



ZOE for Life!®

To awaken hearts to the truth that life is sacred,
giving glory to God.

3352 Mayfield Road
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

440-893-9990

www.zoeforlife.org

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What Good is Hope?

Hope is used all the time and in so many circumstances. Can you remember the days when you hoped for a shiny new bike, or a new toy, or maybe a special Christmas gift you asked Santa for? Then, as we got older, maybe we hoped for someone to choose us to be on their team, or for good grades. Maybe we hoped that someone we had our eye on would like us back, or perhaps that we would get that job we applied for, or that promotion. Later, maybe we hoped for a return of good health for ourselves or someone we loved. When we reflect on it, hope has been big part of our lives, for all our lives. Hope has been a constant companion. Hope lifts our spirits, opens us up to new possibilities, a brighter future. Dreams seem attainable when we have hope. Doesn't hope make us a bit more positive? Give us incentive to keep trying despite the odds? Truly, hope does all these things.

Yet can we quantify its true value? Of what tangible benefit is it? Can we hold it in our hands? Sell it? Share it? Can we grasp it, or put our arms around it? Hope doesn't really change things, or does it? We see the difference hope makes in the lives of people who come to us for care and support. They often come to us totally bereft, their future looking bleak, staring down poverty, need and want at their door. Maybe they've been shunned by the ones they thought loved them, leaving them feeling isolated and alone, facing a daunting future. Together, we are often their last chance, to stave off poverty or worse, the separating a mother from her unborn child. But through you, arms open wide, our sisters and brothers are filled with the things that make tomorrow possible. They are given a glimmer of light in their darkened spirits. They are given much more than things. They are given hope.

Because of you.

Be a part of our journey, giving them hope as He gave it to us!

Zoe House® News



Volunteer Louise
Bluhasin

ZOE House® continues to assist mothers in need with baby items to help keep their babies healthy and safe. Recently, we have been assisting many refugees with baby items. Many of these refugees are from Somalia and have been referred to us by Catholic Charities Refugee Assistance Program. Most of them come with no English, but an advocate from Catholic Charities comes with them to assist with language barriers.

The beginning of September is when we switch the clothing we offer from spring and summer to fall and winter. This is an all day process and was achieved by our very hard working and loving volunteers. This helps to assure that mothers can keep their children warm throughout the cold winter months. None of this would be possible without the generous gifts from our donors.

We can be reached at 216-465-9030. If you would like to send items to us, kindly send them 1407 Roanoke Drive, Parma, OH 44134, or through our Amazon Baby Registry: Zoe for Life Cleveland.

Donations can also be made through our website: zoeforlife.org.

News from Atlanta

As we celebrate the arrival of our precious little one, we cannot help but be mindful of those whose circumstances are not as welcoming. So many around us are grappling with life-altering decisions, facing anger and isolation from those they thought loved them. In turmoil, they desperately need a loving presence in their lives to help them through this difficult time. Won't you be the steadying hand, sharing His Love with those who need Him so desperately? We know He loves them as much as He loves us. Join us and become His emissary of compassion and support they so desperately need. Let your light show in the world around you! Contact Chapter President, Tara Freeman at taramfreeman@yahoo.com, or call 706-266-4448.



Two of our Amazing Supporters

We first became aware of ZOEforLife!® and ZOE House® in 2007, following the birth of our second daughter. We had a variety of baby items in our home that were in excellent condition that we no longer needed such as clothing, bottles, and strollers.

We reached out to our priest, Fr. Jim Simeonidis, and asked if he was aware of any families who were expecting and could use these items. He was excited to tell us about ZOEforLife!® and its mission. As Orthodox Christians, we were thrilled to learn this organization existed and we were excited to contribute. We gathered a carload of baby equipment and took it to ZOE House® in Parma. After a tour, we were grateful that Fr. Jim had referred us to this wonderful group.

We were impressed by the warmth and friendliness of the volunteers, the organization, and the assistance they provided women and their children. Following our visit, we made a point of learning more about ZOEforLife!®. This Orthodox charity provides compassionate assistance for women at a crucial time in their lives, empowering them and helping to provide options for them and their babies.

Our initial visit to ZOE House® impacted us and we have continued our support for ZOEforLife!® to this day.

John and Paige Nicholas

Meet Zoe Griebel

Allow us to introduce you to Miss Zoe Griebel! Her mother, Katie (Svilar) Griebel volunteered at ZOE House® with Board Member, Daria Petrykowski of blessed memory. The family attends Holy Trinity



Orthodox Church in Parma, Ohio. Katie was so moved by the love and service being offered at ZOE House®, she named her daughter Zoe! How amazing is that? What a loving testament to the ministry you reinforce with your generosity. God bless Zoe, and all of our stupendous supporters!

News from New York

ZOEforLife!® Southern Tier is continuing to network with social workers, agencies, and other pregnancy support groups in our community to boost awareness of our services and opportunities for moms and families in need. We are looking forward to staffing a table at Dormition of the Virgin Orthodox Church's (Binghamton, NY) Baxter Street Marketplace on November 2nd. We will join crafters and other vendors, share information about our work, and distribute baby items. On December 7th, we will cohost a Baby Open House with the Dormition parish from 1:00 to 3:00p.m.

Moms and families with children under two will be invited to have refreshments and receive gift packages of baby necessities and clothing. Many thanks to all of the donors who gave during our recent baby bottle drive, and to those who donated online through our website.

ZOEforLife!® Southern Tier

54 Baxter St.

Binghamton NY 13905

zoeforlifestier.org

News from Michigan



OUR LADY THE THEOTOKOS GRIEVING FOR INFANTS THAT WERE KILLED IN THE WOMB

Grateful for the opportunity to bring Glory to God, on the fourth Friday of every month, St. Sebastian Orthodox Church in Traverse City, MI will be resuming our monthly service of supplication for the end of abortion before the icon of the Theotokos "Grieving for Infants Killed in the Womb". We have encouraged all MI parishes in our deanery to join us in prayer and to consider purchasing a copy of the icon which can be ordered using the email below or going to:

uncutmountainsupply.com and ordering **Icon of the Theotokos Grieving for Infants killed in the womb (12H23)**. Become a part of this life affirming ministry! Put your faith into action!

Contact us today, Stephanie Chisolm, President
stephaniechisolm@gmail.com. Donations may be sent to us:

ZOEforLife!® Michigan

4170 North 15 Road, Mesick, MI 49668.

Balancing baby and work can be tough!

- *Prioritize self-care: Even a short break can help*
- *Communicate with your partner and family: Share responsibilities and seek support*
- *Plan ahead: Prepare meals, outfits, and childcare in advance*
- *Don't be afraid to ask for help!*

ZOEforLife!® is here to help.

Call **216-465-9030**





Join Our Bottles for Babies Campaign!

We want to send you a baby bottle, and ask that you fill it with loose change. What could be simpler? Just empty your change into the bottle every day. When it's full, take it to the bank and send the cash to ZOEforLife!® Re-use and repeat! Contact Georgiann at cgbod@sbcglobal.net

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Annunciation Mothers Day Luncheon to benefit

ZOEforLife!®



A Great Place to Volunteer

by Maria Sagi

After learning about ZOEforLife!® at the Cleveland *Bringing America Back to Life* (BABL) Conference in March of this year, I became motivated to volunteer for this great organization and assist board members. I fell in love with the mission of this organization based on their ability to maximize the sanctity of life to help families and their children. There is nothing more important to me than protecting life, and the dedicated members. Volunteers of this organization work tirelessly to accomplish this every day. I am eternally grateful to be involved with this organization.

Call us for an appointment: 216-465-9030. We are here to listen and to help.



St. Nicholas VCS

In the spring, the church school children of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Mentor, OH collected money for ZOEforLife!® as their Great Lent Almsgiving Project. About 40 were each given a baby bottle to fill with coins collected from their fundraising efforts. The students collected the change from Forgiveness Sunday until Pascha. All together they collected \$777. This Lenten project was also open to the adults in the parish to donate money or goods such as baby clothes, diapers, blankets, baby hygiene products, toys, bouncers, maternity clothes, etc. The goods were donated to ZOE House® where families in need could 'shop' at no cost for the items they needed. The faithful of St. Nicholas donated \$2,488, which together with the children's contribution totaled \$3,265. We are grateful to have such a unique and blessed Orthodox Charity in the Greater Cleveland area. It was a joy for our parish children and families to support ZOEforLife!®. May God bless the founders and workers of ZOEforLife!®