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LifeGuard is a non-profit educational 501 © (3) organization that promotes the sanctity of human life from fertilization until natural death.

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Biking for Babies

For the past several years, LifeGuard volunteer, John Wright, has been joining the hundreds of cyclists who race the train to Silverton and participate in various circuit races around Durango over Memorial Day weekend. Unlike the other racers, John collects pledges and donations for what he calls “Biking for Babies” and donates that money to LifeGuard. Having completed every race, John would like you to know that he continues to collect pledges and donations even though the event has passed for this year. You can contact John at [wrightsandbaggers@centurlink.com](mailto:wrightsandbaggers@centurlink.com) for more information.



If you know how to knit, crochet or sew, or if you'd like to learn how, please contact the LifeGuard office. Plans are under way to set up a group that could meet once or twice a month to make baby hats, booties, blankets etc. for the young moms who come our way. This time of working together would provide a great fellowship for those involved, as well as a handmade gift of caring for moms and their newborns.

Call Martha at 970-385-8451 to join the fun.

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Bar D Wrangler's Benefit Concert

Most would agree that the Bar D Wranglers are among the most respected, and talented people in Durango. On May 5, the Wranglers generously performed a benefit concert for LifeGuard at the Fort Lewis College Ballroom, for the second year of what we hope will be an annual event. For those who have shared an evening of food and music at the Bar D Chuckwagon, the reason for attending a concert is obvious. For those who have never heard the Wranglers, you have truly missed out on something wonderful. Although this year's concert was poorly attended, those who did come were treated to some great music, lots of laughs, tasty cake, and an evening that left us all uplifted and singing along. Please remember to support those who stand for faith and family values. Taking summer guests to the Bar D would be a great way to do just that. Tell Gary, Matt, Joel, and Richard how much we appreciate what they do.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

November 3, 2018 - 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Southwest Catholic Youth Conference (SWCYC)

December 14, and 21, 2018 - Caroling for the Unborn

Jan. 5 &12, 2019 – Weekend name collection for “Signature Ad” in the Durango

Details to be announced - 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet and Auction

Every Friday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. - Vigil outside Planned Parenthood

Often, when I encounter friends and supporters around town, they will ask “How are things at LifeGuard?” As supporters, of course most want to hear an uplifting story of success with a great ending. We all want that, but seldom are the successes and failures that delineated.

Sadly, the fight to protect the pre-born goes on. We’ve seen a decrease in the overall numbers of young women going into Planned Parenthood most Fridays, but we’re left wondering how many are stopping by during the week for some take-home version of chemical abortion rather than opting for a surgical method. The agenda of Planned Parenthood to make abortion seem like just another everyday minor medical “procedure” often seems to have overtaken the fact that human lives are being brutally ended behind their doors under the guise of women’s health care.

On a positive note, however, we’re also experiencing more drop-in visits to the LifeGuard office, more conversations with young women, and more general one-on-one contact. Some come in to let us know that they are not in agreement with our stance, others come for ultrasounds and pregnancy tests. Some proudly bring in their newborn babies to thank us for being available to them throughout their pregnancies when they needed help and support most.

Those who are pro-choice typically come in with an agenda, expecting to find crazy, unreasonable zealots, and are fully prepared for a fight. Through God’s grace, most leave with literature in hand and a new understanding that those of us who stand for life really are willing and ready to back our words with actions that help both moms and babies in every situation. The press has villainized those who seek to end the killing of the unborn, so it is an added pleasure to be able to dispel the myth that we are all talk and no action. By opening our hands and hearts, we can invite those who are broken and scared to find loving acceptance as “crisis” becomes grace.

In an effort to reach out to more young women and facilitate more conversations and drop-in visits, we have made a few changes. First, the Truth Truck is now parked in a permanent location near Pagosa Springs along the highway for all passersby to see. In its place here at LifeGuard, we now have an open trailer, fitted with a stand that holds a variety of banners that are changed each week to provide helpful, hopeful messages for the young women who have made their way to Planned Parenthood. The new banners have already generated a great deal of interest, and many who call the office are saying that they saw our signs and wanted to know more about LifeGuard’s services. Additionally, we have set up a corner in our ultrasound room that offers a small selection of baby clothes, and knitted hats for newborns. The idea is not to double the services that Durango Pregnancy Center already offers, but to give a small, tangible gift to young women who come in for an ultrasound. We have also put together small gift bags that include useful items such as socks, lotion, tissues, etc., as well as a fetal development chart and LifeGuard literature, to hand out to young women as they enter the parking area of Planned Parenthood.

On a more regional level, pro-life agencies in Farmington, Durango, and surrounding areas have come together to form the Four Corners Coalition For Life. The purpose of this combined effort is to enable all of the individual agencies to coordinate calendars, promote each other’s events, and work for the common goal to end abortion as a unified force. This unity changes nothing within each individual agency, but it does allow leaders to do more strategic planning and to support each other in prayer and presence.

The work that goes on here at LifeGuard takes all of us, building a bridge to save the lives of the little ones caught in the middle. May God be with us as we battle for hope, and fight for life.

### Way of the Cross for the Unborn



On Good Friday, pro-life agencies across the nation joined together to observe the Way of the Cross for the Unborn. This beautifully written prayer was designed as 14 separate “stations” to parallel Christ’s journey of suffering and death to the modern day Golgotha, the abortion clinic.

In the small patch of weeds outside the LifeGuard office, across the street from Planned Parenthood on abortion day, approximately thirty people gathered to walk from one small cross to another as we prayed for those contemplating abortion, those who have had abortions, and for the babies who have lost their lives. Pete and Sally Fochtman alternately read from the booklets and led the group through this very meaningful and touching prayer. Praying together across all denominational lines on one of the most significant days of the Christian calendar was especially poignant. The fact that even on that most sacred day, Planned Parenthood was at that moment performing abortions, made everyone realize fully how important prayer is in the battle to end this tragedy.

Please make this prayerful vigil at LifeGuard a priority each year on Good Friday morning.

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It seems that in Durango, our news for the past few weeks has revolved around “the 416.” With so many people displaced and evacuated, the advent of the Burro Fire, and the worry over tinder dry conditions, the tension is palpable. Rather than despair, let us instead rely on another “416.” Hebrews 4:16 states: *Let us then approach God’s throne with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*



Happy Belated Father’s Day to all of the amazing Dads, Grandfathers, Godfathers, Uncles, Brothers and Mentors out there!



*A good father loves his children by...*

- \*Teaching them to appreciate what they have and to share their blessings with others*
- \*Spending quality time with them*
- \*Leading by example*
- \*Respecting and loving their mother*
- \*Challenging them*
- \*Teaching them right from wrong*
- \*Protecting his family, no matter what*
- \*Showing unconditional love*
- \*Being a Godly man*

A good father makes all the difference in a child's life. He's a pillar of strength, support and discipline. His work is endless and, oftentimes, thankless. But, above all, he is a blessing to his family.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet and Auction



Thanks to all of the wonderful people who continually support LifeGuard, another successful banquet is behind us.

Keynote speaker, Alexis Walkenstein brought an inside perspective on Hollywood's lack of respect for life. MC, Bill Gwinn, kept the evening moving and the crowd entertained throughout the evening. Mickey O'Hare spoke of the history of LifeGuard, and auctioneer, Billy Waters, kept the bids going on some terrific live auction items. The silent auction drew a great deal of interest, thanks to Kelly Norton and her family who made centerpieces, and



solicited, organized, and displayed all of the donated items.

Volunteers decorated, gathered auction items, and made it all seem easy. **Thank you** for your hearts and hands!

We are forever grateful for each and every donor, sponsor, and volunteer. You are the reason LifeGuard is able to help the young women we serve.



**Watch  
for this  
great  
event in  
2019**



### THANK YOU BANQUET VOLUNTEERS, DONORS, AND SPONSORS

Kelly & Ben Norton; Bill Gwinn; Bill Waters; Overright Trucking; Merrion Family Foundation; St. Columba Church; Joel & Margie Krueger; Selina Gallero; Cathy Geissinger; Laura Webb; Knights of Columbus #1407; McDonald's; Knights of Columbus #1408; Disneyland California; City Market North; Kroeger's Ace Hardware; Chef Marc & Anne Weigel; CJ's Diner; Ron Levonius; Wyndam Resorts; River Church; W.I.L.D. Bible Study Group; Cathy Cray; Digs Restaurant; Gary & Betty Wiley; Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad; Selena Kennedy; Steve & Beth Johnson; Kristin Carico; Wright Natural Bakery; Jeff & Jamie McDonald; Spring Creek Carriage Service; Mary & Carlos Baca; Tamie Cottrell; Fr. Kevin Novack; Honeyville; Pat Zink; Urban Market; Kathy L'Amour; Lori Swift; Power to Act; Sarah Dobrowski; Pat & Melisa Dillon; Burnham Fireworks; Jean Pierre Bakery & Wine Bar; Woodhouse Day Spa; Monkey Shine Car Wash; Great Harvest Bread Co; Elegant Nail Salon & Spa; Bed, Bath & Beyond; Pine River Pawn; Vicki Velez; John O'Hare; Janice O'Hare; O'Hare Family; Harley Davidson; Durango Joe's; Big 5 Sporting Goods; Allen Theaters; Peak Production; Larry & Theresa Rockett; Julia Vargus; Cheryl Jackson; Durango Glass; Cookie Hoselton; Velvet Monkey; Sharon Glassmaker; Dale & Shae Willard; Gundrey Family; Sandner Family; Stevens Family; Durango Rec Center

7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

SWOYC

SOUTHWEST CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE

November 3, 2018

Farmington Civic Center

“FRUITS”

*“Grow deep roots to harvest rich fruit! When your roots run deep, you cannot help but bear the fruit of the Spirit.”*

~Michael Beckwith



**Joel Stepanek**

Director of Resource Development for Life Teen International,  
Author, Packer fan, husband, father



**Katie Prejean McGrady**

International speaker, educator, author, blogger,  
self-proclaimed ice cream connoisseur, wife, mother



**Josh Blakesley Band**

Internationally renowned musicians on a mission to  
“Make music that moves people into prayer and action.”