

Planned Parenthood Turned Back in Knoxville

The Center for Bio-Ethical Reform (CBR) Southeast Region is pleased to report that the relocation and expansion of Planned Parenthood's (PP's) proposed abortion business in Knoxville have been cancelled. For now. The story is at:

www.knoxnews.com/news/2009/aug/08/clinic-wont-make-move/

This victory was made possible by the combined efforts of the Pro-Life Coalition of East Tennessee (ProCET), along with the various pro-life agencies and people that pulled together to make ProCET work. Special recognition to Tennessee Right to Life, the Diocese of Knoxville, several area Baptist churches, and area crisis pregnancy centers, just to name a few, for their roles in this collaborative effort. You can visit the campaign's website at **www.NoBeardenAbortion.org**.

In addition to our participation in ProCET, CBR's Southeast Region Operations also acted independently to make sure all parties clearly understood the consequences of the PP relocation: pro-lifers displaying abortion pictures on sidewalks, on the sides of trucks, and on airplane tow banners in the vicinity of PP and in front of the businesses who enable their killing programs. We call these signs "weapons of mass instruction." They are the same kinds of disturbing photos that have historically been used by social reformers to dramatize injustice and educate the public.

CBR Southeast Director Fletcher Armstrong wrote, in part:

We intend to dissuade you from partnering with the abortion industry because every PP affiliate kills unborn children on-site or arranges for them to be killed at some off-site facility. To see with your own eyes what PP does and arranges, please see the enclosed photos. For a more complete understanding, please see the video at www.abortionno.org.

You have to know that the many churches, organizations, and citizens who believe abortion is state-sanctioned murder will not remain indifferent. If you collaborate with baby-killers, large numbers of protestors will express their outrage on the public sidewalks and on streets near the proposed facility. People of good conscience will organize a constant presence that will not go away in a few days, weeks, nor even months. The influence of disturbing abortion photos will discourage patronage of business throughout the Bearden Business District.

Should we be forced to go forward with these lawful demonstrations, you may be assured of our commitment to the maintenance of a lawful presence outside your properties. We will not trespass nor interfere with rights of ingress or egress. We will not intimidate nor harass. Nor will our protesters impermissibly interfere with business relationships. But we have a right to show the world the savagery being committed by PP, and we will exercise that right as long as they are present. Although we never violate criminal laws nor breach civil duties, we obviously cannot be responsible for the misconduct of angry retail customers and other passersby.

Our extensive experience with the public display of these truly horrifying aborted-baby photos has taught us that viewers of every political persuasion will go to great lengths to avoid the areas in which the pictures are exhibited.

This last statement demonstrates another way that exposing injustice can be an effective: fear of lost business. Business people instinctively understand that abortion images are so powerful, they will persuade even our most vocal opponents to participate in our “boycott,” because they will go shopping elsewhere in order to avoid our pictures.

CBR Executive Director Gregg Cunningham commented that “For the past 35 years, pro-life activists have been considered toxic in almost every community. Even pro-life pastors view us with a certain amount of suspicion. We have tried in vain to make ourselves more palatable. It is time we started using our toxicity to our own advantage. We need to let them know that if they support abortion, they get us, and they don’t want us.”

The victory in Knoxville is only the first step. Total victory is ending all baby-killing. This job is not finished, so in the coming months, CBR will be announcing our “Corporate Accountability Project,” so that everyone will understand the consequences of enabling abortion in Knoxville, whether by leasing them space, constructing their facilities, or selling them equipment.

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