

I'm a Kansan for Life!

Jan Branson, Wichita, Kansas



How I became involved in the pro-life movement:

Years ago, I was working in an area high school as a para, and one of the classes was for expectant moms. I was surprised by the attitudes, irresponsibility, and behaviors of these teens and worried about how their attitudes would affect their babies. The attitudes I saw around me — and my desire to see things from God's point of view — led me to participate in the pro-life movement. While I was still working with the expectant moms' class at the school, I decided to make a personal investment in making these kinds of situations better. I went to the Pregnancy Crisis Center to volunteer.

There were many options for volunteer work at the pregnancy center. I chose to help sort donated items, stock shelves, and fill orders for things the new moms chose for their babies. The whole idea of abortion being acceptable and lawful was sickening to me, and I was glad to have found a way to help young women choose life for their babies.

What I do for the pro-life movement:

I volunteer at the Kansans for Life office because I am for life — including the life of the unborn, the unwanted (for whatever reason), those born with “defects” of various kinds, the disabled, the elderly, and those labeled “different.” KFL also offers support and encouragement to those who have regrets and a show of love to those who feel unlovely because of their past. I met one such woman at a local high school when she came to pick up her teen. She told me her story: some thirty years earlier, this woman was forced by her parents to get an abortion at the age of 16. She said she had no clue what was happening. I offered her the vision of holding that baby in heaven one day, if she had made peace with God through his promise of forgiveness when we confess our sin. She had not thought of that. I considered this to have been a meeting preplanned and arranged by the Lord. “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:21)”

I take advantage of any opportunity I have to discuss life and personal responsibility with young people. One day, to my amazement, two male students, individually at different times, told me their intentions of abstaining from sex until they were married. They were very serious. I was in awe of what God was and is doing in the lives of young people even in the midst of this culture of self-centeredness and lack of personal responsibility. Young people still do have free will and can choose what is good. It is our job to do our best to show them what the truth is. What a privilege it is to have a part in seeking to bring value to life, that is so often lost.

My other activities, outside the pro-life movement:

In the early 60's, as a teen, I was a candy striper at Wesley. I went all over the hospital running errands and transporting people. Over the years I have sometimes been employed at the hospital, and other times volunteered there. I am now a volunteer in the Pediatric unit.



Jan with her two rescued dogs.

Being retired now, I am volunteering in several places. In addition to Wesley, I also volunteer at Kansans for Life, Kansas Coalition for Life, Kansas Humane Society, and Episcopal Migrant Ministry.

Another cause that is close to my heart is caring for animals who have suffered abuse and abandonment. When human beings think there is nothing wrong with aborting their own children or abusing them, it is no wonder there is so much abuse and abandonment of animals too.

I currently have a very sweet pit bull who was abandoned and was nothing but skin and bones when I adopted her a year ago. My other adopted dog was an unwanted Christmas present who spent the first seven years of her life shut up in a room by herself while the family was gone all day. She had no socialization with humans or with other dogs. I consider it a privilege to have her also.

I enjoy scrapbooking, gardening, traveling, cooking, and reading.