

## *Knights of Columbus and Birth Choice Team Up With Technology to Save Lives*

Four Knights of Columbus councils in South Orange County, California, expressed their core principals of Fraternity and Unity in a Charitable drive to save unborn babies, and express their respect for life. Compelled to action by their faith in God these men were called to experience love and compassion by helping those in need, a call they answer every day.



A Siemens 4-D  
Ultrasound Machine

Working together, the Knights of Columbus councils from St. Edward the Confessor Parish in Dana Point, Mission Parish in San Juan Capistrano, St. Timothy Parish in Laguna Niguel, and Our Lady of Fatima Parish in San Clemente, have so far raised more than \$100,000 in support of Birth Choice Clinics. The funds collected by these councils are being matched by the Knights' Supreme Council in Connecticut to purchase new, 4-D ultrasound machines. Birth Choice will use these ultrasound machines in five clinics and in their mobile clinic to enhance the level of counseling. Women at-risk for abortion who receive counseling and view an ultrasound of their baby are twice as likely to choose life as women who receive counseling alone.

Janifer Borba, Birth Choice Clinic Director stated, "This past week our very first 4D ultrasound was delivered to the steps of the Long Beach Clinic. As many of you may remember, we had been praying for the Lord to deliver the donations to equip all six of our medical clinics with this new generation of ultrasounds. The Knights of Columbus answered this call and have generously gifted us with the funds necessary to bring Birth Choice Health Clinics to that next level.

"In the past, we have used the 2D ultrasounds to show our clients the beating hearts of the babies growing inside of them. With the introduction of the 4D, we will be able to show these young women a life-like image of their child. The technological advancements of the 4D are so dramatic that the images obtained show an uncanny resemblance to the child after they are born. We will be introducing our clients to their unborn child in a powerful way that is only made possible through the medical advances of the 4D ultrasound and the generosity of the Knights of Columbus. "



Images from a 4D ultrasound  
show a child at just 15 weeks  
in remarkable detail

The Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative serves as a concrete way for Knights to support the health and wellness of pregnant mothers and their babies. Launched Jan. 22, 2009, this initiative matches funds raised by local and state councils with a contribution from the Supreme Council's Culture of Life Fund to purchase ultrasound equipment.



Kathleen Eaton

So far, 25 pregnancy centers have benefited, including the Birth Choice clinics in California. "When a young mother sees and hears the baby forming in her, she will choose life over abortion for that child in 74 percent of client cases. This is a 60 point improvement, up from just 14 percent when Birth Choice was merely counseling young women as a pregnancy resource center," said Birth Choice founder and CEO Kathleen Eaton. "Ultrasound diagnostics has been the linchpin in the success Birth Choice has enjoyed since becoming fully licensed health clinics."

Starting as a small call-in pregnancy resource center in 1981, Birth Choice has grown into six community health clinics serving thousands of young women annually in Southern California, providing medical services, education and support to individuals consistent with the inherent value of every human life.

That appealed to local Knights of Columbus California councils, which have worked with Birth Choice to collect funding to purchase ultrasound machines through the Order's Ultrasound Initiative. To date, two machines has been funded and approved, funding is now available for two additional machines, and the Knights are steadfastly working to raise the funds needed to purchase a fifth machine. "It (the initiative) has been a blessing to us ... that the Knights should do something like this to help," Eaton said. "The Ultrasound project saves lives," said Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson in his report to the 2009 Supreme Convention in Phoenix.



There are 6 Birth Choice Health Clinics, including a mobile clinic in Southern California. Each is a licensed community care clinic offering medical services to include ultrasounds, pregnancy tests, HIV/AIDS testing, STD testing/treatment, prenatal and well woman care. Each clinic is strategically located near established abortion clinics. Marrying professional medical marketing with compassionate pro-life disciplines has put Birth Choice at the forefront of the twenty-first century pro-life movement. Since becoming fully licensed medical clinics in 2006, Birth Choice has logged over 37,000 client visits and saved thousands of babies from abortion.

Other state and local councils that want to participate in the initiative should refer to the Ultrasound Initiative Guidelines and program requirements found at [www.kofc.org/ultrasound](http://www.kofc.org/ultrasound).

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest lay Catholic organization with more than 1.75 million members worldwide. Last year, Knights gave more than 68 million hours of their time to charitable causes and donated more than \$144 million to charity.

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Birth Choice Mobile Health Clinic



A Birth Choice success story