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# "Woe to you if you do not succeed in defending life!"

-statement by John Paul II, which inspired our cofounders in 2009



#### THE NEED

Most pro-life efforts focus solely on helping pregnant mothers choose life. These efforts are necessary, but they don't solve the core issue, which is that people in our society have lost sight of God and the value of life.

By highlighting the good news that every human person has profound dignity, Biking for Babies envisions generations transformed by the Gospel of life.

#### THE PROBLEM

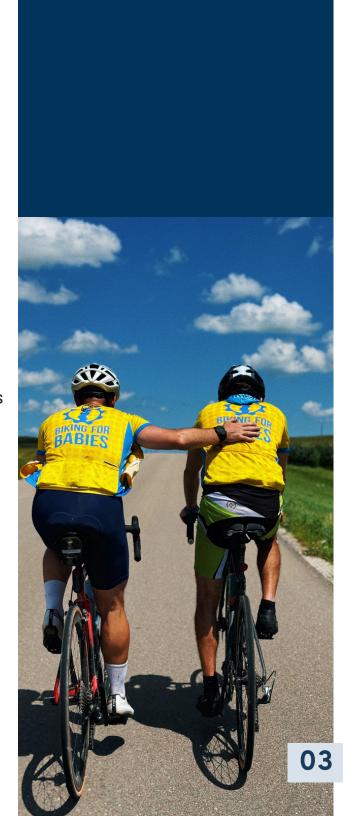
Current trends in society have produced a generation of self-centered young adults, who distance themselves from God and forget their worth, the meaning of life, and that they belong to one human family. The culture of death has shaped them to believe that abortion is the compassionate response to pregnant mothers in crisis, which ultimately tears families and society apart.

Calling young adults into missionary discipleship will help transform our society into a culture of life. This missionary discipleship has two aspects: growth in holiness and meeting the needs of families facing unplanned pregnancies.

#### THE SOLUTION

Biking for Babies proclaims the dignity of human life by uniting cycling with the formation of young adults into missionary disciples of Jesus Christ.

Young adults undergo transformation by encountering Jesus through a lived experience of sacrificing their time and energy on behalf of the culture of life. These sacrifices deepen their love for God and neighbor. They discover the spiritual truth that loving sacrificially leads to fulfillment and joy.







NIKKI BIESE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# **IN THANKSGIVING FOR 15 YEARS**

Hello! We're excited you're here!

15! It's been **15 years** since our co-founders Mike and Jimmy followed God's promptings to go on their first ride. From one team with a handful of riders to nine teams and almost 100 missionaries.

As you read these pages, know that every result is due to the **glory and providence of God, our Father**, who is raising the culture from death to life, one pedal stroke, one young adult, and one pregnancy center at a time.

We're thrilled to have you on this ride with us as we look toward the future with joyful ambition after celebrating these wins from our first 15 years.

Jesus wants us to have life abundantly. This year's t-shirts emboldened this John 10:10 quote as we fiercely proclaimed the dignity and worth of every human life. It's with this **unabashed promotion of life** that we envision a future transformed by the Gospel.

Imagine with us for a moment: a world where every human person feels loved abundantly. Imagine a world where women do not have to make choices out of fear or convenience, but rather feel empowered to make choices out of love and purpose. Imagine a world where we all commit to living as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ.

This world is possible, and our approach to achieving that requires us to be joyful witnesses to the Gospel of life, starting with personal holiness and assisting families in unplanned pregnancies through prayer, fundraising, and emotional support.

As we begin the next year ahead, may we continue to seek the heart of Christ in all we say and do. God bless you!

## **ALUMNI GLORY STORIES**

We envision generations transformed by the Gospel of life, starting with young adults today growing in their faith and tomorrow radiating the love of Christ to their communities at large. To make that a reality, we send forth young adults ready to share about their conversions and experiences with Biking for Babies. These examples are just a few from the varied experiences of our missionary alumni who--having received formation, education, and training in the Gospel of life--are out in their families, communities, parishes, and workplaces living the conviction that life is Good and worthy of our respect and advocacy.

#### The Biese Family

Kevin and Nikki Biese have been a part of Biking for Babies since 2010. Nikki left her for-profit career to run Biking for Babies full-time. Kevin uses his experiences with Biking for Babies in his work as a university professor, inviting his students regularly to consider the joys of family life not often shared in higher education, thus countering the culture's attack on the family. Check out Kevin's latest Biking for Babies blog post here.



#### Clare Eckard

Clare was a missionary in 2017, then again in 2021 and 2024. She says, "Biking for Babies has helped me grow in my faith and further convicted me that every life is a gift to be celebrated, cherished, and loved." Clare credits her missionary experience for teaching her how to suffer with joy. Now a professional therapist, Clare sees each of her clients through this Gospel of life worldview, cultivated with Biking for Babies.



#### The Wiskirchen Family

Kevyn and Ashley Wiskirchen, both having completed the National Ride in the 2010s, have served Biking for Babies' mission as the hosts of the missionary team in Jefferson City, MO, where they've built up an annual event for their cathedral parish with around 100 attendees each summer. The parish expects and is energized by their efforts and the mission of Biking for Babies, and the Wiskirchen Family of five enjoys their part in the mission.



# **RECORD BREAKING 2024**

Beyond the numbers listed, hundreds of lives were impacted through missionary formation, pregnancy center partnerships, and evangelizing during our National Ride and Rides for Life.

### **NATIONAL RIDE**



**800** 

people evangelized at 31 National Ride events in 56 cities

## **MISSIONARY FUNDRAISING**



\$ \$331,697 Traised by the your

raised by the young adults in our formation program

### **ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH**



new full-time staff overseeing operations, marketing, finances, IT, and data security

### **MISSIONARY FORMATION**



young adults accepted into our formation program

## **PREGNANCY CENTERS**



\$415,000

given to 97 pregnancy centers in 31 states

## **CELEBRATIONS OF LIFE**



300

attendees celebrating lives fully lived in St. Louis, MO, and Arlington, VA

## MISSIONARIES AT A GLANCE

We guide young adults to growth in virtue. As they are rooted in their relationship with Christ through spiritual formation, they first learn the profound personal love that Christ has for them and are challenged to respond to that love with an offering of their very selves. In 2024, 95% of the missionaries reported growing in sacrificial love, humility, and generosity through our mission opportunity.



accepted missionaries16% increase from 2023

different states coast to coast, plus Canada

55 careers including nurses, engineers, priests, counselors, and more

returning missionaries
59% retention from 2023

See our list of 2024 missionaries at <a href="https://www.bikingforbabies.com/our-missionaries">www.bikingforbabies.com/our-missionaries</a>



"Biking for Babies was a **classroom of joyful redemptive suffering** that facilitated the physical, mental, and spiritual unity with Christ on his cross. When we enter into the cross more fully, then we can have faith in and hope for the redemption and life that God so desires to give the world. The Gospel of life is **the way of peace**, **health**, **and joy**, and when we have fruits of the Holy Spirit in our lives, then it naturally overflows and demands to be shared.

Being a Biking for Babies missionary was a great opportunity to be seriously challenged as a human and then constantly reminded of the Gospel of life that Christ offers. I came to appreciate the Gospel of Life more, so I am more greatly saddened by the culture of death and even more invigorated to share that every **individual is wondrously made and yet needing to be healed**."

-Michael Sparks, first-year rider missionary



# MISSIONARY FORMATION

Much more than just a cross-country cycling trip, the National Ride is the highlight of this mission opportunity. It uniquely offers a way for young adults to have a lived experience of the Gospel of life as they ride hundreds of miles, fill dozens of water bottles, and offer countless sacrifices out of love for Christ, each other, and families experiencing an unplanned pregnancy.

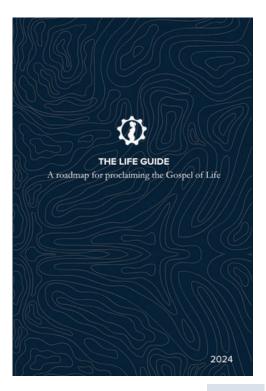
90% of 2024 missionaries reported that their hearts were on fire to share the love of Christ and the truth of the dignity of the human person with their communities after coming home from the National Ride.

2024 was the second year of our Life Guide, an all-in-one spiritual and physical formation planner. This resource guides missionaries through the formation curriculum with important dates, formation milestones and resource, and spirituality reflections.

In its second edition, the missionaries found the Life Guide to be improved overall with its updated design and smaller size complimented by adjustments made to the curriculum.



Click here for a preview of the 2024 LifeGuide.





# **JACK'S STORY**

Jack (pictured left) is Biking for Babies' Director of Spirituality. His commitment to this impactful leadership role means he highlights spiritual connections for our missionaries: especially the spiritual connection between their sacrifices and the sacrifices made by mothers facing unplanned pregnancies.

I've been reflecting a lot recently on the feeding of the 5,000 and the beauty that lies in the event. A young child brings Christ all that he had in the hopes of helping and Christ took all that the young child had and did something unfathomable. I find that this story relates to Biking for Babies.

The mission at Biking for Babies is to proclaim the dignity of every human life by uniting cycling with the formation of young adults into missionary disciples of Jesus Christ. If you think about what Biking for Babies is trying to do, that is, bike 600 miles to renew the Culture of Life, it seems like we are not doing close to enough. As the Apostle Andrew says in John's Gospel, "But what are they for so many?"

God's desire for us to join Him in the world's salvation is so beautiful. When faced with seemingly impossible challenges, God just asks us to give whatever we have, and He has the power to succeed. It's incredibly humbling to learn just how powerless we are, and how incredible the grace of God is.

Throughout my time as Director of Spirituality, God has continuously blessed me in so many ways. I get to spend most of my time reflecting on how our missionaries are called to love each other when they least want to. This in turn has helped me to respond to suffering with love.

One thing that is so amazing about this passage, and faith in general, is that when we give and are fed, our friends and family will also be fed. When I was first discerning Biking for Babies, I heard someone say that their favorite thing about Biking for Babies was that it is a mission trip you bring to your community. I had always figured that this was through inviting others to join the mission either as a donor or as a missionary.



# **JACK'S STORY, CONTINUED**

A few months ago I was catching up with one of my best friends who has been going through a very challenging time. He turned to me, thanked me, and said, "I've started praying because of you." He then began to describe the peace it was bringing him. I never would have thought that this mission would have that type of impact on my family and friends, and that alone makes it all worth it.

In the show, The Chosen, after Christ feeds the 5,000, He says, "I let my people go hungry, and then I feed them." Looking back on my time with Biking for Babies I needed to suffer physically, mentally, and spiritually to learn to trust in God. I needed to go through what I went through last year to be comforted on the ride this year. Ultimately, I needed to go through all of the peaks and valleys of the last 5 years to be in awe of that sunrise. I was recently talking to a missionary and asking him about his experience on the National Ride and he shared that what amazed him the most was that the week was so hectic, and nothing should have worked out, and somehow it all did.

I am at a point in my life where I am grasping onto my desires and nothing seems to be going as planned. As I reflect on my time with Biking for Babies and the ways God has revealed Himself to me, it gives me so much hope. God has shown me that in challenges, whether they are physical, mental, or spiritual, there is a glorious sunrise coming. It's easy to say this, but when God has proven this to me, it brings true hope. Biking for Babies has helped me see the goodness of God. He died the way He did because, now, there is no amount of suffering we can endure that He has not overcome. It does not matter what we go through, He has conquered it.

Biking for Babies has taught me that when I am in pain, or afraid, to offer up that pain and suffering to Him, and He will give me peace. This is why the mission of Biking for Babies is so much more than just a bike ride or a fundraising event. It is our chance to live out our beliefs in a profound way, to give God what we have amidst all the fears, anxieties, and life. The National Ride allows you to experience love in a way you never have before. Biking for Babies has allowed me to experience hardships outside of my everyday life. In every opportunity, whether I failed or succeeded, God has always shown me how to respond with love.

# PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER PARTNERSHIPS

We are proud to invest in pregnancy centers, the agents of change in so many lives experiencing crisis as well as an impactful witness for our missionaries.



97 with lift pregno center

partnerships
with life-affirming
pregnancy resource
centers, maternity homes,
and medical clinics

31

different states plus Washington, DC

33

centers partnering with us for the first time

100%

of missionaries visited a pregnancy center on the National Ride



Visit <u>www.bikingforbabies.com/prc-partners</u> to learn more about our pregnancy resource center partnerships.

"I loved learning more about pregnancy centers and [their] efforts to value and protect life in a way that also helps those who care about the mothers to feel like they can contribute. I have a staunch pro-choice colleague who **became a mission partner** because he saw that we truly value all life,, including the mothers."

-Ryan Allred, first-year rider missionary

## **FUNDRAISING IMPACT**

Because you give generously, we too are able to give generously to these pregnancy centers and their life-saving work. This year, we contributed a total of \$415,000. That's an average of just under \$4,400 per center. Our yearly donation amount has grown significantly in recent years: while it took twelve years to raise the first million, it only took the last three years to raise the second million, bringing the overall donation total to... \$2,029,180!

#### Because of our 2023 gifts, these centers were able to:

"...cover costs for having our medical vehicle on site with a certified sonographer for more than 90 hours. Based on our averages, during those 90 hours, we:

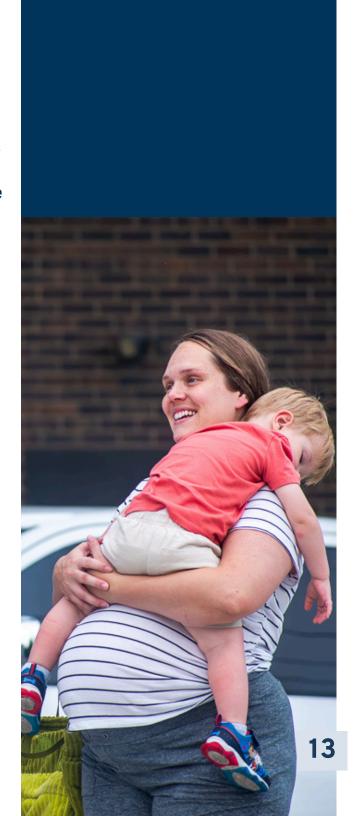
- Directly saved roughly 7 babies, helping those abortion-minded moms recognize the dignity of her child
- Provided roughly 25 free ultrasounds, some of those ultrasounds helped undecided moms choose life
- Provided roughly 40 low-income families with guidance (spiritual guidance explaining the beauty of marriage and benefits of respectful relationships), baby gifts (gently used clothes, strollers, baby formula, groceries, etc), and diapers"

"purchase approximately 100 each of 3 breastfeeding brochures for classes, plus sized maternity clothes and approximately 100 tote bags for Maternity Closet guests. We contracted with HopeSync at \$39/month to have a 24/7 online nurse chat to schedule appointments and answer questions about our services."

"employ the current part-time Spanish Bilingual Support Worker for 379 hours."

"create a new adoption-focused landing webpage for clients to easily access information about adoption. Since then, we have had two birth mothers in Rochester begin creating an adoption plan."

"administer over 1000 ultrasounds with the 3D ultrasound machine that we were able to purchase through our financial support from Biking for Babies."



## PARTNERSHIP IMPACT

The pregnancy center-missionary partnership proved to be a catalyst to conversion for the missionaries as they encountered stories of lives changed and lives lost, and learned about the services provided to their own communities.

Every missionary visited a pregnancy center in person during formation, which they shared was both an informative and profoundly impactful experience.

It sparked within them a desire to do more themselves to support pregnant women and also reassured them to see the tangible support that is offered in these places of hope, knowing that their efforts as missionaries help to make that support possible!

This partnership directly affects the women served by our pregnancy resource center partners, including Toni (pictured right), a mom of three who had just left a domestic violence situation when we were introduced to her. She spoke at our Celebration of Life in Arlington this year, sharing:

"I was actually in another program for expecting mothers called Mosaic House, but because that program is for pregnant women, I could not have my other children with me living there. So my mom said she would take them for a while until I got back on my feet, but that didn't last very long; my kids did not handle being away from me very well. Thankfully, the director of Mosaic house knew Kathleen of Mary's Shelter, and thank God they had a spot available for my family.

Getting to meet the missionaries and hear about what they do was great. I think it's just amazing what these people do. It's people like the missionaries, [my maternity home director], and just everyone who works hard to help mothers like me that have made it possible for me to have the chance to raise my children.

I thank God for these organizations that have helped me because I can not imagine life without my son in it now. God bless you."



## **AMANDA'S STORY**

Amanda considered herself a "couch potato" (her words, not ours), but her mom encouraged her to join as a riding missionary in 2024.

After being open to saying yes to an invitation to Biking for Babies, she <u>trained</u>, <u>prayed</u>, <u>and fundraised</u> for six months, successfully completing the first North Carolina route of the National Ride and the formation program.

Amanda was partnered with a pregnancy center in a different state, but made multiple trips to visit. The center's staff reciprocated the investment, regularly inviting their community to support Amanda's fundraising goals and to pray over her.

#### Her impact?

Amanda raised over \$12,700 for Biking for Babies' mission, shared about her partnered pregnancy center to over 76 mission partners, and prayed for months for the center's needs and clients. (See one of her newsletters.)

She now maintains a close connection with her partnered center, and the center's director claims that <u>partnering with Amanda was the best part of their year</u>.

Amanda is returning for the 2025 mission opportunity as a Team Leader.

"I'm blown away by all [the pregnancy centers] do for women, and how above and beyond they go to support families even after the baby is born. It made me consider the limits I arbitrarily set on how far I'm willing to go to help someone."

-Amanda Nolan, first-year rider missionary



# **CELEBRATIONS OF LIFE**

**We gathered with local community** in St. Louis, MO, and Arlington, VA, on July 13 to celebrate the missionaries at the end of their National Rides. Mothers from pregnancy centers shared their stories, and missionaries shared their testimonies.



300

attendees between both events

\$10K

from sponsorships

30+

volunteers from local parishes



Our Celebrations of Life will be on July 19, 2025. Save the date, and learn more at

www.bikingforbabies.com/events



"I think of a scripture: 2 Timothy: 2-7. It says "you have fought a good fight, and you have finished your race..." you finished your race for a mother who don't know which way to turn. You rode the race for her to know 'you can do it, no matter how you grew up, no matter...what life throws at you, you can be the best mother that you are.'

The mothers that you do [the National Ride] for: we're behind you saying 'thank you' because you guys didn't have to sign up to be [a] missionary. And I thank you because look at how much better my life is because of you guys being the missionaries that you guys are."

-Jasmine, ThriVe pregnancy center client, encouraging the missionaries post-ride

## RIDES FOR LIFE

While our annual mission opportunity is for young adults, **our "Rides for Life" (RFL) engage entire communities, regardless of age**. These single-day biking events raise money and awareness for localized formation and pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes. All generations bike alongside each other at these events.

#### **CENTRAL IOWA RFL**

118 people rode in this year's Central lowa Ride for Life, raising \$32,452 for support of four pregnancy resource centers near Ankeny, IA. Board member Scott Brunscheen shares that these centers "are the heroes in sharing Jesus's love every day in such a life-affirming way, making eternal impact in God's kingdom."

"Thanks to being a part of this ride, I put my faith into action. I loved seeing our hard work paying off for our local pregnancy centers! Seeing [our community] being brightened by inspiration and passion from the ride continues to bring me hope for our future!" -Matthew, Biking for Babies intern, high school student



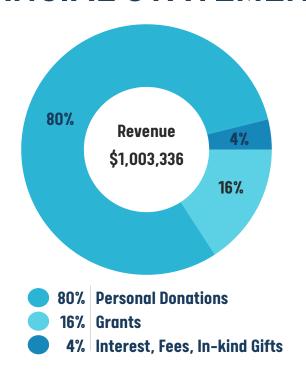
#### **PHILLY RFL**

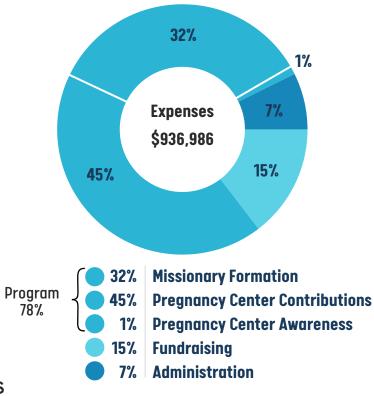
The Philly Ride for Life's 65 riders raised \$17,042 for four local pregnancy centers and spotlighted the five young adult missionaries from the East Coast.

"The Philly Ride was a great way to participate in the ministry and share in the experience the missionaries have. In the morning we got to meet some of the benefactors of the mission, then we rode. The ability to get a taste of the missionary experience and hear from the benefactors makes tangible what a great community we are and proud to be a regular annual donor to the mission." -Jacob, mission partner, 2024 Philly RFL rider



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT





#### **TOTAL EXPENSES**

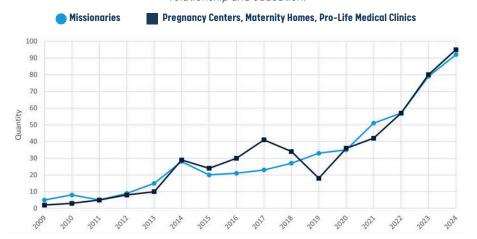
#### **PROGRAM**

TOTAL	\$ 936,986	100%
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 68,460	7%
FUNDRAISING	\$ 137,057	15%
TOTAL	\$ 731,469	78%
Pregnancy Center Awareness	\$ 7,791	1%
Pregnancy Center Contributions	\$ 423,304	45%
Missionary Formation	\$ 300,373	32%

# 15 YEARS OF GROWTH

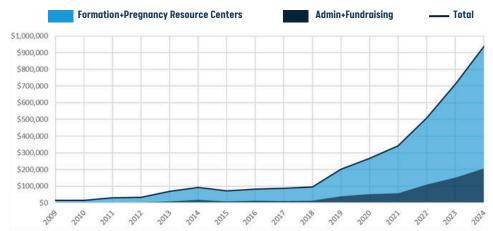
#### NUMBER OF YOUNG ADULTS & PREGNANCY CENTERS

We desire a 1:1 ratio between our young adults and our partnering pregnancy centers because the centers aid in forming our missionaries through personal relationship and education.



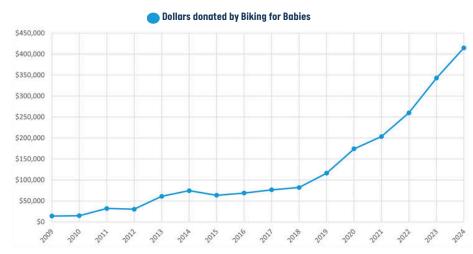
#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT BY YEAR**

The formation of young adult missionaries and the support offered to pregnancy centers nationwide are the main components. Fundraising and administration are necessary for the entirety of the mission.



#### **DONATIONS TO PREGNANCY CENTERS BY YEAR**

Each year, we donate as much money as possible to our partnering pregnancy centers, maternity homes, and medical clinics. Significant gains have been made in the past five years.





# **10 YEARS FROM NOW**

Biking for Babies started because two young men were inspired to make the spirit of pro-life work more accessible to themselves and others.

As we look ahead to our 25th year in 2034, we reflect on our blessings and focus on building a more solid foundation for the growth the Lord has in store for us. Thank you for your continued support! In 2034, 10 years from now, we will...

Recruit and form 400 missionaries, retaining 50% from year to year

Have modified and enhanced our Team Leader commitment, making it more accessible

Have improved our formation resources for greater missionary transformation

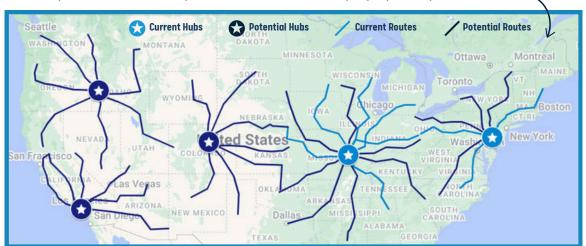
Partner with 400 pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes

Contribute \$1,600,000 to pregnancy resource centers in their support of life

Operate a more comprehensive national staff, improving and expanding our reach

#### Imagine what it would be like to...

Expand our National Ride presence to cover our country in prayer and public witness -







## IN THANKSGIVING FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS

Our mission partners see the impact of Biking for Babies and the excitement of our mission. We are honored by their gifts and willingness to come alongside us as we renew the culture of life together.

"Thank you for sending that amazing group of Biking for Babies missionaries to my home [this summer]. Truly the easiest going, most joyful, fun, appreciative and prayerful company. I cannot even imagine riding 600 miles, let alone in that crazy heat. They are rock stars and I feel honored to be part, in some small way, of the Biking for Babies ministry."

-Kathleen Wilson, maternity home director and host for the NC Team's National Ride

"My involvement with [Biking for Babies] has helped me understand that the reason that many women do not chose life is because of despair, and then how pregnancy centers can and do assist these women. Moreover, it has allowed me to merge my love of cycling with our call to help these mothers (and all those involved) that have chosen life instead of giving into despair by financially supporting pregnancy centers, which are walking with these women."

-Tim Joganich, Philly Ride for Life rider and Biking for Babies Board member

"As someone who shares your commitment to building a culture of life, I believe in the importance of standing with organizations like Biking for Babies, which emphasize both the spiritual and practical dimensions of mission work. The way you empower young men and women to live out their [Christian] faith while serving others through this initiative is a beautiful testament to the vocation of love and service that the Church calls us all to embrace."

-Philip Konicky, mission partner from Newtown, PA

# **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



Bishop William Joensen



Jimmy Becker



Scott Brunscheen



**Justin De Moss** 



Timothy Joganich



Michele Gelaude



**Keith Parsons** 

## **EXECUTIVE TEAM**



Nikki Biese\*



Hannah Cottingham



Aubrie Faust\*



Jack Mannebach



Chris Massaro\*



**Brittany Ross\*** 



Sarah Wiese\*



\*Biking for Babies Staff

# **FURTHER THANKS TO**

- the 2024 Team Leaders (pictured right), who formed, trained, and led this years' missionaries in proclaiming of the Gospel of life
- the 2024 Executive Team, who spent countless hours discerning God's will and working to make every planned opportunity successful for the missionaries
- the 2024 National Ride Hosts, who gave rest, sustenance, and publicity to our missionaries across the country
- the countless mission partners, whose abundant generosity makes this work possible



# **PARTNER WITH US**

Share about Biking for Babies online or in person.

Help us invite young adults into our annual mission opportunity.

Join us for the St. Louis or Philadelphia Celebrations of Life, both on July 19, 2025. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

Join us for the Central Iowa Ride for Life on June 28, 2025, or the Philly Ride for Life on June 7, 2025. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

Introduce our team to a potential mission partner, young adult missionary, or pregnancy resource center partner.

Email Chris at <a href="mailto:chris.massaro@bikingforbabies.com">chris.massaro@bikingforbabies.com</a> to share how you'd like to be involved.

On behalf of all Biking for Babies missionaries, partnering pregnancy centers, staff members, leaders, and board members,

# **THANK YOU**

for your generosity, which drives this mission forward.



PO Box 644 St. Charles, MO 63302 www.bikingforbabies.com







