

TCDSB Secondary Schools

Organizations and Speakers available for *Respect for Life Week* and Throughout the Year

Aid to Women

- A crisis pregnancy centre that offers alternatives to abortion as well as healing for those who experienced the pain of an abortion.
- It provides proactive consultation and counselling for the women who are experiencing challenges and struggles with their decision.
- It addresses the psychological, physical and spiritual effects that abortion has on women and assists them with whatever needs they present.

Bios:

Enza Rattenni, Executive Director has worked as a legal assistant for two criminal law firms for 10 years. Enza pursued a career in event planning, and involved herself as a coordinator in the young adult group at St. Michael's Cathedral. She describes her position at Aid to Women as a "vocation, not a job" and strives to bring awareness and life-affirming assistance to women in crisis pregnancies.

Fances Keets, Fundraising Coordinator and Counsellor previously volunteered at Birthright and she was also involved in Ontario Students for Life. Her experience as a parent ensures that Frances understands in her role as Counsellor.

Heather Nail, Volunteer Co-ordinator and Counsellor was previously a volunteer counsellor for a year at Birthright. Heather was one of the founding members of her university's campus pro-life club. She graduated with a B.A. in Psychology, Religion and Theology in 2010.

One of their own clients, **Marcela Lopez** will come to speak about her experience of the pressures of abortion. Marcela chose life when everyone around her pressured her to choose abortion.

Contact information: (416) 921-6016 - 300 Gerrard St E, Toronto, ON

Birthright

Margaret McKay, Director - a former TCDSB secondary teacher has been with Birthright for many years, first as a volunteer and now as its Director.

Contact: Margaret McKay at (416) 469-1111 or info@birthright.org

Canadian Food for Children

Dr. Andrew Simone and his wife Joan founded CFFC in 1985 with the encouragement of Blessed Mother Teresa. In 1982 Dr. Simone began his mission of helping ease the hunger of children and their families by arranging company food donations to Mother Teresa's Sisters in Tanzania and Ethiopia; gradually this mushroomed into clothing donations and assistance to the poor in other countries. The Simones never engaged in fundraising, totally relying on God's providence to supply what was needed. In 2001 the Simones received the Order of Canada for their work and in 2006 their charity, CFFC was awarded the annual St. Anthony International Prize by the Messenger of St. Anthony. Today, the Simones continue to work hard on behalf of the poor. Missionary groups in 30 countries receive food and supplies shipped by CFFC.

Contact **Mary Reid Coordinator of Speakers in the Schools** at (905) 459-9019 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. weekdays and at reidski@yahoo.com

Contact **Jeanene Luckhart** at (905) 822-6039 or **Tony Loginow** at (416) 267-8463

CCRL (Catholic Civil Rights League)

Established in 1985, the Catholic Civil Rights League promotes dialogue with the media to encourage the fair portrayal of Catholicism, and works with the courts and legislatures to participate in public debates on moral issues. Joanne McGarry, Executive Director of CCRL, would be pleased to present any of the following topics or another life theme of interest to your students.

Speaker Bio:

Joanne McGarry, Executive Director of the CCRL since 2004, has been in journalism, public relations and media training for over 20 years. She is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario. In the 1980s, she was managing editor of The Catholic Register. After that, she was editor and publisher of a group of magazines for the Canadian jewellery industry, and then public relations manager of Speedware Corporation, one of Canada's leading application development software providers. Joanne later had her own media relations practice, providing media campaigns, media training and strategic planning advice for several software e-commerce and telecommunications providers.

Joanne often works with the media to discuss Church teachings on the issues of the day. She is responsible for all League publications, such as e-mail bulletins, newsletters and web content. Joanne, who is also a columnist for the Catholic Register, is married and has three children.

Contact Christian Domenic Elia, Director celia@ccrl.ca

The de Veber Institute

The de Veber Institute for Bioethics and Social Research is an independent institute committed to interdisciplinary research in biomedical ethics and the effects of technology on family and social life. The de Veber Institute is the only Canadian organization continuously studying the long-term effects of induced abortion on women's health. The Institute believes that a sense of the inherent value and dignity of human life and of the human person as an end and not a means is a foundational perspective to bring to bear on its work.

Kathy's talk, *"The Untold Story: Uncovering the Effects of Abortion on Women's Health"* will be based on the de Veber Institute's comprehensive study entitled *"Women's Health After Abortion: The Medical and Psychological Evidence."* It will also draw on other Canadian and international studies, and will cover topics including post-abortion complications, impact on subsequent pregnancies, psychological risk factors, and abortion's effect on interpersonal relationships. Information about crisis pregnancy and post-abortion counselling and resources will be made available.

Bio:

Kathy Matusiak is the Executive Director of the de Veber Institute for Bioethics and Social Research, which focuses on education about the effects of abortion on women, and also issues in prenatal diagnosis, palliative care and euthanasia. She is a graduate of the University of Toronto where she helped lead the campus pro-life club, Students for Life. She continues to support the university pro-life movement through the National Campus Life Network, Toronto Right to Life and local crisis pregnancy centres such as Aid to Women.

Contact Kathy at (416) 256-0555 (de Veber Institute) or at bioethics@deveber.org

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition

At the forefront of the battle to protect the rights of the disabled and vulnerable in our society, the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition addresses issues such as euthanasia, assisted suicide, disability rights, hospice/palliative care, pain control, current practice such as withholding/withdrawing medical treatment, 'medical futility' thinking, and other end of life issues.

Amidst a growing culture of death that often resorts to using unclear and underhanded methods such as verbal engineering and legislative means to justify terminating lives that it deems useless as the so-called called-effective, compassionate solution, the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition is a welcome 'watchdog' and truthful and compassionate voice for vulnerable Canadians and others around the globe.

Euthanasia threatens the lives of many individuals. It represents a form of elder abuse and in a social fabric that has an ingrained discrimination towards the lives of people with disabilities, it reinforces a message that *"some lives are not worth living."*

Bio:

Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition and Chairman International, writes for various publications, maintains a blog and is a tireless advocate for the right to life of vulnerable individuals. For more detailed information, see alexschadenberg.blogspot.com

Steve Passmore, passionate advocate for the rights of the disabled, is no stranger to struggle. Born with cerebral palsy, he was placed in a home in England by his mother at the age of two years. He would remain there for seven years. Between the ages of 9-18 he underwent one major surgery per year in a race against time. He credits God with enabling him to persevere through it all.

On his own since age 18, Steve began advocating for rights of the disabled in 1993. In 2007 he met Alex Schadenberg and began volunteering at the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. In 2010 he battled side by side with Alex against Bill C384 which would have legalized euthanasia in Canada.

Steve also ran in the last provincial election in the riding of Hamilton Centre to bring a public face and voice for Canadians living with disabilities, to the public's attention. An articulate and engaging speaker, whose powerful message students will not soon forget, Steve has been on Crossroads, CHCH and Listen

Up TV. He is a consultant on disability issues for the Guelph Right to Life Board and since w2008 has spoken at several Catholic secondary schools. Steve's mission is to ensure that the next generation of disabled and elderly people enjoy the same rights as their predecessors. As he says, "*Where there is love, people with disabilities are not a burden, they are a blessing.*"

Note: Steve requires a minimum of 45 minutes for his presentation (with students already seated and settled) but 60 minutes is optimal as he likes to include a short DVD.

AV need: DVD player required. A microphone would only be required for a large venue. If sessions are to be back-to-back, he would very much welcome a 10-minute rest break in between.

Contact Steve Passmore at (905) 529-9689 or toll free at 1-877-4393348 or

Contact Alex Schadenberg at 519-439-3348 or info@epcc.ca

God, Sex and the Meaning of Life Ministry

God, Sex and The Meaning of Life is a lay ministry recognized by The Archdiocese of Toronto. Susan Kennedy (Team Leader), Tom Kennedy, Janice Noonan and Rose Heron started the ministry in 2006. More information about their mission and activities can be accessed at: <http://www.godsexandthemeaningoflife.com/Newsletters.html>

St. John Paul II provides an insight into why God made us human, what it means to be human, how we can achieve true love and happiness through our bodies, and why God made us male and female.

The *Theology of the Body* presentation is for secondary schools and is based on St. John Paul II's teachings. The format for a presentation is one classroom period but this may be adjusted to suit various needs. Discussion and activities are included in the presentation.

Contact Susan or Tom Kennedy at (905) 427-6137 or gsmlministry@gmail.com

Silent No More

Angelina Steenstra is the National Coordinator of the *Silent Mo More Awareness Campaign*. She has presented at numerous venues in Canada and in the United States including EWTN, Salt and Light Television, CBC Radio, Radio Maria etc. in order to raise awareness about the physical, spiritual and emotional harm caused by abortion to women, their children and their families.

For many years, Angelina has continued to bring a message of hope and healing to countless individuals around the world through her own personal testimony. Having had an abortion at the age of 15 after becoming pregnant through a date rape, her journey of healing, forgiveness and reconciliation, along with her background in Social Services led her to co-found ***Second Chance Post Abortion Healing*** in 1991 with Fr. Vince Heffernan, SFM. An outreach ministry in the greater Toronto area, it services the spiritual needs of women and men suffering the aftermath of abortion through a weekly support group and personal on-on-one ministry.

Contact Angelina Steenstra at (905) 430-7990 Cell: (647) 330-9749 or www.SilentNoMoreAwareness.org
Website: www.CanadaSilentNoMore.ca

Toronto Right to Life

Vanessa Sproule is the Executive Director of Toronto Right to Life. While in university she began volunteering in Canada's pro-life movement and after graduating she quickly gained experience serving full time in local, provincial and national levels of pro-life and social justice work. She is passionate about making pro-life education accessible to everyone and helping individuals plug into the pro-life movement.

Contact Vanessa Sproule at (416) 483-7869 or at office@trtl.ca

VIDES Canada (Volunteers International for Development Education and Service)

Founded by the Salesian Sisters in 1987, VIDES Canada is a non-governmental organization (NGO) active in 25 countries and committed to empowering and equipping young people 18 years and older by providing them with the opportunity to engage in a meaningful international volunteer experience via various team projects.

The central focus of VIDES Canada is the education and development of underprivileged children, youth and women around the world. Volunteers are trained in the Salesian style of Don Bosco in a family-like environment that upholds and enhances the good in each person. Following their leadership formation, the young men and women are sent out for periods of three months to two years to service needy children and youth in Africa, Asia or South America. Through mission trips, volunteers have brightened the lives of countless individuals around the world thanks to the on-going support from VIDES Canada.

To arrange for a school visit, contact Sr. Jeannine Landry FMA, Director of VIDES Canada at Home (289)-597-2208 or cell (416) 803-3558 or at jeanninefma@videscanada.ca

Vita Centre

This organization is dedicated to excellent support, education and counselling for pregnant and parenting youth in Peel Region. Vita Centre has a volunteer program and a public education and awareness program.

Presentations to secondary schools by Vita Centre's Community Counsellors will create awareness about the realities of teen pregnancy and also include the services provided by Vita Centre.

To arrange a speaker contact Tanya, Volunteer Coordinator at (905) 502-7933, ext. 225 or info@vitamanor.org

Availability: West end schools only (i.e. Etobicoke area)

Beverly J. Hadland - Straight Talk (Sex, Love and Dating)

Every year 650,000 teens become pregnant in Canada and in the United States. The consequences range from: dropping out of school, welfare, becoming a single parent, abortion, loss of reputation, broken relationships, and the transmission of STDs.

Bev founded ***Straight Talk*** in 1988 to promote chastity as a positive alternative to the prevailing sex related problems among our youth.

Secondary School Student Presentation format:

- The contrasting manner in which males and females relate to each other.
- Approaches to managing these differences in a relationship.
- Responsibilities attached to sexual activity.
- Creative dating strategies and resisting peer pressure.
- How abstinence prevents medical, social and emotional consequences.
- Types and stages of love.

A question and answer period at the end of the presentation gives students an opportunity to express themselves and receive informed, honest feedback to their questions and concerns.

Bio:

Beverly J. Hadland is a renowned speaker and best-selling author who has addressed over three million teens in thirteen countries encouraging chastity as a positive alternative to the mass culture's promotion of sex as an "anywhere, anytime and no consequences" activity. She is the author of three books and has produced six videos. Bev is also a certified counsellor who has appeared regularly on the Dini Petty show, 100 Huntley Street and CBC. She speaks on Creative Dating, Rape, Post-Abortion Recovery, Chastity, and Secondary Virginity. Bev was awarded the Woman of the Year Award in 203 by Real Women of Canada.

Contact Beverly at (289) 237-8690 or www.bevhadland.com -www.Twitter.com/bevhadland
www.FaceBook.com/beverlyhadland

Dr. Fe N. Quirante-Flora – Finding Answers to Anxiety, Fear and Depression

Dr. Flora grew up in a blended family in the Philippines. She graduated from medical school and immigrated with her husband and child to Canada in 1975 where she completed her post-graduate training at St. Joseph's Hospital and North York Branson. Dr. Flora became a family physician in 1987 and has been practicing in Toronto ever since. As a devout Catholic, Dr. Flora draws strongly on her faith and the Bible when making decisions.

Presentation format:

Dr. Flora invites students to write their questions on a piece of paper and then answers them during the course of her interactive presentation.

Contact Dr. Flora Tuesday-Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at (416) 421-1240 (office)
or evenings at the same number