



Life Center of Long Island

CELEBRATING THIRTY TWO YEARS • ESTABLISHED MAY 1986 • FEBRUARY 2019

1767 Deer Park Avenue
Deer Park • NY • 11729
T. 631.243.2373
infodp@lifecenterli.org

35 East Willow Street
Massapequa • NY • 11758
T. 516.798.8746
infoma@lifecenterli.org

474 Fulton Avenue
Hempstead • NY • 11550
T. 516.408.6300
infohp@lifecenterli.org

524 East Main Street, Suite 200
Riverhead • NY • 11901
T. 631.591.9017
inforh@lifecenterli.org

LOVE'S ARROW

I was making a cup of morning coffee to get myself started for the day when a young woman, Dana*, came into the Center. She did not have an appointment, but she said she needed to be seen because she wasn't sure if she was pregnant. I could see Dana was anxious by the expression on her face. I took two sips of my coffee, put the rest aside until later, and told her I would help her.

As we settled into the consultation room, Dana began to share her story. She told me she could not have another baby. Dana was only 24, not married, had no support, and already had a small child. Dana continued, explaining that were she pregnant, the father of the child would want her to abort. I listened until she finished sharing her story. I told Dana we would take it one step at a time. The first step is to find out if you're pregnant. She agreed to take a self-administered pregnancy test kit. Upon completion, Dana told me it showed a positive result. With that, she began to cry. I asked Dana if she would like to go for a free sonogram to see how far along she was and if the pregnancy was healthy. Dana at first hesitated, so I asked her if she would like me to go with her to the appointment. She shook her head yes.

The day of the appointment, I was waiting for Dana to meet me at the Center. Sadly, she never showed up, nor was she taking my phone calls or answering my texts. We had been in touch before this, but now I was wondering what had happened. Did Dana change her mind? Did she abort because of the pressure she was under from her boyfriend? She was not responding to my outreach, so with a heavy heart, I put it all in God's hands. As the days went on, I continued praying for Dana, but my sadness remained.

About two weeks later, I received a phone call from her. Dana explained to me that she was nervous and needed more time to think about things, but was now ready to go for the sonogram. I was able to reschedule for the next day. Together we went, and Dana was already 10 weeks along. She saw a beautiful image of her baby. At that moment, Dana was love-struck, as if cupid's arrow had pierced her heart. She shared with me that she could not hurt her child and she was going to keep her baby. We had offered the father of the child an opportunity to speak with a male consultant, but he refused. Dana said she was going to leave her boyfriend. I could see relief in her eyes.

As we await the birth of her precious child, we are supporting Dana with what she will need for her baby, as well as resources for herself and emotional support. We will continue guiding her so her future will be better for all of her family. Sharing values, sexual integrity, and faith are all part of our conversations. While we share all these positive ideas that will enhance Dana's life, we know it was love, which is God Himself, that changed everything for this family.

* Names have been changed to protect confidentiality.

Vicky Guerra
Deer Park Consultant



Our Mission... "To promote, encourage and foster public sentiment and respect for the dignity of human life... from conception to natural death."

Donor Site: www.lifecenterli.org • Client Site: www.aaapregnancyoptions.org



Donor Facebook: www.facebook.com/lifecenterlongisland



GLORIA SCHREIBER

FROM THE DESK OF
The Executive Director



**THE PASSING OF THE ABORTION EXPANSION BILL
“REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACT”
ON TUESDAY JANUARY 22, 2019
SIGNED BY GOVERNOR CUOMO FOR NEW YORK STATE**

Dear Supporters:

I wrote this column on the day of the passing of the Abortion Expansion Bill, aka the “Reproductive Health Act.” It is with a heavy heart that I share the following information with you.

The extreme new law, the Reproductive Health Act S.240, was passed by the New York State Legislature Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019, on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that brought abortion-on-demand to every state. It expanded New York State’s already radical abortion laws to allow late-term abortion and will:

- expand abortion-on-demand from 24 weeks to birth
- allow licensed health practitioners other than full doctors, including nurse practitioners, physician assistants, midwives, to perform abortions
- move all abortion — including forced miscarriages — from the penal law to the public health law, so if any pregnant woman is abused resulting in a miscarriage, her baby, even if she or he is older than 24 weeks, will no longer be recognized as a potential homicide victim
- declare abortion a "fundamental right," imperiling conscience protections
- repeal protections for children born alive during botched abortions.

In short: This law enshrines abortion in New York State’s Constitution, allows for abortion in the third trimester, and removes protections for babies born alive after botched abortions.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) called the bill a “historic victory for New Yorkers and our progressive values.” Outrageously, Gov. Cuomo ordered that One World Trade Center’s spire, the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge, the Kosciuszko Bridge, and the Alfred E. Smith Building in Albany be lit up pink that evening to celebrate his signing of this extreme abortion bill.

One World Trade Center is a symbol of national solidarity, peace, and our opposition to violence against the innocent. The decision to use this building, built on the ground where innocents died on 9/11 — including at least eleven preborn babies — to celebrate the passing of this bill is a horrific irony. Yards away from the building, the 9/11 memorial explicitly honors the “preborn child” of each of the eleven pregnant women who died on 9/11 and in the first World Trade Center bombing. Planned Parenthood put out a video of the Senate chamber erupting in cheers from State Senators and members of the gallery who were bussed in by Planned Parenthood, all wearing pink.

Ironically, Planned Parenthood released its latest annual report Monday, January 21 showing: they committed 332,757 abortions — 11,373 MORE babies put to death by abortion than the previous year; cancer screenings *fell* seven percent; and adoption referrals dropped by nearly one third. That means, for every one adoption referral, Planned Parenthood gives, **117 innocent preborn little boys and girls** are aborted; bottom-line profits were up almost 150 percent from last year; and yet they’re still fighting for more taxpayer funding — which also increased by \$20 million (to \$563.8 million), according to their report!

Sadly, abortion equals greater profit, and denies the science that life begins at conception, basic human rights, and the truth of the reality of life. The spiritual battle of good vs. evil is greater than ever before. The fear of *Roe v. Wade* being overturned has led to desperate measures as reflected by this bill. More recognize and realize the strength that has developed and grown within the prolife movement. Recent surveys show that **only seven percent** of millennials align with this bill.

Our response from the Life Center is that we are extremely disheartened and overwhelmed with the passing of this bill but moved to stronger action. God calls us to “Love one another.” We are honored and privileged to respect the dignity of life and to save lives, and will continue to join forces in the fight for human life more now than ever. We will expand upon the truthful education we compassionately share with the thousands of women and men who come to us. We make services and resources available so they can make a truly informed decision regarding their particular situation and hopefully choose life for their baby and be empowered in the decisions made for their families.

They know *what* they are fighting for, and we know *whom we are fighting for* and *what we are fighting against*. The question is, **Do you know? Are you willing to join us and stand for life?**

Please pray for the innocent preborn babies in New York State whose lives are in jeopardy now more than ever before and the conversion of hearts. Please always keep our team in your prayers as we continue to confront the spiritual battle for life and the change in our culture for Life.

Continued next page



Continued from page 2

"What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like." —St. Augustine

This is what the Life Center ensures.

Blessings,

Gloria

*Wishing You a
Happy Valentine's Day*



*** To hear a medical perspective on this bill, please visit LifeSite.com and search for the article by Dr. William Lile, OB-GYN, entitled "A Sad Day in New York."**

Great News!! Makeover Alert! AAA Pregnancy Options is now **WOMEN FIRST** Pregnancy Options. **WOMEN FIRST** better reflects the services we offer: helping **WOMEN FIRST** to make life-affirming decisions for their families. Please see March newsletter for more details.

*Thank You * Thank You * Thank You*

Once again, we are grateful to **Theresa and Cristina Claps** of Long Beach for organizing a community donation of baby items. These kind and generous ladies have collected and packed numerous cartons of clothing and other necessities to benefit the clients of the Life Center of Long Island. We are fortunate to have their gracious support.



Event hosted by Theresa and Christina Claps

Thank you to the **Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Victory #595, of St. Patrick's, Bay Shore**, for hosting staff member Meg Malley at their recent Baby Shower to help the families served by the Life Center of Long Island. The generosity and kind attention to our cause of preserving the dignity of all human life is greatly appreciated.

We are thankful for the continued support provided to our clients by the **Catholic Daughters of the Americas and Junior Court #1403 Bishop McDonnell of St. Joseph** in Babylon. Each year, they sponsor a baby shower, now named in memory of Ginny Messina, and collect many lovely and useful items for those we serve at the Life Center of Long Island. It is a beautiful witness of the members' commitment to protecting innocent preborn life.



Baby shower hosted by CDA Court Victory #595, of St. Patrick's, Bayshore

DEACON'S CORNER

Well, the "new" year is a month old, and I wonder how many resolutions have gone out the window. Mine helped me open the window. Something wonderful did happen to Lorraine and me about two weeks ago. A man called Lorraine and asked if he could speak with us about an abortion that occurred many years ago. We met with him in Massapequa, and he told us his story. It had happened many years ago, but the memory kept coming back to him until finally he knew he had to speak to someone.

He had been outside an abortion clinic, praying and in conversations with fellow prayer warriors, he found out about the Life Center. We spoke together for about an hour, and after prayers and tears together, he began to feel better, and then we sent him to a priest for more prayers and confession. It was a special moment for all of us. If you know someone, man or woman, who is suffering from the effects of abortion, have him or her call the Life Center. We can help!

Blessings,

Deacon Frank Gariboldi
Life Center Board Member





PHOTOS FROM 2019 MARCH FOR LIFE



Photos from the March for Life, January 2019, Washington, D.C.



Life Center Communications Coordinator Damian Geminder attended the March for Life last month. It was his ninth March. "Although it is my honor to take part in the world's largest annual civil rights demonstration, I do so with a heavy heart," Damian says. "But as a friend of mine put it, hopefully, the next time we demonstrate in Washington, it will be for a victory march!"

Photo on Left: Caption: Damian and Feminists for Life Board Member Kara Sorenson staffing their booth at the March for Life Expo.

Photo on Right: Caption: Damian had the honor of meeting Nigerian pro-life activist Obianuju "Uju" Ekeocha, founder and president of Culture of Life Africa and author of Target Africa.



COMING EVENTS



DONATIONS NEEDED

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

2019 PASTA DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION

ADOPT-A-BASKET

Each year, the Knights of Columbus Councils of the 8th New York District sponsor a delicious and bountiful Pasta Dinner and Silent Auction to raise funds for the Life Center of Long Island. This popular and often sold-out event is a major fundraiser for the Life Center. The date of this year's event is still pending, but the Life Center's offices are presently accepting items and theme baskets now. Past examples include gardening baskets, game baskets, home baskets, sports baskets, or use your imagination and create something of your own. **All donated items must be new.** Unused gift cards of any valuation are appreciated as well.



PLEASE NOTE:

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via email, kindly forward your email address to infoma@lifecenterli.org.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO OUR DONORS: Your privacy matters to us. Please be advised that the Life Center of Long Island never sells or shares our e-list with third parties.



OFFICERS

Paul Hodermarsky
Chairperson

Dr. Lisa Honkanen
Vice President

Gerry Judge
Treasurer

Marga Regina
Secretary

Gloria Schreiber
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Hodermarsky
Chairperson

Lawrence Di Blasi

Lorraine Gariboldi

Deacon Frank Gariboldi

Dr. Lisa A. Honkanen

Jim Jenkins

Gerry Judge

Linda Alba Masin, Esq.

Deacon Jim Murphy

Marga Regina

Carleen Russell

ADVISORS

Dr. Robert Scanlon
Medical Advisor

Msgr. James P. Lisante
Spiritual Advisor

Chris Modelewski, Esq.
Legal Advisor

Deacon Thomas Lucie