



Volume 14, Issue 2/Fall 2014

ZOE

for Life!

An Orthodox Christian Initiative

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Our new found friends:

Anna Warren, Jim Morski, Sue Barna, Deacon Jacob Frimenko, Danielle Frimenko, Paula Kappos, Aaron Fekaris, Anne Marie Wehling, Kathy Kovalak, Gloria Appling, Daria Petrykowski, Bruce Appling and Joanne Sedor.

By God's Grace the Mission of ZOE for Life! is Expanding

The Lord is doing marvelous things right before our eyes! In May, a dedicated group Orthodox Christians from Livonia, Michigan, came together and made the trek to ZOE House in Parma, Ohio. They were inquiring into the possibility of creating a ZOE for Life! chapter in their area. What a spectacular group of dedicated, energetic, and life affirming people. It was so exciting to sit down and meet with them, to share the message of ZOE for Life! and to witness their enthusiasm for our mission.

With the blessings of Bishop Gregory of the Carpatho-Russian Diocese, Chairman of the Endorsed Agencies of the Episcopal Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America, we moved forward to create the necessary documents to make this chapter creation possible. Thanks to the tutelage of Professor Richard Boyatzis, Distinguished Faculty Professor at Case Western Reserve University, and attorney Nicholas Neonakis, of

The Franchise MBA, with the help of FOCUS North America, and hours of intensive collaboration, we have nearly completed the necessary Operating Manual and Chapter Disclosure Documents to share with our first chapter.

We are amazed at the love and compassion of our new found friends. If you live in the greater Detroit area and have a young, growing family, you can help our new chapter by donating gently used clothing, cribs, high chairs and strollers, as well as other things necessary to get a little one off to a good start. Diapers and wipes are always appreciated and in demand! Please help them however you are able and join us in praying for their success.

Read more about their exciting development on page 2.

Livonia MI Chapter News - by Jim Morski

With Great excitement and anticipation we are happy to announce the beginning of ZOE FOR LIFE!-Livonia Michigan. After much prayer and discussion, a group of likeminded Orthodox Christians has joined together with ZOE FOR LIFE-Parma Ohio to establish a Pan Orthodox Chapter of ZOE FOR LIFE in South East Michigan.

The Corporation papers have been filed. The By-Laws have been drafted. The Officers of the Corporation have been named. The bank account has been opened. The phone number is established. We even have a web site and a P.O. Box. WOW what do we need now? Prayer, Lots and Lots of prayer.

Join with us as we begin this journey. We covet your prayers, your encouragement, your support, and your well wishes. We would even accept a donation.

Please note the following information to contact us.

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OCN Interview

Father Chris Metropolis, of "Come Receive the Light" of the Orthodox Christian Network, has graciously invited ZOE for Life! to be interviewed for his program! Volunteer George Chala made the contact and

Presvytera Vassi Haros at OCN made the arrangements. The interview will be conducted at the end of October, for airing some time in the future. So listen for us on an upcoming program!

George Chala Junior Spurs Us On!

*George Chala Jr.
loving his grandson,
Dimitry.*



Last year, at the insistent urging of a dedicated supporter of life, George Chala, Jr. from California, we began looking into other means of reaching out to women in distress. George pushed us beyond our comfort zone, with his persistent conviction that we could do more to save His little ones, simply by expanding our advertising. Thanks to his unrelenting commitment, we landed in the lap of Jason Tabeling, founder of Rosetta, an internet advertising firm located in Cleveland, Ohio.

Jason amazed us with the presentation he gave us about the power of advertising on the internet. We were further encouraged by the fact that Google would offer us \$100.00 in free advertising to just to help get started.

So we took the leap. Then Jason learned that grants were available through Google for just this purpose. He made it his business to apply on our behalf.

Guess what? Within 48 hours Google granted us \$10,000.00 in free advertising EVERY MONTH, with no end date! Isn't God amazing? Now Jason and his company are working tirelessly to refine our campaign to spread the news about ZOE for Life!

Thank you, George, Jason, and everyone at Rosetta, and last but not least, Google!

Keep Talking

It is so amazing, the way God works and guides us. Here is just one example.

ZOE for Life! was invited to make a presentation at a diocesan SOBOR, or clergy-laity gathering. The event we were invited to speak at was a very nice dinner, with tablecloths and waiters, as well as bar attendants.

As usual, we were unfamiliar with most of the hundreds of faces that graciously gave us their attention after their meal. Also as usual, not being professional speakers, we took our notes with us, and in our nervousness read

most of the speech. Our audience received our words most graciously, and their appreciative applause was very encouraging.

New friends came up to introduce themselves and speak with us afterwards, and we heard congratulations on our efforts from many of them, as well as sad stories of personal experiences from others. It was with surprise that we noticed one of the bartenders at the rear of the group. Initially we thought he was bussing tables, but no. He was waiting to talk with us. Our antennae went up, and we hoped nothing had been said to hurt him.

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What's New at ZOE House

Kathy Kovalak, Executive Director of ZOE House, reports that ZOE House is being called upon to assist more and more people in need. Our services are being referred to clients from hospitals and social service agencies across the county.

One such call came from a father who had just obtained custody of his son, and who had absolutely nothing for his little one. No crib, car seat, stroller, dresser, clothing, diapers, nothing. Fortunately he got our number from Social Services, and thanks to your donations, we were able to provide him with the immediate necessities in order to provide a safe and healthy environment for his son. It is such a blessing to be able to help His little ones, our own brothers and sisters in Christ.

Kathy has told us that in 2012, 200 families were assisted at ZOE House. Last year, that number doubled to 400. Thanks to our army of dedicated volunteers, this year we have exceeded that number already.

None of this would be possible without you! Our clients thank you with all their hearts, their tears of gratitude, and their undying love!



42nd Biennial Clergy-Laity Greek Congress, Philadelphia, PA



Paula Kappos speaking.

On July 8th, 2014, we were invited by Alice Poplos, President of the National Sisterhood of Presbyteres, (Clergy Wives) to share the mission of ZOE for Life! We received a loving welcome from each one of these amazing women, who sacrifice so much for the success of our parishes. It was so comforting to see two of our own presvyteres from the Cleveland area, Presvytera Goldie Doukas of St. Demetrios Church in Rocky River, and Presvytera Nicole Keares of St. Paul in North Royalton. It was due to the urging of both of these lovely and dedicated ladies, who volunteer and see clients together at ZOE House, that the invitation came to be!

Thanks to everyone who made us feel so "at home" during the time we spent together. It was truly an honor to be in your company.

Mother's Day Baby Shower for ZOE House

What a lovely invitation was sent out by the Philoptochos of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Columbus, Ohio in May. Receipts were invited to a Mother's Day meeting/baby shower to benefit ZOE House. We were invited to Mia Cucina Restaurant in Powell, Ohio, by our sisters in Christ, organized by Theresa Morgan.



It was a beautiful afternoon, and the ladies spared no trouble to make it a lovely event. They made favors of mints, presented with a miniature image of The Lament of Rachel icon, fastened in pink and blue ribbons and diaper pins. Chocolates were presented in pink and blue "baskets" ornamented with little rubber duckies. The meal itself was worth the trip!

Thanks to their great big hearts, we weren't even able to tote their lovely donations home! Elaine Kent, an ardent supporter of life, ferried some of the items to a half-way point, in order to get them to ZOE House!

It was truly a heart warming event. We thank them for their love and support for all of His children.



Organizers for the Zoe for Life Baby Shower: Maria Gesouras, Ria Harvey, Hope Tzagournis, & Terry Morgan



ZOE
for Life!

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Our Mission Statement

ZOE for Life! is a non-profit, Christ-centered organization with three major goals:

1. To help women who need confidential emotional and spiritual support during crisis pregnancies
2. To assist Orthodox Christians seeking to adopt; and
3. To provide an Orthodox Christian education for Pure Living and other resources.



Friend us on Facebook.

Keep Talking

...continued on from page 2

As we spoke individually with everyone who came forward, a lot of time was passing. He, however, continued to almost hover at the back of the line, surreptitiously looking over his shoulder from time to time.

Finally, when we had spoken with everyone else, he stepped forward. He loomed over us. It felt like we were talking with Arnold Schwarzenegger, a real man-mountain!

He kept his back to the room, shifted from foot to foot, and his first words were, "Is the other bartender looking?"

We peeked around him, and said no.

He went on to say that he had listened to our presentation. 'I just wanted to tell you that you have to keep talking.'

'After prom in my senior year in high school, my girlfriend and I got kinda carried away. She got pregnant. We didn't know what to do. We didn't have any money, I

didn't have a job. I'm a boxer. We had absolutely nothing. But we decided to get married.'

'I won't kid you, it was hard. Very hard. We really struggled.'

He cleared his throat, 'but this spring, our daughter will graduate with a degree in chemical engineering.'

He teared up. 'When I think of what we would have missed without her...'

We cried together then, and hugged. "God has blessed you," we told him.

He stepped back and took a handkerchief out of his pocket.

'I know it. I just wanted to tell you that you have to keep talking. Everyone needs to hear this.'

Take a Peek at our New Look

Perhaps you know that ZOE for Life! has a web site: zoeforlifeonline.org. But did you know it has been revised? Thanks to many hours and the hard work of Margarite Stephanopoulos and her committee, our web site has been brought into the 21st century. We hope you will take the time to look it over and share your thoughts with us. We think it is an amazing improvement. What say you?

