



PATH has been serving women and men in the Atlanta area for over 25 years. We are dedicated to continue our mission and help those in need of healing from abortion and educating our community.

## Are US Abortion Rates Dropping?

A new census released by The Guttmacher Institute, an abortion research organization cited by those on both sides of the abortion issue, reports that the number of women who have abortions in the U.S. has dropped to its lowest point since the procedure was legalized in 1973. The group releases the study every three or so years. The rate was highest in 1980 at 29.3 abortions per 1,000 women. The 862,320 abortions performed in the U.S. in 2017 represent a 7 percent drop from 2014, according to Guttmacher.

This appears to be very good news, but many of us in PATH are concerned that the findings are not accurate. Why? Because it is not possible to track the number of abortions that occur following the taking of the drug RU486, as it is often prescribed from a private doctor's office, and possibly online.

As is stated on the Guttmacher Institute's web site: "There could have been an increase in self-managed abortions happening outside of medical facilities, which the census would be unable to capture. The drugs used in a medication abortion (misoprostol and mifepristone) are becoming increasingly available online, as are resources about how to safely and effectively self-manage an abortion outside of a clinical setting. More evidence is necessary to better understand these emerging trends ..."<sup>1</sup>

Birth control has become more widespread, the group pointed out, since the Affordable Care Act was passed, making birth control more accessible to women. The number of medication abortions has also gone up as the total number of abortions has declined, making up 39 percent of the total number in 2017.<sup>2</sup>

Our experience in PATH has revealed that the after effects of RU486, called a "chemical" or "medication" abortion, are much more severe than that of surgical abortions. One of our clients nearly bled to death, and many others reported very severe bleeding. Because the woman is not certain when the drug will take effect, she could be at home, in her car, or at another location. This location can now be experienced as the "trauma site". Revisiting the location is a reminder of trauma, and one's home or car is then experienced as unsafe. She also does not have the benefit of being in a medical facility where help is available.

PATH's work is essential, to not only address the trauma experienced, but to help each individual grieve, and reconcile with God, themselves, and others.

*The weekend is a well oiled machine. every word, gesture, exercise, session and scripture has been well planned and intentional. I loved and appreciated the staff being so present and participating in the sessions. I noticed the tender compassion shown to each of us by the staff. The most meaningful thing to me was the physical taste, touch, see and do exercises that were an outward sign of God's love. To "think" a thought is one thing--to "act out a thought" is another!  
(PATH participant)*

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.guttmacher.org/gpr/2019/09/us-abortion-rate-continues-drop-once-again-state-abortion-restrictions-are-not-main>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/us-abortion-rate-drops-to-lowest-point-since-roe-vs-wade>

# PATH



*post abortion  
treatment  
& healing*

## Board Members

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President  
Martha Robert, Secretary  
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Fr. Brian Lorei  
Martha Shuping, MD  
Dr. Kathleen Raviele, MD

## 40 Days for Life

Liz Youngs,  
Deacon Mike,  
and Ann  
Heroman kicking  
off 40 Days for  
Life in Marietta



## PATH Presentations at SaveOne Summit

Dr. Martha Shuping, M.D., PATH Board member, and Jody Duffy, RN, former PATH Director, and facilitators Betsy Gordon and Liz Youngs recently traveled to Nashville, Tennessee for the SaveOne Summit. This is an international event attended by approximately 100 SaveOne leaders from the U.S. and Europe.

At the conference, Dr. Shuping gave a presentation on PTSD after abortion, which affects many women, also affecting their relationships with their their husbands and children. There is research showing that both the Rachel's Vineyard retreats and the SaveOne Bible study have produced statistically significant decreases in shame and trauma symptoms, and increased self-esteem.

In addition, Dr. Shuping spoke on research showing a strong association between abortion and intimate partner violence (IPV) in 74 studies from around the world. Violence perpetrated by a boyfriend or husband can be one of the factors that leads to an abortion. Research shows that abortion does not break the cycle of violence, as repeat abortion was even more strongly associated with IPV. Education about resources for help in stopping the violence may prevent abortions, and assist those who have been abused in finding help.

Jody Duffy spoke on the impact of abortion on military personnel and veterans. Jody said that the military has a high pregnancy rate, and that many military women have had abortions. Through her experience with female veterans Jody has come to realize that female soldiers or veterans should be assessed for military sexual trauma and obtain help related to any prior sexual assault, before attending a retreat to deal with the additional trauma of the abortion.

A workshop at this conference provided training related to a new Bible study by Sheila Harper, Finding You, aimed at helping those who are survivors of abuse as many SaveOne leaders have seen this as an issue for many in their abortion recovery groups.



Liz Youngs, Jody Duffy, Martha Shuping MD, Betsy Gordon at the SaveOne Summit

## Joins us on November 7th for the PATH Fundraising Dinner

*Give hope, heart, and healing!*



## Meet Dr. Raviele, Featured Speaker

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Kathleen Raviele will be the featured speaker at PATH's Fundraising Dinner this year. Dr. Kathleen Raviele is a retired board-certified gynecologist in the Atlanta area. She is a fellow in the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, served on the board of the Catholic Medical Association (CMA) in various roles for twenty years and was president of the CMA in 2008. She serves as the CMA's representative on the Pro-Life Secretariat Committee of the USCCB and is chairman of the FIRE (Faith, Inspiration, Reason and Evangelization) committee of the CMA, which develops the Holy Alliance documents, assisting clergy in medical-moral issues. She has taught several methods of natural family planning (NFP) over 25 years and participated in several research studies on the Marquette Method of NFP. Dr. Raviele serves on the Board of Directors for PATH.



Knights of Columbus Council 14122 of St. Stephen the Martyr Parish present donation to PATH. Pictured left to right, Knight Charles Williams, Deacon Mike Mobley, Kathryn Siegel ("Trinnie"), and Knights Jim McVey and Jeff Batzel.



Day of Reflection presented by Deacon Mike, Visitation Monastery with Sr. Josefa Maria, VHM Mother Teresa Maria, VHM & Sr. Dipti Teresa, M.C.



## Thank you, Betsy Gordon

Thank you to Betsy Gordon, PATH's outreach coordinator, for her years of service to PATH. Betsy refurbished our web page, brought us into the modern media age with twitter and instagram, visited countless churches with brochures and posters, and was our enthusiastic cheerleader at many events. We will miss Betsy in her outreach role on staff but look forward to working with her as she continues to volunteer in our bible studies, encouraging clients as only Betsy can.



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## Where We've Been and Where We're Going

### August

St. Philip Benizi Ministry fair  
St. Stephen the Martyr Knights of Columbus Officers Dinner  
St. John Neumann Stewardship weekend

### September

Save One Bible Study Conference in Nashville, TN-Jody Duffy and  
Dr. Martha Shuping speaking  
Kickoff for 40 Days for Life Marietta at St. Joseph's Church, Liz  
Youngs speaks  
The Quest: Mary Ann McNeil speaks

### October

1: 40 Days for Life Atlanta  
8: Pastor's Luncheon Marietta  
11-13: Rachel's Vineyard Retreat at Carmel Retreat Center

### November

7: PATH Fundraising Dinner at Holy Spirit Catholic Church  
Save One Bible Studies begin

## November 7: PATH Fundraising Dinner at Holy Spirit Catholic Church

Give hope, heart, and healing! Join us for an evening of jazz and joy at our annual fundraising dinner to support PATH. Cocktail attire is suggested. Guest speaker is Dr. Kathleen M. Raviele. Special Entertainment, Jazz By Three. RSVP at [mygiving.com/PATH](http://mygiving.com/PATH)

## Stay Connected:

Phone: We have staff available via call or text at (404) 717-5557 and en español (470) 258-3433

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Social: [PathAtlanta](https://www.facebook.com/PathAtlanta)



Donations large and small can be sent to: PATH PO Box 501238 Atlanta, Ga. 31150 or made securely online at [www.mygiving.com/path](http://www.mygiving.com/path)