abortion overseas. Some recipients were laundering the funds by giving donations to or subcontracting
with Planned Parenthood and other international abortion providers.

Bills to ban the gruesome dismemberment abortion procedure were introduced in the Michigan Legislature. Dismemberment is the most commonly used late-term abortion method.

We posted a photo online of a controversial Sanilac County billboard. The billboard promoted the county health department through shaming pregnant women. After a social media firestorm, the health department apologized and removed the billboard.

Starting in March, we ran a monthly educational series online debunking the top 10 abortion myths.

The prolife movie *Unplanned* debuted, which showed two scenes depicting abortions. It galvanized many people to get involved with the prolife movement for the first time. Several Right to Life of Michigan affiliates hosted screenings or encouraging people to visit theaters to see it.

**April**

The Muskegon County Commission weathered blistering public attacks and protests to follow through on a successful vote to evict Planned Parenthood from their county health building.

The annual Respect Life dinner was held on April 4 in Livonia. The keynote address was delivered by Scott Klusendorf, who has equipped thousands of students and others to speak persuasively about abortion. We co-host the dinner with the Knights of Columbus Michigan State Council. The dinner draws about 500 guests every year.

Leah Streifel from Gaylord Right to Life was named our 2019 Outstanding Prolife Youth Award. Leah has been a prolife leader in her local community, including placing a prolife billboard on I-75.

**May**

On May 14, about 300 people gathered in Lansing for our annual Legislative Day. Prolife members of the Michigan Legislature met with prolife leaders and volunteers from around the state to discuss the prolife legislative agenda. That same day, both the Michigan Senate and House passed bills to ban dismemberment abortions. Later that afternoon, Governor Gretchen Whitmer issued a statement threatening to veto the legislation.

On May 15, we filed paperwork to begin a petition drive to bypass Governor Gretchen Whitmer’s promised veto. The coalition of Michigan prolife organizations to collect 400,000 signatures was called Michigan Values Life.
During May and June, the Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN) aired two Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund documentaries nationally, *Life Uninvited* and *Still on That Journey*.

The 14th Annual People of Life Reception to benefit our outreach in the Black Community was held on May 2 in Detroit. The keynote speaker was Christina Bennett, who was featured in *Still on That Journey*.

Our new and improved website, RTL.org, made its debut. A major change was integrated our online blog into the news website. Our old blog had accumulated more than 591,000 views since it was first published in 2006.

The 30th Annual High School Oratory Contest was held in Holt, featuring 15 finalists who won contests held by Right to Life of Michigan affiliates. First place went to Calvin Cheney from Saginaw Right to Life.

**June**

On June 19, the Michigan Board of Canvassers approved the Michigan Values Life petition form. Shortly after that, volunteers would begin gathering signatures over the next six months to ban dismemberment abortions in Michigan.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services released their 2018 report on Michigan abortions. Abortions on Michigan residents decreased from 2017, but more were committed in the state overall as more out-of-state women traveled to Michigan to have their abortions.

On June 6, our 5th annual Min Sharetha benefit dinner in West Bloomfield. The keynote speaker was Pam Tebow, mother of sports star Tim Tebow. The dinner is an outreach to the large Chaldean Christian community in Metro Detroit.

**July**

Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund volunteers hosted an educational booth at the Metro Detroit Youth Day on July 10. About 35,000 young people attend this event on Belle Isle every year.

**August**

The Right to Life of Michigan Political Action Committee issued a rare set of early endorsements, endorsing President Donald Trump for his re-election bid and John James for U.S. Senate.

The Livingston County Commission voted to end elective abortion coverage in their non-union county employees' health insurance plans.
In a continuing effort to address high abortion rates in the Metro Detroit area, we awarded grants to seven prolife pregnancy help organizations in Metro Detroit. The program began in 2017 with grants given to four organizations.

Maria Gerring from Parma won our 2019 Infographic Contest, which has been changed to the Meme Match for 2020. Our runner-up was Rylee Sterk, and Julia Lentz received honorable mention.

September
Our 46th Annual Conference was held in Howell on September 25. The special guest speaker was Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund. Every year our conference draws about 250 prolife leaders and volunteers from around the state.

Our Vida Preciosa (Precious Life) Reception to benefit prolife Hispanic outreach was held on September 20 in Detroit. The special guest speaker was Dr. John Bruchalski, a former abortionist who became prolife.

October
On October 1, Governor Gretchen Whitmer used her line-item veto power to end state funding for the long-time Real Alternatives program that benefits women facing crisis pregnancies. She also vetoed funding to finally set up college pregnancy help offices through the Pregnant and Parenting Student Services Act. The Act was signed into law by Governor Jennifer Granholm in 2004 after receiving unanimous support in the Michigan House, including from then State Rep. Gretchen Whitmer. The Act awaits a 100% prolife governor who believes abortion isn’t the answer for pregnant college students.

On October 29, Governor Gretchen Whitmer and her pro-abortion allies unveiled their proposed Reproductive Health Act. The Act would enshrine completely unlimited abortion into Michigan state law, including overturning Michigan’s partial-birth abortion ban.

December
After collecting more than 400,000 signatures over the previous six months, the Michigan Values Life coalition submitted 379,419 of them believed to be valid to the Michigan Bureau of Elections. Planned Parenthood of Michigan promised to challenge the validity of the signatures so they could continue profiting from the dismemberment abortions they perform.
AFFILIATES

Alger County Right to Life
Arenac 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 Macomb Right to Life
Central Michigan Right to Life
Central Oakland Right to Life
Central Wayne County Right to Life
Cheboygan County 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 Right to Life
Flat River Right to Life
Gaylord Right to Life
Genesee County Affiliate of RLM
Gladwin County Right to Life
Grand Rapids Right to Life
Grand Traverse Area Right to Life
Grosse Pte/Harper Woods Right to Life
Hillsdale County Right to Life
Holland Area Right to Life
Houghton/Keweenaw Right to Life
Huron County Right to Life
Ingham County 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 County Right to Life
Midland County Right to Life
Monroe County 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 County Right to Life
Novi Right to Life
Oceana County Right to Life
Ogemaw County Right to Life
Plymouth Right to Life
Portland Right to Life
Presque Isle Right to Life
Roscommon-Crawford Right to Life
Saginaw County Right to Life
St. Clair County Right to Life
St. Ignace Right to Life
Sanilac County Right to Life
Shiawassee County Right to Life
Southeast Macomb Right to Life
Southern Downriver Right to Life
Tri-Cities Right to Life
Tuscola County Right to Life
Upper Downriver Right to Life
Van Buren County Right to Life
Warren/Center Line Right to Life
Washtenaw Area Right to Life
Wexford-Missaukee Right to Life

OFFICES

State Central Office & Educational Resource Center
2340 Porter SW
P.O. Box 901
Grand Rapids, MI
ZIP 49509-0901
P: (616) 532-2300
F: (616) 532-3461
E: info@rtl.org

Wayne County Educational Resource Center
2010 Eureka Rd.
Wyandotte, MI
ZIP 48192
P: (734) 282-6100
F: (734) 282-6218

Macomb County Educational Resource Center
27417 Harper
St. Clair Shores, MI
ZIP 48081
P: (586) 774-6050
F: (586) 774-5192

Legislative Office
233 N. Walnut St.
Lansing, MI
ZIP 48933
P: (517) 487-3376
F: (517) 487-6453