

Womankind

MATERNAL AND PRENATAL CARE CENTER

www.womankindcleveland.com

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THIS ISSUE:

- 2 Gifts from the Heart
- 2 Upcoming Events
- 5 Volunteer Spotlight

Sarah's Story

Sarah came to Womankind in 1999 for help with her pregnancy. Here is her story in her own words (Sarah is a pseudonym).

Well, I was young, nervous, could not make a decision if I was going to keep the baby. I was just scared and here at Womankind they welcomed me with open arms and comforted me, assured me that everything would be OK. I decided to keep the baby and it was the best thing that ever happened in my whole entire life. I could not ask for a better blessing than the birth of my son.

Womankind helped me with everything from beginning to end. They also offered childbirth classes. They led me in the right direction and had all the resources I needed to have a great pregnancy.

I am a very happy mother and very blessed with my child. I could not have asked for anything else. Thank you, Womankind. You will always hold a special place in my heart!

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 7 (Thursday)

Eileen Murray, Executive Director, addresses the **First Friday Club of Cleveland** (see back cover)

MAY 8 (Friday)

Marymount Hospital Luncheon to benefit Womankind (see back cover)

JUNE

Womankind Golf Outing
(date and location to be announced)

OCTOBER 4 (Sunday)

Womankind Hearts and Hands Luncheon,
InterContinental Hotel

Visit www.womankindcleveland.com for more information!!

Gifts from the Heart (August 23, 2008 through December 31, 2008)

IN HONOR OF:

George Bertschler
Dr. and Mrs. John Bertschler

Mary Angela Hastings
Mrs. Kathleen Betz

Linda Horter
Mary Bookman

Jean Keller
Robbin Garcia

Patricia Klein
Ellen Rorke

The Lobb Family
Gene and Jeanne Lusky

Irene Lobb
Gene and Jeanne Lusky

Jeanne Lusky
A friend of Womankind

Pat Mawby
Mike and Anne Mawby

Grace McLeod
Dr. and Mrs. John Bertschler

Janine and Don Scholla Family
Jodie Bender

Cheri Slattery
Rikke Coach

Sr. Mary Liguori Slawinski, SSJ-TOSF
Sr. Jean Mack

Sr. Mary Peter Slawinski, SSJ-TOSF
Sr. Jean Mack

Rev. John Sullivan
Gene and Jeanne Lusky

JoAnn Tadych
A friend of Womankind

The wonderful people at Womankind
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Kelly

Irene M. Toma
Irene T. Winslow

Maryann Toma
Irene T. Winslow

Susan Visconsi
Nicole Visconsi Mawby

Janet S. Walter
Larry and Pat Pfile

Patricia Willard
A friend of Womankind

Megan Wilson-Reitz
Peter and Sharon Wilson

IN MEMORY OF:

Jay T. Ansberry, Jr.
Coletta Ansberry

Dr. Thomas J. Barrett
Suzanne Sternen Harff

Father Francis M. Bednar
Richard and Bernadette Boguski

Jackie Britton
Jim and Janet Turcoliveri

Parents of Phillip and Linda Catanzaro
Dr. and Mrs. Phillip Catanzaro

Frances Dolney
Mr. Albert S. Kirchner

David Dvorak
Catherine and Edward Weber

Dolores Friedel-Faltz
Gerri Mallinak

Joseph and Virginia Gladstone
Paula and Terry Dunford

Bill Hallisy
Ethel Hallisy

William Hawkins
Mrs. Eleanor J. Hawkins

Edward J. and Catherine V. Keefe
John P. Keefe, M.D.

Ruth and Tom Keenan
Ethel Hallisy

Melvin Kurtz
Robert and Jennifer Misso

Frank Marinelli
Rick and Debby Carbone

Melissa Martin
Portsmouth Abbey

John Francis Matye
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Matye

Florence Mausser
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Derbin

Ruth McLivried
Miriam Ruth Pirnat

Jack Merriman
Catherine Merriman

Donna Madic
Ethel Hallisy
Martin Keenan

Mary Mudrick
LeRoy and Carrie Dierker

Sr. Elaine Nimberger, CSA
Dennis and Janet Bryant

LaVerne O'Brien
Mr. and Mrs. Terrence O'Brien

Kathie Otto
Mr. Ivan Otto

Helen Pelat
Bill and Kathleen Rodgers

Anthony and Adeline Stadnik
Ray and Monica Stadnik

Mary Ann Sweeney
Mr. William F. Sweeney, Jr.

Genevieve Vinson
Jackie Fabian

William C. Winslow
Irene Winslow

Veronica Wroblewski
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Derbin

CORRECTION

In our last issue, we incorrectly listed a memorial gift "In memory of Sr. Dorothy Blatnica." The gift should have read "In memory of Agnes Blatnica." We apologize for the error. Sr. Dorothy Blatnica is, gratefully, very much alive.

Gifts from the Heart can be made for any occasion. Use the enclosed donation envelope or call Bernadette Boguski, Development Director, at 216.662.5700.

Womankind Volunteer Spotlighted on WEWS "Woman to Woman"

In case you missed it, Danita Harris, WEWS news anchor, interviewed Womankind Volunteer Donna Panzica for her "Woman to Woman" segment which aired on November 4th during the evening newscast. You can watch the interview by going to the Womankind website and going to how you can help/volunteering and click on the link on the right hand side of the page.

ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE!!

Womankind has made giving even easier.

Now you can give to Womankind online by visiting our website. Click on How You Can Help/Donate Now. You can use Network for Good to donate via credit card. This system also will allow you to make a recurring monthly donation or make a memorial or honorary gift. If you prefer, you also can download a donation form and send your gift in the mail.

For further information on how you can help, contact **Bernadette Boguski**, Development Director, at 216.662.5700 or via e-mail at development@womankindcleveland.com.

Letter from the Director

Eileen M. Murray, MA



As we move into this New Year, we look back at 2008 with gratitude and forward to 2009 with hope, in spite of the major problems in our world today.

EVERYONE has been affected by the troubles in our economy. We have to make decisions daily about what really matters, about what we can do without, what must be taken care of today, what we can

delay, and where and how we can stretch our dollars in the face of layoffs, shrinking disposable income, cut backs in community resources and more. We also know that things are likely to get worse before they get better, making our decisions about what really matters all the more important.

Recession or not, unborn children will be growing and developing, and ideally in nine months will be making their way into this life — as long as the woman facing this pregnancy has hope and help, the hope and help Womankind provides.

For the women we serve, what really matters is having emotional support for a pregnancy, even in the face of financial realities that pale in comparison to our own.

What really matters is that they have access to quality, comprehensive prenatal care and counseling so that despite a lack of health insurance, financial resources and/or emotional support for their pregnancy, they have the best chance at a healthy pregnancy and healthy baby. What really matters is getting help along the way and after the baby is born with items lovingly donated by the community.

What really matters is that you believe that this woman and her baby matter — it makes all the difference in the world.

In times like these, the needs of our clients increase. They are often hardest hit by difficult times. Your continued support of these women through your gifts to Womankind means that in the face of insurmountable odds, there is hope and help.

THANK YOU for all you continue to provide to Womankind through your generous gifts and your sacrifices, and for helping us love and support these women.

After all, isn't that what really matters?

Baby and Maternity Item Donation Checklist

- *Is the item clean? Is it in good condition?*
- *Is the clothing wearable as is? If it still fits, would you wear it? Would you let your child wear it?*
- *Is it wearable now, this season? Unfortunately, we don't have storage for out-of-season items.*
- *If it is a piece of equipment (i.e., stroller, car seat, crib, high chair), is it clean and in working order? Does it have all the required parts for safe operation?*
- *If it is a crib, are the slats less than 2³/₈" apart (less than the width of an upright pop can)? Anything wider does not meet current safety standards.*
- *If it is baby formula, did you check the expiration date? Womankind cannot accept formula that is past the expiration date.*

If you are not sure whether an item would be usable, please call and ask. Your thoughtful pre-sorting saves us time, energy and money. We encourage you to look over your donations before you bring them. Know that your generosity is appreciated by the women and families we serve.

Womankind will gratefully accept the following items meeting the above guidelines:

- In-season infant and child clothing up to 24 months
- In-season maternity clothing
- Diapers (all sizes), baby wipes and formula
- Cribs, car seats, strollers, high chairs, playpens, pack n play/portable cribs, bassinets

NOTE: Womankind regrets that we are unable to accept toys and thanks you for your cooperation.

Donations are accepted Tuesday through Friday from 10 – 4 at 5400 Transportation Blvd. in Garfield Heights. Please call in advance if you are bringing a large load that requires the use of the loading dock.

Womankind at Work



2008 Client Statistics

- Number of pregnancy tests – 717
- New prenatal clients – 505
- Total clinic visits – 1524

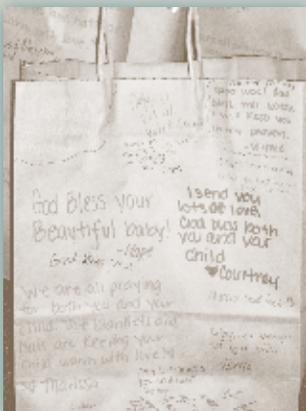
How You Can Help

- Join the Planning Committee for the Golf Outing or the Fall Luncheon
- Arrange a speaking engagement
- Host a “Why Womankind” event at your home
- Connect us to a church, organization or group who would be willing to do a Baby Bottle fundraiser
- Consider naming Womankind in your will/estate plan
- Volunteer!



For further information, please call

Bernadette at 216.662.5700 or e-mail at development@womankindcleveland.com



Elaine Kukral donated handmade fleece blankets with matching caps in bags decorated by her 8th grade PSR students at St. Michael School in Independence.



Sr. Mary Anthony Gruetzmacher, RE, a resident of Regina Health Care Center, visited Womankind with a gift of handmade baby afghans for our clients. She is pictured here with Executive Director Eileen Murray and one of her pieces of handiwork.

Volunteer Spotlight

Pat Mawby, RN

An integral member of our Monday night clinic team is **Pat Mawby**. Pat is a dedicated registered nurse who has been volunteering in our clinic for the past 10 years. Pat graduated from the St. John's Hospital School of Nursing as part of the class of '57 and had been a school nurse for 25 years in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights school system prior to her retirement. She initially found out about Womankind thanks to Peg Rallo, another Womankind volunteer, and loves giving back to the community.

Pat loves working at Womankind because "I love the philosophy. Since the first day I met Cheryl, Pat and Michele, I felt comfortable." When asked what keeps her motivated to be a long-time volunteer, Pat responded that the people working at clinic, including staff, have such energy and enthusiasm to work with our clients. "You can't judge. You have to have a certain empathy for doing what you do at

Womankind." Pat would like to ask that more nurses get involved with Womankind.

Pat is a wife, mother of 5 children and grandmother of 18. In her spare time, she loves to read, be with her grandchildren, walk, sew, and travel. She has traveled to Ireland and Hawaii (twice), and does not know where her next excursion will take her.



Wherever she goes, we hope she'll enjoy her trip and hurry back to her family at Womankind. Thanks, Pat, for all you do!

WOMANKIND'S HEARTS AND HANDS GO TO...

- **Parma Hospital Health Care Foundation** for their grant of \$10,000 for prenatal care for Womankind clients from the Parma Hospital service area.
- **Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeastern Ohio, Inc.** for a grant of \$500 to provide emergency diapers when we have run out of those so generously donated by the community.
- **John Carroll University** for giving us the opportunity to participate in their student health fair.
- **John Marek of Great Lakes Plumbing and Todd Sluzewski of Trust Construction** for donating their time to make various repairs around our facility.
- **Discount Drug Mart** in Independence for giving us a discount on the giant baby bottle banks used in our fundraising efforts.
- **Key Bank** for counting the bulk of loose change generated by the baby bottle project—special thanks to the Turneytown branch for working with us on this.
- Residents of **The Village at Marymount** for their help in counting loose change from our baby bottles.
- **And last, but not least...**
...the many churches, organizations and individuals who made our Christmas even merrier with your donations of diapers, wipes, formula, baby items, gift cards and financial support.



Thank You!

MARYMOUNT HOSPITAL LUNCHEON TO BENEFIT WOMANKIND

Marymount Hospital will be hosting their third annual "Taking Care of You" luncheon to benefit Womankind Maternal and Prenatal Care Center. This women's health and wellness event will take place Friday, May 8th from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Pazzo's Grand Ballroom, 10808 Granger Rd. in Garfield Heights and will feature a light luncheon, women's health displays, 1-minute massages, raffles and more. In lieu of an admission fee, please bring a \$10 cash gift or donation of disposable diapers or infant formula for Womankind Prenatal Care Center; donations will be collected at the door. There is limited seating and reservations are required. For reservations or further information, call 216.584.4354 or visit www.marymount.org and click on the Calendar of Events. All proceeds & donations benefit Womankind.

WOMANKIND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ADDRESS FIRST FRIDAY CLUB OF CLEVELAND

Eileen M. Murray, MA, Womankind Executive Director, will address the **First Friday Club of Cleveland** on Thursday, May 7th at the Metropolitan Club on the 21st floor of the Huntington Building, 925 Euclid Avenue in downtown Cleveland.

We know you won't want to miss this! To attend the luncheon buffet, reserve a ticket by calling the reservation line at 440.390.0172 or e-mail: ffcofcleveland@sbcglobal.net. Tickets are \$15.00. Reservations and cancellations must be final by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 4th. Discount parking is available at the Huntington Garage: \$5.00 with First Friday Club stamp.

The First Friday Club of Cleveland was founded in 1958 and has brought over 400 speakers to challenge, enlighten, and sometimes entertain its members and guests. The group usually meets on the Thursday before the First Friday of each month. Membership has grown to include Catholic men and women of Cleveland from all walks of life.

NEWSLETTER VIA E-MAIL

Would you prefer to receive this newsletter via e-mail? Please e-mail **Bernadette** at development@womankindcleveland.com and in the subject line write "Womankind e-news." Be sure to provide us with your full name and address so that we can ensure our records are accurate for future mailings.

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