

# From Women-Focused to Womankind

**“I feel blessed to be able to play a critical role in an organization which focuses on helping healthy mothers give birth to healthy babies,” says Ursuline alumna and Executive Director of Womankind, Eileen Murray ’71.**

After receiving her biology degree from Ursuline College, Murray realized she had a gift for counseling and attended the University of Detroit to pursue her graduate degree. She worked as a counselor for Catholic Charities for 17 years and then spent three years in business finance.

A friend told her about a job opening at Womankind and Murray jumped at the opportunity. “It was a huge adjustment, and for quite a while I felt overwhelmed, but Womankind is an organization that takes people to another level. It was almost as if they saw something in me I hadn’t seen clearly in myself. The board and staff welcomed me and we continue to be a strong team,” said Murray.

**Womankind, a maternal and prenatal care center, has helped thousands of women who come to them in need of medical care and emotional support during their pregnancies.**

According to Murray, the agency offers women pregnancy tests, medical care from volunteer physicians and nurses, childbirth and child care classes, low-cost ultrasounds and just about anything else anyone might need in order to have a successful pregnancy.

“We want to make sure that the women who come through our doors know that they have the love and support throughout their pregnancies,” says Murray, who has been with Womankind for 15 years.



***Eileen Murray (center) poses with co-workers during a Womankind Golf Outing***

In her position, Murray oversees a staff of eight and scores of volunteers. She comments that her role is to make sure everyone has the resources they need to do their jobs and ensure that we have a well-run organization.

“Eileen has brought Womankind to a level of complete competency. Her genuine passion for our mission is present in every decision she makes, every problem she tackles, and is certainly present with regard to her support and guidance of our very dedicated staff and volunteer force,” said Womankind Board President Cheri Slattery.

When asked about her time at Ursuline, Murray says she received a “phenomenal education.” She added, “It was a true liberal arts education, which gave me a wonderful grounding in theology, philosophy, English, biology and chemistry. My education was extremely well-rounded. I was taught to observe and to think. Well-educated professors in leadership positions impacted me. It was a nurturing environment in many ways.”

Murray is delighted to be an Ursuline community representative who shares the College’s commitment to the charism of Saint Angela Merici and her dedication to justice and contemplation. “I am proud to say that there is a strong connection between my role at Womankind and the values and ideals I encountered while at Ursuline.”