

MARY SAID “YES”! HAVE YOU?

In just a few days we will celebrate the Feast Day of the Annunciation of Our Lord. It is a wonderful Holy Day for many reasons. One, in particular, presents us with a great lesson! Our Blessed Mother says “YES” to the will of God that serves as an example of how we should be open—and accepting—of His Word and Direction. We too have that opportunity many times in multiple circumstances and various periods in our lifetime. We often are called to be “pro-life” and there are many chances to say “YES”! Fortunately, many welcome that call in a variety of ways and unique venues.

RESPECT FOR LIFE as defined by Cardinal Bernardin’s “Seamless Garment” encompasses many areas beyond the Abortion and Euthanasia issues we most often associate with the “pro-life” movement. If you are one of the many individuals who support local organizations like Helping Hand, Community Kitchen, Street Reach, Help 4 Kids, etc. you are engaged in “pro-life” activities. You have heard and responded to Jesus—“Truly I tell you, whatever you do for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you do for Me”.

From teen to elderly many find themselves with no place to go and no one to help them. They become homeless—and often hopeless!

Much has transpired in the fight for life in the 42 years since Roe v. Wade.

Several strong and effective national organizations with local chapters have united “pro-lifers” across the country in the effort to strengthen the culture of life. But with more than a million babies being aborted in the USA annually and the “slippery slope” to euthanasia becoming a reality with assisted suicide being legalized in several states there is much left to do.

In the next few pages of the Bulletin there are examples of organizations (many supported and staffed by local parishioners/residents) who have responded to God’s call to defend and nurture Life---in short to RESPECT LIFE.! Take a moment to review them and possibly select one in which you would like to be involved. Who knows? YOU MAY BE MORE PRO-LIFE THAN YOU THINK.

While we are providing information on a number of organizations that function primarily on a local basis, we are certain that it is not a comprehensive list. We apologize for any oversight causing us to miss an entity that helps in the battle to accept and sustain the most precious gift - **Life Itself!**



PRO-LIFE



GRAND STRAND CITIZENS FOR LIFE is a non-profit organization formed to promote a public recognition of the dignity and right to life from the time of conception to natural death. GSCL encourages an appreciation of family as a fundamental institution of society and seeks to educate the public on problems of abortion, child abuse, stem cell research, human cloning, euthanasia, assisted suicide and related life subjects.

Through its Life events, billboards, media advertising and website, Respect Life information is provided to the community. In addition to education, GSCL partners with Catholic Charities, Birthright, Bethany Christian Services and Coastline Women's Center to provide assistance to women and couples in a crisis pregnancy, encouraging them to "Make the Life Choice". They are offered loving counsel regarding decisions to be made. Services are offered without regard to race, color, and religion, and residency, marital or economic status.

GSCL is committed to work peacefully to end abortion and foster a genuine respect for all human life. An annual interdenominational Prayer Vigil is held in January each year to memorialize the Roe v. Wade decision. For more information, call John Kost at (843) 626-8684 or go to the website at www.MAKETHELIFECHOICE.org.



Coastline Women's Center is a faith-based non-denominational ministry committed to helping both women and men and their unborn children before, during and after unexpected pregnancies.

We promote sexual purity for all, and care for those hurt by Abortion. We serve women of all ages as well as their families, husbands or boyfriends. We assure those

facing an unplanned pregnancy that they are not alone and that the Center is here to offer counselling, material assistance and referrals.

For more information on our services please contact us on 843-488-9971 or at admin@coastlinewomenscenter.org



We love them both...

on medical help, financial assistance, parenting skills, access to legal help, adoption and continuing education. Also offered is material assistance like baby items, maternity clothes and help for other urgent needs. A specific goal is to help teen age clients continue their education and plan for adulthood.

The local center is affiliated with Birthright International. There is a hotline (800-550-4900) operated by trained counselors available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. While the majority of clients desire assistance such as baby diapers, a smaller percentage are abortion minded women who seek counseling. Since opening the center over 200 abortion minded women have made a decision to carry their baby to term. (Family Planning & Abortion Alternatives, 1905 Front Street, Georgetown, SC;

Phone Number: (843) 546-0833; Website: <http://www.birthright.org/georgetown>



BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES: Bethany is a not-for-profit Christian family agency seeking to find a loving Christian home for every child God brings to them.

Bethany provides services to families interested in Domestic or International adoptions. They prepare and educate families for the lifelong journey of adoption. They prepare a home study for them; assist in the matching of families and offer post-adoption support for the real life that begins after the child comes home.

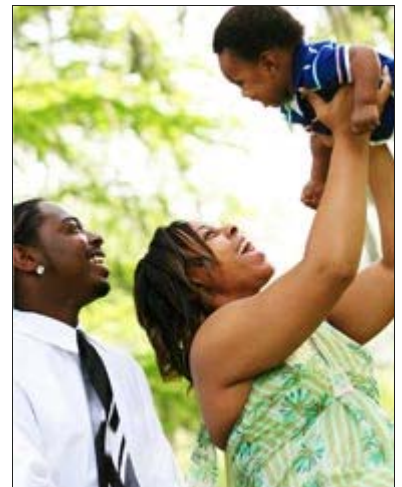
Bethany serves families in over 30 states, including South Carolina, and provides services beyond adoption. In the Myrtle Beach office they provide free pregnancy testing to anyone in need and offer emotional support and non-judgemental education about choices. If a woman is abortion vulnerable they can provide her with a free ultrasound in conjunction with a Knights of Columbus program. If a woman chooses to parent her child, Bethany can refer her to other community programs that offer ongoing support during pregnancy and after the child is born. If she chooses adoption Bethany counsels her through that decision, establishing a plan that affirms her choice for life and allows her to choose the parents of her child. Bethany believes that life is created and sustained by God and ALL life is precious. Additional information is available by calling 839-5433 or going to their web at www.bethany.org.



The Nurse-Family Partnership is a free program to all eligible women having their first baby.

It is a voluntary program where specially trained nurses visit first-time Moms throughout their pregnancy until their child is two years old. During each visit the nurse and Mom meet to accomplish three goals:

- Improve pregnancy outcomes by helping women engage in health practices, including obtaining thorough prenatal care from their healthcare provider, improving their diet and reducing their use of cigarettes, alcohol and illegal substances.
- Improve child health and development by helping parents provide responsible and competent care for their children.
- Improve the economic self sufficiency of the family by helping parents develop a vision for their own futures, plan future pregnancies, continue their education and find work.



This program is part of SCDHEC Pee Dee Region located in Horry, Georgetown and Williamsburg Counties. They can be contacted on 843-915-8899 or on <http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org>



FLORENCE CRITTENTON PROGRAMS In Charleston, SC (Phone (843) 722-7526; Website: www.florencecrittentonsc.org)

Florence Crittenton provides a residential facility for pregnant women in South Carolina who are in need of a safe environment. In addition to housing they provide education, counseling, medical services and life skills tutoring. A mission common to both is to foster the development of healthy babies and to help the mothers become competent, responsible and self-sufficient.



RACHEL'S VINEYARD: Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place for women and men to renew, rebuild and redeem their hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortion emotion to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing.

The retreat can help a person experience God's love and compassion on a profound level. It creates a place where women and men can share, often for the first time, their deepest feelings about abortion. They are allowed to dismantle troubling secrets in an environment of emotional and spiritual safety and then find peace and love.

For more information call Christy (803) 554-6088 or Kathy on (803) 546-6010
or email grace4healing@gmail.com
Website: www.rachelsvineyard.org



HELP 4 KIDS: is a 100% volunteer organization that relies solely on donations. Children should not go to school hungry or without proper clothing, shoes or school supplies. We believe going school prepared will help them learn and be better able to finish school and go beyond the cycle of poverty into which they were born.

In addition, children should not be hungry during the summer when school is out and they have no access to breakfast and lunch. We believe children should have the opportunity to grow, learn and be a child for as long as they can while receiving the basic needs as all other children. Every dollar collected goes for the kids. This year we are celebrating 25 years of feeding hungry children.

Help4Kids provides food, supplies and other needs to children and their families and is a community partner of United Way of Horry County. A total volunteer organization, it is dependent on churches, schools and service organizations to help provide the services listed below:

- Every Friday during the school year, a child whose family is below poverty level receives child friendly meals for the weekend.
- Any and all "gently used" items are collected, sorted and distributed to needy families. Coats, hats, blankets, sleeping bags, etc. are most welcome during the winter and school supplies in the fall.
- Special food collections at Thanksgiving and Christmas as well as the Angel Tree provides much needed assistance to families in need.
- Provide special trips, outings and summer activity programs for children who otherwise would do without.

Watch the bulletin for future dates for donation van to be parked at St. Andrew's CLC.

Help4Kids is located at 12053 B Highway 17 Bypass South.
Contact Barbara Mains at (843) 651-4310 or email barbmains@gmail.com.
Website: www.help4kidssc.org



SOS Health Care, Inc. is a local nonprofit founded in 1989 for the purpose of “partnering with our community in providing hope to our neighbors in need of medical and related care.” In 2010, SOS took a closer look at helping a group of individuals who needed greater assistance in the community. As a result, SOS has devoted the majority of its time and programming to specifically meeting the needs of people who are on the autism spectrum.

As of today, 1 in 68 children will be identified as having (ASD) autism spectrum disorder, according to the (CDC) Centers for Disease Control. ASD is reported to occur in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups. It is more common in boys than in girls and there is no cure. Currently, there are over 4 million people living in the United States who are on the autism spectrum.

Given the ever increasing number of the newly diagnosed along with those who already live with autism, SOS has put great effort into helping through our various programs in order to assist families and individuals throughout their lifespan.

For more information, please visit our website @ www.sos-healthcare.com or contact Sarah Pope, Executive Director, 843-449-0554.

SOS Health Care, Inc.
Physical Address: 704 21st Avenue North, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Mailing Address: PO Box 7136 Myrtle Beach, SC 29572
843-449-0554



The Grand Strand Miracle Leagues is dedicated to providing people of all ages with Special Needs the opportunity to participate in sports and recreational activities in a community-supported, safe, adapted and encouraging environment.

We currently offer a baseball league, soccer league, a golf league for 2015, and an all-access ADA approved playground at our facility.

The rubberized surface of the field is perfect for wheelchairs and walkers, making it the ideal place for recreation with the following rules: Everyone Plays. Everyone Crosses Home Plate. Everyone Wins!

Every player, age 3-43, is a miracle and these leagues enable our players to be a part of a team, play a sport and hear cheers from a crowd.

Contact is Jennifer Averette
Jennifer@gsmiracleleagues.com
843-448-7712 office



Commanded by the Holy Gospel mandates to love, to serve, and to teach, **Catholic Charities** provides care and services to improve the lives of South Carolinians in need.

Catholic Charities' Pee Dee (CCPD) Regional Office serves nine counties throughout the Pee Dee deanery with three primary programs at this time. Our Lady's Pantry provides nutritious food options for families in need of food in our community. CCPD also works closely with the churches in the deanery to provide emergency financial assistance to families experiencing financial hardships. Finally, CCPD is actively involved in the community in promoting family life values, set forth by our Diocesan office by providing emergency baby kits to mothers and fathers in need of emergency supplies for their infants; as well as referrals to partner agencies that promote long-term support and guidance for these families through parenting programs. In 2014, CCPD served approximately 1100 families, 850 children and 300 seniors.

Contact Information:

Phone Number: 1-855-377-1357

2294 Technology Blvd, Conway, SC 29526

Website: www.charitiessc.org



Habitat for Humanity of Horry County: *Seeks to put God's love into action and brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.*

Scope of work:

Lack of decent, affordable housing forces low income families to live in substandard rental conditions, often in dangerous neighborhoods. Typically, these families also pay a large percentage of their income for rent, leaving little money for food, health care, transportation and education. Through affordable home construction for low-income families, Habitat for Humanity of Horry County works to eliminate poverty housing and the social and economic blight it fosters. Homeownership eliminates the pattern of moving from place to place in an effort to seek better and more affordable living conditions and results in stability for children. According to a study by Harvard University children raised in homes owned by their families score higher in reading and math and are 50% more likely to pursue post high school education. The Habitat homeownership program

not only changes the current living situation of a family in need, but literally changes the lives of that family for generations.

Since our inception, we have served over 122 families in Horry County by teaching financial responsibility, the importance of hard work and providing interest free mortgages to the families that have completed the HFHHC homeownership program.

Contact Information:

Rachel Kennon, Faith Relations & Family Services Director

Phone number: 843-650-8815 Ext. 8003 Email: rachel@habitatmb.org

Website: www.habitatmb.org



New Directions

Moving people out of poverty and homelessness...

Street Reach
Homeless Shelter

• **The Center for Women and Children**
Transitional Housing

• **Life Line**
Domestic Violence
Shelter

New Directions of Horry County, Inc. is moving people out of poverty and homelessness through our Back to Work/ Back to Life programs at our three shelters – Street Reach for single men and women, Life Line, for domestic violence victims, and the Center for Women and Children, for transitional services for women and children. Visit our website @ www.myndhc.org or contact us at 843-945-4902 for more information or if you know someone who needs help.



HORRY COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING: This organization is a private, non-profit corporation whose mission is to provide services and programs to seniors County wide that afford older people the opportunity to live independent, meaningful and dignified lives in their own home and community for as long as possible today and in the future. They operate eleven centers that provide services including: transportation to and from a center, a hot lunch, games, crafts, activities, field trips, bingo, movies, health care screenings, guest speakers, education about diet, exercise and much more. For information please call Ray Fontaine, Director on 248-5523. For more local information, call the Grand Strand Senior Center, 1268 21st Ave. North at (843) 626-3991. Website: www.hccoa.org



TARA HALL HOME FOR BOYS purpose is to provide residential, educational and family services to abused neglected boys 6-12 who have emotional or behavioral problems that live within 100 miles of their Georgetown location.

It is a Christ centered school that helps the boy develop moral, social and life skills. It is required that a two year commitment be made during which time the family is assisted by the Hall's Family Services Program preparing for the return of their son.

Call Jim Dunn, Director, on (843) 546-3000.
Website: www.tarahall.org.

Not the one o clock news...

In a mother's womb were two babies. One asked the other: "Do you believe in life after delivery?" The other replied, "Why, of course.... There has to be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later."

"Nonsense" said the first. "There is no life after delivery. What kind of life would that be?" The second said, "I don't know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouths. Maybe we will have other senses that we can't understand now." The first replied, "That is absurd. Walking is impossible. And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous! The umbilical cord supplies nutrition and everything we need. But the umbilical cord is so short. Life after delivery is to be logically excluded."

The second insisted, "Well I think there is something and maybe it's different than it is here. Maybe we won't need this physical cord anymore."

The first replied, "Nonsense. And moreover if there is life, then why has no one ever come back from there? Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery there is nothing but darkness and silence and oblivion. It takes us nowhere."

"Well, I don't know," said the second, "but certainly we will meet mother and she will take care of us."

The first replied "mother? You actually believe in mother? That's laughable. If mother exists then where is she now?"

The second said, "she is all around us. We are surrounded by her. We are of her. It is in her that we live. Without her this world would not and could not exist."

Said the first: "Well I don't see her, so it is only logical that she doesn't exist."

To which the second replied, "Sometimes, when you're in silence and you focus and you really listen, you can perceive her presence, and you can hear her loving voice, calling down from above."

