

Birthday Cake Project

Many of the women we serve at ZOE House® don't have the pleasure of celebrating birthday milestones with their children the way so many of us do. Cake doesn't make the grocery list when you are struggling to feed your family. This Project will allow the women we serve to bake a cake themselves, for and with their children. This delightful idea was created by ingenious twins from Atlanta, GA. They call it "The Birthday Cake Project", and we love it!

thebirthdaycakeproject.com

The young people at your church can get involved and bring smiles to little faces.

For this project you will need:

- 9" by 13" disposable aluminum pan with lid
- Box of cake mix
- Can of frosting
- Can of Sprite (regular size. This is a cost effective replacement for oil and eggs.)

Instructions (Maybe printed on fancy paper?)

Bring the completed cake packages to ZOE House® at 5454 State Road in Parma. Call 216-465-9030 to be certain we are there, or donate to your local ministry or food pantry if you are not in the Cleveland area.

Instructions: In a large bowl, combine cake mix and soda for about 1 minute, or until well combined. (If you mix too long, the cake may not rise as much!). Pour into pan and follow box directions for baking times. Cool before icing.

3352 Mayfield Rd. Cleveland Hts, OH 44118

Additional things you might like to add to the package: Birthday candles, party hats, birthday banner. You get the idea!

Place the cake mix, icing, Sprite, instructions and anything else you might like to add in the pan and wrap securely with plastic wrap. Maybe tie with a ribbon? Your young people will feel enriched knowing they have given something of themselves to others.



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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ZOE for Life!® is Your Ministry

Since 1997, by the grace of God, we have worked to protect all children, those born and unborn, by supporting mothers and struggling families to choose life. We have served more than 650 clients each year in Cleveland and many more around the country. We do that with loving hearts at each and every opportunity.

With the consistent encouragement of our clergy, over the past 28 years we have



supported women who were dealing with unimaginable issues, even incest and rape. It is an honor to share our confidence in our Orthodox faith with those around us. A cornerstone of our ministry is that we cherish the life only He can bestow, and never support its willful termination. Our name expresses this foundational belief: ZOE for Life!®. We reaffirm our commitment to all his children, born and conceived. From initial contact throughout every interaction, our mission is to

preserve God's precious gift of life.

We are truly humbled that He permits us to serve Him and His children, first among sinners as we are. It is with grateful humility that we thank you for your partnership. It is an honor to share our confidence in Holy Orthodoxy by hosting a **Prayer for Unborn Children** service each year on Sanctity of Life Sunday, usually the third Sunday in January. In 2026 it will take place on January 25th. You can Youtube or livestream our service every year to make it more accessible. Be the catalyst in your city and invite all the surrounding Orthodox Churches to join you. Let us raise our voices together! Our Prayer Service is available on our website, zoeforlifeonline.org.

Please pray for those we serve and our devoted volunteers, that we continue to do God's work, to tirelessly shine God's love and compassion to the world around us.

New York Southern Tier Chapter

In late July, ZOE for Life!® Southern Tier started a busy few months when we were invited to participate in a community health and wellness fair at New Beginning Apostolic Church in Binghamton, NY. We connected with members of the community and networked with representatives from other organizations that serve families.

On September 27th, we hosted our second annual Baby Open House. We welcomed 29 young families, offering handmade baby blankets, toys, books, socks, bibs, and refreshments. The highlight of the day was the distribution of about four dozen winter coats, size 0 to 4T. We were blessed to have the assistance of five delightful young adult volunteers from Saint Innocent Orthodox Mission in Oneonta, NY.

October 1st found us tabling at St Michael's Orthodox parish in Binghamton during their grocery giveaway. We greeted dozens of families and recorded the contact information of about 12 new clients with whom we'll schedule appointments to discuss how we can best help them.

Through all of these efforts, we've become gratefully aware that other organizations know about our ministry and are sending clients in our direction.

Glory to God for all things!

Matushka Marge Kappanadze,

Board President, ZOE for Life!® Southern Tier

Mkappanadze@gmail.com



Why I Give My Time

My time volunteering with ZOE for Life!® proved uniquely formative, offering growth on both personal and professional fronts. It was incredibly rewarding to support new and expectant parents directly, providing essential resources and fostering community well-being.



Beyond the immediate impact, this role immersed me in non-profit operations, sharpening my skills in strategic planning, problem-solving, and resource allocation. I also valued the collaborative environment, connecting with dedicated professionals and learning from seasoned mentors. The organization exemplified how passion, vision, and community support combine to build and sustain truly impactful, mission-driven initiatives. This experience profoundly shaped my understanding of effective leadership and community engagement.

Carol Range

Exciting News From ZOE House®

It is truly a blessing that ZOE House® continues to help moms in need with baby items, free of charge. We are able to do this through your generosity. This is in accordance with our mission to help moms keep their children healthy and safe.

We are excited to announce that before the end of this year we are expanding our ministry so we can provide moms help for their children up to age 5 . Baby items are always provided, but through conversations with clients, we have learned of difficulties clothing their children until they enter school. Our children are a precious gift from God, and we want to help protect them as much as we can. Thanks to you, we have the capacity to fill that need. You can help by visiting our baby registry on Amazon.

ZOE House® is a volunteer-run organization. We help more than 650 families each year. This is only possible with the support of churches, organizations, individuals like you, who care. There are many ways that you can get involved: donate money, donate items, donate your time. If the Lord is calling you to become more personally involved in this life-sustaining ministry, we welcome you!

Join us! You can make a huge difference right now:

1. If you live in the Cleveland, Ohio, or the Binghamton, New York area, promise yourself a few hours a month sharing His Love at ZOE House®. Our hours are flexible. Come once a month or weekly, days or evenings, weekdays or Saturdays. Call Kathy at 216-465-9030 to become better acquainted with how we serve in Cleveland, or Matushka Marge at 607-259-2646 in Binghamton.
2. If you would like to replicate our ministry in your area, please contact Paula at 440-893-9990, or email president@zoeforlife.org.
3. Be the face of all we do at your parish. We can send you additional Newsletters to share, you can invite a speaker to introduce us to your community, host a coffee hour, or baby shower to benefit those we serve.
4. Bring your women's group and friends to witness His Love in Action! We can host a meeting, offer hospitality and share our ministry with your friends and family.

By doing these things, you will "live life more abundantly" as Christ promised. Share yourself with the greater Body of Christ, one family at a time. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have at 440-893-9990, May you always be blessed!



IVAN'S STORY

The Lord has called me from the womb; from the matrix of my mother He has made mention of my name."

Isaiah 49:1



When I turned 18 years old, my mother decided that it was time for me to hear the story of my birth.

My father decided that they would only have one child. When she became pregnant with the second, he insisted that she get an abortion.

She arrived at the clinic but changed her mind. Nervous about his reaction, she worried about telling my father. With assurance of assistance from her mother-in-law, she broke the news to my father, who accepted the decision, and I was born.

After I heard this story and realized my birth was more than just luck, I became a Christian. I was curious to find out the biblical meaning of my name Ivan, which is a Slavic version of the Greek name Ioannes or the English name John. The meaning is: "Lord is merciful." My Creator miraculously saved me from the abortion. He also gave me a name through which I could easily recognize Him in the story of my birth.

Glory to be to the All-Holy Trinity!

With the help of our priest and congregation, we are developing a ZOE for Life!® chapter in California at St. Barnabas church with volunteers from ours and other Orthodox Churches. Two of our parishioners have expressed interest, and one recently-married couple are starting their family and will assist us.

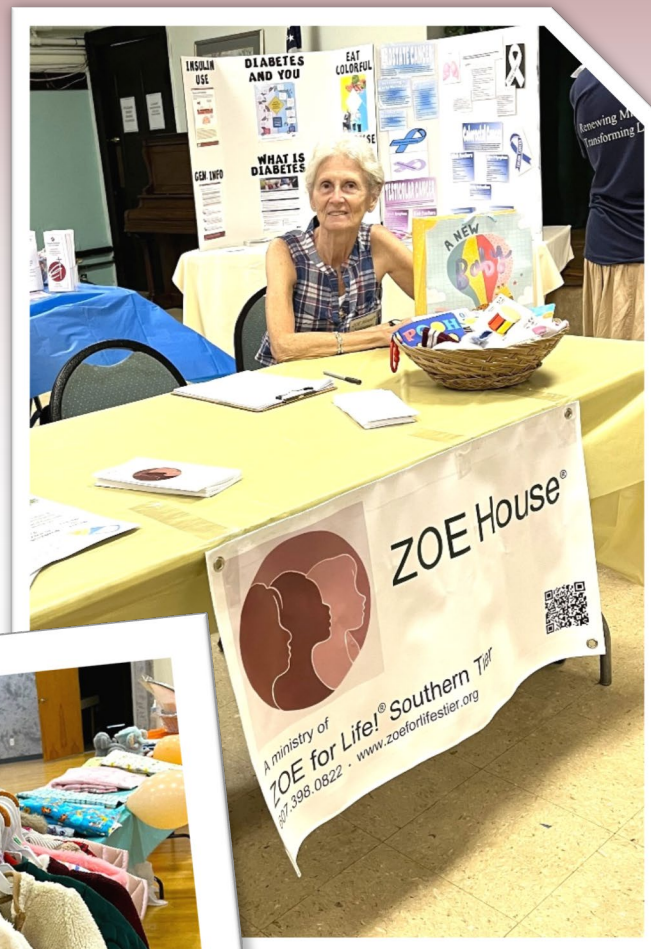
**We are excited to start this chapter and become a part of
ZOE for Life!®**

Ivan Nikolov



We love our volunteers and donors. Call 216-465-9030 to offer your time, talent, or treasure

More Photos from the New York Southern Tier Chapter



THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS recommends daily reading aloud from birth to grow vocabulary and promote healthy brain development.

Read Aloud 15 MINUTES
Every child. Every parent. Every day.

Learn more at [ReadAloud.org](https://www.readaloud.org)