

George W. Hanna
Supreme Warden
Senior Vice President, Fraternal Services



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR LIFE

September, 2013

Worthy Grand Knight:

The Order's *Ultrasound Initiative*, since it began in 2009, has enabled the placement of an ultrasound machine in at least one pregnancy care center (PCC) in all 50 states. Several states have placed over two dozen machines in PCCs in their jurisdictions. In total, **over 385 ultrasound machines** valued at about **\$20 million** have been placed in PCCs throughout the country!

After receiving ultrasound machines through the *Ultrasound Initiative*, many executive directors of pregnancy care centers (PCC) around the country sent "thank you" notes with comments like these:

"Being able to have a visual image of the life they are carrying makes all the difference in the world."

"The ultrasound you helped provide has been a blessing to hundreds of babies!"

"We started offering free ultrasounds to anyone with a positive pregnancy test. The ultrasounds have already made a difference in 52 pregnancies!"

"Women who were on the edge of abortion heard their baby's heartbeat, or saw it on the screen, and immediately changed their mind. Whew and praise God!"

Through the Knights of Columbus *Ultrasound Initiative*, when a local and/or state council raises funds for at least 50% of the cost of a machine for a qualified PCC, **the Supreme Council office provides a matching grant from the Order's Culture of Life Fund for the other 50% of the cost of the machine.**

Ultrasound Initiative information, including required forms, is available at www.kofc.org/ultrasound.

As an additional incentive for councils to participate in the *Ultrasound Initiative*, the Supreme Council will count a qualifying *Ultrasound Initiative* matching grant award as fulfilling all four of the Culture of Life Activities requirements for the Columbian Award.

Ultrasound Initiative funds raised and hours volunteered during 2013 should be listed on your council's Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (due by January 31, 2014). Details of your council's *Ultrasound Initiative* participation should be outlined on your Columbian Award Application (due by June 30, 2014). Go to www.kofc.org/forms for each of these forms.

Please contact Bill O'Brien, Senior Coordinator of the Culture of Life, Marriage and Family Values Office, at **203-752-4403** or william.obrien@kofc.org with any *Ultrasound Initiative* questions you may have.

Fraternally,

George W. Hanna
Supreme Warden
Senior Vice President, Fraternal Services

C: U. S. - State Officers, State Program Directors, State Culture of Life Chairmen,
District Deputies, Membership & Programs Consultants

EVERY PROGRAM REPRESENTS A MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITY



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

ULTRASOUND INITIATIVE

The Knights of Columbus *Ultrasound Initiative* seeks to provide medically certified pro-life pregnancy care centers with the modern technology to monitor the health of babies in utero, and to allow mothers to visually experience their development.

The sophistication of today's medical technology provides a "window on the womb," said Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson. "Even from the early stages of pregnancy, a mother can see her developing child, hear the baby's heartbeat, and recognize the miracle of the new life within her."

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ULTRASOUND INITIATIVE

When a state or local council fund-raising campaign raises one-half of the cost of purchasing an ultrasound machine for a pro-life pregnancy care center, the Supreme Council will match the other half of the machine's cost.

Refer to www.kofc.org/ultrasound for information and forms required for the Ultrasound Initiative. In particular, review the **Guidelines** and **Frequently Asked Questions**. The forms that will be required are the **Diocesan Evaluation** (#9884) and the **Ultrasound Initiative Application** (#4886).

To qualify for matching funds, a council must:

- Locate a pro-life pregnancy care center that is prepared to receive, use and maintain an ultrasound machine.
- Present a **Diocesan Evaluation** form to the diocesan culture of life director to recommend whether or not the pregnancy care center may be eligible to participate in the Ultrasound Initiative. The diocesan culture of life director will help the council determine if the pregnancy care center will be able to staff and operate the machine. This will include ensuring that the center:
 - is properly licensed under state and local laws and regulations to operate an ultrasound machine
 - is affiliated with a medical doctor who is willing to oversee the ultrasound machine operations
 - will be staffed with licensed and experienced ultrasound machine operators
 - has adequate insurance for operation of the machine
 - is not anti-Catholic in any way (for example, some centers have individuals who have attempted to lead Catholic women away from the Church).
 - does not distribute nor refer women for birth control nor perform or refer women for abortions

Once a positive Diocesan Evaluation form has been submitted to and acknowledged by the Supreme Council office, the pregnancy care center should contact manufacturers to choose an ultrasound machine that will meet the center's needs. The pregnancy care center should get a quote for the purchase price of the machine (not including sales tax, shipping charges, maintenance agreements or other add-on costs).

If the council accepts the challenge of raising 50% of the cost of the machine, fundraising can then begin.

The council must be actively involved in raising the funds for half of the purchase price of the ultrasound machine. The council should designate, or open, a council bank account to receive the funds, which should be kept separate from any fraternal funds, to assure tax deductibility of donations.

Donated checks should be made out to "Knights of Columbus," not to the pregnancy care center, to assure that all donations are counted towards the council's share of the funds to be raised and matched. While the pregnancy care center may certainly assist in fundraising, if the pregnancy care center raises the funds predominantly on its own, without ongoing and significant involvement of the council, the pregnancy care center will not be eligible for matching funds from the Supreme Council Office.

Once the funds for not less than half of the purchase price of the ultrasound machine are raised, the **Ultrasound Initiative Application (#4886)** should be completed, signed by the state deputy, and submitted to the Supreme Council Office.

Once the application has reached the Supreme Council office and been found to be complete, figure on about one month, give or take a couple of weeks, for processing and approval of the matching grant.

Funds from the state or local council's campaign and matching funds from the Supreme Council office should be presented to the pregnancy care center, which should be a 501-c-3 charity. To assure the tax deductibility of donations, the pregnancy care center, not the council, should receive the funds, and order and pay for the machine.

Finally, plan a check presentation or ribbon cutting ceremony to be held when the ultrasound machine is delivered or is ready for operation.

For complete guidelines for participation in the Ultrasound Initiative, refer to the "Guidelines for Participation in the Ultrasound Initiative" and "Frequently asked Questions," available at www.kofc.org/ultrasound.