
Peggy and her husband joined the local Right to Life group, and they began housing pregnant women in their home in 1974. They founded Pregnancy Decision Health Centers in Columbus, Ohio, on January 22, 1981. Peggy served as Chairman of the Board for over 20 years. Under her leadership, PDHC became one of the first pregnancy centers to offer ultrasound services and grew to five locations, serving over 15,000 hotline and office clients annually.

Peggy joined the Board of Alternatives to Abortion International, in 1986. In 1993, Peggy became its first full-time President and the organization changed its name to Heartbeat International. Under her leadership, Heartbeat has grown from a network of 250 affiliated pregnancy help centers to the most expansive network of pregnancy help ministries in the world, with 1,200 pregnancy help centers, medical clinics, maternity homes, non-profit adoption agencies, and abortion recovery programs, in 50 countries (nearly 900 in the United States).

The ministry of Heartbeat International calls Peggy to travel extensively, sharing her “hands on” experience. Peggy delivers programs on abortion, abortion recovery, sexual integrity, adoption, alternatives-to-abortion, plus organizational and leadership development. She travels and teaches throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, Eastern and Western Europe, Africa, and Asia. She also appears on television and radio.

Peggy was a college English professor for 20 years at Franklin University in Columbus, Ohio.

She has received many awards. In 2009, Peggy was recognized with one of the premiere Life Prize awards in Washington, D.C. by the Gerard Health Foundation. In 2007, she received the Cardinal John J. O’Connor Pro-Life award from Legatus International. She has also received the Patrick Cardinal O’Boyle Award from the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars, the J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award, the Sanctity of Human Life Award from Care Net, and the Founder’s Award from the Christ Child Society. She was named Catholic Woman of the Year by the Columbus Diocese in 2004.

Peggy has been married to Michael Hartshorn for 43 years. They have two adopted children, now married, and 5 grandchildren.