

A Brief History

The Knights of Columbus began their Ultrasound Initiative on January 22, 2009, the 37th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, to equip medically certified pro-life pregnancy centers with modern technology that would enable expectant mothers to see and hear their babies in utero. The goal was to fund approximately 100 ultrasound machines per year, reaching 1,000 by 2019.

On January 18, 2019, at the 46th March for Life, on the National Mall, the crowd cheered as Jeanne Mancini, president of March for Life Education and Defense Fund, declared that the Knights had recently placed its 1,000th ultrasound machine in a pro-life pregnancy center in Manassas, VA.

During his speech on the Mall, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson called the Ultrasound Initiative ‘the greatest humanitarian effort in the history of the Knights of Columbus.’

To date, over \$49 million in ultrasound machines have been donated to pro-life pregnancy centers in all 50 states and Puerto Rico, as well as Brazil, Canada, Jamaica, Peru, and Africa. Hundreds of thousands of babies have had a chance at life thanks to the Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative.

Ultrasound technology provides a “window to the womb,” said Carl Anderson. “Even from the early stages of pregnancy,” he continued, “a mother can see her developing child, hear her baby’s heartbeat, and recognize the miracle of new life within her.” The Knights have received numerous reports of mothers who have decided to carry their babies to term after seeing ultrasound images.

During a pilgrimage to Rome, this past February, Carl Anderson, and the Supreme Council met with Pope Francis in a private audience. The Pope praised the Knights’ “faithful witness to the sacredness and dignity of human life, evident at both the local and national levels.”

Overview of the Program

When a state or local Council raises half the cost of purchasing an ultrasound machine for a pregnancy center, the Supreme Council will match that amount, enabling the center to buy the ultrasound machine.

Steps

1. A Council identifies a pregnancy center that is prepared to receive and use an ultrasound machine.
2. The Council sends a Diocesan Evaluation form to the diocesan Culture of Life Office to determine if the pregnancy center meets the practical, moral, and religious criteria for inclusion in the Ultrasound Program.
3. The Council determines if the pregnancy center will be able to staff and operate an ultrasound machine. This includes assuring:
 - a. The center is properly licensed under state and local laws and regulations to operate an ultrasound machine.
 - b. The center is affiliated with a medical doctor who is willing to oversee the ultrasound machine operations.
 - c. The machine will be staffed with licensed and experienced medical personnel.
 - d. The center has adequate insurance for operation of the machine.
4. The KofC Supreme Council reviews the approved Diocesan Evaluation form. Once it authorizes the Council to proceed, the pregnancy center staff, including the medical director, selects the equipment that best fits the pregnancy center’s needs. The center will obtain a quote for only the purchase price of the machine.
5. The Council begins fundraising.

Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative

6. The Council submits a form to the Supreme Council for matching funds, once 50% of the purchase price has been raised.
7. The Council provides a check to the pregnancy center to purchase the machine. The pregnancy center will hold title/ownership of the machine.
8. The Council and pregnancy center plans a ribbon cutting ceremony for when the ultrasound machine arrives and is ready for operation.