

Teachers Saving Children Inc. of Ohio at Work

Gary Winney, Assistant Executive Director

On a cold February day, in 1991, in a Mansfield, Ohio church, a group of educators from around the state met for the first time. Motivated by a common concern they were brought together by a unique set of circumstances, instigated by a man in New Jersey named Bob Pawson, an educator who was trying to start a state chapter of what was then a national-level organization. The name of that organization was Teachers Saving Children Inc., and each individual was chosen on the basis of his/her indicated interest in becoming involved to a greater degree in the work of the organization. This initial meeting took place as a result of Mr. Pawson contacting Connie Bancroft and requesting her assistance. It was an exciting moment!

Prayerfully working together, we were able to lay the groundwork for what has now become a vibrant and active organization; it has been an eye-opening and challenging experience, as we, for the first time in our lives, have had to learn all the legal and financial parameters involved in building such an entity. The state requires official registration. The IRS has assigned us a Federal Identification Number and we have received official approval as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. In addition, we run periodic reviews of our finances. As an additional challenge, participating educators must find time to volunteer for the day-to-day functions of TSC alongside their normal teaching responsibilities.

The mission of TSC Inc. of Ohio from its inception has been the establishment of – among professional educators – a respect for all human life, from conception to natural death. All surveys of Ohio educators have consistently shown a desire, by approximately 80% of those responding, to eliminate the abortion issue from the official documents and considerations of the state's professional educational organization. It seems to be in the self-interest of a minority in the upper echelons of these groups to maintain a favorable relationship with such entities as family planning organizations and agencies. Our aim is to enlist the support and involvement of all who share our burden, whether they are educators, concerned taxpayers, or people with a heart for our cause. We wish to deliver Ohio's children from the ever-increasing threat of encroachment upon the local schools, by agencies alien to – and antagonistic toward – traditional moral values, especially as concerns regarding sexual behavior among Ohio's students. Federally-funded endeavors such as "Programs That Work" have the effect of actually encouraging promiscuity while at the same time hiding their actual activities from parents with the use of deceit and fine print. School-based clinics will not only take Ohio's public school system down another notch, they will be the fatal blow that finishes it off for good – but, more importantly, how many young lives will be lost in the process?

As members of TSC Inc. of Ohio's Board of Trustees, we have sought to reach out to educators whenever possible. One way of doing this is by our participation within professional organizations. Being able to work closely with other teachers

somehow helps to decrease misunderstanding between conflicting viewpoints and allows us to maintain our focus upon issues, rather than individuals; personal attacks are less likely to occur when there is a sense that we are all working towards the goal of improving our profession. In this spirit, we have worked with other delegates at various conventions, seeking much-needed changes within professional organizations. Opposition to our cause has been strong, and yet each time we meet, the Lord has provided new and fresh ideas, approaches and strategies; we look to the work of those who have gone before us for the strength to persist, knowing that we are not to grow weary in doing good.

TSC Inc. of Ohio has taken an active part in educating those in the teaching profession, participating in various Right-to-Life conventions and sharing information about how pro-life educators can deal with opposing pressures within their professional organizations. These educators have been pleased to learn of their many available options when asked to provide dues monies that support questionable activities.

An example of our work can be seen in the accomplishments of Ohio Life Issues Caucus, a group of pro-life delegates to the Ohio Education Association (OEA) Representative Assemblies. TSC was instrumental in the creation of this entity about eight years ago. Ohio Life Issues Caucus has been the conscience of the OEA and, as such, has not always received the warmest of support by the establishment; but there is a growing acknowledgement of our work, and we have become a recognizable, respected part of the OEA.

Our hope for the future is that soon our professional organizations will again focus upon education that builds character as well as intellect – and we will continue to pursue this end. While it is said that ignorance is bliss, it is also said that *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...* (Hosea 4:6). We are about the business of educating our pro-life colleagues about the issues facing us. We will explore the possibility of sharing our information and encouragement with those presently training to enter the field of education. In so doing we hope to prepare them beforehand for the decisions they will face at their future institutions of employment. We know that God has called us to be faithful. Our hope is that He will bring victory in His time and way.

Ohio Pro-Life Conference 1999

"Alive and Growing"

Saturday, October 16, 1999

Registration begins at 8 AM

Old North Church, 7015 Herbert Road, Canfield OH

Hosted by Mahoning County Right to Life

For more information: 330-755-1913

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

September 18, 1999: The TSC Ohio Chapter Board of Trustees met in Columbus, Ohio, for their regularly scheduled Fall meeting. The following are highlights of some of the items that were discussed.

1. The Board of Trustees accepted the resignation of TSC Board member Roy Heusel who has served the Ohio Board for the past two years. The Board of Trustees approved the name of Marianne O'Donnell to fill the open seat on the Board of Trustees.
2. The Board of Trustees discussed several different public relation strategies.
3. The Board of Trustees discussed strategies to get TSC members more actively involved and to get former TSC members to renew their memberships (See related article).
4. The Board of Trustees approved the 1998-1999 fiscal report and the following 1999-2000 budget:

Awards & Gifts	50.00
Legal & Accounting	300.00
Office Administration	500.00
Postage	1500.00
Public Relations	
Printing	1200.00
Promotion	250.00
Telephone	<u>200.00</u>
Total	\$4000.00

TSC OHIO CHAPTER FISCAL REPORT

1998-1999

Balance - September 1, 1998		\$1341.93
Receipts:		
Contributions:	503.00	
Memberships:		
'98-'99	1090.00	
'99-2000	1735.00	
Interest	30.18	\$3358.18
Disbursements:		
Awards & Gifts	74.22	
Legal & Accounting	425.00	
National Dues		
'98-'99	218.00	
'99-2000	347.00	
Office Administration	521.25	
Postage	1153.39	
Public Relations		
Printing	1173.05	
Promotion	112.50	
Telephone	37.22	\$4061.63
Balance - August 31, 1999		\$638.48

Please note: There were a large number of membership renewals paid prior to September 1, 1999. Thank you to all those who renewed for helping the Board to have a better picture of what our finances would be like for the 1999-2000 fiscal year. TSC does not solicit additional contributions beyond memberships, but does appreciate any additional contributions received throughout the year.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Teachers Saving Children Inc. of Ohio is a service and support organization for pro-life educators and concerned citizens. The Ohio Chapter has been in existence since 1991. Over the eight years our membership has grown. Interest and concern has increased. There has been a positive impact as our presence and visibility have increased. We have experienced the importance of educating individuals about life issues, and we are seeing changed hearts. In June we sent a letter to each active member requesting their help in spreading the word to other pro-life educators about TSC and in encouraging those individuals to join with us. However, this year our membership renewals have been returning to us at a slow pace. The Board of Trustee members desire to be wise and good stewards with all aspects of the organization, including finances. Therefore, please take the space below and send us your comments.

- What can we do as an organization to better serve you?
- What can we do as an organization to better inform you?
- What type of articles and information do you desire to see in the bi-monthly newsletter?
- What ideas do you have to increase the awareness of TSC?
- Other comments?

This is your organization. We are here to serve you, but we can't serve you unless we hear from you. So, this month we are seeking your input. And we say thanks!

Please send your comments to: TSC Inc. of Ohio, PO Box 125, Damascus OH 44619-0125.