

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

 **Right to Life  
of Michigan**  
RTL.org



# 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, received more than 107,000 unique visitors in 2022, and our web pages were viewed more than 550,000 times. 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 35,000, and more than 250,000 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. Right to Life of Michigan affiliates and our statewide organization hosted 65 dinners across the state in 2022, 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 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 all educational levels.

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 and creativity.

# OUR DAILY WORK

## Pregnancy Help

The 1-800-57WOMAN phone number forwards calls to Option Line, 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 2022, our digital ads were seen more than 711,000 times and more than 29,000 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.

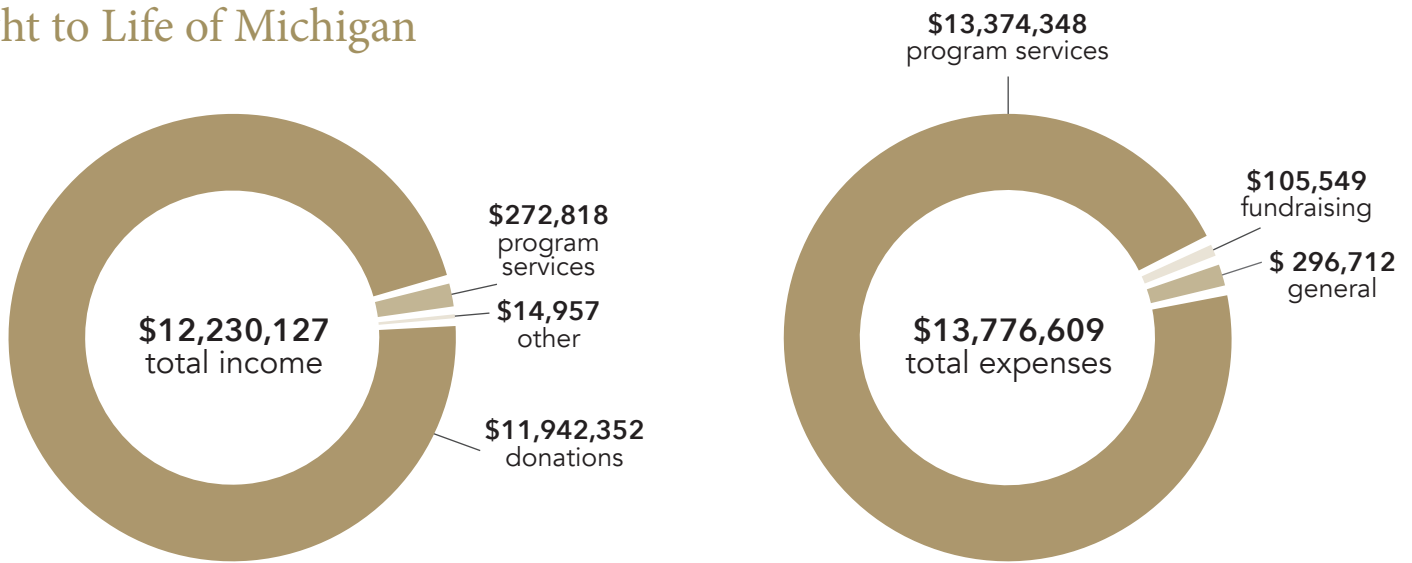
## Legislation

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.

# FINANCIALS

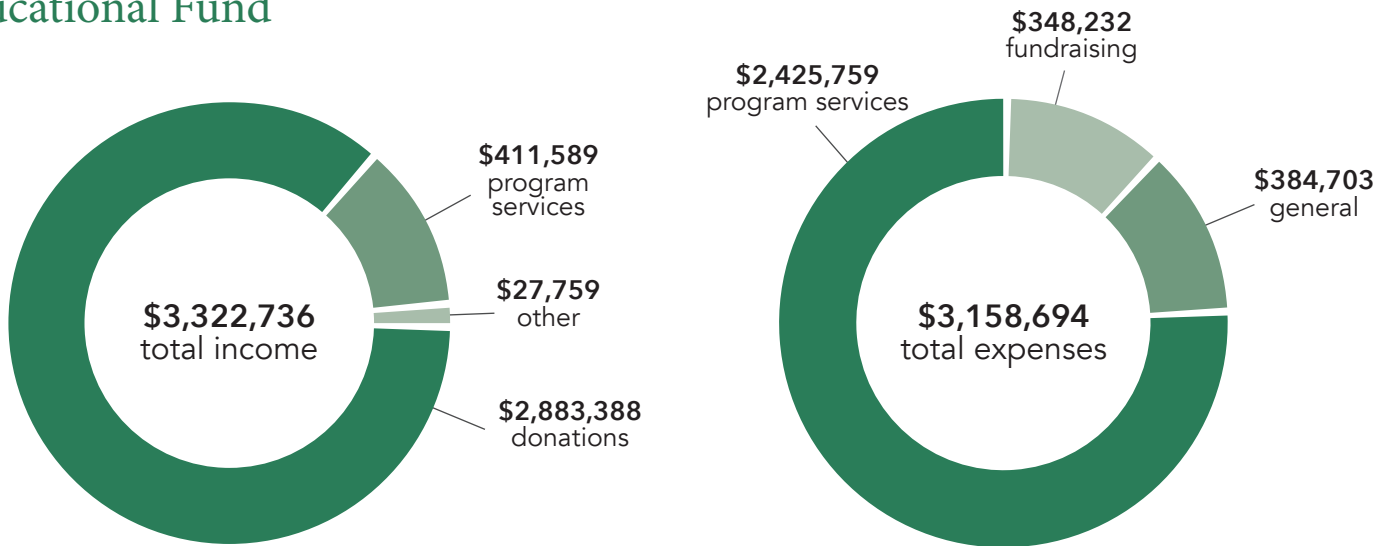
## Right to Life of Michigan



In 2022, the total income was \$12,230,127; much higher than recent years as we fought Proposal 3. 98% of that amount came from donations, 2% from program services, and less than 1% from other sources.

In 2022, the total expenses were \$13,776,609, with 97% of that amount toward program services. Less than 1% was devoted to fundraising, and 2% to general expenses.

## Educational Fund



In 2022, the total income was \$3,322,736. 87% of that amount came from donations, 12% from program services, and less than 1% from other sources.

In 2022, the total expenses were \$3,158,694, with 77% of that amount toward program services. 14% was devoted to fundraising, and 16% to general expenses.

# OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



49TH MEMORIAL OF ROE V. WADE



CITIZENS TO SUPPORT MI FORMED



HYDE AMENDMENT MAINTAINED

## January

January 22, 2022 marked 49 years of legalized abortion in the U.S. because of *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*. Those cases resulted in more than 63 million lives lost. Right to Life of Michigan affiliates across the state held local events to commemorate the date and memorialize the victims. Many traveled to Washington, D.C., for the National March for Life. Churches around the country utilized our Educational Fund's resources for their Sanctity of Human Life Sunday programs.

In expectation of the U.S. Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade* later in the year, pro-abortion organizations in Michigan announced a ballot proposal to enshrine abortion in Michigan's state constitution. Their coalition, Reproductive Freedom for All (RFA), was led by Planned Parenthood, the ACLU of Michigan, and Michigan Voices. They had until July 11 to submit 425,059 valid signatures for their amendment to appear on the November general election ballot.

## February

With prolife allies in the state, Right to Life of Michigan formed a coalition to fight the abortion amendment: Citizens to Support MI Women and Children (CSWC).

The petition form submitted by RFA was rejected by the Michigan State Board of Canvassers. CSWC's legal team successfully challenged their form after

**Support  
Unborn  
Human  
Rights!**

discovering an error in font size; Michigan election law is extremely specific about font size. The delay would cost Reproductive Freedom for All a month of potential signature-gathering time.

## March

Efforts to protect the Hyde Amendment in the federal budget were successful. The Hyde Amendment restricts tax funding of most abortions, and must be inserted into the budget every year. President Joe Biden threatened to remove the Hyde Amendment to fund and increase abortions. In July 2021, the U.S. House initially voted to reject the Hyde Amendment by a 219-208 vote.

RFA began their campaign to gather enough signatures to make the November ballot on an unapproved petition form. The unapproved form had an error in legally-required language. Once again, CSWC's legal team was able to challenge their petition form and have it rejected by the Michigan State Board of Canvassers, forcing RFA to throw out any signatures already collected, and costing them another month of time.

## April

Both Planned Parenthood and Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced separate lawsuits to block Michigan's pre-*Roe v. Wade* 1931 abortion law. Even though the law couldn't go back into full effect until

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# OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



PROLIFE YOUTH AWARD WINNER



ORATORY CONTEST WINNERS



DOBBS V. JACKSON WOMEN'S HEALTH ORG.

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*Roe v. Wade* was overturned, pro-abortion forces counted on their pro-abortion court majorities to violate legal and ethical norms and work with them in advance of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling. Right to Life of Michigan and prolife allies in the state sought help from national prolife legal group Alliance Defending Freedom to defend our law.

Annelisa Price was our 2022 Outstanding Prolife Youth Award recipient. Annelisa created her own prolife teen group and was a leader within Gaylord Right to Life's youth group.

## May

On May 2, the news outlet Politico leaked a draft of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case. The unprecedented leak indicated the Court was planning on overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

The day after the leak, Right to Life of Michigan held our annual Legislative Day in Lansing. The crowd cautiously celebrated the potential overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. Legislative Day was cancelled in 2020 and 2021 because of Governor Whitmer's pandemic policies.

On May 17, Michigan Court of Claims Judge Elizabeth Gleicher issued a preliminary injunction blocking our 1931 abortion law. The case was highly unusual, and Judge Gleicher violated legal norms to hear the case, including calls for her to recuse herself. Before she was a judge, Gleicher served as a pro-abortion attorney seeking to use Michigan's Constitution to overturn our abortion laws in 1997—an argument which was decisively rejected. Gleicher was also a long-time Planned Parenthood donor.

The 33rd Annual High School Oratory Contest was held in Charlotte on May 21. The contest featured 22 finalists who won local contests held by Right to Life of Michigan affiliates. First place went to Erin Enderby from St. Clair County Right to Life.

A ban on telemedicine abortions was introduced in the Michigan House. Abortion pills have become the top abortion method in Michigan and continued increasing after the Biden Administration took advantage of the pandemic to abuse health regulations and allow abortion pills to be sent through the mail.

## June

On June 8, Nicholas Roske traveled to the home of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh to assassinate him. He turned himself in after being intimidated by Justice Kavanaugh's security detail. Roske said his assassination attempt was to protect *Roe v. Wade*.



# MEME MATCH!

MEME MATCH CONTEST



GOVERNOR WHITMER VETOES PREGNANCY AID

Photo credit: Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan



1931 ABORTION LAW OVERRULED

A decentralized pro-abortion terrorist group calling itself Jane's Revenge initiated a wave of attacks across the country against pro-life pregnancy centers and offices in an effort to intimidate the U.S. Supreme Court into allowing *Roe v. Wade* to stand. The Lennon Pregnancy Center in Dearborn was vandalized. Several other pro-life organizations in Michigan were attacked, including Jackson Right to Life and U.S. Representative Tim Walberg. In almost all cases, the terrorists were not found and held accountable.

On June 24, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in the *Dobbs* case. The culmination of 49 years of effort from the pro-life movement came to fruition as Justice Samuel Alito, writing for the five-justice majority, stated plainly that the U.S. Constitution did not protect the ability to take the life of an innocent child. The decision opened a new era in the legal struggle over abortion and the humanity of the unborn child. In 2021, Right to Life of Michigan joined other pro-life organizations in submitting an *amicus curiae* brief asking the Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services released their 2021 report on abortions in Michigan. The report showed abortions increasing yet again during the Whitmer Administration, showing a dramatic increase among Black women. The pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute also released their estimates for abortion statistics nationally,

showing an 8% increase in 2020 during the pandemic.

Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund hosted a 3rd annual Meme Match contest via social media. The winner was Tyler Sterk, with his meme questioning the basic premise of the bodily autonomy argument.

## July

Despite months of delays and thrown out signatures, RFA submitted enough signatures for their amendment to appear on the ballot as Proposal 3. They spent an unprecedented sum of more than \$6 million to pay signature gatherers to collect enough on a short timeline. Most of their signatures were gathered after the leak in the *Dobbs* case.

Governor Gretchen Whitmer vetoed \$21.4 million in pregnancy aid funding in the state budget. The budget included adoption funding, housing for pregnant women, and resources for pregnant students. She said she vetoed the spending because some of it would end up going to organizations that don't promote abortions.

## August

On August 1, for a few brief hours, Michigan's 1931 abortion law went into effect. The Michigan Court of Appeals ruled that Judge Elizabeth Gleicher's

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# OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



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injunction didn't apply to county prosecutors. Within hours, Governor Gretchen Whitmer's legal team had pro-abortion Michigan Circuit Court Judge Jacob Cunningham block prosecutors from enforcing the law. In later hearings on his injunction, Judge Cunningham vocally slammed prolife witnesses.

## September

On September 7, pro-abortion Judge Elizabeth Gleicher issued a final ruling striking down Michigan's 1931 abortion law.

As pro-abortion rhetoric continued spiralling out of control, a volunteer campaigning against Proposal 3 was shot in Lake Odessa while going door-to-door. The victim, Joan Jacobson, fully recovered and her attacker was later convicted in 2023.

Our 49th Annual Conference was held in Lansing on September 29. Every year our conference draws about 250 prolife leaders and volunteers from around the state.

In an ongoing effort to address high abortion rates in the Metro Detroit area, Right to Life of Michigan awarded grants to pregnancy help organizations in Metro Detroit. Since the program began in 2017, pregnancy help organizations have been awarded more than \$40,000 in grants.

## November

In a dark day of Michigan's history, 57% of Michigan voters added Proposal 3 to Michigan's Constitution on November 8. CSWC was able to raise an amazing amount of \$21 million to fight Proposal 3. Sadly, RFA was able to utilize out-of-state billionaires and political organizations to spend \$47 million, making it the most expensive ballot campaign in Michigan history.

On the backs of massive election spending, Governor Gretchen Whitmer was re-elected. Both the Michigan Supreme Court and Michigan Legislature fell under narrow pro-abortion control for the first time in decades.

## December

The Citizens Research Council (CRC) of Michigan wrote an article analyzing the aftermath of Proposal 3. Contrary to promises from RFA that Proposal 3 was only "codifying Roe v. Wade" in Michigan, the CRC said many prolife laws were now open to legal challenge or should be directly repealed by the incoming pro-abortion Legislature to bring them in-line with Proposal 3.



# AFFILIATES

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

## **Legislative Office**

233 N. Walnut St.  
Lansing, MI  
ZIP 48933

P: (517) 487-3376  
F: (517) 487-6453

## **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