

Illiana Right to Life Newsletter

Fall 2025

ALL LIFE IS SACRED

www.IllianaRightToLife.org

2025 Annual Banquet:

On October 2nd, the annual Illiana Right to Life banquet was held where those in attendance had the privilege of hearing keynote speaker Brian Westbrook, Founder and Executive Director of Coalition Life. He spoke of his child surviving a sudden medical emergency where he made a promise to serve the Lord had his child survived. He ended up quitting his engineering job to pursue full-time pro-life work. With this, he shared multiple testimonies of aiding pregnant women, changing their minds regarding abortion, and saving the lives of the pre-born. A big thank you to Brian Westbrook for speaking this year and sharing his testimony with us, as well as to Rev Harold Miller for being our emcee for the evening.

A big thank you as well to all of the attendees and those who weren't able to attend but still felt led to donate towards the mission of Illiana Right to Life. We are very appreciative of the generosity and thoughtfulness in gifts provided to continue to support us and the organizations we partner with.

Organizational Support Highlight:

Aid for Women

Illiana Right to Life supports multiple local organizations within the community - one being Aid for Women. Aid for Women is an organization located within the Chicagoland area with locations specifically in Carbondale, the Chicago Loop, Edgewater, Flossmoor, Oak Park, Rockford, Waukegan, and Wheeling. Aid for Women offers a variety of services to the community around them.

One of these many services Aid for Women provides is a pre-abortion screening. They make it very clear that they do not provide abortion services or referrals within this screening. The pre-abortion screening provided involves a medical verification of the woman's pregnancy, an ultrasound exam, an estimation of how far along the pregnancy of the woman is, and a consultation with a medical professional - all provided for free and completely confidential. One may also obtain confidential counseling aside from the pre-abortion screening if struggling with an unexpected pregnancy or difficulties within pregnancy.

With confidential counseling, Aid for Women also provides multiple other support services, free of charge. Some of these support services include different

programs the pregnant woman, or even her partner, can attend which include moms-to-be groups, one-on-one mentorship programs, men's support groups, pregnancy and parenting classes, and a baby boutique program. Aid for Women also offers within their support services different medical and community referrals to assist in physical, material, or emotional needs. They offer advocate discussions regarding health insurance and medical expenses. Last, but not least, they offer support through the two maternity homes they run within the area - one being called "Heather's House" and the other "Monica's House". Those that reside in either of these homes are offered pregnancy support, one-on-one mentoring, life-skills classes, parental training, education assistance, employment assistance, spiritual growth services, and follow-up programs. To be able to obtain residence in one of these homes, one has to apply, be evaluated for candidacy, and complete an interview.

Aid for Women also offers educational services directly on their website. One of these educational topics involves abortion - what it is, emergency contraception, how the abortion pill works, side-effects of surgical abortion, abortion alternatives, etc. With this, Aid for Women also offers education and aid in reversing the abortion pill.

To learn more, you can find Aid for Women at their website aidforwomen.org.

2026 March For Life

Illiana Right to Life will be traveling to Washington DC for the 2026 March For Life, leaving Thursday, January 22 from Midway Airport. The march itself will be held the following day, Friday January 23rd. Reservations for travel had to be made by November 9th 2025 to join the group at the airline, however, arrangements regarding lodging with the IRTL group are open until December 15th. If interested in lodging with the group, please contact Jan VanderZee at jvz23@att.net.

New Quarterly Giving

Beginning next year, Illiana Right to Life has added two organizations to support in our quarterly giving: Safe Haven Baby Boxes and Swaddling Clothes. This is all thanks to those who have generously and selflessly donated to IRTL, sending an increase in our budget. This increase in budget allows for organizations to be added to our support list and allows for additional gifting

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to the organizations already being supported. Below are excerpts regarding the work both Safe Haven Baby Boxes and Swaddling Clothes do within the community.

Safe Haven Baby Boxes

"Safe Haven Baby Boxes offer a compassionate and secure option for mothers in crisis who are unable to care for their newborns. Designed with innovative safety features and installed on the exterior walls of fire stations and hospitals, each box ensures the safe and anonymous surrender of infants. The exterior door locks automatically when a newborn is placed inside, and an interior door allows medical personnel to promptly and securely retrieve the baby, ensuring immediate care and protection. Safe Haven Baby Boxes are a vital resource, providing a lifeline for mothers and a safe beginning for their newborns." (shbb.org)

There are multiple Safe Haven Baby Box locations within the NWI region such as the Crown Point Fire Station, the Merrillville Fire Department, Gary Fire Department #5, Lake Station Fire Department, Hobart Fire Station, Schererville Fire Station #2, Highland Central Fire Department, Munster Fire Department, Portage Fire Station #2, and St. Catherine Hospital.

You can find Safe Haven Baby Boxes on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Youtube, Twitter, or at their website shbb.org.

Swaddling Clothes

"From various donors, we assemble a collection of items associated with pregnancy and motherhood—maternity and baby clothes, diapers, formula, bottles, etc... Then, each location hosts a "shopping day" where you can survey our collection and take whatever you need, up to a certain number of items. If any of the items you take can be re-donated to Swaddling Clothes when you are done with them, we ask that you do so to help those in need after you. We also partner with a number of other organizations, providing you with referrals if you are seeking counseling, health care, employment, etc... And, of course, being a part of a Lutheran congregation, we are always ready to share pastoral care and a Gospel word with those who need them."

(swaddlingclothes.org)

Swaddling Clothes has two locations locally, those being Grace Lutheran Church in Dyer, IN and Faith Lutheran Church in Demotte, IN.

You can find Swaddling Clothes on Facebook or at their website swaddlingclothes.org.

Billboard Campaign

Thanks to your continued charitable contributions, Illiana Right to Life will be running a second "Christmas run" of pro-life billboards this December! Be sure to watch for them between the dates of December 1st - December 18th. The billboard locations will be on I-65 (east side, 1.5 miles south of US 30, facing south) I-65 (east side, 0.25 miles south of 93rd, facing north), I-394 (west side, north of Steger Rd, facing north), I-294 (north side, west of Halsted, facing east), I-80/294 (south side, east of Vincennes, facing west), and US 41 (west side, 0.4 miles south of 45th, facing south). As a committee, we are overwhelmed by the support of our community and are praying this billboard campaign continues to change hearts!

New Giving Opportunities

As stated on our social media platforms and presented at the IRTL Banquet, Illiana Right to Life now has an online giving platform for your convenience. This online platform is called "Zeffy". You can donate at any time you feel led by scanning the QR code posted below. Of course, any form of donation will continue to be accepted (cash or checks) in addition to this new digital way of donating.

To ensure that your full donation amount goes to Illiana Right to Life:

1. Look for the "Help keep Zeffy free" section on the donation summary page.
2. Click the drop down arrow next to the default percentage (e.g., "17% (\$3.75)").
3. Choose "Other" from the menu.
4. Enter 0 in the contribution box to set the voluntary contribution to \$0



Did you know? Illiana Right to Life is on Facebook and Instagram! Follow us at @illianarighttolife