

Kate and David Murray

Chances are, Kate Murray is the only Women's Fund Founder currently publishing a handy illustrated travel book about, well, umm, saints. Seventy-five of the thousands on record. Kate's list runs from St. Acaius to St. Wilgerfortis.

And to get her saints into publishable form, Kate is using FrameMaker, software technology developed by her husband, David, a Silicon Valley whiz kid who took his company public and made his fortune at age 39, an action that eventually brought them to the Women's Fund as part of their joint commitment to use some of that money to improve the lives of women and children.

"When society is struggling," Kate said in an interview at the spacious Murray home on New Hampshire's Seacoast, "it's the women and children who take the first hits. They're the ones who suffer ... Women and children get left behind."

Women's Fund appears to be a perfect fit. "You'd have to be pretty callous and blind not to see there's a huge need," David said of the Women's Fund's mission. "It's an area where you can do good one person at a time."

The Murrays just happened to arrive in New Hampshire as discussions of creating a Women's Fund were starting. With their two children in tow, they had settled first near Dartmouth and then moved to North Hampton in 1999.

Despite the years in California, the Murrays consider themselves easterners. Both were born in the east, Kate in the far northeast corner of Vermont, David in Scituate, MA. They met in graduate school at the University of Connecticut, and went on to graduate school at the University of Illinois in Urbana where she won a doctorate in music education with emphasis on the psychology of music. He finished all the course work except German – and never looked back.

Next stop: California where both taught in college music programs for a while as she got another master's degree and he discovered there was a whole lot more money in computer technology than in college teaching. Then, as David conquered Silicon Valley, Kate went back to school for a doctorate in religious art at the University of California's Theological Union in Berkeley.

The subject of religious art brings us to Kate's travel guide. With so many saints out there, she had to pick and choose, focusing in the end on the most popular saints in the arts of Italy, France and Spain. Complete with illustrations by an El Paso artist, Krystyna Robbins, it will be available on line, one book at a time, through a self-publishing outfit with the unlikely name of LULU.

Fifteen years after his initial success in California and after working on several other start-up companies there, David Murray is now president of Propel software. He has a long commute. David said he makes about 30 trips a year from New Hampshire to California, and logged 280,000 miles in 2006.

Along the way, as Kate won more academic honors, she also picked up on some of the best of her Catholic Church philosophy – liberation theology, the notion of standing beside those who have no voice. "There is the expectation," she said, "that you use that voice for those who have no voice."

For example: Woman in need. Battered and poor women. Abused girls. Undereducated women. Girls with bleak futures. Women with addictions. It's a long list.

Both Kate and David signed on as Women's Fund Founders. "Women's issues," Kate explained, "are not exclusively women's business."

And, besides, David said, "I really like women". That might sound like a locker room joke, but he meant it. "It's true," he said. "I've had the pleasure of knowing extraordinary women. If I were to trust the world to one group or another, I'd probably choose a woman."

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Kate's book, *A Field Guide to the Saints: The Traveller's Illustrated Handbook To Church Art* is now available at <http://www.lulu.com/content/1275587>.