



Megan Schools Her Classmates On Abortion

Justice For All came to Megan, a student at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, at the right time. She is entering a profession, social work, where the vast majority of her colleagues are pro-choice. She has always felt a need to speak out about her pro-life convictions, but often has remained silent because she hasn't known what to say. Unbeknownst to her, her JFA workshop experience would help her to impact her peers the very next day!

At the workshop, JFA trainer Jon Wagner taught her a dialogue skill called "Trotting Out The Toddler," which, among other things, highlights the fact that our society routinely treats the unborn in ways that would never be acceptable with toddlers in the same circumstances.

The next day, she was surprised to learn that one of the topics being discussed in her *Introduction to Disabilities* course was the moral acceptability of aborting children with Down syndrome.

Thankfully, because of the workshop the night before, she knew exactly how to contribute to the discussion: by "Trotting Out The Toddler." This is her reflection:

We were talking about aborting people because they may not be able to care for themselves, in cases like Down syndrome or other intellectual disabilities. The professor said that over ninety percent of children with Down syndrome are aborted and asked the class whether this was morally acceptable.

Other students chimed in, saying that abortion in the case of such intellectual disabilities made sense, since the child may have to go to special



Megan (right) at a recent outreach event at the University of Nebraska at Kearney

schools and create a burden for the parents. They also said that the child may get bullied in school.

I didn't know if I was going to say anything, but finally decided to use the argument I learned [the night before].

I told the class to imagine a healthy two-year-old that is hit by a car. He sustains enough damage to his brain that he is unable to take care of himself and has similar problems as those born with intellectual disabilities. Would it be acceptable to kill the two-year-old because of his disabilities? The class was silent. No other students said anything. Finally, the professor said, "Yeah Megan, that's a great analogy for this situation."

Because she was equipped by Justice For All, she was able to speak out and impact her peers on the question of aborting children due to their disabilities. Her cour-



I helped to lead a workshop at the University of Nebraska at Kearney where Megan, and others, learned pro-life dialogue skills like "Trotting Out The Toddler."

age may have changed how her classmates will give advice to the parents of children with Down syndrome in their future social work careers. And if Megan is capable of impacting her peers just one day after attending the JFA workshop, imagine how much of an impact she can make in her profession over the course of her career!

Your support of JFA allows us to equip students like Megan to impact their peers at school, colleagues in their future careers, and the families they help down the road. Megan's example demonstrates how the results of our events have the potential to ripple outward over time, touch-

ing, and possibly saving, more lives every year.

Thank you so much for helping us reach students like Megan. These students can help to create a culture in which the question of when it is morally acceptable to abort those with intellectual disabilities would no longer spark a debate. With their help, the answer could become unequivocally, "Never."

— Jeremy

Note: Megan beautifully demonstrated the second step of our "Trot out the Toddler" tool. Learn all four steps at: www.jfaweb.org/TOTT.

Recent Events: JFA events in which I participated as a mentor or speaker this fall

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| Del City, OK: Sept. 16 | Interactive Seminar at Christian Heritage Academy - 45 attended |
| Norman, OK: Sept. 18 | Interactive Seminar at Trinity Baptist Church - 48 attended |
| Norman, OK: Sept. 19-20 | "Art of Life" Exhibit Outreach at University of Oklahoma |
| Austin, TX: Oct. 1 | Presentation for the Catholic Diocese of Austin Texas - 12 attended |
| North Platte, NE: Oct. 3 | Interactive Workshop at St. Patrick's Catholic Church - 34 attended |
| Kearney, NE: Oct. 4 | Interactive Workshop at University of Nebraska at Kearney - 15 attended |
| Kearney, NE: Oct. 5 | Poll Table Outreach at University of Nebraska at Kearney |
| Seward, NE: Oct. 5 | Presentation at St. Gregory the Great Seminary - 12 attended |
| Hastings, NE: Oct. 7 | Interactive Seminar at St. Cecilia's Catholic High School - 30 attended |
| Lincoln, NE: Oct. 7 | Presentation at Old Chicago - 22 attended |
| Lincoln, NE: Oct. 8 | Interactive Seminar at St. Michael's Catholic School - 15 attended |
| Austin, TX: Oct. 11, 18, 19 | 2 Presentations and 1 Workshop for Austin Stone small group - 38 attended |