

## “Life Is Better Than Death”

As we were setting up our kiosk at the University of Colorado at Boulder, a student walked by and said, “You guys must be very committed to be out here in this horrible weather.” And he was right; our team is committed enough to stand out in cold, snowy weather, especially when we are able to reach a campus known for its strongly pro-choice views.

If we hadn't held an outreach event that day, I also wouldn't have met “Justin,” a living personification of why this work is so important. Justin is proof that someone's position on abortion is often a life or death matter. In fact, the reason that Justin is alive today largely came down to his mother's pro-life convictions.

Abortion played a big role in Justin's family. His grandma had an illegal abortion before *Roe vs. Wade*. She then had 12 kids, one of which was Justin's mom. Justin shared his mom's story soon after I initiated the conversation.

**Jeremy:** How do you feel about abortion?



The end of my conversation with Justin at the University of Colorado at Boulder on a very snowy day

**Justin:** Up until a few years ago, I didn't think there was anything wrong with abortion.

**Jeremy:** What changed your mind?

**Justin:** I thought about my story, and how my mom easily could have aborted me. When my mom was pregnant with me, she was homeless and jobless, and the father wasn't in the picture. Also, the first time my mom was pregnant, her mother forced her to





Despite the weather conditions, our small team had some great conversations at Boulder.

get an abortion. But when she was pregnant with me, it was her decision, and she was against abortion.

Often, when I speak with pro-choice advocates, they will point to situations just like Justin's mom's in order to justify abortion. For instance, "How could a child possibly thrive with a homeless, jobless mother?" they might say. However, Justin's story shows that it is foolish to believe that we can judge the future quality of anyone's life.

**Jeremy:** How did things turn out for you and your mom?

**Justin:** They turned out great! Nobody's life is perfect, but things are good. My mom has a Phd and here I am in college.

**Jeremy:** And how did your mom's experience affect your feelings about abortion?

**Justin:** I just thought about it and realized that, even in tough situations, life is better than death.

Justin's story should remind us all that someone's position on abortion is not trivial, and it is not simply a political position for helping with voting decisions every four years. Rather, many of the people around us might not have been here today if their parents' position on abortion had been different.

Remember: Every conversation about abortion could lead to saving a life like Justin's. No time or money spent on changing hearts and minds is wasted—especially when you see the effects of these decisions in the flesh. Thank you for your support, which allows me to do this work and make abortion unthinkable for future mothers and fathers. If, like me, you get frustrated that so many lives are lost to abortion, have hope knowing that there are people all around us whose lives have been personally impacted by their mothers' pro-life views. They know firsthand that beliefs about abortion have consequences.

Just ask Justin.

— Jeremy