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 more than 17,000 unique visitors a month. Visitors accessed our web pages more than 570,000 times in 2020. The site is updated weekly and includes information about every aspect of our prolife work: pregnancy help resources, statistics and research about abortion and other prolife issues, a detailed directory of prolife laws in Michigan, candidate endorsements, events, merchandise, and much more.

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. Thousands of people are provided with daily prolife news and educational information through our social networking profiles.

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

The Educational Fund provides interesting and informative speakers on prolife issues for our affiliates. Despite severe limits during the pandemic, Right to Life of Michigan affiliates and our statewide organization hosted 21 dinners across the state in 2020, educating thousands of people about our prolife priorities, from local volunteers and business owners to members of the U.S. Congress.

In addition, the Educational Fund produced a virtual program which was received by thousands acrosss the state.

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 an outstanding prolife high school senior in Michigan.

Our Meme Match offers high school and college-aged youth a chance to display their knowledge
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 2020, our digital ads were seen more than 800,000 times and more than 11,000 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 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.
In 2020, the total income was $2,517,345. 93% of that amount came from donations, 6% from program services, and less than 1% from other sources.

In 2020, the total expenses were $3,351,161, with 87% of that amount toward program services. 3% was devoted to fundraising, and 10% to general expenses.*

In 2020, the total income was $2,063,505. 85% of that amount came from donations, 14% from program services, and less than 1% from other sources.

In 2020, the total expenses were $2,552,386. with 73% of that amount toward program services. 12% was devoted to fundraising, and 16% to general expenses.*

*2020 expenses were funded in-part by savings from previous years
January
January 22, 2020 marked 47 years of legalized abortion in the U.S. because of Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton. Those cases resulted in more than 59 million lives lost. Right to Life of Michigan affiliates across the state held local events to commemorate the date and memorialize the victims. Churches around the country utilized our Educational Fund’s resources for their Sanctity of Human Life Sunday programs. More than 1,000 people traveled with Right to Life of Michigan affiliates to Washington, D.C., to participate in the National March for Life. President Donald Trump became the first-ever president to address the March for Life live at the rally.

Also on January 22, our abortion pill reversal bill was introduced in the Michigan House. The bill would ensure women who are prescribed the abortion pill are given information about how the procedure can be reversed with progesterone treatments.

Right to Life of Michigan filed an amicus curiae brief in June Medical Services LLC v. Gee, asking the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade. The case involved a Louisiana law requiring abortionists to obtain admitting privileges at local hospitals

February
On February 25, the pro-abortion minority in the U.S. Senate filibustered two prolife pieces of legislation.

The Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act would ban abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy. The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act would add specific protections in law for children who survive botched abortions. Both of our Senators from Michigan, Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow, voted to filibuster these bills.

March
On March 3, legislation was introduced in the Michigan Senate to update and strengthen Michigan’s Born Alive Infant Protection Act of 2002.

On March 4, the Michigan House voted 100 to 6 in favor of our Stillborn Certificate Fee Waiver legislation. The bill would make it easier for parents of a stillborn child to obtain a certificate of stillbirth, which is required to take advantage of our law allowing a stillborn child to be counted as a dependent for one year on state income taxes.

On March 24, the pandemic lockdown in Michigan began. Pro-abortion Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer allowed abortion facilities to remain open—while closing other outpatient surgical facilities and canceling necessary procedures and surgeries. Right to Life of Michigan called on Governor Whitmer to end those special rules which privileged taking lives over saving them.
April

On an April 16 news podcast, Governor Gretchen Whitmer defended her special lockdown rules for abortion facilities by calling abortion "life-sustaining." Right to Life of Michigan once again publicly called on Governor Whitmer to stop abusing her power.

Prolife sidewalk counselor Andrew Belanger filed a federal lawsuit against Governor Whitmer following his arrest and citation in Detroit. He was counseling women in front of abortion facilities—while following all social distancing guidelines. Governor Whitmer backed down and clarified that her lockdown orders could no longer criminalize 1st Amendment rights to speech and assembly.

Right To Life of Michigan held a Chalk It Up For Life competition—with a twist for the pandemic. It’s normally an in-person event we host for youth in Metro Detroit, but instead we asked people to do it at home and share their creations with us.

Laura Durocher from Grand Traverse Area Right to Life received our 2020 Outstanding Prolife Youth Award. Laura was the leader of her high school’s Teens for Life club and participated in many prolife activities.

May

After an unprecedented six-month wait, the Michigan Bureau of Elections announced they were resuming the process to check signatures on our Michigan Values Life petition drive to ban dismemberment abortions. A sample of 500 signatures was pulled to check the accuracy of the signatures.

After months of accusations from abortion supporters that prolife people want "grandma to die" because they weren't publicly promoting Governor Whitmer’s lockdown policies, it was revealed that Whitmer’s Administration was putting coronavirus patients directly in nursing homes with at-risk seniors. Right to Life of Michigan publicly called on Whitmer to abandon that recklessly irresponsible policy.

For the first time ever, Right to Life of Michigan was forced to cancel our annual Legislative Day, due to Governor Whitmer’s pandemic lockdown.

Right to Life of Michigan encouraged prolife people to apply for Michigan’s new election redistricting commission, so that prolife citizens will be fairly represented on this extremely powerful new body.
The 31st Annual High School Oratory Contest was held virtually, featuring 20 finalists who won contests held by Right to Life of Michigan affiliates. First place went to Bergen Johnson, who won Manistee County Right to Life and Mason County Right to Life’s local contest.

Right to Life of Michigan’s Black Leadership Committee hosted their first livestream discussion on May 7th on Facebook: “Abortion Affects Us All: A Multicultural Perspective.” Additional livestreams were hosted throughout the year.

June
On June 18, the Michigan Board of Canvassers unanimously voted to pull a second sample to check our petition drive signatures to end dismemberment abortions. The unprecedented vote followed revelations that thousands of our signatures were illegally thrown out by the Bureau of Elections.

On June 29, the U.S. Supreme Court released their inexplicable decision in June Medical Services LLC v. Gee. Chief Justice John Roberts said Louisiana’s admitting privilege law was allowed by the U.S. Constitution, yet he joined the four pro-abortion justices in striking Louisiana’s law down as unconstitutional.

July
Following the second sample of signatures and a challenge from Planned Parenthood, the Bureau of Elections found that the petition drive to end dismemberment abortions didn’t have enough valid signatures. Right to Life of Michigan and prolife allies submitted nearly 40,000 more signatures than the 340,047 required to advance the petition to the Michigan Legislature for passage without the governor’s signature.

On July 8—after three trips to the Court—the U.S. Supreme Court voted 7-2 to finally stop the government from threatening to issue crippling fines to the Little Sisters of the Poor for refusing to pay for abortion-inducing drugs.

On July 20, Right to Life of Michigan joined other prolife organizations in filing an amicus curiae brief to the U.S. Supreme Court. The brief encouraged the Court to take up a case called Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization. The case involves Mississippi’s 15-week abortion ban. Almost a year later, the Supreme Court finally accepted the case, announcing that it would be directly reconsidering Roe v. Wade.

Instead of our annual youth infographic contest, the Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund hosted a Meme Match contest via social media. The winner...
was Xavier Filla, whose meme drew attention to the fact that abortion is the number one killer of Black lives in America.

August
Prolife candidates endorsed by the RLM-PAC had a great Primary Election Day on August 4. Endorsed candidates won in 93.1% of races.

On August 18, the Trump Administration's new panel to review federal funding of research involving aborted babies rejected 13 of 14 proposals for taxpayer funding of research. The only proposal the Human Fetal Tissue Research Ethics Advisory Board funded would use already existing fetal tissue stored in a tissue bank to create an alternative research model that would end the practice of implanting organs and tissue from aborted babies in mice.

In a continuing effort to address high abortion rates in the Metro Detroit area, Right to Life of Michigan awarded grants to 10 prolife pregnancy help organizations in Metro Detroit. The program began in 2017 with grants given to 4 organizations.

September
Our 47th Annual Conference was held in Charlotte on September 24. Every year our conference draws about 250 prolife leaders and volunteers from around the state. Our 2020 conference was able to draw about 170 attendees, in spite of the pandemic restrictions and other challenges for the event.

Following the passing of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, President Donald Trump announced on September 26 that he would nominate U.S. Circuit Court Judge Amy Coney Barrett to fill Ginsburg’s vacancy.

On September 28, Right to Life of Michigan hosted a statewide virtual event called “We Are Not Giving up on Life.” The event raised money for critical educational efforts on abortion during the election year. Our keynote speaker was Sarah Huckabee Sanders and our musical guest was Matthew West.

In spite of our perhaps most difficult year for fundraising in the history of our organization, Right to Life of Michigan announced a $2 million campaign with TV, radio, and online ads related to the 2020 election and relevant prolife issues.

October
On October 27, the U.S. Senate voted 52 to 48 to confirm Judge Amy Coney Barrett’s nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Right to Life of Michigan initiated a new Love Protects Life campaign to promote the prolife message in churches.
November

Election Day 2020 proved to be a mixed bag. RLM-PAC-endorsed candidates won in 79% of races. Michigan maintained a pro-life majority in the state House. The wins included pro-life candidate Tim Beson unseating pro-abortion Rep. Brian Elder in Bay City, who renounced his pro-life views in 2018 by attempting to criminalize the free speech of pro-life pregnancy centers. While Democrats gained control of the U.S. Senate, they didn’t create a clear pro-abortion majority. The painful losses included losing the presidency to Joe Biden, now a supporter of unlimited abortions, and Democrats gaining a 4-3 majority on the Michigan Supreme Court, with three of those judges endorsed by Planned Parenthood.

On December 16, the Michigan House adopted House Resolution 314, to affirm the rights of healthcare patients. The bipartisan resolution affirms the “right of patients and families to direct health care decisions and urge all three branches of state and local governments to affirm this right.” The goal for the next legislative term is passing a Patient Protection Act that would codify the basic elements of this resolution.


December

With the approval of coronavirus vaccines, Right to Life of Michigan began offering educational information to help people concerned about the ethics of tissue from aborted babies being used to produce or research several of the vaccines.
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 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
Eaton County Right to Life
Emmett 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

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