



Gianna House News

Pregnancy & Parenting Residence
www.giannahouse.org

21357 Redmond Avenue, Eastpointe, MI 48021
Phone: 586-445-0440

October 2017

Gianna House Welcomes New Executive Director

Board of Directors

Nancy Hauff, PhD, RN
President

Hon. Judge Daniel O'Brien
Vice President

Thomas Masson
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Members

Eric Backman
Rev. Stanley Pachla
Patricia Ralko
Diane Trombley, BSN, RN

Jennifer Brubaker
Executive Director

Sr. Theresa Mayrand, OP
Associate Director

GIANNA HOUSE MISSION

The long-term 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 in the community.

Jennifer Brubaker earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Central Michigan University, majoring in psychology and minoring in youth studies. She has worked with young girls and teens in a residential setting who have experienced the effects of abuse, neglect and trauma, and for the past eight years has worked with youth in the foster care system and has built a successful mentoring system. Jennifer has an excellent track record of maintaining and building relationships not only with adolescents but with the community as well. Jennifer and her husband Ryan have two beautiful boys, Bradyn 8 and Colton 5.



Board President's Message - A Time of Hope

As we enter the Fall season, we celebrate a spirit of hope. Hope for 380 pregnant women and young mothers who came to Gianna House this year seeking pregnancy counseling and referrals, education on preparation for birth, care for themselves and their newborn infants, and receipt of needed baby clothes, food, diapers, and equipment. Although Gianna House cannot take away all of the pain of being homeless, a victim of violence, or simply a woman who is alone with no father of the baby or family to support her, we continue to provide them with spiritual support and strive to reduce some of the stress in their lives. More women are discovering that Gianna House is a place of comfort with staff to listen, meet some of their immediate needs, and provide a network of other mothers in similar situations.

We celebrate our generous donors who serve as the "hope" for these young mothers and babies. Through individual donors, parishes, supporters of our annual golf outing, a backyard fundraising dinner, and other community groups, all of YOU are the hope to the families we serve.

On October 9, 2017, Jennifer began her new role as Executive Director replacing our founder, Sr. Diane Masson, CSSF who passed away earlier this year. It is Jennifer who is now the "hope" for guiding Gianna House to new heights. With her experience and leadership, the Board is confident she will do an outstanding job in carrying out the Gianna House mission. Take a look at this issue to read about all the exciting things happening at Gianna House, and with warmest regards, we thank you for your support!

5th ANNUAL GIANNA HOUSE GOLF EVENT

A big round of applause to ALL who came out in support of this year's golf event, held on August 28, 2017 at Greystone Golf Club. It was a wonderful day combined with an enthusiastic group of golfers with rolling hills and challenging holes. Judging by the comments at the end of the day, we look forward to an abundance of golfers next year!



Congratulations to our 1st Place Winners:
Tod Jenkins, Joe Cosen, Keith Mueller & Gary Steinman

We want to sincerely thank David Graulau and his efficient staff for their outstanding support, which made the outing such a huge success! Everyone was impressed with the friendliness of the staff and RAVED about the delicious food. We look forward to coming back next year!

This year's co-chairs were Beverly Ballew and Patti Ralko. Debbie Pulis was on hand assisting and organizing many of the details, too. We appreciated their enormous effort, contributing their generous time and talents. Over \$8,500 was raised.



Recognition and thanks goes to Bob Maxey Lincoln for offering the car and insurance for the "Hole in One" contest. Although there was no winner this year, we are hopeful there will be one in 2018!

Lastly, we would like to acknowledge and thank Christine Hathaway, photographer, Hour Magazine, and Grosse Pointe Magazine, for their participation. To see additional photos of this event, please visit the Hour Magazine website: <http://www.hourdetroit.com/Hour-Detroit/Party-Pics/Gianna-House-Golf-Outing-2017>.



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS FOR OUR CHARITY GOLF OUTING

A "round" of applause also extends to our magnanimous group of donors. Without their generosity, this event would not be possible.

Hole Sponsors

Air and Liquid Systems
A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Homes
Comerica Bank – Birmingham
Kevin and Patrick Crowley
William and Judith Diehl
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Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods Right To Life
Holy Yoga – Detroit - Myreya Amezcua
K of C – Council #0484
K of C – Leo XIII Council #3042
Lawrence Penar
Meeting Coordinators, Inc. - Ann Bruttell, President
Online Trading Company - Robert Bolya
Right to Life Lifespan, Inc.
of Oakland/Macomb Counties
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Lunch Sponsors

Stephen J. and Jean T. Bryk Family
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St. Kiernan Church, Reverend Msgr. Thomas Johnson
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Footprints Travel – Patricia Ralko
Greystone Golf Club
Nancy Hauff
Geraldynn Hurt
Holy Yoga – Detroit – Myreya Amezcua
Kem-Tec
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Links at Crystal Lake
Janet Lowery
Tom and Paula Masson
Beverley Nicholson
The Pantry Restaurant
Debbie Pulis
TCBY/Grosse Pointe
Tina Seely
Studio 5 Salon
Susie at Home

We also extend our thanks to the donors who provided the Bay Harbor Condominium, the Colorado Rocky Mountain Casa with guest house and the Yacht Cruise along St. Clair.



Paula Masson and
Patti Ralko, co-chair



Bev Ballew, co-chair and Debbie Pulis
checking in golfer, Nancy Fischer



Sr. Theresa and Sr. Helen

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

A gala of many gathered on the evening of Thursday, September 21 at the Gianna House Residence to learn more about it, tour it, and support it.

Temperatures were unseasonably warm and hearts were incredibly generous as more than 170 guests gathered under the big white tent to enjoy drinks, delicious food, and the beautiful voice of the jazz vocalist Emma Aboukasam. But the heart of the evening was Gianna House, the former convent of St. Veronica Parish. People from the community attended and were in amazement of the dynamics.

The idea for the event began one July morning as Sister Theresa, Cindy Fox Aboukasam, and Biz Williamson were sitting in the new toddler area. They knew that people would fall in love with Gianna House IF they were able to SEE all that had already been accomplished and how CLOSE it was to opening its door to full time residents.



Biz Williamson &
Cindy Fox Aboukasam



Hence, guided by the Holy Spirit, the "team" went into action calling upon friends, family, and the like, to get involved. Many were called and many participated. We sincerely thank this group of caring individuals who worked so diligently to make this evening so special, so perfect, and so bountiful.

Memorable tours of the House were given by Grosse Pointe South's Students 4 Life. As the guests moved throughout the house, red hearts naming items on Gianna House's wish list could be noticed. A board of similar hearts was found under the tent, with tabs guests could pull to offer a donation for a specific item or to a general fund. Many poured out their hearts with generous contributions. Indeed, a reflection of God at work, and we His instruments.

In addition to all the wonderful volunteers, the Holy Spirit guided generous donors to offer great gifts.

Wahl Tents donated the tent, tables, linens, lights and generator. Atwater Brewery, Village Food Market and Jerry's Party Store donated all of the beer, wine, and ice. Professional Valet Services and Alimar Security, Inc. donated to ensure the safety of all our guests. The Hill donated dessert. All of the food and flowers were donated by friends of Gianna House.



Emma Aboukasam



Father Stan Pachla and Tony Soave

A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY

At last month's fundraiser, a "Heart Board" was used to display the Wish List items needed for Gianna House. It was a fun and unique way for guests to donate to a specific need such as the fire suppression sprinkler system, washer, dryer, large refrigerator, cement, curtains, stove etc. Guests chose the need they wished to sponsor and made the appropriate donation. The response was amazing! Over \$43,000 in heartfelt donations.



We still have some "unclaimed" hearts and offer them to you, our loyal and faithful followers, for consideration.

We sincerely hope that you will consider choosing a heart and join in the excitement of preparing Gianna House to welcome its first residents.

Gianna House Hearts

Adoption of a Mom/Baby Suite, which would include permanent plaque with your name and date. Would provide wall air conditioner, flooring, window trimmings, wall painting - \$5,000/suite

Fire suppression sprinkler system will cost \$100,000 – any amount you wish to donate

Gas range, fire suppression hood, and hookup - 5 hearts needed at \$1,000 each

Porch awning and handrail - 1 heart left @ \$150

Family room carpeting – 4 hearts left at \$300 each

Family room curtains - 6 hearts left at \$125 each

Wall air conditioners for offices, kitchen, dining room – \$100 or any amount you wish to donate (total cost \$8000 with installations)

Backyard sidewalk cement repair – 3 hearts left at \$300 each

Business copier - 3 hearts needed at \$400 each

Laptops for staff – 6 hearts needed at \$100 each

To ask questions, select a heart and make a donation, or to make an offering of any "heartfelt" amount please contact Sr. Theresa Mayrand, Gianna House, [21357 Redmond Ave., Eastpointe, MI 48201](https://www.google.com/maps/place/21357+Redmond+Ave,+Eastpointe,+MI+48201) Phone: [586-445-0440](tel:586-445-0440)

AN AMAZING SURPRISE! A GREAT GIFT FOR OUR MINISTRY!

An amazing surprise indeed was news Gianna House received on August 31st. Macomb County's Great Start Department had been awarded a Trusted Advisors Grant through the Michigan Department of Education to aid young mothers and provide education on early childhood development, safe sleep, and maternal infant health and nutrition. Great Start's Parent Liaison, Kim Morales, came to tell us that \$16,000 of the grant will be used to purchase materials for Gianna House! So far, 50 pack and plays, 20 stroller and car seats, cases of baby toiletries, and 50 books for new mothers have been purchased. What a great gift to our ministry!



Lakiesha Hooker
& Tiffany Vance

Gianna House was chosen in part because of its location in Eastpointe, a higher risk area in Macomb County. In addition, Great Start will be offering Parent Cafes, based on the Strengthening Families model of parental education, at Gianna House.



Kiera Jackson

100 WOMEN WHO CARE – TROY SUPPORTS GIANNA HOUSE

Gianna House is deeply grateful for the support from **100 Women Who Care - Troy**. This group recently voted Gianna House as their charity of the quarter giving us \$6100 to support a mother/baby suite and other expenses. **100 Women Who Care - Troy**, was launched in January, 2016, by Julie McClure, Sharon Spagnola, Nancy Hauff, Marylou Levy and Karen Gates. Each member commits to donating \$100 per meeting or \$400 per year. Members present charities and the membership votes. Meetings generally last no more than an hour. 100 Women Who Care - Troy is open to all women, regardless of where you reside. Donations are intended for Troy and Southeast Michigan non-profit organizations serving our local communities. The charity must have a 501(c)3 designation. Gianna House thanks this group of women who are committed to the support of pregnant women and young families. A presentation will be given at their next meeting on November 1, 2017.



Another Joyful Baby Shower

Enthusiastic, joyous chatter filled Gianna House on September 13th, attesting to the fact that our guests were enjoying a special evening. Twenty-five expectant and new mothers had come to our shower, honoring their sacred role as mothers.

An initial icebreaker gave them a chance to introduce themselves to each other and discover things they had in common. Later conversations around the dining tables found the moms sharing about their hopes, challenges, and the times when they felt most bonded with their infants.



Tasty, home cooked dishes nourished their bodies, while presentations on safe sleep and on the importance of reading to infants provided vital parenting information.

A raffle of items donated by Macomb County Head Start and by Oxford Pregnancy Center enabled each mother to receive one helpful item, be that a stroller, bouncer, diaper bag, infant carrier, or infant toiletry kit. Each mother also left with a gift bag of new items for her infant and with a bag of toiletries for herself.

Gratitude goes out to the numerous individuals who make our quarterly showers possible – those who donate wonderful baby items, who sort all items and fill the gift bags, who prepare and serve the meal, who take the registration calls and help out at the shower. Truly, this is an outpouring of great love.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Gianna House would like to begin spotlighting one of our Partners in each newsletter. With so many wonderfully generous volunteers it is difficult to focus on just one per issue, but we begin with John Kean who has given 256 hours of service to us since he started helping in October 2015. John is amazing in his ability to research and trouble shoot any and all of our needs. Being in a vintage building, we were not able to get good phone reception, nor internet on second floor. Over time, he resolved both of these issues. He provides ongoing technology support. The doorbell could not be heard throughout our entire huge house; he resolved that. The main door could not be locked or unlocked from the outside; he installed a Schlage lock with keypad capability. Lighting was extremely poor in the basement, but is now bright with the 16 new long LED lights he installed throughout the basement rooms. Shelving and hanging racks have been put up where needed. You name it, John fixes it! These are just a few of the many ways that John has gifted us, providing all materials at his own cost. What an amazing treasure we have in this most generous, loving Partner!





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Gianna House Radio Interview on POWER FROM THE PEWS

Gianna House was showcased during a 30 minute radio interview on Ave Maria Radio's segment Power from the Pews that aired on Saturday, October 14 at 11 am and Sunday, October 15 at 9:30 am on WDEO 990 AM from Ann Arbor. Host Peggy Stanton interviewed Sister Theresa and Beverly Ballew. This is a program about the Beautiful People. Peggy Stanton travels the world in search of Christ's committed laity who are participating in or creating ministries that are making a real difference in their parishes, in their communities, and in the world. The interview can be seen on Peggy's link on Ave Maria radio - <https://avemariaradio.net/program/power-from-the-pews/>

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