



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 everyday. When it's full, take it to the bank and send the cash to ZOE for Life!*. Reuse and repeat! Contact Georgiann at cgbod@sbcglobal.net.

3352 Mayfield Road | Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
440-893-9990 | www.zoeforlife.org

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ZOE
for Life!®

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

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Volume **, Issue * • Summer 2023

Development Director Position

If you have the heart and dedication to make a difference in your community, please consider this position. This is an opportunity to support and offer compassion to women facing a difficult decision due to an unplanned pregnancy.

The successful candidate will possess strong leadership and communication skills driven by a commitment to the sanctity of life. The Development Director will be able to enthusiastically engage others in the mission of Aria Place, a women's center offering a safe and nonjudgmental environment for women in the greater Cleveland area (including medical and consulting services). The Development Director will be leading the process of opening the women's center, including establishing the daily operations and funding requirements.

Join our team and enjoy the satisfaction of doing God's work, while enjoying competitive benefits. Call 440-893-9990 to apply.

Changes to AmazonSmile

We thank you for designating us for your purchases made through Amazon Smile. We are sad to share that Amazon has discontinued the charity arm of the organization through Amazon Smile effective January 31, 2023.

Thank You For Your Prayers and Support!

Due to your generous donations to ZOE for Life!®, we are able to support ZOE House® and open our women's center, Aria Place. Aria Place promotes the health of women in unplanned pregnancies, empowering them with education and confidence to make responsible informed decisions. Our goal is to surround women with a caring and nurturing environment they can trust, and a support network they can count on.

Protecting Life in Atlanta

Now that the summer is almost over, we are excited about the next steps for the ZOE for Life!® Atlanta Chapter. We are working on establishing our 501(c)(3), as well as meeting together as a steering committee to push forward with our plans. Please pray for us as we work to put ZOE for Life!® on the map here in Atlanta.

Join us in walking the walk! Please contact Tara Freeman at: taramfreeman@yahoo.com, and help make a difference in the lives of so many. God bless!



Petrykowski Family Trust

Allow us to introduce you to Daria Petrykowski of blessed memory. She began her journey with us as a volunteer at ZOE House®. Her tenderness of heart, joy in Christ and compassion for others was as constant and engaging as her warm and loving smile. Many a time she would hold up a lovely garment for a little girl or boy, and say to the mother, "Won't this be perfect when you take the baby to church?"

She brought us all closer to Him with her steadfast trust and love. Soon, she became board member, relentlessly moving us forward despite any obstacle we might face. When we were bursting at the seams in our first location, and found

another, but at three times the cost, we were hesitant about how we could manage the additional expense. Her response was, "The Lord hasn't let us down so far. He won't let us down now!". Her trust in Him was that unshakable.

The Lord called Daria home in July of 2017. Her husband, Jerry of blessed memory, followed later. Daria and Jerry continue to bless us. We have recently received a major bequest from their family trust. They still watch out for us from heaven!

Thank you, Daria and Jerry, for all you did when you were on this side of heaven, and what you continue to help us do in the years ahead!

Keeping You In the Loop

In our efforts to be the best possible steward of the generosity you have shared, we are updating our mailing list. If you are receiving more than one copy of our Newsletter, may we ask you to please let us know? You may contact us at 440-893-9900, or from our website, www.zoeforlife.org. Thank you!

A New Blessing: Aria Place

By God's Grace, and with your prayers and support, we are adding a new arm to our ministry, a women's center called Aria Place.

Aria Place will provide women in distress due to unplanned pregnancies with a peaceful refuge, an exit door from the dizziness and upset life changes like this can cause.

Anyone's thoughts during a time of crisis can be overwhelming, a tidal wave of emotions. Added to that are the urgent pushing and pulling of those around us to urge us into the decision they think is the right one. The incessant racket can be so loud, it may be impossible to hear our own thoughts, or be mindful of our own heart.

Aria Place will offer that space out of time, a portal through which a woman can walk, to be empowered with reliable medical information and the confidence it will instill, allowing her to make an educated decision about her future. Women will experience a loving and nurtur-

ing environment they can trust, and medical facts they can depend upon. Regardless of her decision, we will stand with her, and offer her the support she needs.

One of our first clients had been dating a gentleman for many years. They had not planned to get pregnant. After several telephone conversations, she and her boyfriend made an appointment, and met with a Client Advocate to share their concerns, questions, and the obstacles they saw before them. By His Grace, through the compassionate conversation offered by our Advocate, they dealt with their issues one at a time. We later learned that the couple planned to marry and keep their baby! What an honor to play a small part in the creation of this new family!

With this new endeavor, we will be hiring for important positions. Besides a full time Development Director, we will need nursing and ultrasound staff as well as a Client Advocate Director. If any of these positions is of interest

to you, please let us know by calling 440-893-9990. Ask to speak with Paula. Funds will also be needed to outfit Aria Place with furnishings that are comfortable and welcoming, to pay lab fees for necessary testing, and offer our staff specialized training. Please help in any way you can.

We are excited to be working with our new Medical Director, Dr. Amy Pantelis. She is exceptionally supportive of the work we are undertaking at Aria Place, and we are excited to see what will be accomplished under her guidance.

This is God's work. Partner with us to help those around us in unexpected circumstances, to see His Hand in their lives, and their futures!



Dr. Amy Pantelis, Aria Place Medical Director

Dr. Amy was born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio. She graduated from Youngstown State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology in 1977. Dr. Amy is an osteopathic family physician having graduated in 1982 with a Doctor of Osteopathy degree from the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Amy is married to (Rev. Deacon) John A. Pantelis, PE, and they have four children and seven grandchildren.

For the next 13 years Dr. Amy developed, owned and operated a family medicine private practice serving the area of Lake Milton, Ohio and surrounding communities. She was a member of the medical staffs of Youngstown Osteopathic Hospital, Warren General Hospital and Robinson Memorial Hospital. In 1990 she was elected Chief of Staff at Youngstown Osteopathic Hospital in Youngstown, Ohio. From 1996 through 2005, Dr. Amy worked as a practicing family physician at two separate medical offices, one in East Palestine, Ohio, and in a multi-disciplinary health manpower shortage area clinic in inner-city Youngstown. Dr. Amy retired in 2020, and for the last fifteen years of her career she served as a Senior Corporate Medical Director for Wellcare Health Plans in Tampa, FL.



Dr. Amy has received numerous recognitions and awards during her career in medicine including serving all elected offices of the Ohio Osteopathic Association and as a Trustee and Vice-President on the Board of Trustees of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) from 1998-2005. She was a member of the inaugural class of the AOA Health Policy Fellowship Program, and is a Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFPP). She received the Ohio University Medal of Merit in 1998 and in 2007 was named Ohio University's Alumna of the Year. She has a passion for philanthropy, women's health care and advocacy for prospective students pursuing medical careers.



A BIRTH Day Baby Shower!

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

On Sunday afternoon, June 25, 2023, a group of parishioners and friends gathered at Annunciation Orthodox Church in Brick, New Jersey (OCA) to celebrate and support Zoe for Life! Southern Tier.

Matushka Mary Buletza Breton, having just celebrated a milestone birthday, decided to put a spin on her birthday celebration. The invitation stated:

“I have been truly blessed with everything I could want: my Orthodox faith, my health, my loving husband and children, my supportive and faithful parents and siblings and their families, wonderful parish families, my fabulous friends, and clients! I want for nothing.

Thus, in order to celebrate this milestone in my life, I would like to celebrate life by hosting a baby shower for the organization ZOE for Life!® Southern Tier. ZOE for Life!® is a Christian ministry which affirms the value of all life by providing nonjudgmental,

confidential support and education during and after an unplanned pregnancy.”

His Eminence, Archbishop Michael (Diocese of New York and New Jersey, OCA) was present, blessing the food and discussing the important work of Zoe for Life!

Father Gary Breton showed a short video about Zoe for Life! Matushka Mary thanked all those in attendance.

Over 50 people attended the baby shower, ranging in age from less than one year old to Matushka Mary’s mother, Pañi Mary, who is 96 years old. Guests brought dozens of beautiful baby outfits, snow suits, bibs, shoes, blankets, board books, rattles, bottles, and many other items to stock the office for pregnant clients. Donations were also collected – always the right size and color!

Members of the parish and its sisterhood group, the St. Catherine Society, assisted in the planning, decorations and cooking for the baby shower. A Lenten meal featuring vegan Pasta Bolognese and Shrimp Scampi along

with appetizers and desserts was prepared by the parish cooks, including some former parishioners who returned especially for the event.

The effort was assisted by Fr. Michael and Matushka Mihaela Pejovic and Holy Spirit Orthodox Church in Wantage, NJ (OCA). Parishioners there collected baby items and Fr. and Matushka brought them to the baby shower on behalf of their parish.

Initially, it was a challenge to find an available date to hold the event. When the last Sunday in June was selected, the significance wasn’t initially obvious. However, it became apparent as the event neared. The weekend included the first anniversary celebration of the overturning of Roe v. Wade. Fr. Gary preached about this connection in the weekend’s services.

Thank you to all who helped in any and every way to make this a truly special event and help provide support for Zoe for Life! Southern Tier and its clients.

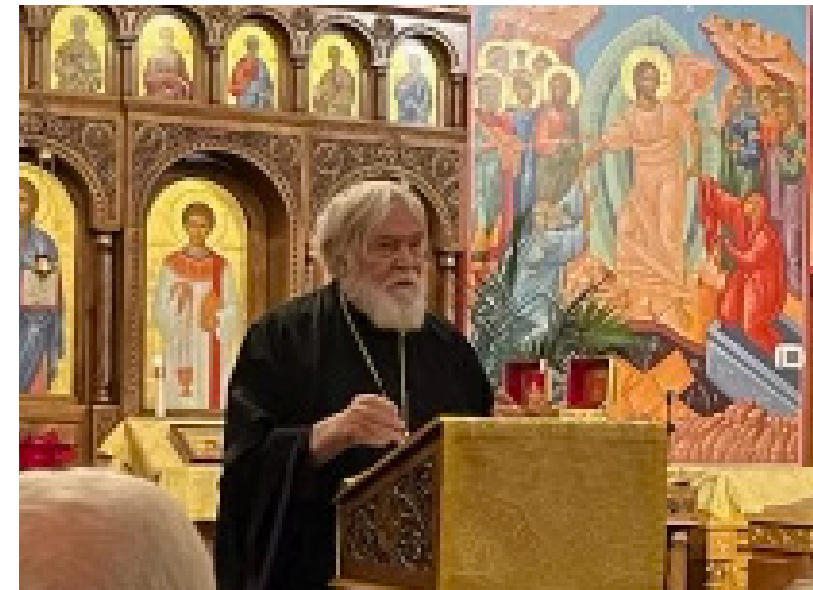
Annual Prayer for the Unborn Children

On Sunday, January 22, 2023, the faithful in the Greater Cleveland area were welcomed at Archangel Michael Orthodox Church in Broadview Heights, to pray together for unborn children. His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel of the Romanian Orthodox Church led us in prayer, and followed with his personal thoughts and exhortations, that we all must do more to protect the unborn children in our society. When we join together prayerfully, He hears and honors our prayers! They make a difference!

Our thanks go out to members of the Greater Cleveland Council of Orthodox Clergy who attended. We also thank Fr. John Memorich and the community of Archangel Michael for their hospitality, as well as the lovely desserts and coffee they provided for all of us.

The service was live-streamed, so that those outside of Cleveland could pray with us and hear Archbishop Nathaniel’s insights.

We are exceedingly grateful to him for making the journey to us from Detroit in inclement weather. We were all blessed by his presence. God grant him many, many, many, many years!



Michigan Chapter Update

My name is Stephanie Chisholm. I am a wife and mother of 6. I work as a birth and postpartum doula as well as being a certified lactation consultant. I care very deeply about being a supportive place for new parents.

What made me want to work with ZOE for Life? As a doula, I find that many new moms feel overwhelmed with all the “stuff” that comes with pregnancy. Moms who are experiencing an unexpected pregnancy feel all the normal anxiety that comes with pregnancy, and perhaps also feelings of shame or anger, despair even.

They may not have a partner with them. They may have an abusive partner. They may struggle with substance abuse. They may be experiencing homelessness. All of these things may cause them to feel that abortion is the only option.

According to data from the State of Michigan, there are over 200,000 unintended pregnancies every year in our state. Somewhere between 70,000 to 80,000 of them end in abortion. If we can provide tangible support and resources to women, I believe many will feel like they have options other than abortion.

Our hope for ZOE For Life in Michigan is that we can have a cooperative network of churches providing resources to those women experiencing an unintended pregnancy.

Some churches in the network may be in an area that is already seeing some services provided, so maybe they can focus on fundraising for some of our parishes that are more rural and are less able to afford the cost, but have just as great a need. One of the things I would love to see is a ZOE House in Michigan. I spent a semester in college working at a home for

teen moms and it was a gift to see how empowering living and learning in a committed community like that can be for a new, young mother.

I am hoping that we can work toward every parish in our deanery having a visible participation in this ministry. This can look different

depending on where they are and the resources available to them.

Please join us in creating a loving and supportive space in our world to women in distress. Thank you for your open heart to care for all of His children.

Donations may be sent to:
ZOE for Life Michigan
9900 Jackson Road
Dexter, MI 48130



ZOE House® On a Record Pace

It is so gratifying to see how your prayers and support are impacting our sisters in Christ and their families.

We recently received a large donation of baby items plus a large monetary donation from a church in Massachusetts. Also, thanks to a substantial grant from the Elsie Skvir Ganister Foundation, we have been able to purchase new infant car seats.

Thanks to our newest volunteer, we will be seeing clients five days a week. That translates to 20 family being served each week, or more than 1,000 families over the next 12 months.

We were humbled to receive this email from a social worker who brought a family to ZOE House®:

“I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you. I attended an appointment with a family today and was so grateful for the work of the women at Zoe House(sic). The family was late, needed an interpreter and had lots of needs. In spite of a chaotic environment, the volunteers were patient, kind and thoughtful of the family needs. They balanced support to several other individuals as well. The family received so many needed items that will support the family health and well-being of their children. Thank you so much for all you do.”

Each of our volunteers are GIFTS FROM GOD! Under the guidance of Executive Director Kathy Kovalak, they share His love and yours with all those who come to us.

Our clients have all been so thankful for the help they have received. Some clients have brought items back after their children have outgrown them. One woman told us we were so helpful to her at a time when she really needed it, that she wanted to help others. Another client was so overwhelmed upon leaving, she just asked, “Can I at least give you a hug?”

Become a volunteer. If you live in the Greater Cleveland area, and have a few hours to share His love with our sisters in Christ and their children, call us at 216-465-9030. If you live in New York, reach out to President, Matushka Marge Kappanadze at: 607-259-2646 . In Michigan, contact our Chapter at 9900 Jackson Road, Dexter, MI 48130. In Atlanta, contact us at Tara Freeman at taramfreeman@yahoo.com.

You and your generosity makes THE difference in the lives of so many. God bless you!