

You Can't Learn This in a Classroom

Training thousands to make abortion unthinkable for millions...

**Impact
Report**

**JUSTICE
FOR ALL**

April 2018

JFA training is not just theoretical. JFA volunteers are able to immediately put what they learn into practice. Once equipped through a JFA seminar, volunteers start their practical training by watching their JFA mentors in conversation, observing how they use JFA dialogue skills with pro-choice advocates. After that they create their own conversations alongside a JFA mentor who can offer feedback and support. Volunteers are enthusiastic about this unique, active learning experience, one that can't be replicated in a classroom. In this Impact Report, featuring conversation stories from Rebecca Hotovy and Paul Kulas, you'll see how JFA mentors supported outreach volunteers at our recent University of Kansas (KU) outreach, praying for them, modeling good dialogue, and participating with them in their first conversations.

Sm - Steve Wagner, Executive Director

...one person at a time

I was mentoring a young woman named Maya, the president of the *Jayhawks for Life* club that had invited JFA to the University of Kansas (KU). I had been praying for her throughout the trip because I wanted her to be able to be encouraged by the conversations that she was going to witness while we were mentoring her. She's someone who really desires to go out and create conversation.

One of the first conversations she witnessed was actually one that she started. She saw a young man, "Will," standing next to the *Art of Life* Exhibit, and when she realized that he was just standing there looking and that no one else on our staff was able to engage him, she walked up to him to ask him what he thought. When she started to ask him questions, Will revealed that he actually didn't know yet what his thoughts were about abortion.

She didn't know where to go from there, so she asked if she could introduce him to someone who could guide him through the pro-life position. Once she found out that Will was open to a dialogue with someone, she ran and grabbed me, brought me over, and introduced me to him.

We started a conversation, and Will seemed pretty open to hearing why I believed what I did. I asked him if I could see if there were areas where we could agree. First we jumped into the topic of biology. I told Will that I believed that the unborn is a human being from conception forward, and he said, "You know, I *don't* believe that it's a human being from conception on a biological level." I then found out that he was a biology major, so I first asked him, "Since you're a biology major, would you mind if I would just share with you snippets from my understanding of biology, and then you can break those down, and tell me if you agree or disagree?" He said, "Okay!"

So I took about two minutes to explain the sperm and the egg coming together. We also walked through the "construction vs. development" concept. (See www.ifaweb.org/car-polaroid to learn more about the way in which the unborn is not constructed like a car, but instead develops from within, more like a polaroid photo.) He said, "You know, there's nothing there I can disagree with at this point."

Then we walked through the idea that, from fertilization, the unborn is not part of another organism, but is a whole organism with its own functional parts. I asked Will what his thoughts were on that, and he said, "You know, there's nothing



Maya (right) talks to a fellow student at JFA's *Art of Life* Exhibit outreach at the University of Kansas, an outreach she helped to organize.



Rebecca (left), Maya (hidden, with pink cap), and another volunteer interact with students (not Will) at JFA's *Art of Life* Exhibit at KU.

I can disagree with there either.” So we came to the end of walking through how we know the unborn is biologically human, and he didn’t have anything to refute.

“Okay, so we agree that the unborn is biologically human,” I said. “What does that mean with regard to abortion?” After that, I walked through the Equal Rights Argument, and he seemed to be very responsive to that line of reasoning. (Learn to defend the equal right to life of the unborn through real-life dialogue examples at www.jfaweb.org/equal-rights.)

We had probably talked for about thirty minutes when Will looked at me and at Maya. “That is one of the most logical arguments I have heard for the pro-life position,” he said. “I am really going to have to continue processing this and thinking about this.”

When he walked away, Maya turned to me and said, “That was amazing!”

I was really excited because this seemed to be an answer to my prayers for Maya. That was one of the first outreach conversations she had witnessed, and it walked through the seminar material in a way that would make it make sense for her. It wasn’t a conversation about one of the more complicated topics that are sometimes raised at our events, such as “whether or not we know we exist” or “whether or not we can know anything at all.” It was actually one of the more basic conversations, in which the person with whom we spoke was able to follow pretty simple ideas and logic.

- Rebecca Hotovy, Training Specialist



Sean (right) and Benjamin (center) talk to their JFA mentor, Paul Kulas (left), about Benjamin’s first conversation at the KU outreach in March.

Three students from a Catholic high school joined the JFA team at KU as mission trip participants from out of state. These young men were participants at the JFA seminar held just off campus and then came out to volunteer for the first full day of outreach at KU. After they helped with exhibit setup, our team started to create conversations with KU students. About an hour or two into the outreach, I noticed that these young men from my group were doing a good job of just observing JFA staff members’ conversations, which is what we had instructed them to do for the first portion of the day.

I was taking pictures, standing off to the side, when a KU student came up to two of the young men, Benjamin and Sean. They were standing next to the new art table by the *Art of Life* Exhibit at the time, listening to one of Becca Hotovy’s conversations. (See pictures of the art table created by JFA trainer Grace Fontenot, and other photos from the recent outreach at KU, at www.jfaweb.org/photos.) Right after the KU student came up to talk to them, Benjamin started interacting with him. The college student seemed to have an agenda, and he had a sort of steamrolling personality in the conversation. I was within earshot, but not close enough to be in the conversation, so I slowly inched my way closer to listen and be available if I was needed.

The KU student shared that he had grown up in a Christian community in a small, remote town. A 13-year-old girl in the town had been forced into an intimate, incestuous relationship by an older family member. He said the girl had ended up getting pregnant as a result, and that the family had shamed this young woman for what had happened even though she was the victim. The KU student ended up basically saying to the high schoolers, “What would you tell *this* woman who gets pregnant and wants an abortion?”

It was one of the hardest topics that ever gets brought up, and it was the first conversation in which these students had actively participated. I didn’t know how Benjamin would handle it, but he did a really good job of showing compassion for the rape victim, balancing the relational and intellectual challenges inherent in responding to the question of rape. (See www.jfaweb.org/question-of-rape to learn to meet both challenges and respond in a Christ-like way.) I thought that with just one seminar under his belt, he actually did very well at staying on the relational side, focusing on the horror of rape and showing genuine sympathy. He didn’t jump into intellectual argument mode, even though he was a very intellectually adept student. I did end up joining in the conversation at one point to help out somewhat, but he had done a really good job of focusing on the right approach at the right time.

- Paul Kulas, Director of Operations

Learn from JFA Mentors — Join Us for a Mission Trip:
www.jfaweb.org/mission-trips





Loving Every Human Being with JFA

Resource Bulletin – April 2018



**PRAY FOR
CONVERSATIONS**

Pray for Recent/Upcoming Events (Partial List): Pray for good weather during our outreach events to facilitate good conversations. Pray for the health of our trainers that they might keep active in the field. Pray for each person we train and each person with whom we converse at outreach, that God will kindle new affection in their hearts for women in distress and for the smallest humans on earth.

- April 11 (Denton, TX): Poll Table Outreach Event – University of North Texas
- April 13 (Fort Collins, CO): Presentation and Workshop – Heritage Christian Academy
- April 14 (Greeley, CO): Interactive Seminar – Christ Community Church
- April 15 (Fort Collins, CO): Interactive Seminar – Colorado State University
- April 16-17 (Fort Collins, CO): Kiosk Outreach Event – Colorado State University
- April 20 (Boulder, CO): Interactive Workshop – University of Colorado at Boulder
- April 21 (Englewood, CO): Interactive Seminar – All Souls Catholic Church
- April 23 (Lakewood, CO): Interactive Workshop – Colorado Christian University
- April 23-24 (Denver, CO): Kiosk Outreach Event – Metropolitan State University
- April 23-24 (Boulder, CO): Kiosk Outreach Event – University of Colorado at Boulder

See More Upcoming and Recent Events, including Photos: www.jfaweb.org/calendar

**PREPARE FOR
CONVERSATIONS**

Featured Resource for Equipping Yourself: In “A Living Room Conversation” Grace Fontenot shares a conversation she had with “Heidi,” a young woman she met, not during an outreach event, but in an everyday-life setting. In Part 1 of Grace’s three-part story, you’ll see Grace help Heidi think through the social and legal implications that logically follow from what Heidi characterized as her “religious” beliefs about abortion. In doing so, you’ll learn several questions you can ask in your conversations with family members, co-workers, and friends who say, “I am personally pro-life, but I don’t think I can limit the choices of others through the law.”

Read Part 1 or Download a Printable Version: www.jfaweb.org/living-room-conversation

See More Dialogue Examples: www.jfaweb.org/dialogue-examples

**START
CONVERSATIONS**

Featured Conversation Starter: Use the recent post, “Should We Step In?” to start a conversation in a natural way this month. This post features a true story from *Exposures*, a Voices for the Voiceless project. The post uses the story as a springboard to ask pro-life advocates, “Do you think abortion should ever be legally available?” and asks pro-choice advocates, “Are there any circumstances in which you would try to stop someone from getting an abortion?”

Share the Post: www.twitter.com/7conversations ; www.jfaweb.org/start-the-conversation

What can I do to love every human involved in unwanted pregnancy?

About the *Loving Every Human Being with JFA* Resource Bulletin

Friends of JFA ask, “What can I do to love every human involved in unwanted pregnancy?” This resource bulletin offers some answers. Supporting JFA financially enables JFA’s trainers and volunteers to create conversations that kindle affection for unborn children and their parents, but beyond that, you can **PRAY** for conversations the JFA community is creating, **PREPARE** for conversations, and **START** conversations.

Pray for conversations. Prepare for conversations. Start conversations.