

Brooke
Junior, Bethel University
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I have always been pro-life and believed abortion to be an act of killing another human being. Yet I've also always been unable to adequately or convincingly convey why I believe this to someone who disagrees.

I was hesitant to take part in the Justice For All (JFA) Exhibit because I thought it was going to look like every other pro-life march on television. However, after a day of classroom training with JFA, I realized just how incredibly life changing it can be to advocate my pro-life position in a non-threatening, loving, and compassionate way.

JFA's follow-up campus training at the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) was a wonderful opportunity to dialogue and see this first hand. When we arrived at UNC, I was not nervous. I felt prepared, I felt prayed for, and I felt ready to take on the day.

Yet my first sight of the display left me feeling overwhelmed at the size and the graphic pictures. I knew immediately that the display made a statement and was a presence on campus, and would illicit many different reactions from UNC students.

I first stood back to listen to the JFA staff and regular volunteers engage those willing to dialogue. It was eye opening to say the least. My nerves increased.

The first girls I approached were moderately in favor of abortion in cases of rape and incest. Yet they had absolutely no idea what abortion looked like.

Upon seeing it they were appalled. After discussing the beginning of human life, and responding to their questions about situations such as rape, they both agreed that abortion should not happen. They weren't hostile. They weren't forceful. They simply listened and seemed to quietly realize the truth. What a beautiful way of starting off the day. I was encouraged that I could actually articulate my pro-life view in a loving manner.



My favorite interaction was with a student named Richard. He was adamantly apathetic (and pro-choice)! He said that there was absolutely nothing three girls could say to him that would change his mind - his first mistake =).

He was an ex-marine and had just come back from Iraq. He admitted that he had been desensitized to death...and also to abortion. I began to suspect that the deeper issue for Richard was his worldview. As we discussed the problem of evil, his questions about God and our answers seemed to help bring clarity to the real problem - mankind's sin.

At one point my friend Turner said to Richard, "Thank you so much for serving us in Iraq. We truly respect you and thank you for your willingness to protect us."

From that point on, our words seemed to have more of a place in his heart. In validating Richard as a valuable person who we respected and appreciated, he walked away feeling loved, and hopefully still thinking about what we had to say.

This was the biggest lesson I learned through the JFA outreach - that my commitment to defend truth and the life of the unborn will always be better received when accompanied by love and respect. The JFA outreach stretched my mind and enabled me to passionately and boldly proclaim the love of Jesus to a society seeking foundational truth.