

SPRING EDITION



Vol. 26 | 2023

# Right to Life

of Central California



## ONE YEAR LATER

**Read what happened after Aleyda chose life!**

“When I first met Linda, I was nineteen and pregnant. She found me outside of Planned Parenthood. I was lost at the time and felt that I had no choice but to have an abortion. That feeling changed when I had a meaningful conversation with Linda”

**Read the rest on page 4.**

**STAY CONNECTED!**

@righttolifeca



### TABLE OF CONTENTS

DIRECTOR'S NOTE ..... 2

OUTREACH ..... 4

EDUCATION ..... 5

LEGISLATION..... 6

COMMUNITY ..... 7

WAYS TO VOLUNTEER..... 8

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

By RLCC Director, John Gerardi



## MAY

14 Mother's Day  
Corsage Sale

## JUNE

7 Dine for Life @ Wendy's  
8 Mommy & Me  
Birthday Party

## SEPTEMBER

7-10 Educational Booth  
@ Madera Fair  
26 Central California  
Women's Conference  
27 Start of Fall 40  
Days for Life Campaign  
(ends Nov. 5)

## OCTOBER

4-15 Educational Booth  
@ Fresno Fair  
6-8 Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

## DECEMBER

1 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas  
Dinner & Auction

## "TAKE THE FACTS RATHER THAN THE PILL"

The abortion pill has been in the news over the last few weeks, with the Supreme Court ultimately deciding to preserve its FDA approvals while a legal challenge to their validity takes place in a federal court in Texas. Here are the basics to know:

1. The "abortion pill" is a drug called Mifepristone. It is not the so-called "morning-after pill." In the "abortion pill" process, within the first ten weeks of pregnancy, a woman first takes Mifepristone, which cuts off the hormone progesterone and leads to the unborn child's death. A few days later, the woman takes another drug, called Misoprostol, which induces labor and expels the baby. 54% of American abortions are currently performed through this method.
2. Mifepristone received a rushed, "expedited" FDA approval in September of 2000, in the last months of the Clinton administration. The FDA's process for expedited approvals is only to be used for medications that are designed to treat serious illness. However, the abortion pill does not treat any illness, instead terminating the natural process of pregnancy. The Bush administration never reversed this illegitimate approval.
3. Under its initial FDA guidelines, the abortion pill could only be prescribed by a doctor in the first seven weeks of pregnancy, after three in-person visits. In 2016, Barack Obama's FDA eliminated several of these regulations. The FDA extended its use through ten weeks of pregnancy, eliminated the requirement for a doctor to prescribe the drug, and eliminated any requirements for reporting adverse health outcomes short of death. Up to that point, thousands of women had been hospitalized from the abortion pill for excessive bleeding, hemorrhaging, blood clotting, and infection, with twenty-eight women dying from it. The Trump administration never reversed these regulations.
4. In 2021, Joe Biden's FDA allowed abortion pills to be shipped through the mail, eliminating in-person visit requirements. The Department of Justice also declared that they would defend the right of the US Postal Service to deliver abortion pills to states that have outlawed abortion since the overturning of Roe v. Wade. These two acts ignored a federal statute prohibiting the shipping of abortifacients through the mail. In 2023, the Biden Administration announced that prescriptions for the abortion pill could be fulfilled at major pharmacies like Walgreen's or CVS.



**The abortion pill is dangerous, and widely available. The pro-life movement needs to be aware of this dangerous assault on human dignity.**

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## SCAN TO GIVE



Your donations contribute to  
the life-saving mission at RLCC.  
Thank you for your support.

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To receive a printed copy of the Newsletter and/or an E-Newsletter in your inbox, please email [info@righttolifeca.org](mailto:info@righttolifeca.org).



# 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Jo Ann Stephens Memorial **GOLF FOR LIFE TOURNAMENT**



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## **THANKS FOR PLAYING!**

A special thank you to  
**Diane Mazzoni, Cathy Horn,  
Crissy Winslow, Gina Fry,  
Lisa Garver, & the entire  
Golf Committee!**

## **SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!**

# RIGHT TO LIFE OUTREACH

By Outreach Coordinator, Linda Teliha

## "FRESH LOOK, FEAR NOT"

We all decided the Outreach Center needed a facelift, so we went to work finding talent to help make it look inviting and comfortable for those in crisis. Thankfully, after doing a presentation at the St. Anthony's Women's Bible Study, one of the leaders, Dina Shwiyhat, offered her services to help. She has done a beautiful job making our center look exactly the way we envisioned it. There are spaces for each area of outreach. We have a sitting area that looks like a welcoming, comforting living room. There is an area for hosting groups. There is a space for the Move For Life club so that we can display our swag. There is a beautiful mural that expresses what we want to help calm our moms in crisis. "Fear Not" is what it says, with little words of encouragement placed amongst the entire mural. We have a space for fellowship with snacks and drinks.

Lastly, the walls are full of photos of the moms and babies that we have helped over the past four years, showing pictures from day one, to celebratory photos from birthday parties we have hosted at outreach. To bring it all together, we have a banner made for hanging outside with words of hope and a phone number that can be used to reach out to us. Fear Not, come check out the changes.



## "WELCOME BACK, MONICA"



Monica and I complement each other in style and approach with moms in crisis. She will often pick up where I leave off or I will do the same for her. What we do at the Outreach Center is crisis work and we need to be able to think quickly on our feet.

Sometimes you just need to have a minute to regroup your thoughts. We allow for regrouping because we have a trust regarding what will be said and not said. We both feel called to do this work. Monica is especially good with volunteers and making each person feel welcome and important. Having Monica here also gives me time to explore other outreach options such as contacting different groups to offer presentations and look for opportunities to display a table at farmer's markets and other events.

Monica is a breath of fresh air in so many ways and already, since she has been back, we have talked to three moms who chose life. We are off to a great new start and I enjoy having her back on the team providing support and perspective.

**LET'S MOVE FOR LIFE!**  
**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS | 6PM**

For more info, contact Linda at  
[linda@righttolifeca.org](mailto:linda@righttolifeca.org) or 559.212.4433

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO JOIN!**

[f](https://www.facebook.com/moveforliferlcc) [i](https://www.instagram.com/moveforliferlcc) [moveforliferlcc](https://www.moveforliferlcc.org)



## MOMMY AND ME

If you would like to donate items for moms in need, please call the office at **559.229.2229** or email [sarah@righttolifeca.org](mailto:sarah@righttolifeca.org)



*Thank you!*

Ben Romero, from the Knights of Columbus, came by the office to donate to the Mommy & Me Fund.

## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

SPRING CAMPAIGN: WED, FEB 22–APRIL 2

Five college students came out to stand on the sidewalk!

VOL. 26 | 4

Holy Spirit Fresno

**PRO WOMAN CHILD LIFE**  
We Love Them All!

**CLINIC WORKERS**  
Make Sure You and Your Baby  
Have What You Need!  
AMNIONWORKERS.COM

## CONTINUED FROM COVER:

"I chose life and decided to keep my baby. It was the best decision I could have ever made. Throughout my pregnancy journey, I was helped tremendously by Right to Life. I was assisted with prenatal care, maternity clothes, and so much more. Right to Life threw me a baby shower where I received a crib, diapers, clothes, a baby tub, and so many more things I did not know I needed. I will forever be grateful for all the help I received. I am now twenty-one with a healthy baby girl, working alongside Linda at her RMC company."

— Aleyda Guittierrez



# RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION

EDUCATIONAL DESSERT | MARCH 31, 2023 | GIANNA JESSEN | NEWMAN CENTER



Gianna Jessen

“God is using Gianna Jessen to remind the world, that each human being is precious to Him.”

—Mother Theresa



Student Pro-Life group at St. Joachim's in Madera

## AUTUMN LINDSEY HIGASHI

Senior Ambassador for Students for Life

## FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2023

SJM HIGH SCHOOL & FRESNO STATE



Phillip Jensen, Dylan Strobel, Fury Mancuso, TJ Fuentes, Matthew Monsevais, Sam Shields, Justin Janes, Autumn Lindsey Higashi, Sean Hustedde



STUDENTS FOR LIFE  
OF AMERICA

In the morning, Autumn came to speak at San Joaquin Memorial High School (left) and that same day, in the evening, she spoke at Fresno State (right).

**Pro-Life Presentations** for your Parish, School, Religious Education Program, Confirmation Program, & More

### TOPICS FOR CHILDREN

- THE BASIC DEFENSE OF LIFE
- GROWTH OF THE PREBORN BABY
- SLED (SIZE, LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, DEGREE OF DEPENDENCY)

### TOPICS FOR OLDER YOUTH

- ABORTION & PUBLIC POLICY
- PRO-LIFE 101
- HOW TO ANSWER THE 5 MOST COMMON ARGUMENTS AGAINST LIFE & MORE

“Attacking the root of the issue is just as important as the issue itself. I got a better understanding.”

—Eleventh grader,  
SJM High School



Call 559.229.2229 or email [john@righttolifeca.org](mailto:john@righttolifeca.org) for more information or to schedule a presentation

# RIGHT TO LIFE LEGISLATION

By Executive Director, John Gerardi

## USE YOUR VOICE TO TAKE A STAND AGAINST BAD CA LEGISLATION!

Contact your local Assemblymember or State Senator to urge them to vote NO on these bills. You only need to make a phone call, identify yourself as a constituent, and urge them to vote no on the bill number in question. Magnify your voice for LIFE! To find your state legislators, scan the QR code or visit [findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov](http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov).



### AB 315

This bill would prohibit “deceptive” advertising regarding provisions of abortion by any clinic in California. This bill’s provisions can be enforced by individuals filing private lawsuits against a clinic. It is incredibly vague what “deceptive” means, obvious attack on pro-life clinics and centers.

### AB 576

This bill would require Medical-Cal to reimburse providers for administering pill abortions even beyond 10 weeks of pregnancy. Dangerous and spends more taxpayer money on more dangerous abortions.

### AB 710

“Spot Bill” to possibly attack the licensure of pro-life clinics.

### AB 1432

This bill would require group health insurance policies in California to cover abortions and other conscience-violating practices.

### SB 36

This bill would prohibit CA from cooperating with another state in arresting or detaining someone who committed an illegal abortion in a pro-life state.

### SB 345

This bill would eliminate all mention of “unborn children” from California law and would replace it with the term “fetuses.”

### SB 385

This bill would allow physician’s assistants to perform abortions. Currently, only doctors and nurse practitioners may perform them. This lowers the qualifications standard for persons performing abortions.

## CALL YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS!

**Asm. Jim Patterson:** 916.319.2008  
**Asm. Joaquin Arambula:** 916.319.2031  
**Asm. Devon Mathis:** 916.319.2033  
**Asm. Vince Fong:** 916.319.2032

**Asm. Esmeralda Soria:** 916.319.2027  
**Sen. Shannon Grove:** 916.651.4012  
**Sen. Melissa Hurtado:** 916.651.4016  
**Sen. Anna Caballero:** 916.651.4014



# RIGHT TO LIFE COMMUNITY

SOME FUN EVENTS THIS YEAR!

**KID'S DAY**  
**OSO DE ORO PARK**  
Saturday, April 15, 2023

**MARCH FOR LIFE**  
**SACRAMENTO, CA**  
Monday, March 6, 2023



**PLANNED PARENTHOOD PROTEST @ CITY HALL**  
Planned Parenthood protested the abortion pill rulings.  
RLCC came out to be a voice for life!  
Saturday, April 15, 2023



**HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR**  
Reedley Community College  
Tuesday, March 28, 2023

**KINGSBURG WALK FOR LIFE**  
Holy Family Church  
Saturday, February 18, 2023





# RIGHT TO LIFE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

EMAIL [INFO@RIGHTTOLIFECA.ORG](mailto:INFO@RIGHTTOLIFECA.ORG) OR CALL 559.229.2229 FOR MORE INFORMATION!



Liz DeMera & Kathleen Riley helping with bulk mailing



Help us stuff mailers!  
Volunteers come to the RLCC office and put materials about our upcoming events in envelopes!



Sign up for our sidewalk advocacy!  
We are at the Outreach Center which is located by Fresno's main abortion clinic, Planned Parenthood.



40 Days for Life is the leading grassroots movement to end abortion. Come pray together & support women in need.



We have educational booths at the Fresno & Madera Fair around September & October. We need volunteers to staff the booths.



Before & after our events, we need help with set-up & clean-up!

## RIGHT TO LIFE EVENTS

The logo for 'THE BIG FRESNO FAIR' is a green circular emblem with a yellow flag on a pole in the center. The words 'THE BIG FRESNO' are curved along the top and 'FAIR' is in large letters across the middle. Below the fair name are yellow and green vertical stripes.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
We need volunteers to staff our booth!  
**WED, OCTOBER 4–SUN, OCTOBER 15**

**VOLUNTEERS GET  
FREE ADMISSION  
TO THE FAIR!**

VOL. 26 | 8

## Mother's Day Corsages

**SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2023**

Your church or parish may be participating in our annual corsage sale! Orchid corsages will be available after services for a suggested donation of \$10 to give to your mother, grandmother, or special maternal figure!







# Rachel's VINEYARD

Healing the pain of abortion — one weekend at a time

## FINDING HOPE, HEALING AND PEACE

If you or someone you know is hurting from an abortion, please call our Fresno area contacts. We have peer counselors with 20 years of experience and a licensed clinical social worker is available to help. All calls and information shared are strictly confidential and our counselors are off-site.

Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreats are a beautiful opportunity for any person who has struggled with the emotional/spiritual pain of abortion.

### FRESNO AREA CONTACTS:

1.833.776.0023 English | 1.888.686.8537 Spanish

### 2023 RETREATS - CALL TO REGISTER

Fri, October 6–Sun, October 8

## “SHARING THE SADNESS TOGETHER”

By Patricia Lometti, LCSW

Statistics show that 61% of all unplanned pregnancies end in abortion. Sadly, Mother's Day can be a trigger for the grief and loss of many post-abortive women. On a day when motherhood is celebrated and embraced throughout our nation, many post-abortive women experience intense sadness.

Our society does not acknowledge the reality of what abortion really is and the full negative impact it has on the life of a woman. It is a traumatic experience that leaves not only empty arms with the death of a child but can also cause major mental and emotional symptoms including depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, a sense of brokenness, shame, regret, and loss. Most women don't understand how to cope with this type of grief and loss. Often, they don't believe that they have permission to grieve a loss that they themselves have freely chosen. Most feel unforgiven and guard their secret in isolation and secrecy for fear of being judged.

The **Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Weekend** provides a safe and confidential setting in which post-abortive mothers are given permission to mourn their lost child, heal, cleanse, and be forgiven. By confronting their losses and being able to open their hearts to God, they can reclaim their sense of motherhood to the child who is no longer alive physically but who is very much alive spiritually. By engaging in the grieving process, they can release the feelings of love and tenderness they have in their hearts for their child. They can find comfort in being able to honor and give dignity to the life of their child and have full knowledge that God has forgiven them and one day will reunite them with their child in eternity.

## PREGNANCY RESOURCES

Have you or do you know someone who survived an abortion?



**Melissa Ohden**  
Founder

### THE ABORTION SURVIVORS NETWORK

“Since 2019, the **Abortion Survivors Network** has connected with nearly 650 survivors, healing them with healing groups, empowering them with community support, and equipping them to find and use their voice.”

—[abortionsurvivors.org](http://abortionsurvivors.org)



THE  
**Abortion Survivors**  
NETWORK

**CALL 816.737.8685**

4810 NE Vision Rd #25531, Kansas City, MO 64119-6201



No one will be refused from receiving care. Support our pro-life, non-profit OB/GYN clinic serving lower-income women. **Medi-Cal & private insurance accepted.**

559.705.6911 | [obriafresno.org](http://obriafresno.org)

5359 N Fresno St, Suite 108, Fresno, CA 93710



## THANK YOU TO OUR NEW & CONTINUING 300 CLUB MEMBERS!

Many of you knew our beloved former board member, employee, and supporter, Debby Bone, who passed away in October 2020. Not only was Debby a staunch supporter of Right to Life, but she also founded the 300 Club. Debby believed that there is widespread support of the Pro-Life movement in California and that through grassroots efforts, we can save babies! She also knew that not everyone is able to contribute large donations, but if each person gave \$25 a month or any amount they are comfortable with, then together, we can continue the fight for life.

Our 300 Club has been successful due to the support of members like yourself. Thank you for your 300 Club membership! With your support, we will continue to work hard to carry out our mission to Engage, Equip, and Embrace. Thank you all!

The Bathtub Medic  
Brian Bedrosian Farms  
Cross City Christian Church  
Dalena/Benik & Associates Insurance  
Lighthouse Fellowship Church  
New Covenant Community Church  
Rosa Brothers Milk Company  
Sisters of Nazareth  
Trust All Roofing  
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Jeff & Maureen Abercrombie  
Mitch & Susan Akbiyikian  
Rosa Alvarenga  
David J Alvarez  
Merilee Amos  
Anthony & Katie Andrade  
Neil & Marianne Angelillo  
Ray and Hilary Angelillo  
Michael and Darla Anton  
Harvey & Lillian Armas  
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Timothy K. Atmahian MD  
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Doris & Rosemary Avilla  
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Wayne & Carol Bitter  
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Michael & Leanne Bone  
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Bishop Joseph Brennan  
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Sylvester & Margaret Bryan  
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## RIGHT TO LIFE FEATURES *Melissa Ohden*

# RIGHT TO LIFE

# RADIO

**SATURDAYS**  
 9AM | 95.7FM  
 1400AM



GET THE LATEST  
 IN PRO-LIFE NEWS WITH:  
**JOHN  
 GERARDI**

### LISTEN TO MELISSA'S SEGMENT ON RIGHT TO LIFE RADIO:

#### "This Might Actually Stick"

Author and Abortion Survivor, Melissa Ohden, joins to discuss her book and abortion policy with John.

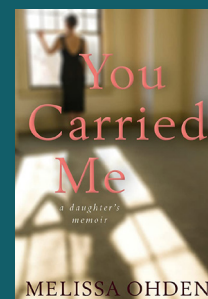
[righttolifeca.org/rtlr](http://righttolifeca.org/rtlr)



"Melissa is the survivor of a failed saline infusion abortion. Despite the initial concerns regarding Melissa's future after surviving the attempt to end her life at approximately seven months gestation, she has not only survived but thrived."

—[melissaohden.com](http://melissaohden.com)

### MELISSA'S BOOK

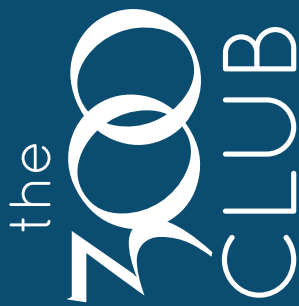


*You Carried Me:*  
 A Daughter's Memoir

Winner of the  
 Christianity Today  
 2018 Book Award

"Melissa Ohden is fourteen when she learns she is the survivor of a botched abortion. In this intimate memoir she details for the first time her search for her biological parents, and her own journey from anger and shame to faith and empowerment."

—[amazon.com](http://amazon.com)



## Less Than a Dollar a Day Saves a LIFE!

Support our mission by joining the 300 Club. It is easy to join and it is the best way to directly impact our community and save lives.

### I Want to Be a 300 Club Member!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

#### "300 Club" Membership

☐ Annual gift of \$300

Method of Payment:

☐ Semi-annual gift of \$150 ☐ Cash

☐ Quarterly gift of \$75 ☐ Check

☐ Monthly gift of \$25 ☐ Credit Card

Please make checks out to "Right to Life of Central CA"

Credit Card Type

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

CARD # \_\_\_\_\_

EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_ CVC \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize RLCC to charge my pre-swiped credit card in the amount of the pledge that I have indicated.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Right to Life of Central CA  
1742 E Griffith Way, Fresno, CA 93726

### Our Mission

#### ENGAGE



2022  
8 babies directly  
saved due to our  
Outreach Center  
presence

#### EQUIP



Radio show reaching  
1,800 local listeners  
and 500 downloads  
per week.

#### EMBRACE



30 impacted women  
supported through  
Rachel's Vineyard  
retreats & phone calls  
each year.



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YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE  
DESMOND FAMILY & WENDY'S IN SUPPORTING  
RIGHT TO LIFE OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA



FOR THIS?



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023 | 6AM-9PM  
DRIVE THRU | DINE-IN | PICK-UP

ANY FRESNO, CLOVIS, SELMA,  
OR MADERA LOCATIONS