



**Pro-Life Waco
2018
Year in Review**
www.prolifewaco.com



Overview

On November 15, 2017, Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas (headquartered in Austin) announced the opening of its new Waco abortion branch at 700 W HWY 6. This regional abortion center is designed to “serve” dozens of Texas counties east and west of Interstate-35.

The centerpiece of our response to the new abortion facility was delivering a 40 Days for Life prayer vigil in collaboration with Care Net Pregnancy Center of Central Texas. The 40 Days for Life campaign began on February 14 and coincided with Lent. Aine Fitzgerald led the campaign, one of the strongest over 300 cities participating. An estimated 500 prayer volunteers prayed regularly in the public right-of-way of Planned Parenthood on HWY 6.

Another feature of 40 Days was a full-page ad in the *Waco Tribune-Herald* with the names of 74 pastors affirming the goals of 40 Days for Life. In a 14-year history of 40 Days for Life, Waco was the first city to incorporate a full-page ad collaboration with pastors.

Following 40 Days for Life, PLW joined with Care Net Pregnancy Center on outreach to moms seeking abortions at Planned Parenthood. Abortion days were Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of alternating weeks. For sidewalk counseling training, Care Net and PLW partnered with Sidewalk Advocates for Life out of Dallas for several training days throughout 2018. Care Net Pregnancy Center invested in a beautiful 60-foot long sonogram/counseling bus. The bus is parked directly across the street from Planned Parenthood on abortion days and is staffed by Care Net personnel.

By mid-2018, PLW rented and displayed two large billboards on HWY 6 to provide one last message to abortion-minded moms heading to Planned Parenthood for abortions.

Our response to the new regional abortion center on HWY 6 demanded much of Pro-Life Waco’s attention. However, PLW is multidimensional. We continued our public square outreach: monthly Interstate-35 pedestrian overpass outreach, Second Sunday Ecumenical Pro-Life Gathering, First Sunday Life Chain, letters to the editor the *Waco Tribune-Herald*, a 10’ x 20’ pro-life booth at the Heart of Texas Fair, and billboards around greater Waco.

Pro-Life Waco is a 501c3 non-profit.
Contributions are tax deductible.
Your financial support is vital for 2019
Donations go directly to pro-life initiatives.
PLW leaders work without compensation.
You can donate online at prolifewaco.com.
Make a one-time donation or click for monthly.
Or send a check to:
PLW, PO Box 7771 Waco, TX 76714
Invest in the lives and souls of your community.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

Pro-Life Waco and Care Net Pregnancy Center delivered an amazing 40 Days for Life prayer vigil at Planned Parenthood beginning February 14.

Over 500 volunteers provided prayer coverage from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday for the 40 days. Many drove an hour or more to pray.

The 40 Days campaign was again directed by Aine Fitzgerald. Many others stepped forward to help with this big undertaking. The Waco campaign was featured in the national 40 Days for Life quarterly magazine with a 4-page article titled, “Fortitude and Faith Deep in the Heart of Texas.”

All prayer volunteers received a free 40 Days for Life T-shirt (black in English or Spanish and pink in English). Free yard signs in both languages were available to all. Many churches displayed the 40 Days for Life yard signs.

An innovative part of 40 Days for Life Waco was a full-page, color ad in the *Waco Tribune-Herald* printed on March 10. The ad listed the names of 74 lead pastors and their churches, affirming the goals of 40 Days for Life. Robert Lehman led this effort to broaden pastor involvement in community outreach in support of babies and their moms.

The Waco 40 Days prayer vigil started with a Kick-Off Rally and later included a Jericho March around Planned Parenthood. Lynn Rasberry was the featured speaker at the Kick-Off Rally with her moving personal abortion testimony.

The star of the Jericho March was Father Robert Verrill, a Baylor doctoral student and assistant pastor at the Baylor Catholic Student Center. Father Robert displayed excellent skills blowing the Shofar horn for the seven laps circling Planned Parenthood. The Jericho March was rained out on March 17. However, we came back with the event on April 28 after 40 Days for Life was officially over.

40 Days for Life returns to Waco March 6 through April 13, 2019. Please volunteer for one particular hour each week. You will never regret it.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

Spring 2018 prayer vigil is in 375 cities and 25 countries.

Each day during 40 Days for Life, individuals and churches internationally join in prayer with one-hour commitments outside local abortion facilities. Prayer volunteers seek God's help in guiding mothers to choose life for babies and avoid personal hardship, healing for men and women suffering from past decisions of abortion, baby workers.

Sponsored in Central Texas by:
Care Net Pregnancy Center of Central Texas
and Pro-Life Waco

We support and encourage Central Texas to be a part of the 40 Days for Life prayer vigil. Let us pray for decisions that both the preborn baby and the mother can live with. We pray for an end to abortion in Waco. Let us embrace the image bearers of God as our brothers and sisters, deserving of our support in life and our sacrificial love.

40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil
February 14 through March 24
In Waco, at the public right-of-way of Planned Parenthood, 700 W HWY 6.
8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday
You can still participate in the prayer vigil!
prolifewaco@gmail.com 254-644-0407 www.40daysforlife.com/waco

With the support of these pastors and churches, prayer volunteers will be praying in the public right-of-way of Planned Parenthood during 40 Days for Life.

Pastor Chris Anthony College Women Baptist Church, Mo- kiah Bible Way Church	Rev. Billy Edwards Shoreline Baptist Church Rev. David Egle St. Ann's Catholic Church	Pastor Christopher Lange First Baptist Church, Galvin St. Francis Catholic Center in Taylor Rev. Curtis Beckwith Rev. Carl Bevilacqua Rev. Jay Smith St. Joseph's Catholic Church	Rev. Raj Belagani St. Jerome Catholic Church Father James Strickland Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Dallas
Pastor David Anderson First Baptist Church, Mendon	Rev. John Bonner Evangelist Baptist Church Pastors Brandon & Aimee Berry Christwood Church, Waco	Rev. James Brown St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church, Waco	Pastor Jerry Beath McVicker, Winney First Baptist Church, Dallas
Pastor James Brown Vivray Covenant Church of God Pastor Charles Brown Pastor Barry Brown Pastor Barry Brown Pastor Barry Brown	Pastor James Brown St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church, Waco	Evangelist Rudy McCoy First Baptist Church of Houston Pastor Dale McCreary First Baptist Church of Houston Father Lee M. Nelson, SSC Catholic Church, District of Columbia Rev. Justin Nguyen St. John's Baptist Church, Waco and St. Philip Church, China Spring	Pastor Jerry Beath Pastor Jerry Beath Pastor Jerry Beath Pastor Jerry Beath Pastor Jerry Beath Pastor Jerry Beath Pastor Jerry Beath Pastor Jerry Beath Pastor Jerry Beath Pastor Jerry Beath

Weekly Rosary for Life

On each Wednesday morning at 9 am, 10 to 15 of the faithful gather at Planned Parenthood (Sanger Avenue corner adjacent to HWY 6) to pray the Rosary for life-defender intentions. On alternating Wednesday, the abortionist from Massachusetts is working at the abortion center as we pray.



Sidewalk counseling and prayer on abortion days

Abortion days are Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of alternating weeks. Pro-Life Waco partners with Care Net Pregnancy Center of Central Texas in this outreach. CareNet staffs and parks its 60-foot, beautifully wrapped sonogram bus (named BIRTHa) directly across Sanger Avenue from Planned Parenthood.

On six occasions Pro-Life Waco and Care Net collaborated to train Central Texans for sidewalk counseling to turn the hearts and minds of abortion-minded mothers to life and love. We use the print and video material of Sidewalk Advocates for Life. This innovative organization supports training nationwide to help pro-lifers engage and counsel abortion-minded moms, grandparents, husbands, boy friends, and other friends.

First Sunday Life Chain

The first Sunday of each month is Life Chain Sunday at the intersection of Valley Mills Drive and Waco Drive. In October, Pro-Life Waco participated in International Life Chain Sunday along with 1,500 communities worldwide. In November, just before the national election, Life Chain added a patriotic theme.



Thanks to Ellen and Hank Staniszewski for delivering Life Chain each month.

Second Sunday Gathering

Pro-Life Waco's action agenda is planned and promoted at Second Sunday Ecumenical Pro-Life Gathering. This is a luncheon/meeting at St. Mary's Parish Hall. We begin with a noon-hour of fellowship and a delicious Italian buffet meal. The pasta sauce is made from the recipe of John Pisciotta's mother. That's Italian!

Occasionally, we have guest speakers who inform and motivate our life-defender outreach. Speakers in 2018 included:

Sarah Zarr, Coordinator for the Texas & Oklahoma region of Students for Life of America.

Deborah McGregor, CEO of Care Net Pregnancy

Pisciotta tackles Facebook

PLW director John Pisciotta manages a Facebook group to provide a "Show a Tell" for hometown foot soldiers around the world. The purpose of Hometown Pro-Life Action is to equip and encourage one another to be more effective as life defenders.

Pisciotta launched HTPLA in July of 2014. Membership reached 15,000 members last October. Hometown Pro-Life Action is the largest pro-life group on Facebook.

Pisciotta has a second Facebook group, Pro-Life Politics, with over 4,000 members. Y'all join!

Protest of PP Fundraisers

In 2018, Pro-Life Waco led protests of fundraisers of Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas in Waco, Dallas, Fort Worth, and Austin.

The biggest event was the Austin Gala fundraiser on September 29 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. What made this such a big deal was that the honored guest and keynote speaker was Texan Cecile Richards who stepped down from her CEO position with national Planned Parenthood after a 12-year reign. Cecile Richards directed Planned Parenthood through its holocaust inflicted on 3.5 million baby boys and girls aborted.

The Pro-Life Waco group was joined by friends from Temple, Round Rock and Austin. Additionally, Sarah Zarr, Texas Coordinator of Students for Life of America, brought students from UT Austin, UT San Antonio and Incarnate Word University in San Antonio. We were also able to present pro-life messages to hundreds of people walking to a nearby Beto O'Rourke political rally.

GOSNELL

THE TRIAL OF AMERICA'S BIGGEST SERIAL KILLER

This event was a first for Pro-Life Waco, actually a first for Waco. Along with Austin, Dallas, and Houston, Waco held a pre-release screening. Thanks to Reicher Catholic High School for providing the venue for our September 28 event.

Over 200 Central Texans attended the pre-screening of this powerful movie that was set to open in two weeks in theatres nationwide. The emcee for the evening was Aine Fitzgerald. Deborah McGregor delivered introductory remarks and closing commentary. The movie is the story of the investigation, arrest, and the trial of abortionist Dr. Kermit Gosnell. Gosnell was convicted of the murders of three babies born alive during abortions.

What made the evening particularly memorable was the Q & A handled by cast member Alfonso Rachel, who played the role of a police detective Stark. Mr. Rachel provided lively and informative answers to questions about abortion and the GOSNELL movie.

Visual Displays "Everywhere"

Pro-Life Waco has three large billboards and eight junior size billboards around Waco with messages changing through the year. Additionally, there is "Carolyn" the pro-life billboard truck. And, PLW has distributed hundreds of yard signs—powerful mini-billboards.

Two full-size and lighted billboards send life-saving messages to pregnant moms just minutes away from the Planned Parenthood abortion center on HWY 6. One billboard is near Providence Hospital and the billboard below is just east of Speegleville.



Interstate-35 overpass outreach

The Interstate-35 pedestrian overpass near Baylor gives Pro-Life Waco the opportunity to reach "neighbors" from throughout Texas and beyond.

We deliver overpass outreach for two-hours each month—typically on a Saturday morning. About 15,000 travelers see our large signs each time. The response is overwhelmingly positive. Drivers respond with a lot of honking. We love the honking of our boisterous truck drivers. Overpass outreach epitomizes the "public square" focus of Pro-Life Waco.

When an overpass outreach is over and signs are returned to "Carolyn" the pro-life billboard truck, we gather at Panera Bread for a meal and fellowship provided by Pro-Life Waco donors.

Pro-Life Booth at HOT Fair

October brings the Heart of Texas Fair to Waco. Pro-Life Waco displays a popular booth each year. Smiling children received over 2,500 balloons with the message "SMILE, your mom chose life." Thousands of fairgoers enjoy the flyers, pamphlets, photos, and models of life in the womb. Thanks to Doel Garcia and over 30 volunteers for this powerful outreach.

The pro-life booth sows seeds of respect and support for the preborn and their moms. One tearful, but smiling, mom expressed to Doel that viewing and touching the models was a blessing to her as she deals with her grief from losing twins to miscarriage.

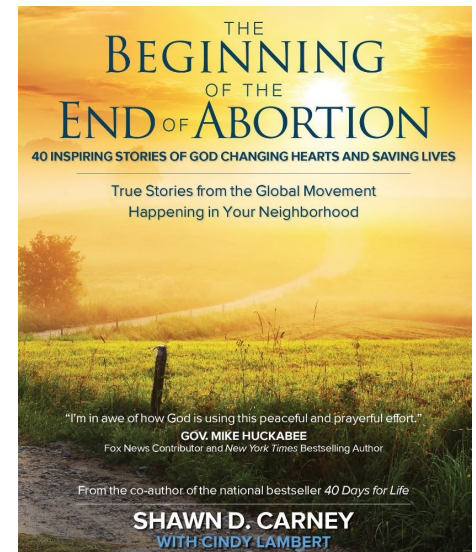
WACOAN promotes PP

Pro-Life Waco challenges the supporters and enablers of Planned Parenthood. The biggest contention in 2018 was with the monthly WACOAN magazine, which ran a full-page ad in their January issue touting the new Planned Parenthood facility on HWY 6. We protested in the public right-of-way in front of the WACOAN on two occasions. WACOAN management agreed to end its ads promoting for Planned Parenthood.

Waco in 40 Days book

Pro-Life Waco is a broad, hard-working, and generous collaboration, which is respected around Texas and nationwide. In September of 2018, Shawn Carney and 40 Days for Life published their second book, The Beginning of the End to Abortion. (Available from booksellers everywhere for \$10 to \$15.) The book has 40 chapters, each about 40 Days for Life in a particular city.

Chapter 29 is about Waco with the title "Homemade Italian Fortitude." In describing the tapestry of pro-life outreach in Waco, the chapter mentions John Pisciotta, Aine Fitzgerald, Deborah McGregor, and Pastor Ronnie Holmes. It is nice to be recognized for the past as we dig in and dedicate ourselves to babies and moms in 2019.



Thank you to all who have

- prayed • worked • and financially supported the Gospel of Life in Waco in 2018.

We need your support in 2019!

Donate online: www.prolifewaco.com
Donate by mail: PO Box 7771, Waco, TX 76714
Contact us: 644-0407 or prolifewaco@gmail.com