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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.



You just never know, do you? You never know when an idea will become a mission. You never know when a ripple will become a wave. You never know when a few determined souls will begin a work that will establish a change. You just never know.

Over the course of the past 40 days, I've been privileged to watch something truly God-centered and spirit-led coming to life right here inside (and outside) the LifeGuard doors. Christians of all denominations, doctrines, and theologies have come together to pray unceasingly for the lives of God's greatest gift, the unborn. There is no hint of division, no will or need to debate, only the complete unity of God's people working as one.

Every day there are interactions taking place with people driving by and conversations being sparked with perfect strangers who happen to pass through on foot or bicycle. The volunteers who started this mission with trepidation are becoming emboldened and even anxious to share what they know to be true with those who might stop. Unless engaged, all are silent, welcoming, and prayerful, but there has been a great deal of dialogue just the same.

Granted, not all interactions are positive or affirming. As one volunteer joked, he got a "flock of birds" one morning as he was walking the block with his "Pray to end abortion" sign. But there are countless times where smiles, waves, thumbs up gestures, and positive conversations are dominant.

Every day brings a new story; from the man who, through tears, talked about how his daughter had chosen abortion without his knowledge, and how he grieves for his lost grandchild every day, to the woman who shouted from her car window that she was glad we were here, and that she would be praying with us long distance. Placards that read "I regret my abortion" are met with shouts of "I regret mine too." There are the young women who take the gift bags we offer, and the couple who came into our office after having been at Planned Parenthood. Through each of these interactions, miracles abound!

The greatest of all the stories comes from within this small army of prayerful people though. Seeing the people of God unite has been inspiring, uplifting, and so encouraging! Our commonalities are more numerous than our differences. New friendships have been forged, old friendships reinforced, and the bond of common prayer is the thread that has held us all together.

LifeGuard is grateful beyond words for Kit and Sean O'Reilly who organized this critical campaign locally, and have put in countless hours speaking to church leaders, and making sure that every shift is covered. Thank you for allowing us to partner with you. Each volunteer has been a joy! I've greatly enjoyed our conversations, and have been uplifted by your encouragement for the work that LifeGuard does. This has been but a glimpse into the hearts of so many people, and I sincerely look forward to knowing all of you better. I pray that you will continue to be a prayerful presence even after 40 Days for Life is over, and may we see each other again in future campaigns as well.

To all who have been a presence in front of Planned Parenthood since 2006 when this ministry began, you are a steadfast and constant blessing. You have paved the way. You have been the avenue for innumerable "turn arounds," taken the abuse of popular opinion, stood up and been bold in the support of life in all kinds of weather and political climates. God has worked *with* you and *through* you to save lives. Although we will never know the story of every success, we know that children are alive and loved today because of your presence here.

My heart is full with gratitude overflowing. God has begun a great work here. Please don't be a stranger. THANK YOU one and all, and may God bless you always.

~ Martha Sandner – Executive Director

## 40 Days for Life - Sept. 25 – Nov. 3



40 Days for Life is an internationally coordinated 40-day campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful all-day vigil in front of abortion businesses such as Planned Parenthood.

Each day during 40 Days for Life, individuals, churches, families and groups are asked to join together in prayer for an end to abortion so the entire Body of Christ can unite around this common focus.

As a peaceful and educational presence, those who are called to stand witness during this round the clock vigil send a powerful message to the community about the tragic reality of abortion, and serve as a call to repentance for those who work at the abortion center and those who patronize the facility. We are present to reach out to women in crisis pregnancy with love and available resources. We want women to know that there are other, better options for her and her baby.

The first campaign was birthed in Bryan, Texas in 2007. Since that time, 40 Days for Life has been held in 816 cities in 56 countries. 16,000 babies' lives have been saved, 104 abortion clinics have closed, and 191 abortion workers have left the industry! During the current fall campaign alone, more than 296 babies that we know of, have been saved!

For the first time since 2010, LifeGuard is blessed to be participating in this extremely effective and important campaign. Locally organized by Kit and Shawn O'Reilly of Pine Valley Church, this fall campaign has brought volunteers from multiple churches throughout the Durango area who have stood in prayerful presence outside of the local Planned Parenthood from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m., 7 days a week, since September 25<sup>th</sup>, and will continue to do so until November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Kit has done a masterful job of organizing and mobilizing this army of the faithful, filling shifts and constantly making sure that every hour of every day is covered.

Prayer volunteers are seeing the fruit from all the hours of prayer that have gone forth ...

"Quiet day at Planned Parenthood! No sign of abortions today! And, there has been a significant drop in client activity, in general, over the last few weeks! Let's raise a hallelujah!" - Kit

"For the first time ever of being here (praying) for years, I feel a different spirit over this place (Planned Parenthood). The oppression and darkness is lifting! – Melanie



"I'm so encouraged by the fruit of the prayers. I've never seen so little activity at Planned Parenthood as during this prayer initiative! God hears! - Tom

"There was a note of thanks left at the LifeGuard office stating that because of prayer volunteers, a baby was saved a few years ago. Prayer volunteers have been present in front of Planned Parenthood on abortion day for many years! How many babies have been saved over the years, we do not know. But, we do know that prayer and presence is making a difference!" – Kit



*Durango 40 Days for Life would like to thank LifeGuard's Martha Sandner and the LifeGuard volunteers for partnering with us during the current prayer campaign, September 25 - November 3. LifeGuard has been such an asset from which to launch daily prayer, and in keeping a visible presence at the Planned Parenthood location.*

*In Christ,  
Kit O'Reilly  
40 Days for Life Durango Leader*



"No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6) was the theme of this year's Southwest Catholic Youth Conference entitled "Bridges." For 8 years in succession, LifeGuard has facilitated this annual conference in an effort to spread the message of chastity and faith to the youth of the four corners. With renowned speakers from across the country, worship bands, and clergy in attendance, this one day event enables young people between the ages of 13 and 25 to share a day of praise, fellowship, and faith together with hundreds of other Catholic youth.



Co - Masters of Ceremonies Fr. Carl Wertin and Fr. Josh Mayer kicked off the morning, welcoming the crowd and using a huge 3-person slingshot to send t-shirts sailing into the audience to the delight of all. The comedy/worship band Popple, consisting of members Dan Harms and Kyle Heimann, livened things up with interactive stories and songs that would be revisited throughout the day. Dan Harms took time away from his musical role to deliver a very lively keynote address about how God reveals himself in the awkward spaces of our lives.



A relatively new feature of our conference, the 30 minute break out sessions allowed our speakers to address the girls and boys separately. Speaker/Musician Kyle Heimann spoke in depth with the young men about what it is to be a man of God, and the responsibilities that come with that title.

Airline delays left Veronica Macias stranded in Texas, gradually making her way to Farmington, while behind the scenes we scrambled to keep the day flowing. Pulled from her vending booth, and asked to speak just moments before the scheduled start of the women's session, Lauren Castillo from Students for Life masterfully delivered the 30 minute session as though it had been planned that way all along. Lauren spoke with the young women about her own life's journey, the

decisions that had led her to this moment, and the importance of being a woman of God, committed to the sanctity of all human life.



Sadly, Bishop Berg was forced to cancel just days before the conference due to illness, and Bishop Wall was unable to attend this year. In their place, Fr. Matthew Wertin stepped in to speak, spend the day, celebrate

Mass, hear confessions, and to be a huge part of the entire day.

By the grace of God, female keynote, Veronica Macias, arrived in time to deliver her keynote to the group in the afternoon. Relatively unscathed by the long day of unexpected travel and stress, Veronica stepped right in like a pro.

Adoration and Mass are always the highlights of the youth conference, and this year was no exception. The Knights of Columbus Honor Guard #3448 was present again in full regalia to reverently accompany the Blessed Sacrament.



Even though not every aspect of the day went according to our plan, God's plan is always better. I would like to extend a special thank you to every volunteer, to the Knights of Columbus #1407 & #1408 for providing lunches for everyone, to all of our amazing donors and sponsors, to Sacred Heart Church in Farmington for housing travelers, to Lauren Castillo and Fr. Matthew for stepping in at the last minute, to all of our speakers, support staff, and volunteers. Fr. Josh and Fr. Carl did an amazing job of rolling with the punches and keeping the day moving despite the many changes that were happening moment by moment. We certainly felt the presence of God in every aspect of the day, and are so grateful to every single person who came together to build a "bridge" to faith.



**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SWCYC SPONSORS**



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Marc & Anne Weigel

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Steve & Beth Johnson

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**WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK**

Bishop Berg; Fr. Josh Mayer; Fr. Carl Wertin; Veronica Macias; Dan Harms; Kyle Heimann; Lauren Castillo; Courtyard Marriott; Doug Eagle; Vicki Velez; Gundrey Family; Larry & Theresa Rockett; Cameron & Linda Stevens; O'Hare Family; Richard & Barbara Shellbourne; Paulette Arizmendi; Sandner Family; Kroeger's Ace Hardware; Joel Krueger; Matthew McLaughlin (Flannel Photography); Volunteers; Priests; Sisters; Deacons; Youth Ministers; Sponsors; and Parents

We would like to extend a very special thank you to Bonnie Gallegos and St. Mary's Church, Farmington, for providing lodging for weary travelers. We are also especially grateful to the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters, and Chef Marc & Anne Weigel for the delicious meal!



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**



**40 Days for Life** - possible spring campaign TBA

**Christmas Caroling for Life** – Dec. 10 & Dec. 17, 9 - 10 a.m. outside the LifeGuard office. Plan to stay for refreshments afterward.



**Pro-Life Signature Ad** in the Durango Herald, January 22, 2020

Call 970-385-8451, or email lifeguarddurango@gmail.com to add your name



**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet and Auction** – Featuring the Bar D Wranglers - 5:30 p.m., Feb. 28, 2020  
Fort Lewis College Ballroom, Durango



**Stations of the Cross for the Unborn** – April 10, 9 a.m. outside LifeGuard office  
**Southwest Catholic Youth Conference** – Oct. 24, 2020, Farmington Civic Center

**Ongoing dates:** Call ahead for possible schedule changes

**First Tuesday Mass** – LifeGuard chapel, 12 noon on the first Tuesday of each month

**"Knitting" group** – LifeGuard office, first Wednesday of each month

Clients are loving the blankets and hats we've been making!



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# 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LIFEGUARD BANQUET & AUCTION

*A TRULY FUN, FAMILY EVENING!*

Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 5:30 p.m.

Fort Lewis College Ballroom (1000 Rim Road, Durango, CO)

With live music by **The Bar D Wranglers**

SPONSORSHIP  
OPPORTUNITIES  
AVAILABLE



**TICKETS: \$30 each/\$100 per family\***

\*Ticket prices increase to \$35 ea. /\$120 per family on Feb. 18

**Exciting live & silent auction items for adults & children**

**Plus 50/50 raffle jackpot & Pie auction**

**Call 970-385-8451 to get your tickets today!**

A Note from the Treasurer:

I am constantly amazed and impressed with the silent but effective work that LifeGuard does here in the Four Corners region. The stories I hear from our dedicated volunteers, whether seasoned or brand new, all show the wonderful ways we are making a difference. Sometimes I get frustrated, asking myself "why isn't Planned Parenthood closed yet?" At those times, I remind myself to trust in our Lord and realize it's His timing not mine. In the meantime, I hold onto those wonderful stories.

One story highlighted the miraculous power of prayer. An abortion-minded woman came to Planned Parenthood for a pregnancy test with the intention of making a follow up appointment for an abortion. A nurse performed an ultrasound and displayed her baby on the screen. The woman left stunned at the encounter but determined to keep her baby. She called later to speak to the nurse who performed the ultrasound that saved her baby, wishing to thank her. However, she was told by Planned Parenthood staff that there was no one there by that name and that they did not do ultrasounds. Wow! The power of prayer is undeniable!

Please help us keep this amazing ministry going! It is imperative that we keep our doors open and continue to offer FREE ultrasounds, a place for our prayer warriors to meet and bring frightened young women and from where our education efforts continue to influence the public. Unfortunately, we are really struggling financially and desperately need your help. The LifeGuard team makes an effort not to bug our supporters with emails, and mailers and those "free labels" "gifts" in the mail... But, I am begging you now! Can we count on you for \$10? \$20? \$50? \$10,000, (haha)? Or better yet, a MONTHLY secure contribution that would be amazingly valuable in helping us meet our budget? Any donation would really help our mission.

Please call Martha with your credit card or use the enclosed envelope for checks. I thank you sincerely from the bottom of my heart for any help you can provide. Keep those stories coming!!

