



Last month pro-lifers commemorated the 48th year of *Roe v. Wade*. Please join me in praying for an end to abortion. Even though overturning *Roe* has become a multi-generational battle, there is good news. Since 1990—the year HLA began printing powerful pro-life publications—abortions in the U.S. have fallen 57%. That’s astounding. Over 557,000 babies are saved each year. Take heart!

During the ugly year that was 2020, many HLA supporters asked why we shared so much feedback from sidewalk counselors who use the “street magazine.” Well, early coronavirus restrictions closed schools, churches, and many other venues where HLA teen and young adult materials are typically shared in large quantities. Last April (2020) saw an 80% drop in requests for *Just for Girls/Just for Guys*.

But through a pivot to online flip-books and the valiant efforts of volunteers, HLA experienced a dramatic surge in demand for materials in the new academic year. **We shipped more printed materials last fall than all of the previous academic year combined. And the new flip-books reached hundreds of thousands more young people via their laptops, tablets, and phones.** The turnaround was almost inconceivable. God took what we thought was a bunch of lemons and turned them into lemonade.

Early 2020 restrictions also created new opportunities abroad.

Did you know HLA has a Mandarin language edition of *She’s a child, Not a Choice*? Or that we’re developing several opportunities in west Africa, including Liberia? During COVID times HLA fulfilled request from China, Uganda, Rwanda, the Slovak Republic, Cuba, Hungary, Kenya, Canada, Haiti, and many more countries.

Perhaps the most unexpected opportunity was the translation of HLA’s street magazine into Spanish. As I shared with people in the January release letter, the translation, cooperation, and production of this new magazine was nothing short of miraculous.

Here’s how *Esta no es tu única opción (This is not your only choice)* came into existence:

An HLA Friend, Chris Slattery, asked for help with some young pro-lifers in Spain. They trained with his organization, EMC Frontline in New York, and needed resources to save lives at home. Through EMC many young people from Spain and other nations train in New York with HLA magazines.

Over the years these Spaniards built a powerful pro-life network called HazteOir, which translates into

“make yourself heard” or in English speaking countries, CitizenGo. Last spring, they contacted HLA for permission to print their own edition of the street magazine.

As a form of donation they offered to translate the entire magazine. **This is one of the “hidden secrets” in the pro-life movement, much of the important work around the globe happens through considerable cooperation.**

When asked why CitizenGo needed the street magazine they said, “(Our) contribution to saving lives is indirect since we are not a care service. **For this reason we contacted Human Life Alliance, which is arguably the best international pro-life reference, to translate into Spanish *This is Not Your Only Choice.***”

HLA’s main contacts with CitizenGo in Spain are Teresa García-Noblejas (Head of Communications) and Ignacio Arsuaga (CEO). They used an interdisciplinary team of experts (journalists, doctors, pro-life activists, rescuers, and designers) to publish their first 20,000 copies.

“(We sent) *Abortion is not the only option* out to rescuers and volunteers since they are at the doors of abortion centers to help women... This is a critical moment. The information in the brochure along with the rescuer’s ability to convey confidence to the women is crucial to avoid an abortion,” explained García-Noblejas.

She continued, **“Some women who go to an abortion center do not really know what an abortion consists of, nor its consequences. Many of them are going through a difficult time or probably see pregnancy as a problem. Abortion comes across as a rapid solution.** We want these women to find a way to face an unexpected pregnancy, abandonment, or even harassment.”

When asked what content was helpful in the magazine, Teresa remarked, “The testimonies of women who decided not to abort is significant to help rescuers save lives.”

García-Noblejas shared an example of CitizenGo’s outreach efforts. “We gathered a group of volunteers, doctors included, and parked an ambulance in front of Madrid’s biggest abortion center (Dator). We invited pregnant women to have a free ultrasound in the ambulance as a way to make them realize the life they had inside. Some of these women changed their minds after hearing their baby child’s heart beating. Angélica, one of those brave women, now helps other women to carry on with their pregnancy.”

After Teresa and Ignacio emailed their new edition of *Abortion is not the only option* to HLA, several U.S.



The CitizenGo team sets up the ambulance for an exciting day with HLA’s street magazine.



Praying outside the Dator abortion center in Spain.

Hispanic leaders helped HLA retranslate the text. Did you know Spanish text from Spain is not the same as Spanish in the U.S.?

A good friend in Arizona, Rosie Villegas-Smith, from Voces Unidas por la Vida, was the first to review the text. She noted several changes and offered additional resource contacts for page two. Then Astrid Bennet-Gutierrez of Los Angeles Pregnancy Services reviewed the revised layout and remarked, “This is beautiful!”

Finally, long-time friend Adolfo Castaneda, Director of Education for

Hispanic Outreach at Vida Humana Internacional (*Human Life International*) in Miami performed the final review. He’s the one who should be credited for fine tuning the text. Because of him, even the smallest variations were noted and corrected.

When Adolfo received his copies of the new street magazine, he commented, “I hope it helps you in evangelizing Hispanics. Being a Hispanic myself, I am very grateful for your work.” Isn’t that nice? He did HLA a favor—for free—and still offered those generous comments.

So now you know about some of the people, beyond HLA staff, who helped develop this life-saving resource. These people, just like you, are true friends.

What’s next in Hispanic outreach? Only the Lord knows, but we’re developing a project for the Diocese of Phoenix—they’ve requested help with a bilingual pro-life manual for parish leaders.

As a closing comment, I’ll share with you one last note from CitizenGO. Teresa said they often quote American cultural anthropologist Margaret Mead for inspiration, **“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.”**

Together, you and all of these heroic people save lives across the nation—and around the globe. Thank you.

In life,

Melanie A. Freimuth

HLA Board President

P.S. As a bonus for reading this winter newsletter to the end, I have a new book to share with you. The American Family Association just published Pastor Joseph Parker’s “A Pastor’s Notes: God Calls the Church to Stand Boldly for Life.” The first 100 donations of \$35 or more will receive a brand-new copy as a thank you gift (please use the enclosed reply envelope).



Spain Edition

New Spanish Language Street Magazine

HLA's new Spanish language street magazine is available today. View and share it online at humanlife.org. Single articles should be shared on social media directly through the Issuu.com platform links. Call (651)-484-1040 for help.

Learn more about CitizenGo and its pro-life mission or support their efforts online at citizengo.org.

U.S. Edition

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 Joe Scheidler
by HLA Board

In memory of Dick Sveen
by Joe & Caroline Langfeld

In memory of Peg Wolters
Gerald and Mary Hollenkamp

In honor of All of HLA
by Luis Howard

In honor of My Mother
by James Boen

**In honor of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe**
by Gabriel Dionisi

In honor of New HLA Board Members
by HLA Staff

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.

HLA's comprehensive pro-life materials have reached 232.2 million readers in more than 88 different countries. They include high school and college students, church members, young women on the streets, and medically

vulnerable individuals.

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