

# Womankind

MATERNAL AND PRENATAL CARE CENTER

[www.womankindcleveland.org](http://www.womankindcleveland.org)



**Womankind Mission Statement:** To provide hope, help, and possibility to any pregnant woman by offering comprehensive integrative care in a loving, nonjudgmental environment.

FALL 2021

## Womankind Provides Hope & Support During Tough Times

*Alene Kalista, Director of Community Engagement*



*What a special surprise for Julie Zarin pictured here with beautiful Gaia born on Mother's Day!*

In 2012 Julie Zarin was just 17 years old and expecting her first child. Recognizing she would need help she contacted Womankind. "The staff of Womankind was able to meet all my medical needs, making sure that my baby was ok, as well as supplying me with maternity clothes and material items for my baby." During that pregnancy, Julie was able to get her GED and graduate from Ohio Media School. "I covered my belly with my diploma!" she said.

Fast forward to 2020 when Julie found that she was expecting her third child. Having no medical insurance and living in a shelter with her children she returned to Womankind for her prenatal care. This pregnancy was not an easy journey for Julie.

In December she contracted COVID 19 which left her with a permanent heart condition. There was some concern with the baby's growth, but the doctors and nurses worked together to ensure a healthy and safe delivery for mom and baby. At Monday clinics, a staff member provided extra help by entertaining Julie's sons, Channing and Lyric, who accompanied their mom to her prenatal appointments. The entire Womankind team worked together to assist Julie in her time of need. Gaia Zarin was born on Mother's Day, May 9, 2021! "She was beautiful and just perfect," said Julie. The proud Mom shares that her daughter's name comes from the Greek goddess of Earth, mother of all of life.

Having completed her education, Julie values the example she is setting for her children. She is presently working two jobs to make ends meet and is quick to point out that Womankind continues to help by providing diapers and other necessities. Julie reflects on how amazing it is that something so perfect can come from a seemingly impossible situation. When asked what she would tell other pregnant moms, Julie said, "I want to inspire other women who want to keep their babies that they can do it!" She wants to encourage anyone who finds themselves in a difficult situation to call Womankind and utilize their services. "Everyone is kind, always smiling, and willing to help with whatever you need."

### WOMANKIND CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION CLASSES

Series of 3 classes • 6:30pm–8:30pm  
2nd, 3rd and 4th Wednesday of every month!  
Free of charge!

*Classes held at Womankind by a registered nurse and experienced childbirth instructor*

Call 216-662-5700 for more information





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OUR SERVICES

All of Womankind’s services are confidential, nonjudgmental and provided at no cost to our clients.

These include:

- Pregnancy test
- Comprehensive and integrative prenatal care through 28 weeks of pregnancy
- Assistance with third trimester care and delivery
- Professional counseling
- Support services for those significant to the mother
- Childbirth classes
- Breastfeeding information
- Post-abortion counseling
- Assistance with Medicaid and WIC application
- Maternity clothing
- Baby items (as available)
- Referrals for:
  - Parenting classes
  - Adoption
  - Legal assistance

If you need help, or know someone who does, please call us at 216-662-5700.

Fall Into Change

A Note from the Executive Director Maggie Lallo

When I started as Executive Director just over two years ago, I had significant goals that I wanted to accomplish. I was confident that with time and the help of our staff and volunteers who work tirelessly for our clients, many of these goals could be accomplished. We started by assessing critical operations, from our prenatal clinic to our essential material item program. We are currently looking at the possibility of adding a second clinic day, recognizing that our numbers are growing significantly. We have added Erin Hopkins, R.N. to our staff to increase support within our clinic. You’ll meet Erin and read about her journey to Womankind.

Each week, we serve over 20 clients for essential materials, and the demand is rising. We have looked at how we treat our clients, from the initial call to the birth of the baby, always assessing our role and responsibilities to each client as we walk this journey with her. Together we have enriched the client experience and made necessary improvements. A push to increase our networking efforts has resulted in many new and positive community partnerships that we feel benefit our clients significantly. One of these partnerships is with Hanna’s Home which you can read about coming up in the newsletter. While much progress has been made in all these areas, we will continue to evaluate our effectiveness and the needs of our clients and their families. I am grateful to our many donors and supporters who have placed their trust and belief in me and our staff.

We were sad we had to postpone the annual golf outing but, after consultation with our medical officers, we decided it was the right decision for the health and safety of our golfers. We thank you for understanding and are excited to announce it has been rescheduled to June 20, 2022, at Mayfield Country Club! Be on the lookout for other events this winter as well!

Change can be so refreshing – and we’re experiencing change of our own at Womankind. We recently added five volunteers who are vital to our operations. Suzanne Panichi, Mary Adams and Natalie Chaney will assist us at the front desk and other areas. Cindy Shuck will assist us during our prenatal clinic as front desk secretary. Additionally, Susan Krieger will fill a critical volunteer role seeing our prenatal patients during Monday clinic as a certified nurse midwife.

Finally, “Love without Limits” is the story of Womankind’s founder, Michele Rogers. In her writings, Michele talks about how Womankind makes a difference. Michele believed that we are to love the people who come to us. It is our job to accept and love them where they are at. To this day, we strive to recognize and carry on this belief. Womankind remains a place of hope, and Michele’s vision and mission has continued to be illuminated in such a magnificent way. Again, thank you for your support of Womankind!

Maggie Lallo  
Maggie Lallo, Executive Director



Filling the Bottles!



We’ve had an amazing response from area churches with our Baby Bottle Campaign! We appreciate the support of the following churches who have continued to raise funds through this campaign during the first half of 2021:

- Assumption Parish, Broadview Heights
- Blessed Trinity, Cleveland
- Church of St. Clarence
- Holy Name, Cleveland
- Holy Rosary, Cleveland
- Holy Spirit, Garfield Heights
- Immaculate Conception, Cleveland
- Our Lady of Angels, Cleveland
- Padre Pio Prayer Group
- Padua Franciscan High School, Parma
- Sacred Heart of Jesus, South Euclid
- St. Columbkille, Parma
- St. Dominic, Shaker Heights
- St. Francis of Assisi, Gates Mills
- St. Michael the Archangel
- St. Noel, Willoughby Hills
- Sts. Peter & Paul, Garfield Heights
- St. Stanislaus, Cleveland
- St. Therese, Garfield Heights

Our Baby Bottle Campaign is a major source of revenue that helps provide much needed resources for our clients. It’s not too late to join in our Fall Campaign. Let’s fill our bottles to capacity this year! Please call Alene Kalista at 216.662.5700 to find out more information!



Support Our Mission

Womankind relies solely on the generosity of individuals, organizations, foundations and corporations for funding. Donations can be made in various ways and for different reasons. These donations can be planned or can be reflective of the lives of donating individuals such as gifts of stock, trusts, wills, matching gifts or gifts of cash. Below are various giving options:

**Gifts of cash:**  
Womankind accepts gifts of cash, checks or credit card donations. Visit our website at: [www.womankindcleveland.org](http://www.womankindcleveland.org).

**Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD):**  
This method of charitable donation allows taxpayers to make IRA distributions payable directly to Womankind, a qualified charity. Additionally, the distribution fulfills the IRA owner’s Required Minimum Distribution for the year.

**Gifts of appreciated assets:**  
A gift of appreciated stock or mutual funds, made directly to Womankind, mitigates the capital gains on the appreciated value of your investments

and you could possibly receive a tax deduction.

**Employer Matching Gift Program:**  
Your employer’s willingness to match your charitable contribution to Womankind, through corporate matching gift programs, is an easy way to increase your overall support for our programs.

**Named beneficiary of retirement accounts, trusts, will and life insurance:**  
You can name Womankind as the beneficiary on these various accounts. At the time of death of the donor, Womankind receives the named funds.

**Corporate support:**  
Numerous opportunities exist for corporations to support Womankind.

Call Maggie Lallo or Alene Kalista at 216-662-5700 for more information on how you can support the important work being done by Womankind. Check with your financial advisor to find the fundraising effort that best meets your needs.

We are in need of volunteer OB/GYNS, certified nurse midwives, and nurse practitioners who special in women’s health to assist us at our Monday night clinics.



If you or someone you know meets the above qualifications and would like more information, please call us at 216-662-5700.

We are so grateful to the following individuals and businesses who donated towards our Golf Outing this year:

- David Bongorno
- Carol Fiorelli
- Bishop Roger Gries
- Elco Corporation, Dave Millin
- HB Surgical, Tom Hartnett
- Lallo & Feldman Co. LPA
- Hugh Malloy
- Jack & Marsha Myslenski
- JoAnne Scaminace
- Robert & Maria Tayek in memory of Dominic Tayek

Although we had to cancel the outing, we look forward to seeing everyone June 20, 2022 at Mayfield Country Club!



# Volunteer Spotlight—From Donor to Driver and Beyond

Alene Kalista, Director of Community Engagement

Mike Curran is a blessing to Womankind in more ways than one. His role with the organization started by accident when he and his wife Barbara were downsizing, and a friend suggested they donate their baby items to Womankind. Mike loaded up his car and made the delivery where he met with a member of the staff and was given a tour of the facility.

Mike was impressed with the organization and asked how he could help. A member of the Support Services team told him about their need for a driver to deliver the labs to St. Vincent Charity Hospital on Tuesday mornings. Mike was happy to sign up and began volunteering the following Tuesday.

What began as volunteering as a driver on Tuesday mornings evolved into staying

all day to help with other needs of the organization, including sorting and doing an inventory of baby items. He also assists with staff needs to help them do their jobs more effectively. “I maintain the driver calendar, so staff members know who to expect and the drivers know when there is no clinic,” he said. Three drivers currently handle lab runs, but Mike says they could use a fourth person.

A recent retiree, Mike considers his volunteer work a natural extension of giving back to the community which he has done through participation in church, his children’s schools, and the Knights of Columbus. “Barb and I both believe we are called to share our blessings by giving back,” he said. “It makes our lives meaningful.”



Mike and his wife, Barbara

When asked why he volunteers at Womankind, Mike shared that extending a helping hand during what is often a difficult time in someone’s life is important. “It is rewarding to hear that ‘Thank you’ when we are able to provide to a mother in need. I like the way the staff and volunteers really care about the mothers and their children,” he said.

## In Appreciation...

Since the beginning of this year, Regina Wolf has been an asset to Womankind as part of our volunteer team. A regular donor through her parish’s Lenten Baby Bottle Campaign, Regina wanted to do more so she offered to assist the volunteers on Tuesdays. Volunteer Dianne Suey says, “We needed more help organizing the baby items and I knew right away that Regina would be a great asset.”

When asked what a typical day was like, Regina explained she would arrive by 9 a.m., assess what needed to be done, and get to work! Although she recently went back to working full-time, Regina promises to come back and help when she has time. “I’ll continue to let others who are looking for volunteer opportunities know the great work Womankind is doing and encourage them to join the team,” she said. Regina also said she will encourage people to donate to Womankind based on its current needs. Thank you, Regina, for your commitment of time, talent, and treasure!



Always smiling, volunteer Regina Wolf will be missed!

# Longtime Donor Shares His Decades-Long History with Womankind

Alene Kalista, Director of Community Engagement

When John Mannen recently walked into Womankind’s offices, he was impressed by its welcoming atmosphere and fresh look. “It’s an oasis for women who become pregnant and need options to choose life,” he said.

The longtime donor became acquainted with the organization more than 45 years ago when he and his wife sought the assistance of Lutheran Adoption Services. The mother of the baby they were adopting was a client of Womankind, which provided

excellent medical and support services—setting John’s and his wife’s minds at ease. Their first child was born bringing great joy into the couple’s life.

A few years later, the Mannens decided to adopt a second child. There were two infants up for adoption and the Mannens were given the option to adopt both. “We decided to take the first baby, and a friend of ours—who also wanted to adopt—took the second. God’s hand was truly in this process,” said John. The Mannens were so grateful for both the adoption agency and Womankind.

Continued on Page 5

# Partnering with Hannah’s Home

Maggie Lallo, Executive Director



Womankind has built many valuable community partnerships over the years, and one that has been a light for us and our clients is Hannah’s Home. A maternity home for single, pregnant women 18 and older, Hannah’s Home provides a safe, nurturing environment and is designed to provide strength and encouragement to help these women face the future in positive ways. The program at Hannah’s Home helps women set goals, learn life skills, continue an education, pursue employment and prepare for childbirth.

Womankind and Hannah’s Home may provide different services, but we work together to meet the needs of our clients. For example, when we have a client at Womankind who is in need of housing, Hannah’s Home can assist. If Hannah’s Home has a client in need of prenatal care, Womankind steps in. Womankind and Hannah’s Home have also helped each other with essential material items. If we have an abundance of a specific item that could be used at Hannah’s Home, we make a delivery. When Hannah’s Home has a variety of formula they cannot utilize, they give us a call.

Womankind is grateful for the relationship with Hannah’s Home, and we look forward to continuing and strengthening it for many years to come.

## From Nurse-Volunteer to Staff Nurse...

To meet the demands of our client population, Womankind has hired a part-time nurse. Joining the organization in an official capacity is Erin Hopkins, RN BSN, who has been a nurse-volunteer at Womankind since a chance encounter in 2002 when a donor shared that the organization was in need of volunteer nurses.

Thanks to the kindness of the organization’s staff nurses, Erin was able to volunteer around her family schedule for 19 years. “Womankind is always in need of volunteer nurses, and their willingness to let me come in even one day a month allowed me to stay involved while I was raising my family. I am so excited to begin sharing the workload with our Director of Nursing, Nancy Pavlik, who generously shares her vast knowledge with me,” says Erin.

“Working as a nurse at Womankind is a gift! This job allows me to combine my love of babies and my desire to serve others, especially the vulnerable. In pregnancy, a woman experiences changes on every level imaginable, and to join in Womankind’s 45-year history of providing maternal support and accompaniment on this journey is a joy.” Erin is passionate about finding ways to make clients feel supported and cared for at a time in their lives when so many unknowns

emerge. “Once a pregnant woman is connected with Womankind and understands we are here to serve her, she begins to see a way forward that will lead to a healthy pregnancy and birth,” Erin says.

Erin received her nursing degree from Franciscan University in 1999. She previously worked in a newborn intensive care unit (NICU) and NICU step-downs in Virginia and Cleveland. Erin lives in Shaker Heights with her husband, Brian, their three children and pup, Sweetie. The Hopkins family is active in the Lifeteen program at St. Barnabas Parish, where Erin also is a lector.



Erin Hopkins, RN BSN

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John remembers the call just a few years later when his friend through Lutheran Adoption Services asked if the Mannens would consider adopting a third child. “It was the best decision we ever made, adopting all three of our children,” John said of their decision to say yes. Coincidentally, all three of these birth mother’s prenatal care was through Womankind.

When asked why he donates to Womankind, John says it’s really quite simple: “I have my three children through this organization. The birth mothers had no money and no way to support their children. My wife and I were able to handle all the financial expenses involved with the adoptions, so there were no obstacles in the way.”

For his birthday and holidays John asks his children to donate to various charitable organizations, and Womankind is at the top of that list. “Womankind needs to continue to be that beacon of hope for expectant women who need help,” John said. “Being a regular donor to Womankind helps me remember the joy I have

received in my children, and I let many of my friends know about the good work this organization continues to do for so many moms.”

John encourages others to visit the Womankind facility and see all that is offered. “More people need to know about these services.”

As we were going to press for this newsletter, we learned of the death of longtime Womankind staff member Sr. Mary Peter Slawinski, SSJ-TOSF. Sister Peter was a registered nurse and a valued member of the Womankind family for many years. Watch for a more fitting tribute to her in an upcoming newsletter.





# THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR GENEROUS DONORS

We are grateful for all those who continue to support the mission of Womankind. If a gift was made after September 15, 2021, it will be acknowledged in the next newsletter.

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Mr. & Mrs. Robert Vyhnaelek  
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Waffan  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Wagner  
Mr. & Mrs. Zigmunt Walkiewicz  
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Walsh  
Melanie Webber  
Beverley Wehagen  
Myta Weisberg  
Laura Wells  
Christopher Welsh  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Wenzel  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Werner  
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Westerborg  
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Wetzel  
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Wiemels  
Brenda Wilkins  
Noreen Wiman  
Mr. & Mrs. Stefan Winkler  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Winters  
Regina Wolf  
Lois Woodworth  
Pauline Yedinak  
Marian Yowler  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Yupa  
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Yurick  
Mr. & Mrs. Edmund Zaharewicz  
Rebecca Zarback  
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Zenczak  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Zeszut  
Mr. & Mrs. Cyril Zupan

**IN MEMORY OF/  
GIVEN BY:**  
**Aborted Babies**  
Anonymous

**Agnes Bednar**  
Mary Bednar  
Bernadette Boguski  
**Fr. Francis M. Bednar**  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Boguski  
**Ronald Blake**  
Dolores Shannon  
**Cheryl Darrah**  
Charles Darrah  
**Deceased Family Members  
& Children**  
Ken & Kathy Simko  
**Ann Doran**  
Loretta Mach  
**Mary Patricia Fritz**  
Mr. Jerome Fritz  
**Monica Hurt**  
Marcia Hurt & Tom Nantell  
**Tom Kilbane**  
Deanna Hiros  
**Frank B. Kirchner Jr.**  
Patty Kirchner  
**Henry Kleinhenz**  
KOC North Olmsted  
Council 4731  
**Grace Kobyleski**  
Gail & Jim Martin and Family  
**Barbara Lukas**  
Raymond Rospotynski  
**Levy & Lusky Family Members**  
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Lusky  
**Mary Mach**  
Loretta Mach  
**Marilyn Maher**  
Richard & Connie Turek  
**Florence Mausser**  
Dennis & Ann Marie Derbin  
**Charles Meissner**  
Joseph P. Meissner  
**Tom Meissner**  
Joseph P. Meissner  
**Margaret Ann Mucci**  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mucci  
**Chan Nguyen**  
Baochau Nguyen  
**Dieu Nguyen**  
Baochau Nguyen  
**Elizabeth Orban**  
Berj & Carol Shakarian  
**Michelle Rogers**  
Rebecca Knab  
Mr. & Mrs. John Bertschler  
**Clare & Donald Schuele**  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Kirchner  
**Candace Hansen Schwabauer**  
John & Joanne Schwabauer  
**Beverly Schweichert**  
Ann Bolster  
**Julie Soska**  
Paul Soska  
**Joseph Stanziano**  
Mary Bockmuller

**Carol Stegmaier**  
Geraldine Basar  
Jerry Kolosionek  
Virginia Price  
John Satory  
Daniel Stegmaier  
Patricia Wolf  
**Al Stenger**  
Richard & Connie Turek  
**Susan M. Stumpf**  
Bernadine Magruder  
**Dominic James Tayek**  
Anonymous  
Ryan & Gabrielle Steiner  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Tayek  
**Joan Vivolo**  
Pamela Brady  
**Marguerite Monroe Walton**  
Robert G. Walton  
**Ruth Wollschleger**  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Wollschleger  
**Sr. M. Francis Therese  
Woznicki TOSJ**  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Moravick  
**Veronica Wroblewski**  
Dennis & Ann Marie Derbin  
**Ann Zakej**  
Berj & Carol Shakarian

**IN HONOR OF/  
GIVEN BY:**  
**Dave Bongorno**  
Mr. & Mrs. John Betchkal  
**Mona Maruna**  
Kim Campbell  
**Eileen Murray**  
Mary Day  
**Ryan Slattery**  
Jeanna Forhan  
**Andrea Tayek**  
Laurie Holmes  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Tayek

*To make a gift to support women and their families, please return the enclosed envelope with your gift, or you may donate online at womankindcleveland.org. Please call Alene Kalista, Director of Community Engagement at 216-662-5700 to make a gift by phone or to discuss other ways to support Womankind. Thank you for your continued generosity.*

*We regret if we inadvertently excluded or misspelled any names. Please call Alene Kalista at 216-662-5700 so that we may correct any errors.*

Womankind provides free prenatal care and a full range of support services to women and families in need.

# *Wish* LIST

*Please look at the list below and see how you might be able to help us provide for the basic needs of our moms and their babies!*

- Gift Cards in any amount: Giant Eagle, Amazon, Walmart, Target, Visa/Mastercard
- New Car Seats (*for over 20 lbs.*)
- New Pack n' Plays
- Postage Stamps
- Paper Products (*toilet paper and paper towels*)
- Trash Bags (*13 gallon size*)

*Donations accepted Tuesday through Thursday 10am to 3pm.  
Call Womankind at 216-662-5700 with any questions.*

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## *Womankind* Mission

To provide hope, help, and possibility to any pregnant woman by offering comprehensive, integrative care in a loving, nonjudgmental environment.

### Our Core Values

- We respect, affirm and nurture human life in all its stages.
- We provide confidential, comprehensive, and compassionate care.
- We create a safe, positive, nonjudgmental, nondiscriminatory and welcoming environment.
- We work collaboratively and respectfully together within Womankind and with community agencies to assure the best possible outcome for each woman.
- We focus on our services on the needs of the client and will treat each person with sensitivity, kindness and respect.

### We will...

- Provide all services and support at no cost to the pregnant woman.
- Provide professional, prenatal medical care up to 28 weeks gestation.
- Provide professional client support services including counseling, advocacy, case management, and assistance obtaining essential baby items.
- At 28 weeks gestation, we will transfer the woman to the physician/hospital of their choice for delivery. After that time, we remain available to assist or refer to the best of our ability, indefinitely.
- For the client and/or client system who are experiencing uncertainty in their situation we employ licensed professionals to support in providing a listening ear and counsel.

### The Womankind Promise

We are here to help. You are always welcome to call or come to Womankind anytime.  
If we cannot assist, we will find someone who can.