

# Alabama Knights of Columbus Help Purchase 16th New Ultrasound Machine

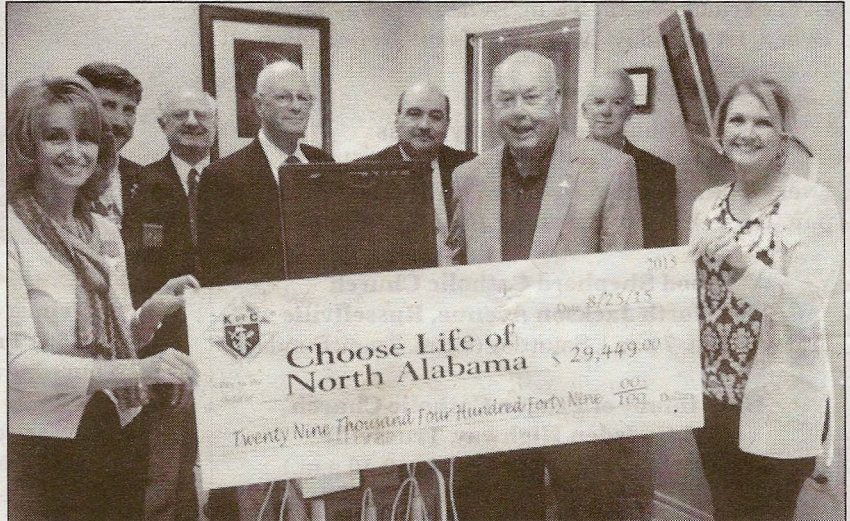
Alabama Knights of Columbus members across the state are working to help more women choose life. KC councils from across the state contributed funds to help purchase the 16<sup>th</sup> ultrasound machine for a pro-life pregnancy center in the state. The latest piece of medical equipment that some call a life saving machine went to Choose Life of North Alabama.

The ultrasound machine helps a woman see the details, movement, and hear the heartbeat of her developing baby. Kathy Hall, executive director of Choose Life of North Alabama, explained how many young mothers often delight as they watch their baby move and wriggle for the first time. When they see their baby's little body, its fingers and toes, and they hear their baby's heartbeat, the mother knows it's her child, not her "choice."

Industry sources report that over 90 percent of expectant mothers considering abortion choose life after they meet their baby via ultrasound. The machines use ultrasound waves to create a picture or "sonogram" of the baby in her womb.

The machines cost tens of thousands of dollars and, without the assistance of organizations like the Knights of Columbus these machines would be out of reach for most pregnancy centers.

The Alabama State Council



(Courtesy Photograph)

**From left are, Kathy Hall, director, Choose Life; Jason Esteve, AL K of C state treasurer; Dave Birchmeier, AL state K of C pro-life director; Joseph McCarty, deputy grand knight of Council 10232; Danny Garcia, grand knight Council 10232; Juan Benjamin, trustee Council 10232; Tom O' Donnell, treasurer Council 10232; and Cathy Hatchett, assistant director, Choose Life.**

of the Knights of Columbus long-standing promotion of the Culture of Life led them to launch an initiative aimed at providing women considering an abortion a way of seeing the new life they carry in action. Alabama State Deputy, Pete Parrish, recently stated, "This initiative is the single most important project conducted by the State Council. We are trying to "save the lives of unborn children, one by one."

The program begins when a council identifies the need for an ultrasound machine in their community and agrees to sponsor the effort. Funds are collected

from councils from across the state and once half the money needed for the purchase of the machine is raised an application is made to the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council for matching funds. If certain criteria are met the funds are approved and once received by the sponsoring council the effort to purchase the machine can proceed.

In this recent effort Alabama Knights of Columbus raised half of the \$29,449 in a little under three weeks demonstrating the commitment and dedication of Alabama Knights towards pro-life causes.