



**April 25, 2014**

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## **PHA Monthly**

*Newsletter for the Pro-Life Healthcare Alliance  
Tenth Edition*

Welcome to the Tenth edition of PHA Monthly, the e-newsletter for the Pro-life Healthcare Alliance. This newsletter provides an opportunity for the PHA to share pro-life information about current healthcare issues, PHA events, contributions from members and other relevant information.

Please [share](#) your ideas and suggestions with us.  
Visit our website at [www.prolifehealthcare.org](http://www.prolifehealthcare.org) for more information.

### **The Pro-life Healthcare Alliance, founded in June 2012, is striving to:**

- Establish a support network of healthcare providers, organizations and individuals who subscribe to the "pro-life healthcare philosophy." (See PHA Mission Statement at [www.prolifehealthcare.org](http://www.prolifehealthcare.org).)
- Encourage the growth and availability of pro-life healthcare services for all.
- Respond to persons needing pro-life healthcare or seeking reliable information about medical decision making.
- Educate the public by articulating principles guiding the care, support, and protection of the life and dignity of all human beings, including those who are preborn.

As always, we continually pray for renewal of reverence for life within healthcare. In particular, we have designated Thursday as a special day of prayer for the mission of the Pro-life Healthcare Alliance. St. Paul tells us in Philippians 4 to "not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." We invite you to join us each Thursday by pausing to ask God to guide and bless the PHA and all its members and supporters. Thank you.

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The First National Symposium on  
**EUTHANASIA AND ASSISTED SUICIDE**

**Friday and Saturday, May 2-3, 2014  
Minneapolis, Minnesota**

**There is still time to register!**

The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition and the Pro-Life Healthcare Alliance are excited to announce this 2-day event hosting a line-up of exceptional speakers covering a wide range of end-of-life topics.



**Alex Schadenberg**, Executive Director, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, will speak about *Exposing Vulnerable People to Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide* and *Euthanasia World Overview* as well as leading the Coalition Building Workshop.



**Julie Grimstad, LPN**, Executive Director of Life is Worth Living and chair of the Pro-life Healthcare Alliance, will speak on *Medical Futility, Brain Death and Other Threats*. She will also be leading the Patient Advocacy Training.



**Ryan Verret**, Louisiana Right to Life, Center for Medical Ethics, will talk about *Playing Defense and Offense in Medical Ethics: What's Happening in the U.S. and how we took control of the ball in Louisiana!* He will also be leading in the Coalition Building Workshop.



**Tim Rosales**, Vice President, The Wayne Johnson Agency, a public affairs firm. Tim will be participating as a leader in the Coalition Building Workshop.



Jennifer Marie Hamann, RN, BSN, MHA former Executive Director of California Nurses for Ethical Standards, will share *Stealth Euthanasia- A Personal Experience*



**Bobby Schindler**, Executive Director of the Terri Schiavo Life and Hope Network, Will speak on *Media Ethics and The Bioethics Movement and The Terri Schiavo Case.*



**Cristen M. Krebs, DNP, ANP-BC**, Catholic Hospice Founder/Executive Director, will speak about *Poking Holes in the Darkness: Pro-life Hospice.*



**Nancy Elliott**, former New Hampshire State Rep., currently serving on the leadership team for Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, International, will discuss *State Sponsored Suicide: What it really is and how to effectively fight against it.*



**Mary Kellett**, founder and President of Prenatal Partners for Life, will discuss *Prenatal and Infant Euthanasia.*



**Mark Davis Pickup**, Pro-Life speaker, will share about *Grief and the Common Good*

## **Schedule**

### **Friday May 2, 2014**

**1-5pm Coalition Building Workshop**, Alex Schadenberg, Tim Rosales, John Kelley and Ryan Verret

**1-5pm Patient Advocacy Training\***, Julie Grimstad

### **7:00-9:00pm**

Alex Schadenberg ***Exposing Vulnerable People to Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide***

8:10-9:00pm Bobby Schindler ***Media Ethics and The Bioethics Movement***

### **Friday-Nursing Continuing Education Units, 2**

**Saturday May 3, 2014 9-5pm with Registration beginning at 8:30am**

### **Saturday-Nursing Continuing Education Units, 7.8**

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Ramada Plaza Minneapolis  
1330 Industrial Blvd  
Minneapolis, MN 55413  
612-331-1900

**Conference \$50.00**

**Coalition building/leadership seminar \$30.00**

**Patient Advocacy Training \$20.00**

### **Special room rates for this event**

Room rate \$85.00 per night

Mention Human Life Alliance

Register at [www.imposeddeath.org](http://www.imposeddeath.org) or call 651-484-1040

\*The Coalition Building Workshop will bring together people from around the nation to learn, strategize and organize against legalization of assisted suicide and other pro-euthanasia legislation. Hear from leaders who have effectively fought legislation in their own states.

\*Patient Advocacy-Julie Grimstad has 28 years experience as a volunteer patient advocate. She says, "Being a patient advocate is an awesome privilege and a profound obligation. For some

medically vulnerable people, we are their last friends. They need us like a person who is drowning needs a life-preserver."

You will learn:

1. What a volunteer patient advocate is.
2. What a patient advocate does.
3. Why there is an urgent need for an army of pro-life patient advocates

Even if you are not ready to be a patient advocate, you can simply be a friend. Julie will introduce you to the Befriender Program. Learn what you can do to enhance the quality of life of nursing home residents and other people isolated from society.

In the course of examining complex issues such as death with dignity and true mercy, Julie tells heart warming and heart wrenching stories about some of the people she has assisted as a patient advocate.

Come discover how you can safeguard the welfare of a patient in the healthcare system and/or alleviate the suffering of a lonely person whose number one need is a friend.

### Scholarship Help Needed

Help us offer scholarships to students and healthcare workers who cannot afford to attend the First National Symposium on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide.

We want to help people who are eager to learn and cannot afford the registration fees. Could you consider a gift of \$50, \$100, \$75 or more to support our efforts?

Your donation will enable those who cannot afford the conference to attend and share this life-saving information in their own communities.

Please designate donations as "Symposium Scholarship Fund" and mail to Human Life Alliance, 1614 - 93<sup>rd</sup> Lane NE, Blaine, MN 55449 or call 651-484-1040

## RAVE REVIEWS FOR EUTHANASIA CONFERENCE IN DES MOINES

**"Indescribable. Impactful. Overwhelming. Great job everyone."**

-- Rev. David Brown, Pastor, Eagle Vision Church, Norwalk, Iowa

*Imposed Death 2014: A Conference on Stealth Euthanasia* took place March 29<sup>th</sup> in Des Moines, Iowa. Co-sponsored by the Pro-life Healthcare Alliance (PHA) and the Iowa Right to Life Committee, the conference featured four members of PHA's Speakers Bureau.\*

Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (Canada), is an expert on assisted suicide and euthanasia around the globe. On feedback forms, attendees expressed amazement at Alex's vast knowledge and described him as an "excellent presenter," "so passionate," "humorous," and "super informative." One wrote, "Loved his stories," referring to the poignant real-life stories with which Alex peppers his talks.

Julie Grimstad, LPN, Executive Director, Life is Worth Living, addressed medical decision making and exposed dangers people face in the healthcare system. Also, speaking from 28 years of

experience, Julie explained the role and urgent need for patient advocates. Feedback included: "Great!" "Heavy information delivered in a helpful, winsome way." "Very valuable information. Loved her expertise. Loved the straightforward approach." "Had no idea that these things were happening."

Cristen Krebs, DNP, ANP-BC, Catholic Hospice Founder and Executive Director, covered the history of modern-day hospice, from its birth to the present day. She also explored problems that have crept in as hospice has changed over the years and what patients and families need to know when choosing a hospice. Attendees, who greatly appreciated her presentations, praised her talks as "well organized and extremely easy to follow," "excellent presentation of the real world-beyond the myth of hospice being always a good thing," and "outstanding!"

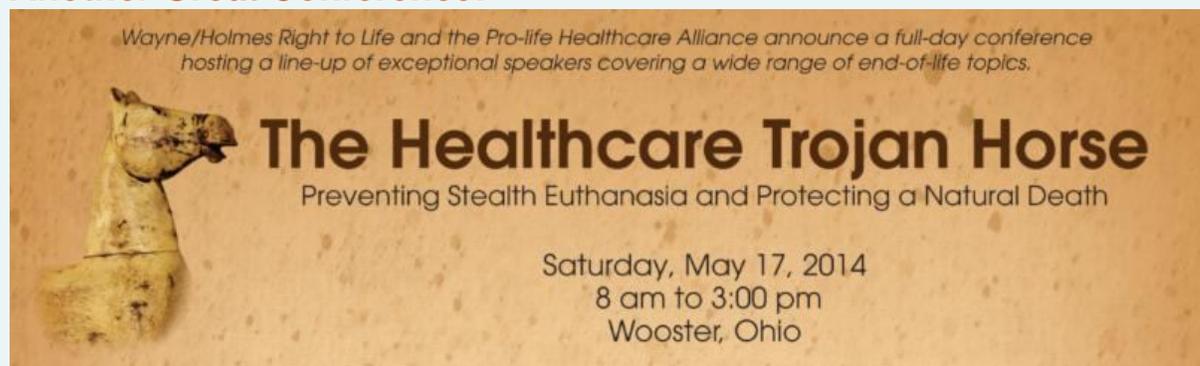
Mary Kellet, Founder and President, Prenatal Partners for Life, told the personal story of her son Peter in the context of sharing the ways in which she and Prenatal Partners help parents who are often pressured to have an abortion after an adverse prenatal diagnosis or are advised to let their child die after birth. Those who heard her speak were inspired and moved to tears. People commented: "Her story was such a gift to me." "God blesses others through her." "The best!!! She needs to put her story in print if she hasn't." (Mary has written her story: "The Struggle to be Born and Live: The Plight of the Child Diagnosed with Special Needs," <http://prolifehealthcare.org/02-19-2014-newsletter.pdf>.)

And, finally, the ultimate compliment was: "Great conference! Even though we were sitting for long periods of time, I never became bored. A wealth of information from a panel of phenomenal speakers!"

We invite you to attend a future conference and find out for yourself what the buzz is all about.

\*Learn more about PHA's speakers at <http://www.prolifehealthcare.org/speakers-bureau.html>.

## Another Great Conference!



[More details here](#)

## Case in Point

### REST IN PEACE, EDDIE GUFFEY

By Brenda Guffey

On January 17, 2011, my husband Eddie told me, "I think I have to go to the hospital." It was about midnight and I asked, "Why?" He just kept saying, "I need to go to the hospital." So, I called 911. The EMTs came, stabilized Eddie and transported him to the emergency room at Arlington Memorial Hospital. There, the doctors said that he would have died if he hadn't gotten help in time. He had what they called a "silent heart attack," but Eddie had sensed something wasn't right.

After triple bypass surgery, Eddie recuperated at Arlington Memorial for about three months. Then he was transferred to a rehabilitation center in Arlington for 6 weeks. Following that, a team of doctors, nurses, caregivers and I continued his rehabilitation at home for about a year.

On September 20, 2013, Eddie played his guitar, walked our dog, washed the car and went shopping. He bought doughnuts and made coffee and soup. I told him, "Honey, why don't you take it easy. You are doing too much." But he wouldn't listen to me. Just before midnight, while sitting at the computer eating, he screamed. His bowl of soup tumbled under the table. I ran to help him and called 911. The EMTs came again as fast as possible, but he did not get oxygen soon enough. He was diagnosed with encephalopathy caused by lack of oxygen to the brain.

About five days after Eddie was admitted to Arlington Memorial, I was confronted with do not resuscitate (DNR) regulations. I refused to put a DNR order in Eddie's medical records. After only 21 days in the hospital, he was transferred to a nursing home in Fort Worth.

His skin was perfect when he entered the nursing home, but while there he developed a large bedsore on his back. I believe this was due to neglect as they did not turn him frequently enough. He also started to vomit, had infections and contracted the flu. He was rushed to Arlington Memorial three times and then to Harris Methodist Hospital in Fort Worth three times.

The last time at Harris, I was told they could do nothing more for Eddie. Two weeks after his 60<sup>th</sup>

birthday, on January 16, 2014, I was informed that the hospital ethics committee had made a "medical futility" decision, which was really a death sentence. In 10 days, they were going to stop all treatment, including dialysis, oxygen and tube-feeding. So, I called in help. The chair of the hospital ethics committee had given me a lot of information. One of the papers included a short list of people willing to help find a place to move a patient when a hospital decides to stop treating a patient against his or his family's wishes. I asked the chair of the ethics committee what this paper was and she replied that it was nothing important; the people listed wouldn't be able to help. Desperate, I decided to call anyway.

Julie Grimstad, chair of the Pro-life Healthcare Alliance, was on that list. I called her and she, in turn, contacted John Seago at Texas Right to Life, a man who has helped patients and families in many Texas "medical futility" cases. Julie visited Eddie and me at the hospital. When I introduced Eddie to her, he turned his head to look. Julie asked him several questions to which he seemed to respond appropriately. For instance, when she asked, "Eddie, do you hurt anywhere?" he shook his head "no."

A couple of days later, John, Julie and I met with the chair of the hospital ethics committee and the head social worker. Even though the chair of the committee admitted that Eddie had improved

physiologically since the "medical futility" decision, the decision would not be reversed. About a dozen health care facilities throughout the state already had been contacted, but all had refused to accept Eddie. The last resort was to send him back to the nursing home in Fort Worth. It was the only place willing to take him, so I reluctantly transferred him there. It was better than certain death.

The story doesn't end there. When Eddie needed blood, I refused to let him go back to Harris because the "medical futility" death sentence was still in force there. So, he was sent to Arlington Memorial. From there, I was able to get him into a nursing center in Arlington that provides transitional care.

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, Eddie asked for vanilla pudding and ice cream! It was wonderful to hear him talking to me again. I could not feed him, even though I knew he wanted something to eat, because the medical staff kept saying he would die or get aspiration pneumonia if he was fed naturally.

On March 19, 2014, my beloved husband Eddie Guffey went home to be with the Lord. I have the comfort of knowing he did not die from denial of life-sustaining treatment and care, but naturally in God's good time.

STAY CONNECTED



Pro-life Healthcare Alliance

a program of [Human Life Alliance](#)  
1614 93rd Lane NE, Minneapolis, MN 55449  
Tel 651.484.1040