



# Teachers Saving Children® Inc.

**A Voice for LIFE in Education...**

Volume 22, Number 1

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November 2011



## THOUGHTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Connie Bancroft

*"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."*

-I Timothy 2:1-4 (NIV)

On Wednesday, October 12, 2011, I had the privilege of attending the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Banquet. Our Teachers Saving Children® Inc. of Pennsylvania affiliate was a bronze sponsor of the event. The keynote speaker was former U.S. Senator and 2012 Presidential candidate Rick Santorum. Though there were several other recognitions that evening as well as two awards presented and a challenge for monetary gifts, the lengthy speech of the Honorable Rick Santorum really made the entire evening worth my time in travelling from Ohio over to Pennsylvania. His presentation was the best pro-life and spiritual testimony I have ever heard. It was absolutely powerful.

Santorum delivered an eloquent and emotional explanation of his faith and pro-life journey. He weaved together vignettes from his spiritual, personal, and professional lives in showing how he became a champion of the pro-life cause.

As a young freshman U.S. Senator, Santorum found himself in the midst of the first partial-birth abortion debate on Capitol Hill. He confirmed a statement that I had heard the father of the pro-life movement, Dr. J.C. Willke share a few years ago – that the pro-life cause had actually benefited from the fact that the legislation to ban partial-birth abortion had been attempted through Congress multiple times (including the attempts to override President Bill Clinton's veto). Why? Because the public was educated as to what partial-birth abortion really was. If the legislation had passed the first time and had been signed into law, many Americans would still not have a clue as to what partial-birth abortion really was.

Santorum shared how his speeches decrying partial-birth abortion saved at least one life. A woman was scheduled to have an abortion, but decided to cancel the procedure when she saw his impassioned plea on TV.

During this same time period, Santorum and his wife experienced a crucial situation. He shared about the crisis of faith he experienced when his wife had an ultrasound done of their unborn baby, Gabriel. The news they received was that their son had a fatal defect and was going to die. But Gabriel was born alive and for two hours he lived a life that knew only love. From that experience, Santorum's wife wrote a book Letters to Gabriel which is based upon her journal writings during this time. Her book has impacted the lives of many individuals who have had to deal with the deaths of their newborn babies.

Santorum and his wife faced another crisis when their daughter, Bella, was diagnosed with Trisomy 18 which is a chromosomal condition that results in stillbirth 50 percent of the time. What really impacted me as Rick Santorum shared about this time in their lives was how doctors and nurses treated Bella as if her life was meaningless. However, Bella recently celebrated her 182<sup>nd</sup> week of life – yes the family is celebrating each week that she lives. Santorum shared how at first he was emotionally detached from Bella, but as he witnessed her battle for life during the early months of her life, he came to the realization that Bella could do nothing but love him.

Although the LIFE emphasis spoke volumes to me, what I have found myself revisiting over and over again is Santorum's comments during the first part of his speech. He shared how he had become involved in a Bible "study and accountability" group with other Senators early in his career as a U.S. Senator. It was during this time that his faith in the Lord became real and through his experiences personally and professionally, his faith deepened. Of course, this kind of heart change affects how a legislator votes and his judgment calls in representing his people and his country. Santorum's testimony impressed upon me the importance of praying for our government leaders. With God, nothing is impossible in working within the hearts and lives of men and women, including government leaders.

Yes, no matter what challenges life may face, every human life is worth living. And every life is worth praying for – so that hearts will be changed and lives will be saved – physically and spiritually.

# IN MEMORIAM

The Board of Trustees and friends are heartbroken by the news that was received through Students For Life of America (SFLA). At around 8 PM on Saturday night, October 8, 2011, Kortney Blythe Gordon, Jon Scharfenberger, and two students were returning to the Washington DC area from a SFLA conference in Atlanta when the car Kortney was driving was struck by another car whose driver had pulled out into her lane in an attempt to pass three cars. Because Kortney veered right and the other driver veered left, the cars pretty much struck directly head-on. Kortney and her pre-born daughter, Sophy, died instantly. The driver of the other car also died instantly. On October 18, 2011, Jon Scharfenberger, a front-seat passenger in the car passed away due to complications from injuries he sustained from the same car accident. Two other passengers in Kortney's car sustained seat belt injuries.



Kortney Blythe Gordon  
1983-2011

Kortney Blythe Gordon is the daughter-in-law of John Gordon, the chairperson of the Teachers Saving Children® PA Affiliated and the PA Representative to the National Board of Trustees. She and her husband, Ben, were married on May 21, 2011. Kortney was an integral part our organization. Since the fall of 2010, Kortney and I had dialogued several times by phone. She wrote a powerful article about SFLA which was included in our May 2011 newsletter. In addition, she connected us with SFLA leadership in the Chicago area. This connection enabled us to utilize student volunteers in the Chicago area to assist us with “The Wonder of Life” exhibit at the National Education Association Expo this past June 30 – July 2.

Kortney served as a National Field Director for SFLA. She was a tireless abortion abolitionist. Kortney lived by one of her favorite Scripture verses “To live is Christ, to die is gain.” Teachers Saving Children® has been blessed for the countless gifts that she bestowed to our organization as we collaborated with SFLA in various pro-life endeavors. We are comforted to know that Kortney and her daughter are in the arms of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. SFLA collected donations to help pay for Kortney and her daughter Sophy's burial costs. Teachers Saving Children® Inc. – National donated \$100 towards this need.



Ben and Kortney's  
preborn daughter, Sophy



Jon Scharfenberger  
1989-2011

Though Teachers Saving Children® did not have the strong ties with Jon Scharfenberger; we mourn his loss as well. Jon was the Pregnant on Campus Coordinator and Campus Support Coordinator for SFLA. According to SFLA, Jon had many successes in his short time on staff, including establishing a pro-life campus group at Florida International University that was successful in saving the life of a pre-born baby, a mere one week after the creation of this group.

All of our love, prayers, and support continue to be extended to the Blythe, Gordon, and Scharfenberger families.

**“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”  
Philippians 1:21**

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

**October 22, 2011:** The Teachers Saving Children® National Board of Trustees met in Alliance OH, for their regularly scheduled Fall meeting. The following are highlights of some of the items that were discussed.

1. The Board of Trustees approved changing the “NEA Wonder of Life Exhibit” line item to “Educational Outreach.” This change will allow the organization to utilize “The Wonder of Life” exhibit more effectively and more often than just once a year at the NEA Expo.
2. The Board of Trustees accepted the reports of the State Affiliate Chapters. All State Affiliates are actively involved in making an impact within their own states.
3. The Board of Trustees made a decision to make application for an exhibit at the NEA Expo 2012 in Washington DC, June 30 – July 2, 2012.
4. The Board of Trustees approved the 2010-2011 fiscal report and the following 2011-2012 budget:

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Affiliate State Chapters | 250.00         |
| Awards & Gifts           | 200.00         |
| Legal & Accounting       | 1000.00        |
| Office Administration    | 1200.00        |
| Postage                  | 2500.00        |
| Public Relations         |                |
| Printing                 | 2200.00        |
| Promotion                | 500.00         |
| Telephone                | 800.00         |
| Travel Expenses          | <u>1200.00</u> |
| Total                    | \$ 9850.00     |

5. The next Board of Trustees meeting will be Saturday, April 28, 2012 in Columbus, Ohio. Any member interested in attending this meeting should contact the National Office for meeting details.

## TEACHERS SAVING CHILDREN® NATIONAL 2010-2011 FISCAL REPORT

Balance - September 1, 2010 \$690.22

### Receipts:

#### Contributions:

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| NEA Exhibit  | 4760.74 |
| Designated   | 372.50  |
| Undesignated | 4574.23 |

#### Memberships:

|           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| 2010-2011 | 2445.00 |
| 2011-2012 | 4908.68 |

Interest 3.39 \$17,064.54

### Disbursements:

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Awards & Gifts        | 94.00   |
| Legal & Accounting    | 525.00  |
| Office Administration | 731.45  |
| Postage               | 2096.31 |
| Public Relations      |         |
| Advertising           | 165.00  |
| Printing              | 1885.00 |
| Promotion             |         |
| NEA Exhibit*          | 4227.83 |

#### State Affiliates

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| Designated Gifts    | 362.50  |
| Memberships '10-'11 | 1018.50 |
| Memberships '11-'12 | 1532.50 |

Telephone 567.97  
Travel Expenses 237.90 \$13,443.96

Balance - August 31, 2011 \$4310.80

\*The NEA Exhibit Line Item Balance is \$548.92

**Please note:** There were a large number of membership renewals paid prior to September 1, 2011. Thank you for helping the Board to have a better picture of what our finances will be like for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Reminder: All memberships are now being handled through the National Office. Teachers Saving Children® Inc. - National is very thankful for your membership and, also, for the additional contributions many of you have sent during the course of the year.

## “THE WONDER OF LIFE” EXHIBIT

Teachers Saving Children® has had an exhibit since its inception. Since 2000, an exhibit was developed and materials were purchased for the purpose of exclusively presenting the message of life to thousands of educators during the NEA Expo each summer. Over the years there have been a minimal number of opportunities to use the exhibit during other events. Since May 2011, “The Wonder of Life” exhibit has been used 5 times in addition to the NEA Expo in Chicago. With the opportunities growing for the use of the exhibit and its message regarding the facts and the wonder of human development in utero, the Board of Trustees made a decision to change the “NEA Wonder of Life Exhibit” line item to “Educational Outreach.” The main outreach through this line item will still be the NEA Expo. However, we will be watching for other opportunities to educate teachers and others about the sanctity of life.

The Board of Trustees has approved to make application for the NEA Expo 2012 in Washington DC. Currently we have about \$700 toward the application fee of \$1400. In addition to the exhibit application fee, there will also be miscellaneous fees of approximately another \$900. Though contributions are **not** tax-deductible, please consider giving a year-end gift towards this endeavor. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this special outreach endeavor by sending in your contribution today. Please make checks payable to “TSC Inc. – National.” Carefully note how the amount given is to be designated (“Educational Outreach”).





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**A Voice for LIFE in Education...**

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**39<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2012**

**WASHINGTON DC**

**Thirty-nine** years ago on January 22, 1973, the US Supreme Court handed down the Roe v Wade and Doe v Bolton decisions that allowed abortion on demand in America through all nine months of pregnancy. Awareness of this tragic decision should spur us on to make this coming March for Life the largest one ever!

*The March for Life Benefits All*

For complete details concerning the events of January 23rd, please contact your local Right to Life Chapter or State Right to Life office. For those pro-life teachers and school employees who can not go to Washington DC, it is suggested that you attend the pro-life marches or rallies being held in your own local areas.

**Let's stand together for the Sanctity of Life.**

**NATIONAL 2011-2012 MEMBERSHIPS**

The National Teachers Saving Children® Board of Trustees would like to express their thanks to everyone who has taken the time to renew. As of October 31, 2011, there are 265 paid National Teachers Saving Children® members. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. If you have not yet done so, there is still time to join and receive full membership benefits. Membership cards have been mailed.

This newsletter is published by Teachers Saving Children® Inc.  
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Miss Connie Bancroft, Executive Director

National Board of Trustees:  
Judy Bruns \* John Gordon \* Dennis Healy \* David Kaiser  
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