Siege of Bread and Roses continues in Milwaukee

by Matt Trewhella

Milwaukee, WI—On Tuesday, January 8, about 40 pro-lifers gathered on the north side of Milwaukee at a local death camp called Bread & Roses. In what has become a three-times a week occurrence, rescuers block the entrance of the killing center with their bodies in order to prevent State-legal murder. This time, however, they used a car.

At 7 a.m., police were called to Bread & Roses, located at 5825 W. Capitol Drive, to investigate a car left parked up against the door. Upon arriving, police discovered there was not only a car, but two people

The two rescuers were sitting in holes cut in the floorboard of the car. From the waist up, the rescuers were inside the car, with the windows rolled up, doors locked, and a steel bar welded from the back to the front doors. The rest of their bodies were outside the car, sitting on the sidewalk with their legs Kryptonite-locked to the chassis.

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Rather than call the fire department to try to remove this latest contraption, the police informed the rescuers that the abortuary director had told them that she would not be filing charges, and that if the abortionist wanted them arrested, he would have to file. When the child-killer arrived three hours later, he also declined to file charges and left.

In the meantime, counselors were busy talking to several women who had come to the killing center. One man who was driving by stopped and told the rescuers that he and his wife had come to get an abortion at

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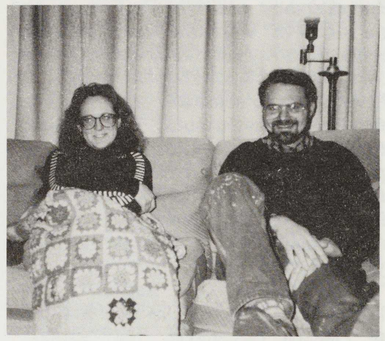
another abortuary last summer, but when they got there a bunch of people were outside and they ended up leaving. His wife is now eight months pregnant.

A nearby Crisis Pregnancy Center also reported that since the mission began last September, there has been a great increase in the number of women they see.

Citizens for Life, a Milwaukee rescue group which has been doing rescues since 1986, joined with the Missionaries to the Preborn to do this car rescue.

There are 24 children confirmed saved since the missionaries commenced this mission last September. In the end, the clinic was closed for the day without a single arrest. At 3:30 p.m., the rescuers jump-started the car, unlocked their locks, and drove away. No killing had taken place.



Colleen and Edmund, the two who locked themselves to the car. (Photo: Matt Trewhella)

Later that night, the news reported that all the other businesses in the mini-mall where Bread & Roses is located have moved out, casualties of a 4 1/2 month siege. The message to Milwaukee landlords—"Unless you want to be broke, don't rent to a killing center." ■

For more information: Rescue: Operation Milwaukee, P.O. Box 27171, Milwaukee, WI 53227; phone (414) 536-1038.

Car blocks door with two rescuers attached. (Photo: Matt Trewhella)

A Survivor of Abortion Grows Up

by Jessica Shaver

Gianna Jessen is going on 14 but the date in April that she will celebrate as her birthday isn't really her birthday, because she was never born. She was aborted.

"I'm adopted," Gianna will explain, whether during one of her concerts before a group or sitting on the beige carpet of her San Clemente home, talking to a visitor. "My birth mother chose to have a saline abortion when she was 24 weeks pregnant, but, by the grace of God, I survived."

Loss of oxygen during the hours she spent gulping the toxic salt solution resulted in Gianna's cerebral palsy, which has meant four painful and costly operations. At 9, Gianna was one of the first children in the country to undergo a delicate procedure in which her spinal cord was exposed so a team of neurosurgeons could sever the nerves causing spastic movement. She still limps, often falls, and has trouble with math problems that involve sequencing and patterning.

Whether Gianna's birth mother was pregnant 24 weeks or 26 or 29-1/2 (the medical records conflict), the abortion was legal under *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court ruling handed down 18 years ago this month. Her doctor injected a saline solution into her uterus and expected her to deliver a dead fetus the next day. Instead, she delivered a live baby. Gianna weighed two pounds.

Somebody on the clinic staff rescued Gianna and kept her alive in an incubator until she was stable enough to release to a

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private home four months later. She not only had cerebral palsy but spina bifida. Doctors said she would never sit up, much less walk.

Until she was nearly four, Gianna lived in a foster home with a woman named Penny, the second of three mothers in her life. Penny has taken in high-risk and hard-to-place children for 23 years, adopting the first of them herself. Crusade for Life of Orange County honored her as its Mother of the Year in 1986.

Penny worked daily with the baby, massaging her legs and feet. Today Gianna not only walks without braces but plays softball and climbs mountains.

Penny's daughter Diana adopted Gianna nearly 10 years ago. She continued the physical therapy and home-schooled her during the long recoveries after her operations.

"From the beginning, there were all kinds of adjustments for both of us," Diana admits. "The day I adopted her, I took her to the mall—where else would a mother take a daughter? She was in a big buggy that wouldn't fit on the escalator and the elevator was broken. I had never been limited before and I thought, is this how it's always going to be? Never able to do anything, with people staring at us?

"I hold my breath whenever she sings on stage. She's in constant motion to the music and she falls so easily. I'm afraid she'll trip over cords."

Gianna is in therapy with a psychologist for the emotional pain of rejection from her birth mother and her peers. Classmates who are friendly outside of school give her the cold shoulder in school because of her limp.

"But I'm normal," Gianna stresses. "I'm just a normal teen-ager. I like talking to my friend Jessie on the phone and New Kids on the Block and movies and crafts." But especially music. "Music is me," says Gianna, grinning.

Gianna sang and danced almost as soon as she could walk, despite her clumsy leg braces. Soon, she was entertaining church groups, with a natural stage presence and soprano voice that captivated hearts.

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Audience response is overwhelming. "They cry," says Gianna simply. "People come up and tell me they're glad I survived. Some women who have had abortions say they are sorry they did. I always tell them I understand, because they didn't know what they were doing. I'm not trying to put a guilt trip on them."

Trish, a girl one year older than Gianna, was one of those who heard her sing. She wrote Gianna recently: "In one week, 14 friends changed their mind about abortion since I told them about you and showed them your picture. One girl I know is a freshman (in high school) and has already had three abortions and is now one month along, pregnant again. She was going to get an abortion but one of my friends told her about you. Now she is keeping her baby." ■

Ms. Shaver is a free-lance writer in Long Beach. This is a reprint from The Orange County Register.

Rescuers Soar

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local Catholic priest and repeat rescuer, roused sit-in participants with an impassioned quote from Dorothy Day, foundress of the Catholic Worker movement: "If they start killing our children and don't step over our bodies, then cursed be our religion and cursed be our lives."

Philadelphia police, generally professional in their treatment of rescuers, finally removed all 125 participants (including 12 juveniles) by 12:30 p.m. All or almost all were released with a summary charge by late afternoon. A negative sidelight: the detention of a local 81-year-old rescuer named Pat Carroll on a previous bench warrant from Pittsburgh. Fortunately, Carroll was released from the infamous "Roundhouse," Philadelphia's detention center, two days later on the 7th of January.

While the hometown Eagles were losers in the NFC playoffs, rescuers won overwhelmingly. ■