

## We've Moved!



Marlene Tersigni, Amanda Hendriks, Joan Webb

We are excited to announce that we have found a new office location! Since ownership of our 3 King Street location changed early in 2021, conditions in and around the office unfortunately deteriorated. It became apparent to us that we could not stay, much less invite visitors, volunteers or continue to have staff working in an unhealthy environment.

Our new location in Unit 102 at 1 Belton Boulevard, facing Glenridge Avenue, is in a very busy area, close to local high schools and Brock University. It's in a spacious professional medical building, perfectly suited to our needs, enabling us to continue to be a highly visible witness for life and a hub of pro-life activity in Niagara.

We want to thank everyone who participated in our search for just the right location, to the many who helped with the move and to all our supporters who continually make our efforts possible. We look forward to a fresh beginning and welcome you to visit our new location soon.

## President's Message

Happy New Year to our friends of Choose Life Niagara! It has been a "whirlwind" start to the year as we efficiently moved, despite snow and frigid temperatures, to our new office location. I wish to thank the many volunteers who made our move possible and especially to Jackie Sinke for the use of her big rig!

Freedom is our inalienable right that is fundamental to a truly moral society. Any institution or government that legalizes intrinsically evil acts (E.g. abortion and euthanasia) and legitimizes violations of conscience promotes not freedom but slavery. **Bill C-230, the Protection of Freedom of Conscience Act**, aims to protect conscience rights for medical professionals by preventing coercion and intimidation that force participation in medical assistance in dying (MAiD).

As citizens of a free country, it is our duty to ensure that our leaders acknowledge and respect that freedom of thought, conscience and religion is protected under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Forcing someone to act against one's conscience through coercive manipulation is anti-Canadian. Let us remain hopeful that Bill C-230 becomes law, and that our country resolutely upholds the tenets of freedom and conscience.

Yours in life,  
Amanda Hendriks

Our recent social media post reminds followers of the incredible early development of the preborn.



### This is a human person that mattered

While giving anesthetic for a ruptured ectopic pregnancy, Dr. Paul E. Rockwell was handed what he believed was the smallest human ever seen. "The baby was extremely alive and swam about the sac approximately one time per second, with a natural swimmer's stroke. **This tiny human did not look at all like the photos and drawings and models of 'embryos' which I had seen, nor did it look like a few embryos I have been able to observe since then, obviously because this one was alive!** When the sac was opened, the tiny human immediately lost his life and took on the appearance of what is accepted as the appearance of an embryo at this stage of life.

## COMING SOON

Car Rally & Disc Golf Tournament  
Fundraisers

Details for these and other upcoming events  
can be found at [Chooselife.ca/events](https://chooselife.ca/events).





Josef VanRuyven wears his "Pray to End Abortion" button as one way to invite thought and discussion on abortion.

## Pro-Life Button Gets Noticed

It's a small button that says "Pray to End Abortion," a message you'd think wouldn't turn any heads or offend anyone. Josef Van Ruyven has found otherwise. About five years ago, he began wearing the pro-life button on the lapel of his coats, hoping to engage people on the topic. Everywhere he goes wearing it, he catches people looking. They mostly "avert their eyes, while I use my eyes to invite them into a discussion. I really want this conversation, and am open to the potential messiness that it may bring."

About a year ago, as Josef walked into a shoe store, the clerk immediately saw his pro-life button. There were a couple of other customers in the store, and after they left, the clerk came up to him to tell him that she really appreciated him wearing that pin. "It took me by surprise," said Josef. "We had a conversation in which she shared with me about her two daughters, and how sad she was with their choices. She just wanted to talk about the grandchildren she never had."

Last fall, Josef participated in the 40 Days for Life prayer vigil in front of the Welland hospital, wearing the button and carrying a sign with the same message. A young woman walking her dog approached him. "She stopped and then proceeded to tell me how offended she was by my sign/button. I listened, nodded and looked into what she was saying for common ground. She cited rape, incest, infidelity etc. as reasons for why every woman must have the right to choose, in all circumstances. When she gave me the chance, I got her to concede that these instances, while tragic, and difficult, were relatively rare." After their discussion, the woman left and Josef has not seen her since, but he hopes to in the upcoming spring 40 Days for Life.

Josef was asked how best to prepare for wearing the "Pray to End Abortion" message: "I'd say having thick skin, (don't get offended by abusive intimidation strategies), and a heavy dose of humility (putting anything you want to say in your back pocket). The person before you is hurting in ways you can never imagine. I find that when I offer to pray for them, a lot of their vitriol dissipates."



40 Days for Life will be running in Niagara from March 2 to April 10. For more info, visit the events page on [chooselife.ca](http://chooselife.ca)



## Choose Life Niagara Fall Youth Retreat

Speaker Blaise Alleyne taught over 40 youth at our fall retreat how to engage in conversations about the injustices of abortion, assisted suicide and euthanasia. The students learned that asking the right questions can lead to common ground and point people with a pro-choice view to see that abortion is not "a human right, but a human rights violation that takes the life of an innocent human being." When discussing assisted suicide, Alleyne suggests to begin by asking the simple question, "When is it right to prevent suicide and when to facilitate it?" From there, a strong case can be developed to show that we must always seek to prevent suicide, regardless of age, disability or mental state.

