



This month we honor a Women of Mercy who exemplifies that a Mercy Girl is committed to service to others and justice in the world. As Karen Ross Blake '82 organizes relief efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic, she truly is living out the Mercy charism.

Name: Karen Ross Blake, MBA '82

Post Mercy Education:

- B.S., Administration of Justice, Rutgers University, 1987
- MBA, University of Maryland, Global Campus, 2019

Personal and Professional Achievements:

I have been married to Stephen K. Blake, a Loyola Blakefield alumnus, for 26 years and we have two wonderful sons, James and William. I am a native Baltimorean and have worked in non-profit industries for over 25 years. I am currently working in the field of property and casualty insurance.

As the 108th President of the Rotary Club of Baltimore, I have been privileged to guide our club in the distribution of approximately \$20,000 in emergency COVID-19 funds. These funds are used to assist two food pantries, to feed over 455 individuals and families throughout East Baltimore, and to support the League for People with Disabilities and the Franciscan Center. We are currently working on a Rotary Global grant to pay for and distribute face masks in Maryland's highest area of virus concentration, zip code 21215.

I serve as the volunteer coordinator for Rotary District 7620 COVID-19 Response Team and the logistical coordinator for Baltimore City.

I believe when our communities are stricken with tough situations, that's when our Mercy training, pride, and heart work at their best!

Please share your favorite Mercy memory.

During my Freshmen year, I loved going to Farrell's Ice Cream Parlor with my Mercy big sister.

Were there any Mercy faculty members who especially impacted your life? Why?

Ms. Elizabeth Lambertus (RIP), my adviser, and **Ms. Cindy Magruder** were especially impactful in my life. They each, in their own way, allowed me to explore who I was as an individual.