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Contact: Julie Rupprecht
(317) 968-9132 office
(317) 403-9011 cell



President George W. Bush Speaks of Faith at Fund-raiser

INDIANAPOLIS— Former President George W. Bush spoke about his faith and his passion for protecting unborn children at the Life Centers Celebration of Life fund-raiser at Conseco Fieldhouse Thursday night.

Bush gave a “verbal tour” of the Oval Office, sharing anecdotes from his presidency and insight into what sustained him while under the pressure of the office.

“I personally could not have been president without the prayers of the American people,” Bush said. “They were calming and strengthening. Every day was joyous, and I believe it was because of the prayer of fellow citizens.”

Bush responded to a question about his first day in the Oval Office, saying he remembered having a “tearful moment” with his father, 41st president George H.W. Bush who visited him there. Bush said the unconditional love of his father demonstrated to him that he could be a president and still be a good dad.

“It was very encouraging to hear President Bush speak from his heart in this context,” Brian Boone, Life Centers president and CEO, said. “The Q & A format gave us a window into his presidency and gave him the

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opportunity to speak about his faith. He inspired us to stay the course in showing compassion to women in unplanned pregnancies.”

Congressman Mike Pence praised Bush’s pro-life accomplishments in his introduction, which was followed by a standing ovation welcoming the 43rd president.

Bush touched on his pro-life record and lauded the work of pregnancy centers and the hope they offer women.

“I thank you for your optimism – for sharing your love to help somebody else be optimistic about life,” Bush said. “I believe that love will help us all usher in a culture of life.”

Clyde Christensen, assistant head coach and offensive coordinator of the Indianapolis Colts, shared his personal story of adoption and urged the crowd to donate to the Life Centers ministry. The event concluded with Grammy Award-winning artist Sandi Patty, 2009 Miss America Katie Stam, and the Heritage Christian High School Choir joining in a finale of “God Bless America” and “You’ll Never Walk Alone.”

“Tonight a very special thing happened in Indianapolis,” Boone said. “The whole evening was truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to celebrate life – with an excellent keynote address from a public servant who made the sanctity of human life a priority.”

Organizers do not yet have a total for the amount of funds raised. The proceeds from the event will benefit Life Centers, a nonprofit Christian ministry which helps women in unplanned pregnancies by providing free services including pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, confidential peer counseling, 24-hour help line calls, post-abortion and maternity support at its eight pregnancy resource centers across Central Indiana.

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The mission of Life Centers is to affirm the value of life by providing a network of care to those experiencing pregnancy-related crisis and by compassionately presenting biblical truth resulting in changed lives to the glory of God.