



# HLA Action News

Summer 2020 Volume 42 | Number 3

**humanlifealliance**  
“Pro-life Information that Saves Lives”

**Editor’s Note:** Welcome to the newly revised “HLA Action News.” Certainly, you’ll note the updated style, or change in appearance, but adjusting to these difficult times imposed by the coronavirus invasion is part of how HLA serves. The funds used to champion this important pro-life mission are your funds. HLA strives to be the best stewards of the financial resources available. So, for the time being, watch for adjustments to HLA’s communication style to share mission updates with you in the most cost-effective manner. What follows is the summer 2020 edition.

Dear Pro-life Friend:

If you we’re kind enough to make a year-end-gift to support HLA’s work, you may have noticed a short little testimony from Tara Shaver in your thank you letter. It simply said, **“It was an HLA publication that started my personal conversion to the pro-life side. I am indebted to HLA for helping me do my pro-life work.”** As a result, Tara and her husband dedicated their entire lives’ work to saving babies after reading an HLA Campus Impact publication.

That simple testimony proves compelling pro-life information has the power to transform hearts and minds. And it does more than that—it not only informs—but through you it helps inspire and involve new people in the pro-life movement.

Recently Allan Parker, President of the Justice Foundation, asked HLA to send 500 copies of the *This is not your only choice* sidewalk counseling magazine for his annual banquet. He wanted his supporters to see this vital resource and learn how many different pro-life organizations work together to save lives. (Alan’s article on pages 14 and 15 provides important legal options to young women who feel pressure to abort.)

Another organization shared, **“We’ve used HLA materials for a while now and in the last three and a half years they’ve helped us save over 1400 babies... When the girls get the real information they don’t go through with the abortion.”**

Sharing responses like these from pro-life volunteers and activists helps you know your efforts can make a difference in someone’s life. Sometimes it’s just one individual—sometimes it’s hundreds or thousands. But one thing I’ve learned from many years of leading HLA’s board and working with dynamic staff and volunteers is that everyone, anyone, can save a life. Your support over the years has saved countless children in the womb, young mothers and fathers, as well as the many elderly or infirmed that need someone to recognize their human dignity.

**Today I want to share with you the compelling story of a sidewalk counselor who has been working on the streets for more than 36 years.** He’s helped countless people through multiple service

initiatives. In the past thirteen years, he dedicated his life and work exclusively to sidewalk counseling.

**Fred Sokol's a gentle, bold man who genuinely cares about young mothers and their preborn children.**

In January 2007, coming home from work, turning down a street that led Fred right by the Rocky River Planned Parenthood center, he felt as if the Lord was saying to him, “You’ve told people everything... except that you’re pro-life.”



*Fred Sokol Outside “preterm” on a snowy winter day.*

This caused Fred to adjust his community-centered work and focus exclusively on pro-life efforts. He said, “Thirty-six years of ‘people advocacy’ now helps me effectively help people to accept God and to accept life, not only for themselves but for their unborn baby.”

“I want to save unborn children’s lives at the abortion mills. My aim is also to educate residents and passersby about the dangers of abortion and viable options, like pregnancy centers,” remarked Fred. “The objective is to change hearts and minds. And inform others.”

Today Fred prays to end abortion at “preterm” abortion center (12000 Shaker Boulevard in Cleveland, Ohio). “I’m out there every Wednesday and Friday, from two to six pm, on a regular, weekly basis throughout the year.”

On the sidewalk, Fred has three main goals in mind:

- Lead women and men to God and to life for their preborn babies;
- Publicly pray to end abortion and to lead others to prayer, God and life;
- Sidewalk-counsel and offer pro-life material to all who pass by.

**“I reach out to everyone who drives by, goes into, works at, walks on the sidewalk in front of, and leaves the preterm abortion mill,”** declared Fred.

On Wednesdays and Fridays Fred peacefully hands out pro-life information to abortion clients—he uses a “live on-stage pro-life Broadway production” to encourage people to choose God and life. “I display approximately eleven pro-life signs in front of preterm to help abortion clients choose God and life. Many motorists slow down and then choose not to go into the preterm parking lot. They drive away.”

**Then after 34 years of community activism and sidewalk counseling, another pro-lifer shared HLA’s *This is not your only choice* street magazine with Fred.** Now he uses it every day when he’s out on the sidewalk.



*Sidewalk Counselor Fred Sokol shows off some of his pro-life signs.*

**six years outside the preterm center, abortions are down 50 percent in the surrounding 44120 (zip code) area.** Fred notes that preterm accounts for one quarter of all Ohio abortions.

When asked what words of encouragement Mr. Sokol would have for others, he volunteered, “Your pro-life presence is important in front of an abortion mill. Approximately 70% of women scheduled for abortion—that see you—will cancel their appointments. The best thing you can give someone at an abortion mill is simply yourself.”

What a courageous man! I hope you’re inspired by Fred’s story—his dedication and witness for life. I’d love to hear about your pro-life story too. Please consider sharing it with me or asking HLA to send you some pro-life materials to inform, inspire, and involve others in your pro-life efforts.

Since first printing the original *She’s a Child, Not a “Choice”* in 1990, HLA materials have been read by over 229.4 million people, in all 50 states, over 88 countries, and even on all seven continents (*but that’s a story for another time*). Many lives are saved though your generous support.

Thanks for your prayers and continued pro-life action.

In Life,

Melanie A. Freimuth  
HLA Board President

**P.S.** To make a donation in support of this effective pro-life work, use the enclosed envelop or go online to [humanlife.org](http://humanlife.org). A simple click on the “donate now” button will allow you to save a life through your donation. If you could consider a monthly gift during this summer of coronavirus, we’d appreciate your kindness. During the summer months HLA produces new resources to support your annual pro-life efforts—God bless!

Fred reports on his use of *This is not your only choice*, “The picture of the young African America woman is highly effective as well as the nine-month development pictures of the baby. When a young woman comes up, I ask her how far along she is and point out what her baby looks like. This is powerful. **So far I’ve saved 33 babies, many with this magazine.**”

Fred’s work has had a real impact on the Cleveland abortion scene. In thirteen years as a dedicated sidewalk counselor, he helped close three abortion centers and one referral site. **After**



## New *Just for Girls/Just for Guys* Released

*The 2020-21 edition of HLA's teen abstinence magazine completely transitions its style to engage Gen Zers. Revised articles share a positive approach to Sexual Risk Avoidance strategies that focus on how waiting to have sex fits into a successful, healthy life. Teens will read both sides of this appealing 16-page magazine.*

*A new digital "Flip Book" is available for reading on tablets, laptops or phones! Just go online to [humanlife.org](http://humanlife.org), click on the magazine image, and use the resource at the bottom of page.*



## Memorials & Celebrations

*Human Life Alliance thanks those who honor their deceased loved ones or celebrate an important event by making a financial gift to HLA.*

**In memory of Mary E. Prior**  
*by Thomas & Therese Vaughn*

**In memory of Clare Eldredge**  
*by Julie Peitz*

**In memory of Ronald "Bud" H. Olsen**  
*by Tim Teynor*

**In memory of Paula Russell Matchen**  
*by Dr. Jim Sullivan*

**In memory of Jeanette Dick**  
*by Gary & Mary Polaczyk*  
*by Joe & Caroline Langfeld*

**In memory of Joseph Brickweg**  
*by Joe & Caroline Langfeld*

## About HLA

Human Life Alliance (HLA) is dedicated to creating a culture in which all human life—from the process of fertilization to natural death—is respected and cherished.

Distribution of HLA's comprehensive pro-life materials has helped high school and college students, church members, young women, medically vulnerable people, sidewalk counselors and pro-life organizations reach 229.4

million readers around the globe.

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