

# ANTI-CHOICE PROJECT

making abortion impossible to ignore or trivialize

February 2011 | [antichoiceproject.com](http://antichoiceproject.com) | PO Box 5992, Bremerton, WA 98312



Dear Friend of the Anti-Choice Project,

Andrew and I want to wish you a happy New Year, and hope this Christmas season was restful, enjoyable, and filled with peace. Every year as winter sets in ACP takes a much-needed break from our vigorous schedule of weekly protests from March to November. It also gives us a chance to focus on some administrative housekeeping that needs to happen for a professional, effective, and life-saving campaign against abortion to be mounted.

## THE PERSUASIVE POWER OF GRAPHIC IMAGES

We know our pictures are incredibly powerful and effective because of the steady stream of feedback we read through an online survey conducted by our allies at the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform (CBR, [www.abortionno.org](http://www.abortionno.org)). We also know because of the feedback we get from motorists who see us, including one woman on September 12, 2010 who told one of our volunteers that seeing us that day changed her mind, and she was not going to kill her unborn baby.

On October 3, 2010 after a 90 minute protest at Wheaton Way & Sheridan in Bremerton, Washington, a respectful young Navy sailor approached us to challenge the philosophy and strategy of using gruesome pictures to make our point. It may be the most common complaint we hear, after pleas for the sake of the children. (The irony that we sacrifice many hours of our lives standing with these images, experiencing ridicule and hatred precisely for the sake of children—still *in utero*—is completely lost on them. But we don't much care what people think about us; we care what they think about abortion.) Toward the end of the conversation, as we explained the power of our pictures to convert hearts and minds, this man conceded our point saying:



Newly formed Seattle ACP Chapter holds their first protest outside the enormously busy Northgate Mall, October 16, 2010. Volunteers pictured here are Mary and Brian. Way to go guys!

“ Yeah, I know they are very powerful. A friend of mine who saw you guys decided to not have an abortion.” – Navy sailor who approached us after a protest in Kitsap County

A great majority of those who see us never comment one way or the other. But everyone with a functioning conscience is shocked, horrified, and disgusted by what they see. The reason is simple: abortion is a shocking, horrifying, and disgusting act of violence that kills a baby. Like the treatment of blacks during the Civil Rights Movement, and the treatment of Jews under Hitler, such realities can never be conveyed through words alone. Anyone attempting to cover up pictures of the Holocaust would be denounced as an anti-Semite, and rightly so. Yet pictures of the American Holocaust, so we're told, need never be shown, as they are “too terrible to look at”.

Question: If something is too terrible to look at, why are we tolerating it?

## COLLEGE ATTEMPTS TO RESTRICT FREE SPEECH

In September, we learned that a local community college was attempting to restrict our access to their campus. Tolerant, open-minded administrators who sit on Olympic College's Board of Trustees were so determined to hide the truth about abortion that they drafted a new free-speech policy for their campus, whereby non-students (read: Anti-Choice Project volunteers) would only be allowed to protest in carefully selected locations, and only after submitting an application days



The choice is yours. Student Michael Fermin talks to a student about the graphic images on his sign. Fermin represents the Anti-Choice Project, a group which is considering legal action against the school over a First Amendment policy adopted in August and suspended last week.

## First Amendment policy suspended

The Olympic College student paper (above) came out in opposition of the outrageous free speech policy.

in advance of each protest. The designated free-speech zone was Hyde Park, an obscure place, described by the school newspaper as the “least visible on campus” (“OC Adopts New Regulations,” The Olympian, 9/21/2010). It did not take us long to issue a press release which was soon picked up by the local media, including the Kitsap Sun, the Bellingham Herald, the Seattle Times and local talk radio show hosts. In our response we wrote:

“What this administration is attempting to do borders on the comical as a ‘free speech area’ denied to non-students is by definition a restricted-speech area. Not as comical are the fines which accompany such discriminatory policies infringing on citizens’ First Amendment rights.”

Announcing we had sought legal counsel with the Alliance Defense Fund in conjunction with our press release statement (which you can find on our website, [www.antichoiceproject.com](http://www.antichoiceproject.com)) was apparently all that was needed for the Board of Directors to experience a change of heart, and retract the new policy entirely.

### ACP 2011

Thanks to your generous response to our appeal letter in August, we were able to launch ACP chapters in Seattle and Portland. Your automatic, recurring donations via PayPal allow us to expand further, and our goal is to launch three additional chapters in 2011. We will also have a 1-800 number printed on our

signs, which will serve several roles, the most important being an opportunity to connect pregnant women and post-abortive women with third-party professionals and services they desperately need.

On behalf of the two babies we know are alive—and the many more untold saves—we thank you for your support of this vital work.

Your regular gift of \$50, \$25, \$10 or \$5 helps us to expand our life-saving projects into more and more cities in need of seeing the truth about abortion. Set up a recurring gift with your credit or debit card by visiting our website at [www.antichoiceproject.com](http://www.antichoiceproject.com) and clicking the “Donate” button

Sincerely Yours,



*THA*

**Thomas A. Herring**  
Co-Director, Anti-Choice Project



*Andrew St. Hilaire*

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