

What You Can Do to Honor Dr. George Tiller

Dr. Tiller's murder is an enormous loss for our movement and for women and their families across America. He provided abortions to women late in their pregnancies and under some of the most difficult medical circumstances. Dr. Tiller had been harassed by abortion opponents for much of his career – his clinic was burned down, he was shot in both arms by an abortion protestor, and he was recently targeted for investigation by Phill Kline in Kansas, with a jury acquittal coming just a few months ago. None of this stopped George Tiller from his commitment to providing women and their families with abortion care that others were unwilling to offer.

YOU can stand up against these attacks and for Dr. Tiller and the cause he believed so strongly in by taking one or more of the following actions in the days ahead:

- **Write a letter to the editor.** On the back of this page, you will find guidelines and submission information for letter to the editors for newspapers in both Kansas and Missouri. Feel free to use the sample letters below as a base for your letter. We encourage you to take this opportunity to express your emotions and honor the memory of Dr. Tiller by taking a stand for the women and families across the country that he cared for.
- **Volunteer.** Planned Parenthood of Kansas & Mid-Missouri and the other organizations here today are all ways looking for new volunteers. To volunteer for Planned Parenthood, go to http://www.ppkm.org/volunteer_signup.asp or email ppkmvolunteer@ppkm.org.
- **Get involved.** Become a fan of Planned Parenthood of Kansas & Mid-Missouri on Facebook, friend us on Myspace, and/or follow us on Twitter. You can find the links to these sites at <http://www.ppkm.org>. Join our email list, join the email list of the other organizations that support women's rights. Join a Reproductive Health Action Team to work with other pro-choice advocates and stay informed on current reproductive justice issues. In Missouri, contact Jen at jen.labarbera@ppkm.org. In Kansas, contact Holly at holly.weatherford@ppkm.org. Keep yourself informed, keep yourself involved, and keep talking.

Sample Letters to the Editor in Honor of Dr. Tiller

Sample Letter One:

On Sunday morning, Kansas women lost one of their greatest heroes when Dr. George Tiller was assassinated while attending church services. Dr. Tiller was a champion for women's health and family services. This was not the first time he was a target of anti-choice violence. His health center has been burned down and he has been shot in both arms, all by people seeking to extinguish the bright light of his love and hope. But he never gave up. He opened his doors to every woman seeking his help. Now his mission is left to us. With sadness, we must gather up our strength and hope to carry on in Dr. Tiller's memory to ensure no woman is left behind or forgotten. That every woman receives the compassionate care and treatment she deserves. It was the cause Dr. Tiller believed so strongly in and we must ensure in his honor it always moves forward.

Sample Letter Two:

Dr. George Tiller, a hero and leader of women's health and family services, was taken from us too soon on Sunday morning. He has left behind a hole for family, friends and the innumerable lives he touched in Kansas, our country and our world. Though this gaping hole seems impossible to fill, we must try to find a way. We must make sure that women of Kansas are still provided with the same reproductive rights and freedoms and with the same opportunities to make informed, private decisions about their health. With heavy hearts, we must rally behind our area reproductive and sexual health services providers like Planned Parenthood. Whether our commitment is time or energy or money, we need to make sure that Dr. Tiller's mission is not forgotten and the women of Kansas are not abandoned.

Where You Can Submit Your Letters to the Editor

- **Kansas City Star**
Send letters of up to 150 words to letters@kcstar.com. Please include name, address and daytime phone number.
- **The Pitch**
Letters are submitted on an online form at <http://www.pitch.com/feedback/EmailAnEmployee/?department=letters>
- **Lawrence Journal-World**
Letters are submitted online at http://www2.ljworld.com/accounts/login/?next=/submit/letter_to_the_editor/
- **The Examiner – Independence, Blue Springs and Grain Valley**
Letters of up to 300 words are submitted online at <http://media.examiner.net/contact/letter/>
- **Wichita Eagle**
Send letters of up to 200 words to letters@wichitaeagle.com. You must include your name, home address and phone number for verification purposes. You can also submit your letter in an online form at <http://www.kansas.com/604>.
- **Topeka Capitol-Journal**
Send letters to letters@cjonline.com.
- **Jefferson City News Tribune**
Send letters of 300 words or less to editor@newstribune.com or submit online at <http://www.newstribune.com/letters>. Please include name, address and daytime phone number.
- **The Columbia Daily Journal**
Send letters of up to 250 words to editor@columbiatribune.com. Please include your name, street address, city and a daytime phone number.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Jen LaBarbera at jen.labarbera@ppkm.org or Kristin Maun at kristin.maun@ppkm.org.

www.ppkkm.org

Be strong. Be healthy. Be you.

 **Planned Parenthood**
of Kansas and Mid-Missouri