

A volunteer branch of Pro-Life Action Ministries

HealthPartners Closes Abortion Center

By Brian Gibson, Executive Director
Pro-Life Action Ministries, St. Paul

Regions Hospital, bowing to the pressure brought by prayer and the presence of thousands of Christians, announced November 25 that the abortuary within the hospital would close on December 9, 2011. This comes after seven 40 Days for Life campaigns involving thousands at the hospital, petition drives, phone calling and emailing campaigns, and millions of dollars in lost business for HealthPartners over its ownership of the hospital and the abortuary.

We cannot express properly the waves of joy we are experiencing with this victory.

There is little doubt that the reason for this announcement on the Friday after Thanksgiving was intended to minimize the publicity of the closing and to pass a "Regions only" spin to the news. But it matters little as to the claims of the hospital; we know how much prayer and labor has gone into convincing hospital officials to close their abortion mill.

This is the first abortion facility to close in Minnesota in more than two decades and the first to ever close due to pro-life pressure.

We thank God first and foremost for this great victory. It is the Lord of Life who has moved hearts and changed minds. We also thank all those who prayed ardently, kept vigil or stood in witness at Regions, who signed petitions, sent correspondence, picketed at HealthPartners clinics and annual meetings, and who aided the boycott of HealthPartners medical insurance these past six years.

And special thanks to the pro-life employees at Regions who courageously worked for the closing of this abortion facility.

How Closing of Regions' Abortion Center Impacts Duluth

By Jim Tuttle

For the last two years we have spent many hours on the street exposing the relationship of Regions Hospital and HealthPartners. HealthPartners (HP) owns Regions and therefore was responsible for its abortion practice; and because HP has offices in Duluth offering its services to local businesses we felt compelled to call for a boycott of HP. We know that some businesses did refuse their services. Unfortunately, Essentia hospital (formerly St. Mary's Medical Center) had chosen to use HealthPartners to manage its health insurance needs, ignoring HP's ownership of an abortion center. For over two years, every week weather permitting, we held signs in front of Essentia Hospital exposing this fact.

It was hard to do this because we had considered Essentia Hospital a friend in the battle to end abortion. Because Regions Hospital has closed its abortion center we will no longer be calling for a boycott of HealthPartners.

For the sake of those involved in making the decision to use HP's service, I will continue to pray for a genuine spirit of repentance. Perhaps if they had told HealthPartners right from the start that they would not do business with them because they are committing abortions, HealthPartners may have ended its practice of killing babies sooner. To a large extent abortion is still legal in this country because Christians have been too passive for too long.

Sidewalk Counseling Encounters

2011—A Fruitful Year

This past year in Duluth we saw six moms change their minds about having an abortion. One as the result of a contact through the website, one by referral from the Lake Superior Life Care Center, and four from sidewalk counseling—this while the number of abortions in Duluth (and the state) have been declining. Typically, in the last few years we have seen between three and four babies being saved from abortion each year. Two more than normal does not seem like much, but for us on the street it is a cause for great joy. The number of babies we can document saved from abortion since I started sidewalk counseling in Duluth (1997) is 87 babies.

Not only have we seen two more babies saved from abortion but also we have seen new volunteers sidewalk counseling. Each individual sidewalk counselor brings something new to the table. There are so many different styles and approaches to sidewalk counseling. No one person is able to be all things to all people—it takes different personalities and abilities. Some individuals on the sidewalk are very quiet, others are very expressive, but God can use whatever you offer and consecrate to him.

One new sidewalk counselor, Beth Weber, has been a great blessing to me even though I have never met someone quite like her before. For the last couple of months she has brought a heavy 6-foot cross to the street and carries it with her all during the time that she sidewalk counsels. At first I had questions about the effectiveness of having such a large cross which requires both hands to manage its weight. But somehow Beth is able to manage the cross and stay focused on speaking to every mother that comes by her as well as pedestrians who pass by. She even has considered quitting her job so that she is able to spend more time on the street witnessing to the sanctity of human life. At the opposite end of the spectrum, there is Eric Larson who has started to come on Tuesdays if they are doing abortions on that day. Eric is quiet and prayerful but is unafraid to speak when he has the opportunity, in a gentle but persuasive tone of voice. There have been others this past year who have come for one or two weeks as God gives them the opportunity. Some have come on their days off from work (such as Stephen Williams) just to pray with me for an hour on non-abortion days. Altogether these new volunteers have made this past year special and have contributed immensely to the spiritual battle that takes place virtually every day in front of the Building for women. I do not know what the coming year holds. For my part I know it is getting more difficult to do what I used to do but with God's help, He will bring others who I have not yet met to share the load and fight the fight to the praise of his glory. I'm looking forward to seeing what God is going to do to make this coming year even more fruitful than this past year.



Pro-Life Ministry Opportunity

I have been involved in Pro-Life Ministries of Duluth for 6 years. Throughout those years, I have had a growing burden to reach out to women, presenting facts that women have a right to know. Women are hurting from not knowing, and the consequence of not knowing when it comes to hormones, birth control, and abortion can be life damaging and even deadly. Ignorance is not bliss when it comes to life and death issues.. The facts I would like to present are indeed concerning life and death issues that every woman has a right to know. With urgency from my husband and my two sons and encouragement from Jim Tuttle I have plans to meet at various Christian women's functions and give a presentation called "Truth and Mercy."

This presentation will teach women the truth about their hormones, birth control, and abortion and how they are tied in with breast cancer and other cancers as well as emotional and physical pressures and distress. I will also include the facts about Planned Parenthood and the Building for Women in Duluth where they are doing abortions every week. And above all, the presentation will teach what God says about these things, as the Word of God is the ultimate source of Truth.

This presentation will tell the truth about the unborn and also is a cry for mercy on the unborn children and for those yet to be conceived, who are condemned to die through abortion. Please pray for me and for this presentation, for God to bless, open doors, and use it for His glory.

Readers are asked to see if they could arrange for this presentation at their church.

Thank you. Sarah Winandy

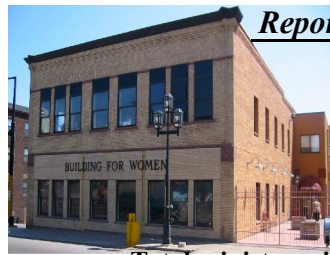
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2012 Events

- Sunday, Jan, 22 Anniversary of Roe v. Wade (see below for details)
- Friday, April 6, Good Friday Prayer vigil
- Saturday, June 9 10 K Walk for Life
- Wednesday, July 4th Parade
- August 11 Bike for Life
- September 9 Memorial Service

(watch for more details in future newsletters)



Report for October 16 - Dec. 31, 2011

Total clients going into building **90**

Clients leaving before an abortion **5**

Confirmed saves in Duluth this report **1**

Total ministry-wide saves this year at time of publication **94**

On the second floor of this building in Duluth, 479 abortions were committed in 2010.



I will come to your location (within 50 miles of Duluth) with all the equipment necessary to set up the crosses. Typically the crosses are up for two weeks. It takes two hours to set them up and 40 minutes to take them down with five or six volunteers from your church. There is no fee or cost to the host church.

Please consider this powerful display for your church for this coming summer giving the unborn a voice and taking a stand against abortion.

The 39th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade Sunday, January 22, 2012

Pro-Life Rally at First Presbyterian Church

300 East Second St.
 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker Denise Walker of Everlasting Light Ministries

Following the Rally:

Candlelight prayer walk to the Building For Women (32 East First Street) from First Presbyterian (5:00-5:30)
 (Refreshments following candlelight prayer walk at church)

For more information, call Jim Tuttle at (218) 393-4954 or write to:
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