



# Pro-Life Waco 2012 Year in Review



- Monthly: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Life Chain
- Monthly: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Fellowship
- Weekly: Rise Up on Ross Ave.

The first Sunday of each month is **Life Chain Sunday** from 2-3 p.m. at the intersection of Valley Mills & Waco Drive. We hold "G-rated" signs to present the reality of abortion to the Waco community.

For our **Second Sunday Pro-Life Fellowship**, 60-100 pro-lifers come together at St. Mary's Parish Hall for a noon-hour meal, fellowship, and a meeting from 1-2 p.m. for education and action planning. The meal relies upon the Italian recipes of mama Rosa Pisciotto.

**Rise Up at Ross** is our outreach to help save lives and souls on the abortion days in Waco. The day changes from time to time. Currently the day is Thursday. Rev. Ronnie Holmes of Church of the Open Door leads this ministry. In this photo Pastor Ronnie, on his motorcycle, leads a car with an abortion-minded mom to a life saving visit to a local pregnancy care center.



we drove to 1121 Ross Ave. for a Joshua March around this facility (photo below). We prayed that our continued presence at Ross Ave. would bring Planned Parenthood tumbling down.



## A really HOT pro-life booth

In October, PLW delivered another installment of the pro-life booth at the Heart of Texas (HOT) Fair under the leadership of Doel Garcia. Smiling children received over 2,800 "Choose Life" balloons. Doel had a conversation with a woman about a blessing from the 2011 fair booth. The lady had a friend considering abortion. She picked up a handful of our flyers. The next day she talked to her pregnant friend and showed the flyers. The mom chose life for her pre-born baby!



## Planned Parenthood closes & relocates abortion business

The good news of the first days of 2012 was that, after 18 years and 18,000 deaths, the Planned Parenthood abortion facility at 1927 Columbus Avenue closed. The bad news was that the abortion operation was relocated to PP's last remaining facility at 1121 Ross Avenue.



This "consolidation" was announced as a cost saving measure. For our side, the Ross facility offers more opportunity for sidewalk counseling. Also, with all client interactions under one roof, this shatters the claim of a "wall of separation" between PP Waco's abortion and non-abortion businesses.

Our first response to Planned Parenthood retrenchment was a special Roe week memorial on January 21. We began with "An Hour of Remembrance" at the shuttered Columbus Ave. facility to honor those lost in the holocaust of past years. Speakers offered remembrances as counselors for life and as women who entered with the intention of aborting their babies. Then



Our spring 40 Days for Life prayer vigil brought something old and something new. The old was that our participation continued from the first national 40 Days for Life in 2007. The new was that the vigil was at the Ross Avenue facility since the Columbus Avenue killing center closed at the end of 2011.

The main focus of 40 Days for Life was prayer and public witness outside of Planned Parenthood during their hours of operation. With many children participating in public witness, one fun activity was hopscotch.



We cannot know the full impact of our prayers. We did experience the joy of seeing some abortion-minded moms turn from death to life for their little ones.

The prayer vigil was amplified by 40 Days for Life billboards, yard signs, t-shirts, and bracelets.

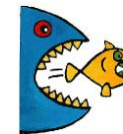
40 Days for Life will be back in 2013 beginning on Feb. 13. Can you plan to join in?

## Vote Pro-Life Campaign

As in 2010, Pro-Life Waco organized a Vote Pro-Life campaign for the 2012 election. The outreach included dozens of yard signs and eight billboards. The exclamation mark was a half-page ad in the local newspaper the Saturday before the election. Nationally, election results were a letdown. We did have strong pro-life outcomes locally and in Texas. The photo below shows one of our yard signs among other political signs at a local polling site.



## Mega-affiliate gobbles up Planned Parenthood Waco



Last year, the embattled Planned Parenthood Waco became a branch of Planned Parenthood Austin.

Well, the merger mania in Planned Parenthood continues. In September of 2012, Planned Parenthood in Waco became part of one of Planned Parenthood's largest affiliates.

The name is Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas. This affiliate stretches from Austin through Waco and DFW to the Oklahoma boarder and east to Tyler. PFGT has 26 clinics.

What does the diminished status of Planned Parenthood in Waco mean for their future? This is uncertain. We will continue to challenge Planned Parenthood at every turn with hope and prayer that Planned Parenthood will close completely in Waco.

## Nobody's Fool: Version 23

The big news is that, by our count, no more than 70 youngsters attended the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Nobody's Fool on July 18. This contrasts to their claim of 300. Our yard sign, billboard, radio ad, and letter-to-the-editor campaigns have had a major impact. The central message of our campaign has been "Take the high road. Just abstain from Planned Parenthood Nobody's Fool."



On the morning of Nobody's Fool, we had at least five-dozen pro-lifers on-site with signs and literature. After one persuasive conversation

with Ruby McCray, One mom went back into the Convention Center to remove her two daughters from Nobody's Fool's.

Once the children entered Nobody's Fool's, Monica Cline delivered a speech and news conference.



Monica was an instructor for Nobody's Fool in 2007 and 2008. She later saw the light on the damaging messages of Planned Parenthood for children. She offered a very unique and eye-opening perspective.

After receiving gems of wisdom from Monica Cline, the whole pro-life gang walked across Franklin Avenue to a restaurant for brunch. Spirits were high.

## Counter-Rally to Planned Parenthood's Texas bus tour

We had just one day's notice to plan a counter-rally to the Planned Parenthood's statewide bus-tour stop in Waco. The March 7 event in Waco was called a "Rally to Defend Women's Health." The actual purpose was to protect their taxpayer funding.



On short notice, 75 pro-life faithful appeared during the noon hour for this "Rumble on Ross Avenue." This was just as many as those on the Planned Parenthood side. One dedicated pro-lifer participated in a wheel chair!

Before, during, and after PP's feeble attempt, we held signs. We talked to people on the other side. We did not disrupt.

The rally and our counter-rally were covered by the Waco Tribune Herald and KXXV television news.

### Pro-Life Waco is a 501c3 non-profit.

Contributions are tax deductible.

As with other non-profits, 2012 was a difficult year for PLW.

### Your financial support is vital for 2013.

All donations go directly to outreach for life—none to salaries.

## Challenge to PP CEO in Austin

Austin Planned Parenthood hosted Cecile Richards on the evening of Nov. 11 for their annual fundraising banquet. The national CEO of Planned Parenthood received a welcome of sorts from Texas pro-lifers demonstrating along the entrance to the Renaissance Austin Hotel. The demonstration included 10 Wacoans and "Carolyn" the pro-life billboard truck. We were met by 20 collaborators from the Austin area. After the demonstration, we enjoyed food and fellowship at a nearby restaurant.



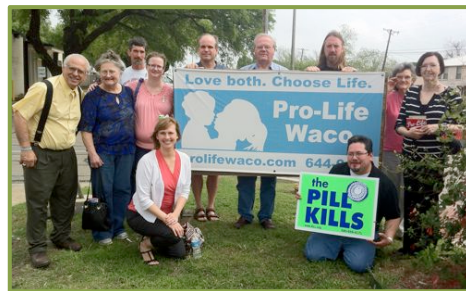
Leon Leftwich drove the billboard truck from Waco. Renaissance Austin Hotel is in background.

## Local church welcomes Planned Parenthood leader

Lake Shore Baptist Church warmly welcomed Pam Smallwood, a top executive of Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas on a the evening on September 17. Before she moved to Austin in 2010, Ms. Smallwood was a member of LSBC and also the CEO of Planned Parenthood in Waco. In that role she administered over 16,000 abortions. Pro-Life Waco learned about the event late and did not have time to organize a demonstration. However, we did place "Carolyn" the pro-life billboard truck out in front of the church in full view of all who entered. Lake Shore Baptist Church lists support for Planned Parenthood as one of its areas of "Ministry Outreach."

## Visit from ALL

Pro-Life Waco is a proud affiliate of the American Life League (ALL, all.org) of Stafford, Virginia. We were honored to have leaders of American Life League, Rita Diller and Rey Flores, visit us April 2 & 3 during their national tour of affiliates. We had an opportunity to share and do "show and tell." PLW received good advice from Rita and Rey and I think they benefited from viewing the battlefield in Waco. The initial inspiration for Pro-Life Waco came from Jim Sedlak of ALL. Jim visited Waco on several occasions to keep us on track with our challenges to Planned Parenthood.



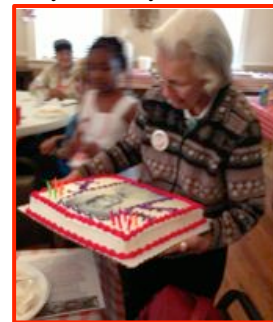
Rita Diller is on far right. Rey Flores is holding sign.

## 2nd Sunday birthday surprise for our beloved Carolyn

Each Second Sunday (except May), the pro-life faithful gather for food, fellowship, and action planning at the parish hall of St. Mary's Catholic Church. Our speakers were many local pro-life/pro-family leaders and out-of-town collaborators such as Abby Johnson. Abby converted in 2009 from abortion clinic manager to tireless pro-life leader. Abby has recently launched a ministry to help abortion clinic

workers leave the industry.

For November Second Sunday Fellowship, we celebrated the birthday of Carolyn Knowles, the grandmother of the pro-life movement in Waco. The pro-life billboard truck is named after Carolyn. The Latonya Caldwell family arranged the surprise birthday party. As a sidewalk counselor, Carolyn Knowles played an eternally important role in the lives of the Caldwell family.



## 29 Letters to the Editor

The thoughts and passions of the pro-life/pro-family movement are expressed in letters to the editor of the Waco Tribune Herald. 29 of our letters were printed in 2012. Many more were submitted. Let's keep writing for life.

# THRIVE!

**Thrive** is the new Christian sex education program for Waco and other cities in Central Texas. The first **Thrive** event in Waco was held on September 4. The program was designed for adults in youth-nurturing roles. The lead speakers were Miriam Grossman M. D. and Marie Seale. This was followed on December 6 by a program for youths in grades 6—12. Jason Evert, a premier chastity advocate, was the speaker. **Thrive** events were delivered by the CareNet Pregnancy Center of Central Texas, the Catholic Diocese of Austin, and St. Louis Catholic Church. Pro-Life Waco continues to act in a support and promotion role for **Thrive**.

## PLW on the internet

Slowly but surely, Pro-Life Waco is coming into the 21 Century on internet use.

Our web site is [www.prolifewaco.com](http://www.prolifewaco.com) Check it out for more on the activities of Pro-Life Waco.

We have a special web site [www.plannedpromiscuity.com](http://www.plannedpromiscuity.com) This site exposes the sordid reality of how Planned Parenthood promotes child promiscuity.

Pro-Life Waco has a Facebook group: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/prolifewaco/> We now have over 800 friends socially interacting. Have you become our friend?

You can see several of our photo albums at [www.flickr.com/photos/prolifewaco](http://www.flickr.com/photos/prolifewaco)

Who knows? Twitter & a blog may be next.

**Thank you** to all who have

• prayed • worked • and financially supported the Gospel of Life in Waco in 2012.

**On to 2013!!**

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