



# Aid for Women

*Empowering Women to Choose Life Since 1978*

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## Aid for Women is “on the air!”

Listen to Chicago’s Relevant Radio, AM 820, for Aid for Women’s new one-minute informational announcement! The spot is running ten times per week through the end of March.



Many thanks to Station Manager Mike Kendall and Senior Account Executive Allen Ptack for providing this valuable opportunity to get our name and message out there!

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## A Change of Heart

What influences a woman to turn away from entering an abortion clinic and to embrace life for the child growing inside of her?

A young woman named LaQuesia, who first visited Aid for Women in the fall of 2003, told her story during a workshop at the *Speak Out Illinois* conference on January 16. Bill Keen, the independent sidewalk counselor who brought LaQuesia from the door of the abortion clinic to the door of Aid for Women, shared his insights as well. Below are excerpts from their presentation.

### *In her own words — LaQuesia*

*“It was October 2003 when I found out I was pregnant. I had considered abortion due to the fact that the baby’s father had asked me to get an abortion. Also, I was kind of nervous about how people would look at me, not being married and being pregnant at the same time, and not knowing how I was going to find help.*

*“So I had considered abortion. When I called to make my appointment, they were able to schedule me in really quickly to get it done.*

*“I was really nervous and scared and I had prayed about it all night. I just asked God: ‘What am I supposed to do?’ I really didn’t want to go through an abortion because I had already had one a year before that. And so the day I went to the clinic, I was thankful to find Bill.*

*“If it weren’t for him I wouldn’t have my baby that I have now, and I just feel so blessed that there are people out there who care enough to spare time to help... because you feel like there is no option for you and there is.*

*“I’m just so happy that I chose life for my daughter. She’s the reason that I still go on, the reason that I’m here. I love her so much.*



*Briyana looks up to her courageous mom, LaQuesia*

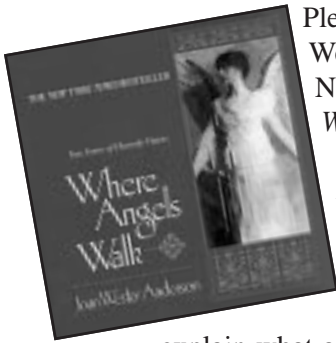
***“I’m just so happy  
that I chose life for  
my daughter.... I love  
her so much.”***

*“I remember going to the clinic and getting out of the car and this man came up to me. I thought, ‘Who is this guy, and why is he talking to me?’ As I was about to run in the door, he just said, ‘Please hear me out,’ and I did.”*

*“We sat down and we talked all that day. He was just there to listen and support*

*A Change of Heart continued on page four*

# Aid for Women Auxiliary Plans Spring Luncheon



Please join us as we welcome Joan Wester Anderson, author of the New York Times bestseller, *Where Angels Walk*.

Joan will discuss how she became interested in the subjects of angels and miracles through a strange rescue that her son experienced. She will explain what angels are and what they do, as well as recount several stories of angelic intervention, garnered from the thousands of letters she has received. Books will be available for purchase and Joan will sign autographs after the talk.

Raffle tickets are available for \$20 each, 3 for \$50, or 6 for \$100. (Winner need not be present.) Prizes include:

- Steamboat Springs — Relax during a one-week stay at a four-bedroom condo in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.
- Night At The Symphony — Enjoy four tickets to the concert of your choice at Chicago's Symphony Center and a dinner at Rhapsody restaurant.
- Waterford Vase — Experience a touch of Ireland with this beautiful Waterford crystal vase.
- A Day Of Beauty — Get the break you deserve at Tiffini Kim Salon.



*Bestselling author Joan Wester Anderson offered a variety of books at Aid for Women's Boutique for All Seasons last October.*

**Spring Luncheon**  
**11 a.m. Saturday, April 16**  
**The Woman's Athletic Club of Chicago**

The cost of the luncheon is \$60 per person. For an invitation or information, call event co-chairpersons Sue Barrett at (847) 816-7511, or Kate Berley at (630) 968-5424.

## Aid for Women Introduces Junior Auxiliary

Aid for Women is pleased to announce the formation of the Aid for Women Junior Auxiliary.

This organization is an exciting new fellowship of young women in grades eight through twelve which will help Aid for Women in its life-affirming mission through volunteering and fund-raising. For instance, members of the Junior Auxiliary will be helping out at the spring luncheon.

The Junior Auxiliary provides a fun way for its members to fulfill service hour requirements for school or confirmation preparation classes. The group will hold general meetings quarterly, with its next meeting scheduled for **2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 1**. The theme of the meeting is a baby shower, so everyone is invited to come and bring a baby item for the center.

For more information on joining the Junior Auxiliary, or to help out at the spring luncheon, please contact Sue Barrett at (847) 816-7511, or send E-mail to [auxiliary@aidforwomen.org](mailto:auxiliary@aidforwomen.org).



Many thanks to the Aid for Women Auxiliary for the generous contribution of \$15,000 from the proceeds of last fall's Boutique for All Seasons. Event chair Diane Philbin (left) and Auxiliary President Laima Braune (right) presented the funds to Diane Pietrzak and Pat Daily (center left and right) at the Auxiliary's General Meeting in November.

Don't miss out on the next auxiliary event, the Spring Luncheon on April 16!



# Look at me!



**Kelly Nicole** – Newborn Kelly, along with mother Kimmie and big sister Kayla, enjoys a visit to Aid for Women with Kimmie’s mentor Joan Delisi. Kelly was born July 26, 2004, at 6 pounds, 15 ounces.



**Kevin** – Little Kevin was born last June, weighing in at a mere 4 pounds, 8 ounces. Under mother Juanita’s loving care, he is a healthy, strong, growing little boy.



**Malik Kyle** – born March 4, 2004, at 6 pounds 1 ounce, to mom Coulette. Malik is 5 months old in the picture shown. “Thank you for everything that you’ve done for me,” grateful mom Coulette wrote when sending this picture to Aid for Women.



**Marcus James** – Mother Crystal gave birth to her son Marcus on January 10, 2004. Marcus was 5 pounds, 2 ounces at birth. He is 9 months old in this picture, taken during a follow-up visit to the center.

## Center Stories

(Clients’ names have been changed to protect their privacy.)

Early in her pregnancy, “Celene” came to Aid for Women for a pregnancy test and an ultrasound referral. When she came, her intention was to have an abortion – and it was still her intention when she left.

Celene called back a few months later and said she wanted to visit our center again. She was offered the opportunity to be in our mentoring program and she accepted. As it turned out, Celene had started prenatal care and worked out insurance coverage before she called. Her time spent with us in the beginning evidently influenced her more than either she, or we, had realized.

When Celene visited most recently, her mentor was able to give her clothes, diapers and other baby girl items she needs for her daughter, who is due to arrive soon. Celene’s story is an encouraging reminder that – even though we may not always see the results – every seed planted in love can bear fruit in God’s time. We just need to be faithful to continue planting those seeds.



Sometimes women contact us for various forms of assistance, not realizing that we are a pregnancy resource center. We try to help them however we can.

One day, a woman arrived at the center without an appointment. She spoke Italian, and could speak only very limited English. It turned out that she needed help to find the governmental agency that could provide her with proof of immunization necessary to attend school.

Normally, we would have been unable to understand her need, because of the language barrier. But volunteer counselor Joanne DeMuro happened to be in the center that day, and Joanne speaks Italian! Using our various resource manuals, she was able to direct the client to the appropriate agency. Thanks to be God for supplying our needs.

*A Change of Heart continued from page one*  
me and he also helped change (Briyana's father's) mind about her too, and (her father) has been there to support me throughout the pregnancy from that day forth. And he apologizes to this day that he even considered something like that.

*"We're just really blessed to have her in our lives, and I don't know what we would do without her."*

### **When we are weak, God is strong — Bill**

*"It's amazing to see LaQuesia's dedication. I admire her for having the courage to tell her story. It's such an inspiration to me and to everybody involved in the pro-life movement to see the results of our efforts, when we see hearts and minds being changed. When we think about it, we know it's not us. We know it's the Holy Spirit; we know it's our faith in doing what we're called to do.*

*"When you encounter somebody in the street going into the clinic, sometimes you don't know what to say. So you're always praying, 'Holy Spirit, just tell me what to say... help me out here.' As LaQuesia was walking to the door, I approached her and gently asked if we could talk and if she would read this brochure.*

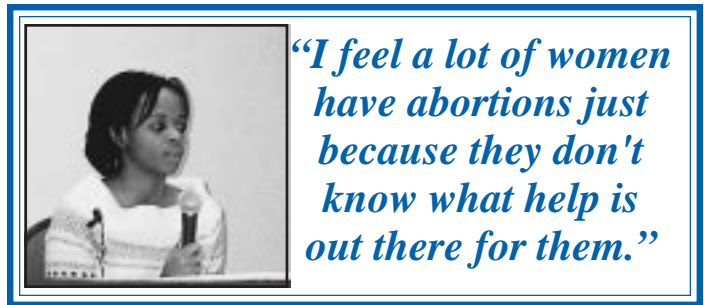
*"It was the story of Crystal Matthews, a turnaway at the same clinic about a year earlier. Crystal had written her story in one of the newsletters for Aid for Women. Instead of me speaking, it's often the words of other women who've been through the experience which changes minds and really warms hearts. And this is exactly what happened – LaQuesia was almost at the door, about to walk in. And she read it, and that was really the start of the conversion, of the change of heart.*

*"I'm just so grateful that we have a place like Aid for Women since when we're on the street, we (as sidewalk counselors) don't have the luxury of having an office. Yesterday, a number of us were at the clinic. It's 5 degrees; it's freezing. You don't have a lot of time or opportunity to really say, 'Hey, can we talk more?'"*

*"So thank goodness that we have places we can take women where it's warm, it's caring, they have an environment where the counselors are truly there to help out and offer women the information they need that will help them make the right decision.*



Bill Keen, LaQuesia, and Briyana during the presentation.



*"It warms my heart tremendously to see little Briyana here and I think that's an inspiration to all of us to continue with our work and continue to do what we know to be the right thing to do.*

*"In my opinion, there's nothing in the world that is more important than this kind of work."*

### **An answered prayer**

When asked to describe the circumstances in her life that led her consider abortion, LaQuesia responded, "I've been pregnant twice, and when I had an abortion with my first child ... that's the only option that I thought of. I didn't know there were other resources out there for me, for what I can do when I become pregnant. I feel a lot of women have abortions just because they don't know what help is out there for them.

"You think you're out there by yourself, when you're not. When you feel that you're alone and nobody else is going to help you, that's when you start considering abortion. And it's also when people put pressure onto you.

"My mom was supportive. She wanted me to have my child," LaQuesia said. "(Briyana's father) was pressuring me at first, but then once Bill reached out to him, (Briyana's father) was there for everything – he was there for the doctor visits, he was worried, he was calling me 24/7 ... he was always there. I guess it's just that *society* caused him to break, which caused him to put pressure on me."

Bill recognized that the baby's father wasn't receptive to him initially. But throughout the day, he saw a huge transformation.

After LaQuesia read Crystal's article at the clinic door and started crying, Bill walked her to a cafe down the street to talk, while Briyana's father continued to wait in the car. LaQuesia called him on her cell phone to tell him that she wanted to go to Aid for Women; but he hung up on her and told her that she was on her own. Bill supported LaQuesia by saying, "Listen, whether he decides to help you or not, you need to do what you know is right. And Aid for Woman and I will be there to support you through this."

Five minutes later, Briyana's father called back to apologize. After talking some more, they all went to Aid for Women together.

*A Change of Heart continued on page five*

### *A Change of Heart continued from page four*

While LaQuesia met with the Aid for Women counselor, Bill broke the ice with Briyana's father by talking about their mutual interest in sports and watching the Simpsons.

"Speaking man-to-man is quite helpful," Bill explained. "It's just a certain way to connect. (Briyana's father) is a wonderful guy. I remember trying so hard to connect with him that day. Something worked, something happened, and we did make a connection. The counselors at Aid for Women were able to talk with LaQuesia, and while they were in there for an hour, I had *his* ear for an hour! — which I think was a blessing from God, a blessing from the Holy Spirit."

The couple then received a referral for a free ultrasound exam at an office around the corner. Seeing their child's heart beating solidified their decision to choose life for their baby. Bill then invited them to lunch, providing additional time to talk. By the end of the day, Briyana's father had done a complete turnaround and had grateful tears in his eyes.

"Ultimately we do what we can as instruments of our Lord and the blessings are going to be there," Bill said. "We just have to be humble instruments and the miracles will happen. We see them, every time we're out there."

When asked what Bill did that made her willing to listen, LaQuesia answered that it was his persistence. "He asked me to hear him out, just for a few seconds," she said. "He just wanted me to read this article and once I read it, I had an emotional breakdown at the site. But it really touched me and made me realize that God was out there listening to me

and He was answering my prayer."

With the help of Aid for Women counselors, LaQuesia was able to find *i m m e d i a t e* health care through the state-sponsored KidCare program. She also enrolled in the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) and MAC (Mother and Child) programs, which provided her with milk and food. LaQuesia then prepared for motherhood by attending classes on birthing, breastfeeding, and baby CPR at St. Joseph's hospital. She also participated in Aid for Women's Mentor Angel program.

LaQuesia gave birth to a beautiful baby girl named Briyana last June. Briyana is an adorable child with a full head of hair and expressive eyebrows.

LaQuesia, who is currently completing her college degree, will become a full-time pastry chef this summer. She is a poised young lady, confident and positive, clearly enjoying her new bundle of joy. "I like being a mom and she likes being a baby," LaQuesia said, contentedly. From the look on Briyana's brightly smiling face, she clearly agrees.



Recordings of the *Speak Out Illinois* conference are available through LCE Media in both CD and cassette format. Purchase one talk for \$7.50, or order the full conference set (8 talks) for \$40.00. Call (815) 784-3885 or email [info@lccmedia.com](mailto:info@lccmedia.com). For LaQuesia's story, ask for "A Change of Heart."

## **Familiar Faces, New Roles**

### *Board Names Rita Vanek as Vice-Chairman*

Rita Vanek has been with Aid for Women as a counselor and mentor since June 2002 and currently volunteers at least one day per week at the center. After joining the board of directors last July, Rita was recently voted in as Vice-Chairman.

In her roles with Aid for Women, Rita has an opportunity to share her administrative, teaching and counseling experience. "I have been impressed that at all times Aid for Women staff serves each client and her unborn baby in a loving, non-judgmental, and professional manner, keeping in mind her need for spiritual, emotional, and physical support," she said. "This in turn empowers the client and gives her the opportunity to make choices that contribute to the well-being of her and her unborn baby."

### *Stephanie Klatt Becomes Office Manager*

Previously a theology teacher and moderator of the student pro-life club at the Wil-lows Academy in Des Plaines, Stephanie most recently spent time teaching English in Japan. She has previous experience as a nonprofit office manager with the Chicago loca-tion of Contact Singapore. As a dedicated volunteer counselor for several years, Stephanie has shown a true commitment to the clients of Aid for Women. We are pleased to wel-come her on board as a staff member.



# Memorial and Honor Gifts

A special gift to Aid for Women is a meaningful way to remember a friend or a loved one at the time of his or her death, or in life by honoring that person's accomplishments and character.

## *In Memory Of:*

**The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception**

*By the Sisters of Christian Charity*

**Father Brown**

*By Joyce Spinner*

**Deceased babies**

*By Anonymous*

**John W. Donoghue**

*By James and Mary Ryan*

**Rose Engels**

*By Grace M. Braun*

**Mary Jane Ester**

*By Philip and Kay Corridon*

**Trudy Fiegen**

*By Anne Schubert*

**John and Josie**

*By John and Louise Steffen*

**Eugenia Kosik**

*By Raymond Collins, Jr.*

**Janet Marie Kroschel**

*By Joseph and Patricia Kroschel*

**Rev. Francis C. Lewis**

*By Margaret T. Lewis*

**George and Margurite May**

*By John and Patricia Ohle*

**My Mom, Dad and Brother Tito**

*By Letty Torney*

**David Darrah Myers, my son**

*By Joan Myers*

**Our Mothers and Fathers,  
Norma and George Johnson  
Rose and John Marinelli**

*By Ronald and Mary Johnson*

**George E. Pabich, deceased in 2003**

*By Brian and Wanda Pabich*

**Lamont Barnes Pickens**

*By Nina-Marie Barnes*

**The Unborn**

*By Thomas and Heidi O'Toole*

**Unborn children**

*By Renate Redmond*

**Molly Williams**

*By Jane and Don Colleton*

## *In Honor Of:*

**Father Thomas Aschenbrener**

*By Joy Donahue*

**Tom and Heather Bresler**

*By Roy and Kay Ellgass*

**Ken Brown**

*By John and Patricia Ohle*

**Mary Rita Clifton**

*By the Patricia Foundation*

**Linda Doublestein**

*By Craig and Rebecca Ladyman*

**Alicia Eder**

*By Francis and Mary Eder*

**Philip Glatz**

*By Philip and Kay Corridon*

**My Grandma, Stella**

*By Trisha Trembl*

**Immaculate Conception**

*By Gregg T. Greiner, DVM*

**Niah Patrica Kent, Isaiah Thomas  
Kent, Andrew Joseph, Isaac John Kent,  
Baby Rusche, Evan Anthony Pellegrini**

*By Jennifer Riggs*

**Max Lappe**

*By Robert and Patricia Lappe*

**Pauline and Joe Mikuska's  
25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary**

*By Arthur and Maryann Seymour*

**Kelley Ann Moore**

*By Noel and Michelle Moore*

**Greg Morrow**

*By Philip and Kay Corridon*

**Our Lady of Medjugorje**

*By Al and Penny Crowley*

**Art and Maryann Seymour**

*By their grandchildren,  
Haley and Kaitlyn Seymour*

**Irene Zydell**

*By Diane and Gerald Magee*

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## *Moments of Reflection and Appreciation*

Aid for Women's annual day of recollection took place last November at St. Mary Catholic Church in Evanston. Our volunteers, mentors, board and staff were treated to a day of prayer and fellowship.

The talks were led by Dr. Coleen Kelly Mast, abstinence educator and host of Relevant Radio's popular show, *The Doctor Is In*. She beautifully tailored her spiritual reflections to address both the challenges and blessings of pro-life ministry.

Many thanks to Jane Colleton for organizing this appreciation and spiritual enrichment event.



# In Memoriam — Ann Jans

## March 8, 1926 – September 23, 2004

Ann was a beloved member of the Aid for Women family. She was a devoted volunteer and member of the board of directors for so many years, nobody could remember quite how long – even Ann herself!

She and her husband John truly embraced family life, raising four children and caring for eight foster children and two nieces.

Ann volunteered weekly at the Missionaries of Charity soup kitchen for 23 years, and met Mother Teresa several times. She also co-founded Lexington College in the West Loop, the only women's hospitality management college in the nation.

Ann was a spiritual rock within Aid for Women. Words cannot capture her spirit, but below are a few thoughts and stories shared among the Aid for Women community:

"I thank God for my season of knowing Mrs. Ann Jans. She was and still is a great inspiration to me. Such a warrior for Christ. I remember her to be full of powerful energy, bold as anyone could ever be, all wrapped up in such a cute package. I will miss her dearly." ~ Sharnina D. Starling-Buford



Ann's boldness inspired others to grow in strength as well. Mary Hallan FioRito was encouraged by Ann's support during a very complicated pregnancy with daughter Gemma. While Mary was on restricted bed rest, Ann advised her:

"You tell the doctors, 'You know what's in the medical books, but I know my body. If you're not going to work with me, I'm going to go and get myself a new plumber!'"

"It was a great help to me," Mary said, "because Ann really stressed to me that I needed to be more assertive with the doctors about what I thought was happening, and not just take the initial diagnosis (which turned out to be incorrect) as the final word."

"God rest her soul! I do miss her."



Ann was a tireless promoter of Aid for Women. Sandy Hildebrand tells the story of Ann standing in a grocery store check-out line. After starting a conversation with

At Aid for Women's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala, Cardinal Francis George was making his way up the grand staircase, while Ann was standing at the top of the stairs talking and holding a glass of water. As the Cardinal reached the top step and was walking past, he bumped into Ann's arm and her water poured out all over his hand.

She turned around, looked at him, and without skipping a beat, she said, "Your Eminence, I'm sorry it wasn't holy water, but it was the best I could do!" The cardinal responded with a huge smile on his face – and a timely photograph was caught at that very moment.



*Ann shares a laugh with Cardinal George, while Kathleen Bindley looks on. (Photograph by Michael Greer of John Reilly photography.)*

the cashier, Ann used the opportunity to tell her all about Aid for Women. She was so intent on sharing the information, that after leaving the store, Ann went home and returned almost immediately to give the cashier one of our brochures.



Before volunteering with the Missionaries of Charity every Friday, Ann would often attend mass at a nearby church. Florence Sorensen recalls that Ann used to ask the pastor to speed up the morning mass so that she could get to the soup kitchen in time – and then when he would comply, she would complain that he left part of the mass out!



Rev. Don Woznicki of St. Norbert parish in Northbrook was a close friend to Ann. Following are excerpts from the beautiful homily he delivered at her funeral mass:

"Paul writes in his letter to the Corinthians that, 'Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.' How eloquent Ann spoke this through the illnesses she bore. ... Her daughter Barbara said that in addition to her willingness to serve others, she also taught us that it is okay to suffer when it is done for love's sake. Then you can live with it and have a good and joyful life – resting in God's peace, being rich in the things that matter, such as faith, hope and love."

... "If our strength at times is too weak to grab on to that special grace of God, you can be sure that Ann is leading a rosary and some devotionals on our behalf –

and maybe offering a little 'advice' to the angels too – and then she will be waiting for us, for she knows, there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God!"



Aid for Women extends its gratitude to the following contributors to the Ann W. Jans Memorial Fund:

- Dan and Patricia Alger
- Angela M. Ambrose
- Garry and Kathleen Berley
- Blomquist and Company  
(Jack and Nadine Diem)
- Flora D. Boemi
- Laima and David Braune
- Frank and Margaret Cavanaugh
- Phillip and Susan Couri
- Joella and Joseph Cramblit
- Donald and Carol Dierbeck
- Patricia A. Doll
- John and Felicia Eberle
- Mary and Kevin FioRito
- Lila and Richard Fischl
- Maureen and William Garrity
- A.B. and Frances J. Gillan
- Mary Anne Goldberg
- Elaine M. Kindler
- Larry and Sandy Mayer
- Patricia and Michael McCauley
- Mary and Jerome Oelerich
- Cynthia O'Neill
- Mrs. Mary Purdy and  
Mrs. Peggy Guetzko
- Donald and Alice Schaffer
- Teresa and Michael Tario
- Pamela and Christopher Theisen
- Julia K. Wesley

# Supporting Aid for Women is now easier than ever!

## Paypal

– To donate with the click of a button, visit [www.aidforwomen.org](http://www.aidforwomen.org) and click on “Make a Donation.” Paypal is a secure method to donate online with a credit card or bank account. (You must create a personal Paypal account in order to donate through this option.)

## Electronic Funds Transfer

– Contribute monthly or quarterly with the no-hassle option of automatic funds transfer. With your permission, your regular donation can be automatically deducted from your checking account and deposited with Aid for Women.

With either option, we will continue to keep you informed through our newsletters and update mailings. See the back of your reply card for details. Participation in each of these programs is optional.

These new options will help streamline our accounting process, so more resources can be used directly to help clients. For information or to sign up for electronic funds transfer, call Stephanie at 312-621-1101.

## In Perspective: Straight Talk on Stem Cells

Diane R. Pietrzak, executive director

Why the debate over embryonic stem cell research? Who wouldn't support finding cures for people suffering from debilitating diseases?

We all would. But we must first ask two questions: (1) At what price? And (2) what kinds of research show the most promising results?

First, let's get our terms straight: “Stem cells” are the body's building blocks for developing into various organs. They are so useful because they can be used to replace or heal damaged body tissue.

“Adult stem cells” are taken from a donor (for example, from bone marrow or umbilical cord blood), cultured, and returned to the same person. “Embryonic stem cells” are taken from a human embryo, thereby killing the embryo, and the cells are then cultured and implanted into another person.

What research is currently allowed?

In 2001, President Bush limited *federal* funding on *embryonic* stem cell research to only those lines already in existence. He has, however, provided \$190 million in federal funds to support *ethical* forms of stem cell research – with adult and umbilical cord blood stem cells.

However, private and state funding of new lines of embryonic stem cell research are completely legal, and in fact some Illinois politicians are trying to pass laws for you and I to pay for it.

Illinois House Bill 3589 (“Stem Cell Research Act”) was defeated by only 1 vote last November. If passed, it would have provided \$1 billion in state taxpayer funding of human embryonic stem cell research, human cloning, and fetal tissue research.

Now, state Comptroller Dan Hynes is preparing to bring up the issue again.

A similar California bill passed during the November elections. Californians are now supporting the cloning and destruction of human embryos with \$3 billion in taxpayer dollars.

Ironically, embryonic stem cells have not successfully treated *a single human disease*, whereas over 100 current treatments are attributable to research with adult or umbilical cord stem cells.

For example, last November a South Korean woman paralyzed for 20 years was able to walk again after her spine was



repaired using umbilical cord blood stem cells.

In fact, such treatments are so promising, companies such as Stembanc offer parents the opportunity to preserve their newborn baby's umbilical cord blood, for later use in the child's life.

Portuguese doctors have transplanted stem cells from a patient's own nasal region successfully in 26 patients.

And in February 2005, the *Journal of Clinical Investigation* reported that adult stem cells drawn from bone marrow are able to repair heart damage.

In contrast, clinical trials with embryonic stem cells are years away. Additionally, adult and umbilical cord blood stem cells trigger little immune response, whereas embryonic stem cells are often rejected or form tumors in the recipient.

But even IF the morally acceptable options did not show such promise, embryonic stem cell research is inherently unacceptable, because it requires the killing of a human embryo 5 to 7 days after conception.

At the moment of conception, the entire genetic makeup (including gender, eye color, and shoe size) of a unique human being is established. From that point forward, only nutrition, oxygen, and time are necessary for development to occur.

Finally, much proposed funding for embryonic stem cell research involves cloning human beings for the purpose of killing them and harvesting their bodies for experimental research.

It is often hidden within complicated language. When you read “somatic cell nuclear transfer,” this means a particular process of cloning.

Also, word games are played by distinguishing “reproductive cloning,” in which a cloned embryo is implanted in the uterus to cause birth, from so-called “therapeutic cloning” – the cloning and destruction of an embryo to harvest its stem cells. HB3589 banned reproductive cloning, but fully supported “therapeutic” cloning.

With the availability of the moral options of adult and umbilical cord blood stem cell research, and with this research showing far more promise, the argument for embryonic stem cell research is ethically and practically unsound.