

Email us at [jfa@jfaweb.org](mailto:jfa@jfaweb.org) !

## Drawing Crowds

A chill settles the early morning Albuquerque air. A clear sky promises a scorching sun soon enough. For now it is merciful to an eager group of JFA staff and volunteers ready to set up the Justice For All (JFA) Exhibit at the University of New Mexico.

Following last minute negotiations with university administrators, two exhibit triangles bordered by metal barricades are set up in the middle of Zimmerman Library Plaza (upper left).

some cases it will be abused or have a miserable, painful childhood?"

Steve Wagner, JFA's Exhibit trainer and author of this report responds by first establishing common ground: "I agree that some children will have miserable lives. But won't some two year olds who live in the inner city today also have miserable lives in the future? Would it be right for their mothers to take them to the hospital to euthanize them now in order to save them from greater future pain and sorrow? If we say it is merciful and right to kill someone to save them from future pain, couldn't that justify any killing?"

Patrick steps back to ponder Steve's question and with remarkable honesty answers, "I hadn't thought about that before."

Stopping college students in their tracks is not just for professionals. High school students like Allison Martinez (below in black, age 16) attend training and come to campus prepared to help create the debate. One young man Allison speaks with asserts that the unborn are not really alive so abortion is not really wrong. Allison asks him, "If they are not alive, then why is abortion necessary?" He pauses and finally responds, "You've made me realize that maybe I don't know everything about this, and I should probably think it over more."

## Changing Hearts

When another student protests that the JFA Exhibit doesn't change anybody's mind, a UNM student named Fred who has spent considerable time at the Exhibit discussing his objections counters, "Actually, I came here today thinking life begins in the third trimester. Now I believe life begins at conception."

Allison (left in black) reflects on her day volunteering at the JFA Exhibit "...I was able to talk to a lot of people and have awesome conversations with them. I was glad that a

long time family friend came [named] Ryan. He had been a crack baby, and has always had learning problems. He was able to tell people how glad he was that his mother didn't abort him, and how he had such a great life now. It was such a great experience...Most of the people that I talked to, I ended up hugging after I talked to them! : )"

"It was amazingly refreshing to see the healthy debate generated by the JFA display and your impressive staff. The staff's tactics of nonaggression, compassion and sound reasoning spoke to the hearts of many students yesterday. After respectfully finding common ground with adversarial students (a surprising number of them would agree that life begins at conception), JFA staff effectively presented them with the facts on abortion (something they most likely will never get in a classroom). People's minds were changed, and their hearts were touched. Keep spreading the message." Luke Feldner



The larger of the two triangles stands two stories high. Like a lighthouse, its message both warns and offers guidance to passersby.

Initially, many students who say they are pro-choice see the Exhibit as anything but a light to help them find their way. For them it functions more like the Sirens of Odysseus, drawing them into conversations that threaten to wreck their pro-choice assertions.

Our challenge at UNM is to answer these students' objections with grace, and to allow the truth of the pictures to do its work in each mind and heart. We work to offset the horror of the pictures with a disarming love for each student we seek to engage.

Our job is not to overwhelm students' objections with what we think. Instead, we disarm them by asking them what *they* think. And it works every time!

## Engaging Minds

The JFA Exhibit keeps the playing field level by acting as a giant reference library of facts and visual evidence for the injustice of abortion. It is not long before crowds form, voicing objections to the obvious answers to the Exhibit's central questions: What is the unborn? and What is abortion?

One student asserts that abortion is often best for the baby. Pointing to a picture of a baby's lifeless form destroyed by abortion, a JFA trained student named Matt (lower left, age 18), asks a clarifying question: "How can it be considered best to do violence to anyone?" In other words, what is the unborn?

A student named Patrick asks, "Even if the fetus suffers a bit in the abortion procedure, it doesn't suffer for long...Isn't it better to kill the fetus now and cause it minimal pain than to allow it to live when we know in



Steve Wagner (above--sweater facing camera), is the guest author of this campus report. Steve works full-time with Stand to Reason ([www.str.org](http://www.str.org)) and lives in southern California. He frequently trains JFA volunteers and joins the JFA Exhibit on campuses.



**Does the JFA Exhibit create debate?** The University of New Mexico student run newspaper, *The DailyLobo*, ran at least 20 related news and opinion articles in the 2 weeks following the Exhibit. For an especially fascinating account of some UNM faculty members' submission of a petition to ban the JFA Exhibit from campus, go to <http://www.lobolink.com/news/2004/05/05/News/Unm-Faculty.Petition.Boeglin.To.End.Graphic.Public.Displays-678456.shtml>.





# CAMPUS REPORT

## The University of New Mexico

Albuquerque, NM

April 2004

### Drawing Crowds—Only the First Step

Justice For All creates the debate to draw crowds in order to make the pro-life case clear to thousands of students. But an underlying priority is always to minister to the individual student's emotional and spiritual needs. Jeremy's story "The Power of Love Stated" (see campus report insert) wonderfully illustrates what we attempt with every student who stops to see or discuss the exhibit.

We know many will only approach the Exhibit in the safety of a crowd or as protesters. We ask these students sincere questions and really listen to their responses. We reflect on each interaction and devise innovative ways to better help these students see and understand a world view that respects and values all human life.

Sometimes this means we ask a difficult question in order to help them see the intellectual integrity of our argument. Sometimes we step away from the intellectual line of reasoning in order to show students what the pro-life position really means in practical terms: that every human being is worthy of respect, even if they disagree with us.

Vicki Kane, who is a former crisis pregnancy center director and serves as JFA's staff crisis pregnancy liaison (pictured right), outlines the main reason that JFA seeks to engage each individual in a crowd:

"Students completely change their demeanor when the crowd isn't around. For example, there was a girl in a crowd on Tuesday at UNM who was talking about her abortion like it was a haircut. When she said she was leaving for class I asked if I could walk with her. She said yes and as we talked on the way she admitted that her abortion really did bother her. I was able to share with her how an abortion recovery program could help her and gave her the local information and she said she would look into it."

Vicki Kane, below and left, with a UNM student.



## DRAWING A CROWD IS THE EASY PART...

**ENGAGING  
MINDS &  
CHANGING  
HEARTS IS  
WHAT  
COUNTS.**



## JUSTICE FOR ALL **NEEDS** YOUR SUPPORT

**H**ave you had the opportunity to personally grow through your knowledge of and/or association with Justice For All? Would you be willing to invest in helping others have the same opportunity? You can by helping sponsor JFA's 2004-2005 Exhibit schedule with a monthly, quarterly, annual gift. Use the enclosed coupon and return envelope to communicate your intention, or click on <https://secure.call-kc.com/justiceforall/> to make a credit card donation online through a secure portal.

Gift programs such as United Way will not normally sponsor the JFA Exhibit program on their own. However, they may if your employer has a charitable matching fund program. Ask if your employer will match charitable (501c3) contributions made through community matching fund programs.

Share the work of Justice for All with your friends. Request Exhibit brochures containing the entire JFA Exhibit, campus reports, presentation CD's and other materials to help spread the word.

**Help JFA create the debate, change hearts and save lives!**

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