



Pregnancy & Parenting Residence

Fall Newsletter
2018

Here We Are!

As we watch painters match the color of the pipes of the newly installed sprinkler system to the walls, admire the interconnecting smoke detectors, and marvel at the new fire doors and second floor escape door, we know that the fire and life safety measures required by the City of Eastpointe and the State of Michigan will soon be met. Gianna House recently had a preliminary inspection by both parties, and is now taking the final steps needed to complete this step of the licensing process.



It has indeed been a busy summer at Gianna House. We give thanks to all of you—our individual, organization, and corporate sponsors whose donations and support have helped us get to this point. The mission of Gianna House is to provide a safe environment for pregnant teens and their infants; we have been working diligently toward Opening Day and that day is closer to reality than ever before.

Our next steps are to obtain fire inspection approvals from both the city and state, have our policies and procedures approved by our state consultant, and secure licensure and certificate of occupancy as a child care residence exclusively for pregnant teens. Gianna House will be the first home in Michigan to provide this service. We recognize that the needs and challenges of pregnant teens are unique. You will hear about our anticipated opening date in the near future.

In the meantime, take a look at the number of items we have given out since February to our community outreach program. We thank Sr. Theresa for her ability to expand our educational programming, and provide families with needed baby supplies. I am grateful to our Executive Director and to the entire Board of Directors for their hard work and dedication to the mission of Gianna House.

With warmest regards,

Dr. Nancy Hauff, PhD, RN

Board President

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Executive Director

Sr. Theresa Mayrand, OP

Community Outreach Director

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- New Board Member
- Partner Spotlight
- A Grand New Approach
- 2018 Annual Golf Outing

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER

Passion and commitment are such important traits for a board member. Great board members hold themselves and our organization accountable. They take responsibility for their actions and the role they play in supporting and advancing Gianna House. They are passionate about our mission and help to share our mission with others. Gianna House is pleased to welcome Mary Alice Simpson to the Board of Directors.

MARY ALICE SIMPSON, MS RN

Mary Alice (Annecharico) Simpson, MS, RN retired in October 2017 as Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer for the Henry Ford Health System, where she was responsible for strategic planning, and delivery and support of its integrated delivery systems, including Project Helios, revenue cycle, electronic health record, physician and patient portals, and IT improvement. At the core of these efforts is the imperative to improve efficiency and business alignment, reduce costs, and enhance information integration within the hospital and ambulatory environments.

With an appreciation for the complexities at the organizational level, Mary Alice played a major role in fostering the organizational capability needed to extract greater value from IT investments. She is widely recognized for her ability to transform information technology services into highly effective, cross-disciplinary teams responsible for using technology resources to improve services and realize the strategic goals of the organization.

Mary Alice is a registered nurse with an extensive critical care and nursing leadership background and more than 20 years in transforming clinical and business environments through the use of technology. In her prior roles as Chief Information Officer at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and University Hospitals of Cleveland, she collaborated with academic colleagues, peer institutions and industry leaders on the interpretation of privacy and security and clinical research standards for academic organizations.

Mary Alice has been actively engaged in national efforts to create a sustainable, secure, statewide health information exchange (HIE), offering interoperability between regional and national health information networks to provide access to clinical data and improved, measurable health outcomes.

A Fellow in the Health Information Systems Society (HIMSS), she serves as Editor for the peer viewed *Journal of Health Information Management*, the digital publication of HIMSS. Mary Alice is a nursing graduate from St Vincent's Hospital, NYC, and holds a BS in Health Care Administration from St. Joseph's College, and an MS in Organizational Dynamics from the University of Pennsylvania.

Mary Alice is married to Bob Simpson, a retired City Manager and former Air Force Colonel (retired after 26 years of service). They reside in Grosse Pointe Shores with their dog Molly and enjoy gardening, cooking, and entertaining. Mary Alice has 2 grown children and 4 grandchildren living in VA and Bob has 3 sons and 3 grandchildren living on the east coast.



"I am privileged to have been invited to join the Gianna House Board in support of its mission and interests. As a recently retired nurse and technology executive from Henry Ford Health System, I saw the passion, benevolence, and commitment of the staff and Board of Gianna House and realized that I could help make a difference in the lives of pregnant young at-risk teens in our communities. Their enthusiasm and dedication to developing a robust program was appealing to me. As an introduction to the program, I was able to channel a personal lifelong passion for sewing by participating in teaching sewing to young mothers-to-be.

The holistic and dedicated staff, community partners, and contractors working to ready the residential program's launch are exciting. By leveraging my previous personal and professional experiences and valuing the responsibilities each of us has to support and nurture the needs of our youth, I felt it was a wonderful opportunity to be a part of The Gianna House success.

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My husband Bob reside nearby in the Grosse Pointes and thank you for this opportunity".

Mary Alice Simpson

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT-GIANNA HOUSE RECEPTIONISTS

We highlight here four generous partners who faithfully give a day each week to serve as receptionists at Gianna House. What a gift they are: answering the phone, welcoming mothers and guests, registering mothers for classes, keeping outreach records, and receiving and recording donated items, not to mention lending a hand throughout the day with other tasks that arise.

Donna Newman came to Gianna House in 2016 as our first receptionist and has been with us every Monday since. Donna keeps our database on client visits, class attendance, and baby item purchases. She takes reservations and hand-makes gift bag tags for our showers. Donna has represented Gianna House at local Expos and says, *“The rewards for helping are many: seeing the young ladies’ smiles upon arrival, their sense of accomplishment after attending a class, and their greeting new friends made at Gianna House. What a joy for me!”*



Kathy Przybysz came on board this year as Thursday receptionist. With her great organizational skills, she keeps our bookcases arranged and attractive and has put our office supply closet in good order. She also helps stock the shelves in our baby shop when needed. As a retired elementary school teacher knowing the importance of reading to little ones, she also regularly purchases books to keep our shelves stocked. What a great addition to our team! *“The reason I come is because of Sister Theresa. She is an angel of mercy, helping others! I love helping to restore the library and encouraging mothers to read to their children.”*

Diane Pease, who had assisted with newsletter mailings, came on as Tuesday receptionist in summer of 2017. She has helped in so many ways beyond her main work at our desk, and can often be found helping tidy up and prepare for meetings, as well as helping out at our showers. *“I choose to partner with Gianna House because I enjoy working with the sisters and with Jennifer, and feel blessed that I can help with the classes and donations to the pregnant girls. I feel good that I make a difference. Gianna House has a wonderful program to help pregnant girls and I am so happy I am a part of it.”*



Diane Piotrowski initially came to help interact with the infants and toddlers while their mothers were in class, but then in the fall of 2017 she stepped in as Wednesday receptionist. Diane keeps our database for non-monetary gifts and composes thank you letters to those donors. *“I choose to partner with Gianna House because it is a wonderful way to serve the community, and I truly believe in their cause. I am only there one day a week, but I see the wonderful results of the programs offered by Gianna House. I have met many lovely, kind and generous people, both clients and partners. It is my pleasure to be a part of the Gianna House family.”*

Where would we be without these 4 amazing women? They are truly a treasure to Gianna House and vital to our ministry. 3

A GRAND NEW APPROACH

VISION

To change the lives forever of teen moms and their babies by providing the opportunity to live in a safe and loving environment that provides education, life skills and career planning that positively impact the youth, their child and their community.



In February a significant change was made in Gianna House's Outreach Program. Until then, mothers could phone in a request for baby items once a month and pick up the items. Relatively few mothers took advantage of the classes offered at Gianna House. But in February, all that changed: mothers would now earn "Baby Bucks" by coming to class, and use them to "Purchase" items from our Baby Shop. Women come to Gianna House for assistance and help; some are homeless. "Earn while you learn" is our new motto, giving mothers a certain pride in how they obtain baby items, while they attend classes.

Results were amazing! While previous class attendance averaged 12/month, class attendance since February has averaged 80/month. From February through July of this year, total class attendance was 484, despite Gianna House's closure for three weeks during that time due to construction issues.

A variety of classes are offered. **CORE** classes, those deemed most vital for mothers, include Prenatal and Infant Care, Labor & Birthing, Parenting, Personal Growth, and Spiritual Journey. There are also **ENRICHMENT** classes, which merit fewer Baby Bucks than CORE classes, yet offer wonderful advantages, including Crocheting, Sewing, Gentle Stretching, Scrapbooking, and Jewelry-Design.

It is heart-warming to see how many mothers now come to classes. And come they do! What draws them? Of course, they come for needed baby items. Since February mothers received over 650 packs of diapers and wipes, 156 bags of infant clothing, and many other items. But mothers now come for and receive so much more.

We have the privilege of watching new mothers achieve confidence through the knowledge they gain about pregnancy and birthing, dealing with emotions, stress reduction, and positive thinking through Personal Growth classes. Some come to develop a closer connection to God through Spiritual Journey classes, and through the Enrichment classes, gain a sense of achievement and pride in what they create. Scrapbooking enables them to preserve special memories of their children. Gentle Stretching class affords relaxation and fitness.

Mothers also come to gain strength and loving support when facing difficult times. Some come to Gianna House to obtain a bit of time for themselves in the midst of their busy days. And others come for the sense of sisterhood and community that being together at Gianna House offers.

Let's listen to what some of the mothers have written when asked what draws them to Gianna House.

"I love being a part of Gianna House. The classes help me as a first-time parent to learn more about what to expect in the coming years, about proper parenting and proper discipline, and prepare me for each developmental stage. The classes give me much needed skills, help decrease my feelings of anxiety, and help me understand myself. Everyone at Gianna House has such an uplifting spirit, making you feel welcome and loved." **Sharday**

"I found out about Gianna House through Maternal Outreach of Michigan. I love the classes. I have learned so much in the short time I have been coming here and have started building lasting friendships. At Gianna House I am able to grow and create new friendships with other mothers while also getting some much-needed adult interaction. When attending classes, I am always greeted with a smile and hugs!" **April**

A GRAND NEW APPROACH CONTINUED

“I go to Gianna House every week for the sisterhood and friendships that I have developed there. There are other mothers who come in and share their experience of being pregnant and making sure we new moms aren’t scared and it will be OK when it’s time to go into labor. I have met and gained a lot of friends here who are first-time moms and other mothers. Since we all have due dates that are close to each other, we will remain close so that our kids will be friends as well.” **Alana**

“Gianna House is more than just a resource. It is a world of wonderful people who truly care about you. I feel the love and support of all and feel at home. I enjoy all the classes, and I also enjoy interacting with the other mothers and members of Gianna House. I enjoy each and every minute when I am there. Being a mother has been thus far a wonderful experience. I am truly grateful for the knowledge that I have gained from being a part of Gianna House.” **Written by: “A truly happy mother of one”**

“I love coming to Gianna House, especially their classes, because their classes teach you how to cope with your everyday trials, each class teaching you something new. If not teaching you about your children, or motherhood, or how to cope with their behavior, the classes teach you about yourself. Classes have a new learning experience each and every time you go. Coming to Gianna House, stepping inside of the building, everyone welcomes you with a hug and a smile. Gianna House is a sanctuary for adults as well as children. When you step inside for class, you can see a glow all around the room, like we were in heaven. I love coming to Gianna House because when everyone listens to your story, people don’t judge you or make fun of you. People just listen to you and when needed, they give you advice. I will recommend anyone to come to Gianna House for an escape, for peace, for prayer, and just to be yourself.” **Sonya**



“Liz Griem, who never sewed before attending Gianna House’s sewing class, beams with joy, having created many items for her coming baby. She has made receiving blankets, bibs, burp cloths, and a matching set of sleeper, bib, and hat”.

2018 Annual Golf Outing

Thanks To All Our Golf Sponsors

Friday, July 13, usually a day known for superstition, turned out to be an exceptionally wonderful day for the 6th Annual Gianna House golf outing! Held for the second consecutive year at beautiful Greystone Golf Club in Washington, Michigan, golfers enjoyed beautiful weather, a scenic and challenging golf course, an outstanding dinner of steak filet and chicken, and a premium bar. We *doubled* the number of golfers from last year's event, and gave them many opportunities to win raffle baskets and silent auction items. This increased participation, as well as many very generous donations from churches, businesses and individuals, helped Gianna House raise approximately \$17,500 ... nearly doubling last year's proceeds!



**SPECIAL THANK YOU
TO OUR GOLF
OUTING
FUNDARISING
COMMITTEE.**

Chair– Beverly Ballew

Debbie Pulis

Paula Masson

Diane Trombley

“We extend our thanks to Beverly Ballew, our golf outing chair, and appreciated her enormous efforts to make it such a success! We'd like to once again extend our absolute sincerest thanks to everyone who took part in this event, in order to raise funds to support pregnant teens and their babies through the good works of Gianna House.”



***We look forward to welcoming you back
as reigning course champions and
extend an invitation to all golfers to
mark their calendars next year's event:***

July 12, 2019

Same place....same time!

Congratulations to this year's 1st place winners - **David Bryk, Eric Steinman, Matt Steinman, Scott Grow**

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS

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Other Contributions

Carl's Golfland
Christine Hathaway, photographer, Hour
Magazine
Tom Masson, photographer for Gianna House
Cookies by Paula Masson

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A COMMITMENT TO OUR DONORS

MISSION

The goal of Gianna House is to provide a safe residence for pregnant teens and their newborn infants while providing spiritual, educational and parenting support and resources to all pregnant women.

Gianna House is a 501 (c) (3) Michigan non-profit organization. We welcome any donation of time talent and/or treasure.



Gianna House takes seriously its responsibilities to donors and the ethical use of donor dollars. Our fundraising budgets are carefully considered each year through our budgeting process and are used in a thoughtful way and practical manner in order to have the most impact on our programs. We consider our donors our partners and work to maintain long-standing relationships with each donor. Our goal is to match your wishes for impacting mothers, children and our communities with the appropriate services and programs. We are all about families at Gianna House. We welcome all donors and partners as part of that family.



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