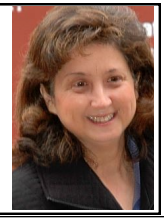




Choosing Life at Yale



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Dear Friends,

For nearly 14 years, JFA has worked to carry out our mission to make abortion unthinkable on public universities across the USA. We are able to do this through pro-life clubs dedicated to reducing abortion among college students. These clubs invite JFA's training program (seminar and outreach) to their campuses.

This past summer we received one of our most exciting invitations ever! We were contacted by Isabel, a senior at Yale University and president of the Choose Life at Yale (CLAY) club that invited JFA's training program to Yale.

However, because we receive so many requests, I advised Isabel that to help JFA determine how serious the members of CLAY were about its invitation, they should travel to participate in our training program. And they did just that! Isabel, Courtney, Bijan, Eduardo and John joined us at the University of Colorado at Boulder (CU) in late September.

I had the privilege of mentoring Isabel (pictured) and Courtney during the seminar and the outreach at CU. They quickly picked up our dialogue techniques. However, I was most touched as I witnessed them lovingly care for the needs of each person they spoke to on campus.



Isabel wrote the following reflection about her experience:

As I arranged the flight tickets for my group, I had no idea what kind of experience we were getting into - something about a

seminar and then being on campus; they kept mentioning mentors and dialogue. We nevertheless took off cross-country to learn what Justice for All had to teach us.

The environment at the seminar was eye-opening. We were immediately embraced with warmth and enthusiasm. I was immensely impressed with the quality of the speeches and training. I hit it off immediately with fellow students that I met through the seminar. I thought I might sneak some homework during the class, but I was captivated by all that was said.



Isabel (in pink), Eduardo (in brown), and Courtney (in blue), in dialogue with CU students.

I threw myself into understanding the nuances of the arguments and the methods of creating dialogue. The mentors were up to the intellectual challenge, which was incredibly exciting.

Our group carried on the discussion over dinner with the mentors, covering topics that ranged the hot topics of the pro-life movement. We felt fulfilled intellectually and were struck by the generosity and kindness of our hosts.

The next morning we managed to find our way around campus and to the exhibit. We

took some time to observe the mentors at work, noticing the challenges that pro-choice students might throw at us during conversation. But pretty soon we were raring to go, starting up conversations with as many students as we could.



Spending the day talking to fellow students about abortion and human life is an opportunity we rarely have at Yale. It was so rewarding to have that chance to engage the hearts and minds of our generation.

When the initial rush of engaging with students wore off, we came to notice the compassion and love that the JFA staff brought to their conversations. Their emphasis on this aspect in the training kept us focused on emulating them.



Bijan (second from right) and John (in hat) having a conversation with CU students

One of the conversations that will always stick with me is with a woman, who though she started off angry and declaring herself pro-choice, revealed that she was in fact in a lot of pain from having had two abortions forced on her. It was as if no one had taken the time to listen to her before! The JFA Exhibit [and training] enabled me to reach out to her in her pain and listen.

As we reflect on the experience, it is not the rigorous intellect of our JFA mentors, but the love that they bring to their message of life that sticks with us. They cared about the person in front of them, about the pain that abortion causes all involved. We were truly blown away by all the JFA staff and how they fill their work with such love. They gained our respect and admiration as mentors in spreading the message of life and love that is the pro-life movement at its best.

Isabel Marin

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We look forward to working with the Yale students in the Spring of 2012 on the Yale campus.

I am so thankful for YOU and your support throughout 2011. It's only because of your support that we can help change a life like Isabel's. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. May God bless you.

Richest blessings In Christ,

*Tammy*

Tammy Cook  
+JMJ

P.S. This newsletter was written prior to December 20, 2011. If you have given a gift after that date, your receipt will be printed on January 20, 2012 and mailed with my January newsletter in late January. I will report on the results of my end of year fundraising in my January newsletter. Happy New Year!