



Rebecca's Reflections



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A Lot of Nebraskans in Kansas

During our second trip of the semester, JFA staff traveled to Atchison and Lawrence, Kansas to train students at Benedictine College and in the Lawrence community. Part II of the training, the outreach, was held at the University of Kansas (KU). Although each of these events took place in Kansas, it felt as though I was back home in Nebraska because three young women from Columbus, Nebraska (chaperoned by my sister Carmen) and three young men from Dwight, Nebraska ventured to Kansas to attend the *Abortion: From Debate to Dialogue* seminar. Additionally, each group spent an entire two days at the outreach. What a dedicated crew! Of course, spending time with my baby nephew Jerome (pictured far right in the top photo) made it feel like home too!

I was blessed with the opportunity to mentor the three ladies in the top photo, Lydia (far left), Gabby (second from the left) and Amy (center) during the *Abortion: From Debate to Dialogue* seminar as well as throughout two days of outreach. When asked, "What is one 'take away' or lesson you have learned from this experience?" Lydia expressed she was surprised by how many people were appreciative of the type of conversation she had with them. Because of the topic being discussed, many students had expected her to be condemning. Instead, these students were met with good questions and a listening ear, which caused them to be much more open and willing to talk.

At the end of the second day of outreach each of the girls debriefed their outreach experience with me. Amy (middle photo, far left) and Lydia (middle photo, far right) shared about their conversation with a young lady, Allison, who identified herself as pro-choice and believed abortion should be legal in the first trimester. Through using the dialogue skills that they learned from the seminar, Lydia and Amy found that at the end of that conversation Allison was leaning much closer to a pro-life view.

Matthew, John Paul, and Daniel also joined us for the seminar and two full days of outreach. Daniel (bottom photo, third from the left) was in my mentor group at the Benedictine seminar but during the outreach I worked with each of these young men. After the first day of the outreach, during a debrief, John Paul (second from the left) shared, "This outreach really helped me engage people in conversation. I...listened in on other conversations which showed me how to apply what I learned at the seminar." It was a joy to watch all three of them grow in their confidence to start conversations throughout the outreach.

Thank you to all of the parents, teachers, and friends who have positively influenced these young men and women to seek out opportunities to engage their peers and defend the unborn.

Rebecca J. Haschke

