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Dedicated to the preservation of all human life from fertilization to natural death.

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Summer Newsletter

Office address: 4020 Copper View, Building A, Suite 104 * Mail to: PO Box 5416 Traverse City, MI 49696-5416
231-946-9469 | gtartl.com | director@gtartl.com | Follow us on Facebook & Instagram: **GTA Right to Life**

FOCUS ON LIFE DINNER 2026 | JIM TOWEY

Jim Towey has been pro bono legal counsel to Missionaries of Charity for 38 years, and advisor and dear friend of Saint Mother Teresa's. He previously headed the White House Office of Faith-Based Community Initiatives under George W. Bush and served on his senior staff. In 1996, he founded the nonprofit advocacy organization Aging with Dignity and created the Five Wishes advance directive which has sold over 40 million copies. Copies will be available at the event! In the year 2000, Saint Pope John Paul II awarded Jim a papal medal for distinguished service. He currently is a trustee of The Papal Foundation. Jim Towey is a man whose extraordinary life has been defined by faith, service, and leadership that changes lives.



October 5, 2026

Grand Traverse Resort and Spa
5 pm Social Hour
6 pm Dinner & Program
Adult: \$95 | Table of 10: \$950 | Student: \$75



Scan the QR code, email director@gtartl.com,
or call (231)946-9469 to reserve your tickets!

Please note: You may reserve tickets online and pay later -
just use code CASH at checkout!

Local Contacts

GTARTL Board of Directors

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Barbi Aumiller (989) 370-3445

Upcoming

September 24 - RLM State Conference
October 4 - Life Chain in Traverse City
October 5 - Focus on Life Dinner w/ Jim Towey
October 24 - Early Voting Begins
November 3 - ELECTION DAY



PAIN IS NOT THE REASON

Data from Oregon show that **pain never makes it into the top five reasons for assisted suicide**. Rather, loss of autonomy, loss of the ability to engage in activities that make life enjoyable, loss of dignity, and being a burden (**or the fear of being a burden**) are among the most commonly cited reasons.

Want to learn more?

Read the 2024 Oregon Death with Dignity Act Data Summary Report.
Scan the QR code to read pages 12-18.
Also note the range in the number of days between the first request and death: 0-1,859 days—more than 5 years!



We use Zeffy, a free platform for nonprofits that ensures 100% of raised funds go directly to GTARTL (no fees!). Zeffy is funded solely by contributions from donors. At the end of your transaction, you can choose to donate to Zeffy by selecting the suggested amount, or a different contribution amount by clicking "Other" in the dropdown (including \$0 - this is NOT required).

ELECTION SEASON IS HERE!!



Find your personalized
pro-life ballot at
rtl.org/vote



We need volunteers to help make
phone calls in support of our endorsed
pro-life candidates and getting out the
vote! Please contact the office today for
more information - it's very easy and
makes a real impact!

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PRO-LIFE BILLS TO SUPPORT

- HB 5201, 5202, & 5203
- HR 195
- HB 4055
- HB 4056 & 4057
- HB 4058 & 4059

ANTI-LIFE BILLS TO OPPOSE

- HB 4133 & 4134 / SB 154 & 155
- SB 359

For more information on these bills,
visit www.rtl.org/resource/legislation

Life Links Golf Outing 2026

Thanks to all of our Committee, Sponsors, and Golfers who made this year another great success!
Please be sure to patronize and thank the following for supporting LIFE!

Founders Challenge

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Pete & Lisa Miller
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TEENS FOR LIFE



MEET OUR SCHOLARSHIP WINNER, GRACE COLLINS!

Grace Collins is the first recipient of the GTARTL Scholarship Award. A Leelanau County native, Grace was homeschooled before graduating from St. Mary of the Assumption in Lake Leelanau. She is now entering her senior year of medical school at the University of Arkansas. Grace Collins is the first recipient of the GTARTL Scholarship Award. A Leelanau County native, Grace was homeschooled before graduating from St. Mary of the Assumption in Lake Leelanau. She is now entering her senior year of medical school at the University of Arkansas. Grace's parents instilled in her a deep respect for the dignity of every human person, along with a love of biology and music. During a

busy school year of tutoring and labs, her mother encouraged her to apply for the GTARTL scholarship. Grace was already familiar with Grand Traverse Area Right to Life through her involvement with Teens for Life at St. Mary's, including attending a Focus Dinner.

What is your school environment like? Where do your peers stand on life issues?

"Many people are pro-life but are hesitant or afraid to say so. Once I express my position, I often find that my peers agree, even if they wouldn't be the first to bring it up." Grace is also involved with the University Parish at St. Thomas Aquinas.

How have you spent your service hours?

While in Michigan, Grace volunteered at Thrive, a pregnancy resource center in Traverse City, helping organize donations and prepare welcoming, private spaces where women can feel safe and cared for. She saw firsthand how the staff works to build trust and support women with compassion. As Grace heads back to Fayetteville for her senior year, she will continue serving through music and visits with residents at a senior living community.

A Thought on the Dignity of Life

"Your life is not your own. Your own death is

something that happens to everybody else."
— Sherlock Holmes, Sherlock, "The Lying Detective" (2017)
Grace is also passionate about promoting the dignity of the person at the end of life. She recognizes that older adults have great value in our families and communities, and that their lives—and their deaths—profoundly impact those who love them.



Many thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers!

