

“The LORD reigns forever; he has established his throne for judgment. He rules the world in righteousness and judges the peoples with equity. The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.” - Ps. 9:7-9

Paths of Justice

Rescue the Weak and the Needy

The psalmist cries to God with these words: “Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked” (Psalm 82:4). PDHC and other pro-life organizations are doing just that. They are rescuing unborn children by providing counsel, support, resources, and training throughout our city. We trust that the article below will enhance your appreciation of these organizations and that you will consider involvement in some way. This fall the Justice Committee is providing opportunities to learn more and do something about this vital issue of our day. Please join us! - Pastor Nick

A Life-Affirming Mission

It is such a joy to hear about a baby being born, to celebrate birthdays and holidays together, and to help children learn new things. The difficult reality, however, is that in the United States this year, approximately 1.2 million pre-born babies will be aborted. Can you imagine if 70 school buses filled with children (about 3,500 total) were destroyed on the same day? It would be recognized throughout the world as a tragedy of epic proportions; and yet, as Brian Fisher, co-founder and president of Human Coalition calculates, that’s about how many children are aborted *per day*.

What can be done about this injustice? We can compassionately help to open up options for the moms and dads of pre-born babies. Many women lack information, support, and feel that they have little choice but to have an abortion. In the academic journal *Medical Science Monitor*, a study showed that 79 percent of women who had an abortion say they were not informed about alternatives and 64 percent said they felt pressure to have one.¹ A recent report described a woman seeking residency status in Ireland who ended up having an abortion due to



her violent and abusive husband making the arrangements for her to have one, even though she had refused.²

Pregnancy resource and medical centers, however, aim to meet the real needs of mothers, fathers, and those who have had abortions. In 2010, for example, they served over 2.3 million people; a conservative estimate of the cost savings for communities during that year is \$100 million, drawing on the help of 71,000 volunteers.

Pregnancy centers provide information on things like prevention strategies, pregnancy, adoption, abortion, and developing goals; they help people develop strong, stable families; and they provide resources for people before,



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Definition of injustice: Injustice occurs when someone with greater power deprives someone with lesser power of freedom, dignity, treasure, or livelihood.

“This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life...”

- God to the Israelites in Deut. 30:19-20

(Continued)

during, and after pregnancy, and more generally for women's health (e.g., STDs). They help people with material resources, counseling, medical care, emotional support, education and training, and they partner with and provide referrals to other community resources for health care, education, and other help.³

Heartbeat International and Care Net reach out with the love of Christ to inspire and equip Christians in the establishment of pregnancy centers that reach the vulnerable and rescue the innocent.⁴ They also have large networks to reach people in need through a toll free number, website, e-mail, and instant messaging, which are used to provide immediate assistance and referrals to pregnancy centers that are local to the person in need.

With five locations, people serving at Pregnancy Decision Health Centers (PDHC) are helping many people in our own community to make healthy choices that are consistent with the intrinsic value of every human life.⁵ They are on the front lines making a big difference in the lives of those in need.



As a church, there are various ways in which we could help them. As individuals, if you are a woman, you could consult with the women who go to one of their centers; men or women can be greeters. They also could use men to simply sit in the back and do their own work to be available for any needs that arise. They have volunteer training the first Tuesday of each month.

For other ways that anyone can help to bring about an end to abortion in America and promote full and flourishing lives, please check out Doug Dunsmoor's article that was published by Heartbeat International here: <https://www.heartbeatservices.org/above-all-else-guard-your-heart>.

There is also a webinar that you can access at the end of it that provides more in-depth training.

¹ See <https://medscimonit.com/download/index/idArt/11784>.

² See <http://www.lifenews.com/2017/08/18/womans-violent-and-abusive-husband-forced-her-to-have-an-abortion-i-wanted-to-keep-my-baby/>.

³ See *A Passion to Serve* here: <http://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF12A47.pdf>.

⁴ See <https://www.heartbeatservices.org/about-us/faqs>.

⁵ See their website here: <http://www.supportpdhc.org>.

Opportunities / Activities

- On Sunday, Sept. 10th, we will have a combined session for the adults after our service instead of separate equipping classes. The president of PDHC, Julie Moore, will speak for us as well as Alison Hickman from the Bair Foundation, which focuses on adoption and foster care.
- On Thursday, Sept. 21st, PDHC has a banquet with guest speaker Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North. You can register here by Sept. 15th: <http://www.supportpdhc.org/upcoming-events/lifeliberty/>.
- Save the date! On Sunday, October 8th we will have a baby shower for a pregnant mother who we've learned about through PDHC. She is having a boy and is due in November. Please also be prepared to sign up for meals that we can provide for her.
- Do you want to get more involved with righting injustice? Come to our Justice Team meeting. Our next one is on Wednesday, Sept. 6 at 7:30 p.m.
- Check with Tom Castor (tcbus7@att.net) or Doug Dunsmoor (dwdunsmoor@hotmail.com) for more information about these and more opportunities.