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 Mission**

- **Right to Life of Michigan website**, www.RTL.org, receives about 15,000 unique visitors a month. Visitors accessed our web pages more than 330,000 times in 2016. The site is updated weekly and includes information about every aspect of our prolife work: pregnancy help information, statistics and research about abortion and other prolife issues, a detailed directory of prolife laws in Michigan, candidate endorsements, events, merchandise, etc.

- **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 175,000 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 and the RLM Blog.

- **Our three Educational Resource Centers** serve literature and other resources to local prolife groups and the general public.

- **The Educational Fund** provides interesting and informative speakers on life issues for our affiliates. Affiliates held 53 dinners across the state in 2016, educating thousands of people about our prolife priorities, from local volunteers and business owners to members of the U.S. Congress.

**Youth Outreach**

- **Our staff works closely with prolife leaders on campus, 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 award 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 May, 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 the most outstanding prolife high school senior in Michigan.

- **Our Youth Infographic Contest** 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 CareNet, which operates a 24/7 hotline connecting mothers facing unplanned pregnancies or women struggling with abortion to pro-life pregnancy resource centers in their area for counseling and support.

Advertising on Google through the Educational Fund connects Michigan teens with an informational pregnancy help website, Teenbreaks.com. In 2016, more than 359,000 people saw our advertising and more than 29,000 were connected with pregnancy help information.

The Right to Life of Michigan website, www.RTL.org, features regularly updated listings of all pro-life 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 pro-life organization to utilize major media advertising. Our innovative television and radio ads provide messages that connect our pro-life issues directly to households throughout the state.

Political Action
The pro-life movement’s effectiveness in protecting innocent human life relies heavily 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 pro-life grassroots citizen lobbyists is reinforced by the daily presence in the State Capitol of our legislative staff. A full-time lobbyist and two additional staff members work closely with the pro-life 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 those who oppose our mission.

Financials

Right to Life of Michigan

In 2016 the total income was $1,509,004. 85.6% of that amount came from donations, 10.9% from program services, and 3.5% from other sources.

In 2016 the total expenses were $1,618,531 with 84.5% of that amount toward program services. 12.3% was devoted to fundraising, and 3.2% to general expenses.

Educational Fund

In 2016 the total income was $2,253,977. 93.1% of that amount came from donations, 6.5% from program services, and 0.4% from other sources.

In 2016 the total expenses were $2,082,004 with 74.7% of that amount toward program services. 10.2% was devoted to fundraising, and 15.1% to general expenses.
January

January 22, 2016 marked 43 years of legalized abortion in the U.S., resulting in nearly 56 million lives lost. Right to Life of Michigan affiliates across the state held local events to commemorate the date and the lives lost. Many prolife Michiganders traveled to Washington, D.C., to brave a historic blizzard to participate in the National March for Life. Churches around the country utilized Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund’s bulletin inserts and other materials for their Sanctity of Human Life Sunday programs.

A new 30-minute documentary, “Life Uninvited,” aired on statewide television. The film was produced by the Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund and ties together the four women featured in the Compassion Project ads in 2015. “Life Uninvited” and the Compassion Project address the issue of rape and abortion from the perspective of women who’ve lived it.

Once again, Right to Life of Michigan failed our annual test from the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL). Their report card gave Michigan an “F” because of our record in advancing legal protection for unborn children.

February

The Right to Life of Michigan Blog had its best day ever with a post remembering the media bias surrounding abortionist Kermit Gosnell’s murder case. More than 25,000 people saw a comparison between how the national media failed to cover the Gosnell serial murder case and their obsession with covering criminal charges against David Daleiden (the charges were later thrown out of court).

The Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund hosted four panel discussions during Black History Month in the metro Detroit area. The events were co-hosted with Central Wayne County Right to Life, Students for Life at Oakland University, Students for Life at Wayne State University, and St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscan Fraternity.

The issue of abortion went prime time during Super Bowl 50. Doritos ran a TV ad depicted an unborn child hankering for a snack on an ultrasound machine. The ad received great attention after NARAL went berserk over the depiction of a live child in the womb and prolife organizations followed up on it via social media. Right to Life of Michigan was quoted in FOX News’ coverage of the kerfuffle.

March

By a vote of 65 to 43 the Michigan House voted to enact the Coercive Abortion Prevention Act (CAPA). CAPA was a long-time legislative priority to address the rampant problem of women being coerced into having abortions they do not want.

The Food and Drug Administration relaxed their rules on chemical abortions using RU-486, including allowing non-physicians to hand out the deadly drug. Though abortions continue to decline, the abortion pill is increasing in use because it’s a cheap (though potentially dangerous) way for abortion clinics to get through as many abortion clients as possible.

April

On April 27 300 people gathered in Lansing for our annual Legislative Day. Prolife elected officials in Michigan’s legislature met with local prolife leaders and volunteers to discuss the prolife legislative agenda. The featured speaker was Sue Thayer, a former director of a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in Iowa. The crowd walked to the Capitol following the event to encourage our prolife majority in the Michigan House.

The annual Respect Life dinner was held on April 11 in Livonia. The keynote address was delivered by Abby Johnson, who formerly managed a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in Texas. The event co-hosted by Right to Life of Michigan and the Knights of Columbus Michigan State Council. The dinner draws about 500 guests every year.

Dillon Stevenson from Wastenaw County Right to Life was named Right to Life of Michigan’s 2016 Youth Award recipient for his outstanding prolife efforts. Dillon helped lead his high school’s students for life group and volunteered at many events with his affiliate and Right to Life of Michigan.

May

On May 16 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 8-0 in favor of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Zubik v. Burwell. The Little Sisters and other nonprofits will not be forced by the Obama Administration’s HHS Mandate to purchase drugs or devices that may cause abortions. Right to Life of Michigan also sued in court to stop the mandate.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services’ annual abortion report was released. The report showed the long-term decline of abortions in Michigan had resumed. Abortions increased the previous two years due to an influx of women coming from Ohio, and our 2012 Prolife…
Our Year in Review

June

On June 27 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-3 against abortion clinic regulations in Texas. The decision in Whole Woman’s Health vs. Hellerstedt shut the door for the time being on holding many abortion clinics accountable for filthy and dangerous conditions. The decision is unlikely to impact the updated clinic regulation in Michigan’s 2012 Prolife Omnibus Act.

Governor Rick Snyder signed CAPA into law to help end coercive abortions in Michigan. His signature capped off a 10-year effort to pass the legislation.

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette charged abortionist Michael Roth with 10 criminal counts. Following a traffic accident in 2015 police found controlled substances, medical equipment, and the bodies of aborted babies in the trunk of his car. Roth is suspected of performing at-home abortions.

On June 2 the Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund held the second annual Min Sharetha benefit dinner in West Bloomfield. The keynote speaker was abortion survivor Melissa Ohden. The dinner is an outreach to the large Chaldean community in Detroit. Chaldeans are Assyrian Christians, many of whom fled from persecution in Iraq.

On June 28 the Right to Life of Michigan Macomb Educational Resource Center held its 24th Annual Bid for Life Auction/Dinner in Fraser with guest auctioneer George Blaha, the play-by-play announcer for the Detroit Pistons.

August

RLM-PAC-endorsed candidates won 91.7% of their races on the August 2 primary. In the lone head-to-head matchup with Planned Parenthood, prolife candidate Brian Elder defeated the pro-abortion candidate, Don Tilley, in the Democratic primary for the 96th State House seat.

September

On September 30 Right to Life of Michigan joined prolifers across the country in celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Hyde Amendment. The amendment restricts taxpayer funding of abortion and has saved countless lives since it’s passage.

Michigan’s ban on Medicaid-funded abortions in 1988 alone has saved as many as 250,000 lives.

Our 43rd Annual Conference was held on September 22 in Lansing. The special guest speaker was bioethicist Wesley J. Smith, who addressed the growing issue of doctor-prescribed suicide.

October

On October 26 the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled unanimously that an unborn child can be considered a victim involving an assault on a pregnant woman. The Court used our state’s...
Our Year in Review

November

**Our 21st Annual Benefit for Life Charity Reception** in Oakland County was held on November 3. Bobby Schindler, brother of the late Terri Schiavo, gave the keynote address.

**Our Vida Preciosa (Precious Life) Reception** to benefit Hispanic outreach was held on November 11 in Westland. Latino prolife leader Astrid Bennett Gutierrez was the featured speaker.

December

On December 12 Lt. Governor Brian Calley signed our Fetal Organ Trafficking Ban into law. The law came about because of the undercover Planned Parenthood videos released by David Daleiden and the Center for Medical Progress. Michigan law bans organ trafficking, but the new law removes a loophole allowing “compensation” for donations of organs and tissues.
Our Affiliates

Alcona Right to Life
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
Byron Center Right to Life
Caledonia / Middleville Right to Life
Calhoun County Right to Life
Cass County Right to Life
Central Michigan Right to Life
Central Oakland Right to Life
Central Wayne County Right to Life
Charlevoix / Antrim County Right to Life
Cheboygan 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
Emmet County Area Right to Life
Flat River Right to Life
Gaylord Right to Life
Genesee County Affiliate of RLM
Gladwin County Right to Life
Grand Ledge Right to Life
Grand Rapids Right to Life
Grand Traverse Area Right to Life
Grosse Pointe / Harper Woods Right to Life
Hale Area Right to Life
Hillsdale County Right to Life
Holland Area Right to Life
Huron County Right to Life
Ingham County Right to Life
Ionia Area 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
Manistee County Right to Life
Mecosta/Osceola Right to Life
Midland Right to Life
Monroe County Right to Life
Montmorency 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
Northwest Oakland Right to Life
Novi Right to Life
Oceana Right to Life
Portland Right to Life
Presque Isle Right to Life
Roscommon County Right to Life
Saginaw County Right to Life
St. Clair County Right to Life
St. Ignace Right to Life
St. Joseph County Right to Life
Sanilac County Right to Life
Shiawassee County Right to Life
South Allegan County Right to Life
Southeast Macomb Right to Life
Southern Downriver Right to Life
Tri-Cities Right to Life
Tuscola Right to Life
Upper Downriver Right to Life
Van Buren County Right to Life
Warren-Center Line Right to Life
Western Wayne Right to Life
Wexford / Missaukee Right to Life

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