

Womankind

MATERNAL AND PRENATAL CARE CENTER

www.womankindcleveland.org

No woman should face a pregnancy without hope, help and possibility.

SPRING 2018

Volunteer Caregiver Spotlight Genny McCaslin, CNP, CNM



It's difficult to miss Genny McCaslin in a crowded room. The sparkle in her eyes draws you in immediately, along with her warm smile and engaging personality.

Genevieve J."Genny" McCaslin is an OB/GYN certified nurse midwife and certified nurse practitioner (women's health). She practices with the Southwest General Medical Group and has been a volunteer caregiver at Womankind for over 20 years. She was attracted to Womankind because of the fantastic service they provide. "I felt I should be involved in a center that provides care to moms and babies who lack insurance and do not have the financial resources to access traditional care."

Genny feels strongly about her calling. "I personally believe that birthing a child is a God-given right and a very profound experience for women, and that experience carries into the family and the community. There are some women who become pregnant and feel overwhelmed, unsupported or totally unprepared for their pregnancies. Womankind

provides loving and non-judgmental care. The volunteers are fantastic. Care is received in a confidential, compassionate and comprehensive way. Every woman who walks through these doors can be assured that she will receive the care needed to continue her pregnancy with love and support."

In 2017, Genny received the prestigious Franklin Delano Roosevelt Award for fetal and maternal health, recognizing her dedication and work with women and babies. She certainly deserves the award, having personally delivered over 300 babies. Prior to joining Southwest General, Genny started the Midwifery Group at the former Bedford Hospital and spent 10 years with the group before it closed.

Genny and her husband have been married for 27 years and have two children and one grandchild. Some of her passions outside of work include horseback riding, swimming, hiking and travel. Genny also enjoys playing piano and is a huge Cleveland Indians fan.

When asked if she ever thinks about retiring... Genny smiles and says...."I'll know when it's time, but not anytime soon." We are sure glad to hear that!

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BOTTLES! BOTTLES! BOTTLES!

What a year for baby bottles! In 2017, we raised \$105,000 from our baby bottle campaign. We are so grateful to the more than 50 groups who conducted a baby bottle campaign for Womankind. Some bottles were filled with pennies, some with quarters and many bottles contained currency and checks. Every dollar we raise directly benefits the women and families we serve. We are always looking for additional groups, churches, businesses and organizations willing to distribute bottles for us. If you are part of a group that would like to participate, please give us a call. Individuals and families are welcome to participate as well. We will gladly provide a bottle to anyone who calls us or stops by our offices to request one. We are well into our 2018 baby bottle campaign and are excited about the number of groups participating during Mother's and Father's days. Your generosity means so much, **THANK YOU!**

Want to participate?
Please contact Nancy Ilg
at 216-662-5700 or nilg@
womankindcleveland.org



INTRODUCING OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In January, Womankind welcomed Patti Clair as Executive Director, following the retirement of Eileen Murray, who led the organization for 24 years. Most recently, Patti served as Executive Director of the American Diabetes Association in Connecticut. Prior to that she worked in Massachusetts and originally in the Cleveland market with the ADA. She is happy to return to Northeast Ohio and is eager to help Womankind to grow its message and foster awareness of this remarkable organization. Patti is a graduate of Boston College with a BS in Business Administration from the Carroll School of Management. She is the proud mother of four children and lives in Hudson.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

That *no woman should face a pregnancy without hope, help or possibility* is the statement that drew me to Womankind. This unique organization, founded by Michele Rogers, RN and Elaine Eberlin, provides free prenatal care and other vital support services with a nonjudgmental approach to women who are pregnant or think they might be. We are a volunteer-driven organization blessed with talented and dedicated individuals who give generously of their time to provide much needed care for so many women in the northeast Ohio area.

As I approach my fifth month with Womankind, I can honestly say it has been a true pleasure to be devoting my time and energy to an organization with such an important mission. These first months have flown by as I've worked toward learning as much as I can about the organization. We have an ambitious plan for 2018 to increase awareness about Womankind and its mission throughout northeast Ohio with an expanded marketing plan; updating technology including designing a more vibrant and interactive website, updating our phones and computers; and designing a three-year strategic plan to explore strategies for increasing the number of women we serve through our maternal and prenatal clinic.

In an effort to become better informed, I have met with staff, volunteers, members of the Board of Trustees, donors, vendors and clients for their thoughts on current challenges and successes and future opportunities. Every individual has shared great examples of the work performed by Womankind and described their piece of the puzzle that is imperative to the success of this operation.

There is so much going on here at Womankind. In March, I had the pleasure of meeting many donors and friends at the St. Patrick's Eve event at Nighttown. This event included an evening of Irish songs and stories with Jake Boland. It was the first "official" Womankind event I attended and I enjoyed seeing some already familiar faces and meeting new friends and family members in the fun, casual setting.

The Golf Committee is in “full-swing” preparing for our 22nd annual Golf Outing & Dinner at Weymouth Country Club on June 21st. We have golf and sponsorship opportunities available. Proceeds from the outing provide much needed funds for our clients. We hope you can join us for this popular event.

The Womankind Board of Trustees has a robust group of members who are actively participating in all aspects of Womankind to increase awareness and success of the organization. Three new members have recently joined, as on page 5. Everyone brings an energy and expertise to the table and I am thrilled to have joined an organization with a board as active as ours.

One of Womankind’s more unique fundraising activities is the Baby Bottle Campaign. In 2017, \$105,000 was raised with baby bottle funds alone! We are so fortunate to have the participation of over 50 area churches, schools and organizations that participate each year. The Baby Bottle Campaign provides a great visual reminder to the community that their donations provide funding for medical and social needs of the women and families we serve. Bottles returned are filled with a mix of change and dollar bills, while others contain a single check in support of the mission. Each and every bottle reflects the story of someone in this community who has chosen to assist Womankind with providing pregnancy testing, prenatal care, counseling, childbirth education classes, medical supplies and more.

We are blessed with generous donors who provide the much needed funding to purchase items such as an OB Doppler, blood pressure monitors, educational materials, medical supplies and more (see list on the right). Other individuals and groups donate baby items such as diapers, formula (Gerber Gentle Brand is preferred), and clothing for children up to 24 months. We are entirely dependent on donations of baby items. There is nothing as gratifying as witnessing a mom who is able to keep her baby warm because of receiving a donated winter coat or knowing that a child will not go hungry because baby formula was donated to help that child. There is a great deal of need in this community and Womankind’s thoughtful donors are generously assisting with meeting some of that need.

I wish to thank Eileen Murray who served as Executive Director at Womankind for twenty-four years. I had the privilege of shadowing Eileen for a week in December as she shared her knowledge, experience, thoughts, anecdotes and so much more with me in that short time frame. While I realize I will never fill her shoes, I believe we share a similar passion for the mission of Womankind and the desire to continue the vision of Womankind’s founders. I cannot thank Eileen enough for her gracious and open-hearted welcome to me and I appreciate her tremendous support and thoughtful effort in preparing me to assume this role.

I truly appreciate the support that everyone has given to me as I have begun my tenure with Womankind and I welcome hearing your views and ideas! You can call me at 216-662-5700 or contact me by email at pclair@womankindcleveland.org. I look forward to speaking with you, and to working with you in the future.

PATTI CLAIR
Executive Director

WISH LIST

Our donors sometimes ask us what we really need to help support Womankind. Listed below are requests for needed items. We appreciate monetary gifts unless noted otherwise.

Clinic

- Educational materials for clients \$500
- Portable Fetal Doppler \$375
- Blood pressure monitors (2) \$200
- Heavy Duty 2-shelf utility cart \$200

Gift Cards

- ALDI
- Costo
- Giant Eagle
- Office Max
- Walmart

Golf Outing Raffle Basket & Auction Donations

Raffle baskets and auction prizes are needed for the Golf Outing on June 21. These raffles help raise funds to support our mission.

We are looking for donations of:

- Restaurant gift cards
- Tickets to sporting or entertainment events
- Sports memorabilia
- Instant lottery tickets

Call Nancy Ilg: 216-662-5700, to schedule drop-off or pick-up of your donated items



Make a Gift to Honor a Special Mother

As Mother's Day approaches...

We all have women in our lives who have made a profound impact on who we are today. Whether it is your mother, sister, grandmother, aunt or friends, these amazing women have made lasting impressions on our personalities, beliefs and career paths.

Mothers, especially, are the foundations upon which our families have been built. We learned how to raise children due to their examples, discipline, sacrifices and unconditional love. Let us take this opportunity to celebrate and honor them at this time of year.

Here at Womankind, mothers are at the core of our mission. We are dedicated to providing compassionate, nonjudgmental and loving care to the women who seek our help. They may be struggling, scared, confused and unsure of what direction to take. We treat each woman as part of our family, with dignity and professionalism.

In honor of Mother's Day, please consider honoring that special woman in your life by making a gift to Womankind. Your support will enable us to continue our mission of ensuring that no woman has to face a pregnancy without **hope, help and possibility**. Your generous gift will serve as a wonderful tribute to those women who molded and shaped your life.

Please send your tax-deductible gift today in the attached envelope or online at www.womankindcleveland.org.

Every gift to Womankind makes a wonderful difference in the lives of the mothers and babies we serve.



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Womankind is proud to introduce the newest members of the Board of Trustees:



MATTHEW HUTTER

Matthew is a small business owner of an I.T. consulting company. He has experience ranging from Fortune 500 companies to businesses with only a handful of employees. Matthew has an electrical engineering degree from the University of Dayton. He has been a donor to Womankind for years but

now in his short tenure on the board he enjoys improving the technology for their office or reducing or improving computer expenses or services. Matthew especially takes delight in sharing similar values with both the employees of Womankind as well as the board members. He has been married to Gina for 22 years and they have three children: Maggie, Jack and Andrew. He lives in Twinsburg. He enjoys running, skiing, golf and brewing beer.



ZENIA LIS

Zenia Lis has rejoined the Womankind Board of Trustees after taking a 15 year break to raise her children. She lives in Broadview Heights with husband, Zenon, and children Adam and Rosie. Zenia moved to the Cleveland area in 2000 and shortly after joined the Womankind board. She felt that the mission of Womankind spoke to her

and she wanted to serve the organization at the board level. She spearheaded the development of Womankind's Strategic plan in the early 2000s. Zenia holds an MBA from Mercer University, Atlanta, GA and a BA from USF, Tampa, FL. She has worked in marketing management and sales positions at Cox Newspapers, Colgate-Palmolive, Eastman Kodak and Atlanta Gas & Light prior to moving to Cleveland. In 2002 Zenia founded Zenia Lis Jewelry. She designs and hand crafts one-of-a-kind artisan jewelry which she sells through Art Shows and online via her website.



TONI GIDEON

Toni Gideon grew up in the Akron area. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Dayton and a law degree from the Toledo College of Law. She practiced law in Cleveland for over 20 years, primarily labor and employment law. In 2009, Toni joined PNC Bank as an Employee Relations

Investigator and is presently an Employee Relations Area Manager. She resides in Cleveland Heights with her husband Vic. Toni and Vic are the proud parents of four sons. Toni's interests include binge watching HGTV and singing in rock/blues dance bands. Over the last 10 years, Toni became familiar with Womankind through her colleagues and parish. She is very excited to have the opportunity to actively support its mission as a board member.

Womankind

22nd annual GOLF OUTING & DINNER

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2018

Weymouth Country Club • 3946 Weymouth Rd., Medina, OH 44256

Presenting Sponsor

John Kraft
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SEE YOU ON THE GREEN

Join us on the Green

Womankind will be hosting its **22nd annual Golf Outing & Dinner** on Thursday, June 21 at Weymouth Country Club in Medina. A great day is planned with lunch, 18 holes of golf, cocktails and steak dinner, along with an opportunity to win great prizes while supporting the important mission of Womankind. Special thanks to Trustee John Kraft and Baird as Presenting Sponsor for this year's outing. Sponsorship and golf opportunities are still available. Not a golfer? Join us for cocktails, dinner and chances to win great prizes. **Please call Nancy Ilg at 216-662-5700 or register online at www.womankind.org.**

Gifts from the Heart August 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018

Thank you to our generous donors who made a *Gift from the Heart* in memory or in honor of a friend or loved one. These gifts support the Womankind mission and we are grateful for the kind support.

IN MEMORY OF:

Alice Ackerman
Dolores Shannon

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Ken and Donna Flagel

Katherine Basic
Deborah White

Daniel Burke
Jean and John C.
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Gerrity

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Marilyn and Michael Freas
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Deanna Hiroso

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Mary and Robert Barsic
Honorable John and
Rosemarie Rogers
Mary and Kevin Rogers

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Our Family
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Sharon Jean Gullatta
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Angela and Jay Siegel

Nancy Kirchner
Clare M. Schuele

Alicia Anne Klein
Ellen and Joseph F.
Kelly, MD

Eileen Murray
Mary A. Bednar

To make a gift to support women and their families, please return the enclosed envelope or online at www.womankindcleveland.org. Please call Nancy Ilg, director of development at 216.662.5700 to make a gift by phone or to discuss other ways to support Womankind.

We regret if we inadvertently excluded or misspelled any names. Please call Nancy Ilg so that we may correct any errors.

Bernadette and Richard
Boguski
Gary Boncella
Gail and Curtis Cost
Elaine Craine
Mary Ann Fischer
Deborah and Stephen
Giblin
Kimberly and James
Gunter
Erin and Brian Hopkins
Fr. John McNulty
Dorothy Mitchell
Catherine and John
O'Malley
Catherine and Michael
Olivier
Marilyn and Laurence
Reichert
Carol Ann Rini
Sr. Liguori Slawinski
SSJ-TOSF
Dorothy and Albert
Zanetti

Marie Ogrinc
Lawrence B. Ogrinc Jr
Marcy and Chris Ogrin
Marie Stehli

Moe Romeo
Marty Gelfand

Janine and Don Scholla
Jodie Bender

Sr. Mary Peter Slawinski, SSJ-TOSF
Loretta and William J.
Mislick, Jr.

Motria Stachur
Elizabeth and Robert
Davison

Fr. John Sullivan
Anonymous

Celebrating Our Volunteers

Volunteers are the heart and soul of Womankind. On April 19, Womankind honored these amazing volunteers at a Volunteer Appreciation event held at Woodside Event Center. Womankind staff and trustees joined in the evening to honor the many volunteers who give so freely of their time, talent and treasure to help support the Womankind mission. Volunteers enjoyed delicious food, friendship and a gift of thanks to take home. Thank you to the “anonymous” donor who graciously made this evening possible.

Our volunteers assist in the following areas: Accounting Office, After hours phones, Appointment Secretaries, Baby Bottles, Board of Trustees, Certified Nurse Midwife, Certified Nurse Practitioners, Childbirth Educator, Clothing Organizers, Front Desk, General Help, Lab Transporters, Member Board, Registered Nurse, Obstetricians, Oktoberfest Committee, Phlebotomists, Physical Therapist.



Volunteer Kelly Hartman, Womankind Clinical Director, Nancy Pavlik, RN and Volunteer Diane Suhy.



Volunteers Sharon Aamoth & Joan Powers



Womankind Executive Director Patti Clair and Trustee John Kraft



Volunteer Erin Hopkins and Trustee Toni Gideon.



Rich Bogusky, Camille Toman, Debbie Jasany, Amy Elliott

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Womankind is currently in need of:

- Experienced OB nurses
- Phlebotomists for Monday evening clinic
- Client support volunteers for the Monday Clinic (AM & PM) and during the week (training provided)

If you are interested in these opportunities, please contact Dianna at 216.662.5700.

Womankind
MATERNAL AND PRENATAL CARE CENTER

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www.womankindcleveland.org

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JOIN US!  

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

HOPE • HELP • POSSIBILITY

Womankind

Oktoberfest

SAVE THE DATE!
Friday, October 5, 2018
At The Society of the
Donauschwaben

WWW.WOMANKINDCLEVELAND.ORG