



Faith & Freedom

Summer 2007

Newsletter of the Indiana Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice



News Briefs

IRCRC signs on to “no more money” letter

IRCRC joined hundreds of other organizations across the nation to tell Congress to put prevention first and oppose all funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs. Sponsored by SIECUS, the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S., the letter demands “No More Money for these medically inaccurate and ineffective programs.”

Missouri passes restrictive law

Our colleagues in the Missouri RCRC report a devastating development—the Missouri legislature has passed a law that will force the closing of every abortion provider except for one. The law also:

- prohibits anyone who works for an agency that provides abortion or refers clients to abortion providers from teaching sex ed in public schools
- repeals the state law that required sex ed to be medically accurate, and
- gives big money to crisis pregnancy centers and adoption agencies IF they do not tell their clients about contraceptives.

These sobering developments are reminders that we need to prepare for the next Indiana legislative session—many anti-choice initiatives are sure to surface.

RCRC issues hospital guidelines

In April, national RCRC unveiled a new, groundbreaking document calling for hospitals to ensure medical care that respects the religious beliefs of its patients. The suggestions contained in “In Good Conscience: Guidelines for Ethical Provisions of Health Care in a Pluralistic Society,” are recommended for all hospitals to adopt. Learn more at <http://www.rcrc.org/programs/ingoodconscience.cfm> or contact IRCRC. ♦

IRCRC-Planned Parenthood Booth



Sat July 21 - Fri July 27

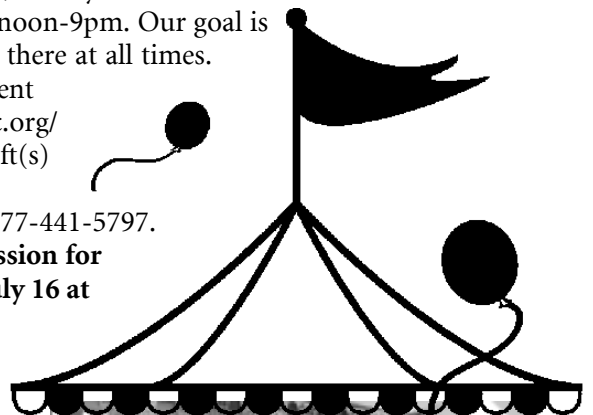
We will be putting our faith into action this summer at the Tippecanoe County Fair in Lafayette, again working in partnership with Planned Parenthood and the League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette. The dates for the fair are **Sat. July 21-Friday July 27.**

We will have two full booths, side by side. Volunteers will work in 3-hour shifts from noon-9pm. Our goal is to have at least three volunteers there at all times.

You may check out the current volunteer schedule at www.ircrc.org/activities.html, decide which shift(s) will work best for you and then contact info@ircrc.org or call 877-441-5797.

An **orientation and training session for volunteers will be held Mon. July 16 at 7pm** at the Tippecanoe County Public Library in downtown Lafayette.

Volunteers from last year's booth encourage you to sign up today!
Contact by email: info@ircrc.org
or call 877-441-5797.



Help spread our “good news” that many religious people are pro-choice—be a fair volunteer!



Toddlers: bold steps, leaps of faith

by Kaye McSpadden, President

Did you know that in a few months IRCRC will be *three* years

old? That's easy for me to remember, because my first grandchild is just about the same age. She was born on the same day as IRCRC's second major event.

Just as I've watched my granddaughter jump from one milepost to the next, I've also seen IRCRC grow and develop, taking quite a few bold steps and leaps of faith along the way.

Since our founding in the fall of 2004 we've held twelve major events—eight in Lafayette and four in Indianapolis. We've co-sponsored a booth at the Tippecanoe County Fair twice, in partnership with Planned Parenthood and the League of Women Voters, and we're getting ready to do it again (see page 1).

We've published seven issues of our *Faith & Freedom* print newsletter, numerous e-newsletters and e-alerts, brochures, and other publications.

We've spoken out through letters to the editor and messages to our legislators. We've engaged in outreach through various speaking engagements and exhibit tables at events such as Purdue's "Sex on the Mall."

IRCRC has found many friends and supporters and has been proud to be a part of several statewide coalitions, including HAPA (the Health Access and Privacy Alliance), and HIYA (the Healthy Indiana Youth Alliance).

Wow, what a great beginning for an organization that's still in the toddler stage! But now, perhaps it's time for a somewhat new direction...

The Board recently held a lengthy long-range planning session in which we re-visited the goals we had set two years ago. We evaluated our accomplishments, and considered the challenges of the future.

As a result of this process, we re-committed ourselves to continue and strengthen current programming, including All Options Clergy Counseling training, faith-based comprehensive sex ed

initiatives, legislative advocacy, and the Annual Faith & Freedom Dinner.

However, we also committed ourselves to begin several *new* programming initiatives, including more outreach to college students and more outreach to congregations.

In addition, we took first steps toward several *structural* initiatives, which will include re-structuring the Board, re-defining membership, and beginning to plan for a paid staff position in the future.

Part of what we're trying to do is gradually shift the center of gravity for IRCRC from Lafayette to Indianapolis. Although the Lafayette-based group that founded IRCRC remains active and dedicated, there's no question that the political, cultural, and media center of the

state is its capitol. In order to be an effective statewide presence, IRCRC needs to have a stronger base there and possibly be headquartered there.

Towards this end, we've decided to hold the 2008 Faith & Freedom Dinner in Indianapolis. This decision came after a long discussion. Board members know this move is a leap of faith but we believe it's a necessary step toward developing a stronger Indianapolis base.

Also, in the near future we will be looking for people from a wider geographical area to serve on the board to help guide the organization in its future programming, communications, and fundraising needs. If you think you might be interested in joining in this effort, please don't be shy—let us hear from you! ♦

MEMO

Did you hear? We were visited by a group of "protesters" at the 2007 Faith & Freedom Dinner in April. The thing is, they didn't exactly "protest." **What they did was to quietly infiltrate our event and force anti-choice propaganda upon our guests.**

Once we figured out what was happening, we invited them to stay as long as they would register and pay the fee like everyone else. Of course, they were not interested in that. There were quite a few of them and the evening turned into a cat-and-mouse game of them trying to sneak in and us trying to find them and asking them to leave.

Since then, I've been thinking about how best to respond, if at all. Believe me, some of my first ideas were not so laudable. However, I then recalled some things I had said in the first issue of our print newsletter. In that issue, I discussed some of IRCRC's ideals and commitments, including: **"We will work to create a society that fosters mutual respect and understanding, not discord,"** and **"We will engage in thoughtful discussion, not shouting and name-calling,"** and **"We value honesty."**

The Board has begun to discuss how to deal with these situations in the future. We want response plans that are thoughtful and effective. And we will continue to strive to use appropriate methods for sharing our message. Somehow, I doubt that we'll be planning a sneak attack on an anti-choice group. If we did that, we would not be true to our own ideals. ♦

IRCRC brings the moral power of religious communities to ensure reproductive choice and health through education and advocacy. IRCRC is a state affiliate of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.

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Highlights of the 2007 Faith & Freedom Dinner

The 2007 "Faith and Freedom" Dinner was held in Lafayette on Saturday, April 14. About 120 people gathered to celebrate and affirm our commitment to reproductive rights and religious liberty. It was an energizing, enlightening, encouraging and truly magical evening! Several clergy participated and people came from as far away as Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, and Evansville. Tables were sponsored by several congregations and our friends at Planned Parenthood.

Top row, left: Guest speaker **Mary E. Hunt** dazzled the audience with her keynote speech, "Catholic, Pro-Choice, and Optimistic." *Top, right:* Board member **Kris Taylor** presents **Rev. Steve Clapp**, President of Christian Community, with the 2007 Dr. Stella Boyd Award for Service. The 2007 Faith & Freedom Award for Advocacy was presented to **Lindsey Mintz**, Director of Government Affairs of the Jewish Community Relations Council in Indianapolis.

Middle row, left: The beautiful harmonies and rousing rhythms of **Sapponia**, ensemble of the **Indianapolis Women's Chorus**, electrified the crowd. Selections included "One of Us Can Make a Difference," "Psalm 23," and "These Hands." Several members of the audience got up from their seats and joined the singers in clapping and dancing during the rousing finale, "We Got the Power." *Middle row, right:* The mellow jazz sounds of the **Danny Weiss Duo** entertained the crowd during the pre-dinner reception.

Bottom row: A groundbreaking forum was held prior to the dinner entitled "All in the Same Boat: Justice for Reproductive Health and Same-Sex Love." L-R: **Mary E. Hunt**, **Patricia A. Boling**, **Dan Funk**, and **Rev. Richard Clough**.



🌸 *Thanks to everyone who helped make the 2007 Dinner such a rousing success!* 🌸

Presentations available online!

Mary E. Hunt's keynote speech: www.ircrc.org/PDF/CatholicProChoiceOptimistic.MaryEHunt.pdf

Hunt's "All in the Same Boat" presentation: www.ircrc.org/PDF/Allinthesameboat.MaryEHunt.pdf

IRCRC President Kaye McSpadden's introduction to "All in the Same Boat" www.ircrc.org/PDF/Allinthesameboat.intro.pdf

...or contact IRCRC and we will send you a copy.

Change Service Requested

Opportunities for action and learning

Clergy Consultation Service honored on 40th anniversary

One of the little known facts about the dark days when abortion was illegal was that hundreds of clergy came together in a volunteer network to provide compassionate counseling and spiritual support to women.

May 21, 2007, marked the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the **Clergy Consultation Service on Abortion**, a network initially formed by 21 ministers and rabbis to assist women seeking safe, secure, and low-cost abortions and to provide advice on such alternatives as adoption and parenting. The service eventually grew to include about 1,400 clergy across the nation and became the forerunner of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. Learn more at <http://rcrc.org/programs/clergyconsultationservice.cfm>

There you will also learn how to honor these heroic clergy with a contribution to the Rev. Moody Clergy Consultation Fund.

A new film about the Consultation Service is coming soon. IRCRC will have the film available for programs. ◆

Coming Up: IRCRC events

Plans for the coming year are still underway. Watch for announcements about these and other activities and developments:



- Tippecanoe County Fair Booth, Lafayette, July 21-27
- Publication of a new brochure listing IRCRC programs and speakers available to congregations and other groups
- All Options Clergy Counseling Training, *Tentative:* Oct. 9 for seminary students, Oct. 10 for clergy, Indianapolis

To stay up to date, make sure you receive IRCRC's "Faith & Freedom" e-newsletter. Just send your name and e-mail address to info@ircrc.org. ◆

Help keep the faith for choice in Indiana!

Use the enclosed envelope to send in a contribution today!

