

JUSTICE
FOR ALL

Turning Debate Into Dialogue: Arizona State University

February 19-23, 2006



"Never before have I put myself in the middle of a battlefield. Actually, I usually tried to avoid being apart of any conflicts because it takes too much effort to pull myself through them. But when I first heard Justice for All's proposal to come to ASU, I knew that this was a battle that I wanted to fight and I wanted to be on the frontlines."

– Meghan Burns, ASU Students for Life

NEW!

[CLICK HERE FOR ASU EXHIBIT SLIDE SHOW](#)

(may take 15-20 minutes to download)

Changed hearts...

Through Justice For All's Exhibit at ASU, students, staff, and volunteers alike learned again that compassion-filled dialogue leads to changed lives. Miracles happened on the ASU campus...

Expectations ran high, as ASU students repeatedly told JFA staff that things would get intense as the liberal student population responded. Protesters did appear en masse all four days, hosting a "die-in" Thursday representing the women who die around the world each year from illegal abortion. One might think voices shouting "My body, My choice" and "Do something positive with your outrage!" in chorus dispelled any dialogue that might have occurred. Instead, trained students and staff found over and over during their four days on campus that numerous people, even the protesters, were more than ready to talk.



"I realized what a blessing it was to have an open forum, where I could stand next to my classmates, and talk about such a controversial issue. We could dialogue and discuss with openness, with more comfort than normally possible. The exhibit provided a doorway to dialogue freely, and with meaning." – Ryan Hartwig, ASU student

Protesters are an expected part of JFA's time on campus. Creativity abounds as protesters make signs, join chants, and find ways to, in essence, draw a crowd unintentionally. At ASU, the protests ended on a different note than perhaps is usual. Thursday, after the "die-in" and the open mic session, some of the leaders of the women's groups came up to various members of the JFA staff, thanking them for being on campus—and for being willing to talk...and dialogue with them. Pray for these young women and men who encountered people far different than they had imagined. Pray that the seeds that were planted will one day bear fruit in their lives.





“For the first time on the campus of ASU, I saw a lot of critical thinking happening! I walked away with a different perspective when approaching the issue of abortion with the opposition.” – Melanie Welsch, ASU alumni, national pro-life speaker, founder of The Underground Project

Saved Lives...

Tuesday afternoon, staff and volunteers received some incredible news. Not just one, but TWO women, as a direct result of seeing the exhibit and talking to a volunteer, decided against their planned abortions! One young woman met a trained CPC counselor, Kim, on Monday and called that afternoon asking to go to dinner. At dinner, she told Kim that she was 16 weeks pregnant and had an abortion scheduled for Thursday. On Tuesday, she called Kim back to tell her she'd cancelled her appointment! Another young woman spoke with a volunteer Tuesday at the large exhibit. During their conversation, she said she was three months pregnant and had planned to call the abortion clinic on Friday. However, after viewing the exhibit, she said she couldn't. Be in prayer for these two young women whose lives have been saved from such tragedy...and for their children, who have the opportunity to experience life!



Written by Rebeccah Pedrick, JFA 2006 Spring Intern

