

Ready and Eager for the Next Conversation

Impact Report

JUSTICE
FOR ALL

April 2015

Training thousands to make abortion unthinkable for millions...

One thing that helped me decide to do full-time pro-life work was JFA founder David Lee's encouragement to "multiply myself."

See, years ago, when I first encountered JFA, I was blown away by how the training program prepared me to have difficult conversations. I felt equipped, not just to participate in JFA's outreach, but to continue to talk about abortion and other hard topics in my everyday life. Even though I still felt some fear, I knew that I was ready to tackle these tough conversations. Each time I did, I came away with an eagerness for the next one.

David encouraged me to become a mentor and speaker in JFA's training program so that I could help other people learn what my mentors had taught me.

For the past 10 months I have been doing exactly that: helping people like Elizabeth, Miranda, Mikhaila, Emilio, and Jack learn the skills they need in order to be ready and eager for the next conversation.



...one person at a time.

The next conversation. That's one of our passions at JFA. After three recent JFA projects, students reflected this same passion back to us, expressing that they are now ready and eager to create conversations in order to change hearts and minds about abortion.

JFA trainers Rebecca Haschke and Catherine Wurts led a workshop in January for Nebraskans in Washington D.C. after the annual March for Life. About one month later, one student wrote to Rebecca:

"Today...three of my friends [and I] were waiting in a lobby to do interviews for Girls State. There was also a girl from [another high school] that was waiting along with us, and somehow we got on the topic of abortion and she was pro-choice. It was the perfect first encounter and chance to use the skills you taught us. She was very good about hearing our side, and we were good about hearing hers. She [gave] the exact reason most [give]: 'Just a clump of cells.' We were able to ask questions and stay on the same page with her without overwhelming her, thanks to you and your presentation!" - Elizabeth



Catherine Wurts (left) leads a portion of a two-hour JFA workshop for 220 students and 43 chaperones from the Catholic Diocese of Lincoln after the March for Life.

Elizabeth left the January workshop feeling both that it was important to put the workshop material into practice in a conversation about abortion and that she was ready when an opportunity presented itself. In February, students from two Catholic high schools in Phoenix (St. Mary's and Bourgade) showed the same eagerness for conversation after participating in JFA's full training program:

"I would not have even known how to begin a conversation with someone about abortion... The training gave me conversational tools and

The training gave me conversational tools and gave me confidence to use them whenever possible. — Miranda

gave me confidence to use them whenever possible.” - Miranda

“After the outreach I really thought more about the influence I have on people and how... just bringing up the subject could influence a lot in their lives. JFA really made me realize that I need to be more confident in being able to speak my opinion on the subject because it could have a bigger impact than I know.” - Mikhaila

“I have labeled myself ‘pro-life’ probably since I first heard the term being used. I didn't fully understand, however, how extremely meaningful and valuable that term really is. I realize now...my role as a spokesperson for those who cannot speak. I am here to defend human life, whether it be inside or outside of the womb. I had a sense of this notion before attending JFA, but my experiences in the seminar and out in the real world...solidified my views and my beliefs; [they made] them real.” - Emilio

Of the 44 students (and one faculty member) from these Phoenix schools who participated in a day-long seminar (Seat Work) and a day of outreach at Arizona State University (Feet Work), all but a few made a commitment to create a conversation about abortion in their everyday lives within two weeks (what JFA calls “Repeat Work”). JFA’s carefully sequenced training program had helped them become ready and eager for the next conversation.

In March, another high school student in Oklahoma had a similar experience during a camp that JFA trainers led for Christian Heritage Academy’s Salt and Light program. After one day in a JFA seminar and one day of outreach, he wrote the following:

“It was one of the best experiences I’ve had, ever. From this trip, I hope to encounter people and have tough conversations with them. I plan to use the exhibit brochures in the future and hopefully be able to pass out the ones I have currently before next year... I would do [the trip] again because of the value of knowing how to lead a conversation about hard topics with people... I feel like God gave me a tool to build bridges across to people and show them the straight and narrow path... My takeaway is that no conversation is too tough and everyone matters no matter if they are ninety years old or one month in the womb.” - Jack

These students are now ready and eager to change hearts and minds about abortion on their own. Let’s pray that God will provide opportunities for many “next conversations” and that he will cause their efforts to result in many changed hearts and saved lives.

- Steve Wagner, for the JFA Team



Students from St. Mary’s Catholic High School survey a student at Arizona State University.



Through practice, students are ready to share images respectfully in future conversations.

No conversation is too tough... — Jack

Become Ready and Eager Like These Students! Join JFA Mentors on an Upcoming Mission Trip: www.jfaweb.org/Mission-Trip

