



# Gianna House

## Pregnancy & Parenting Residence

FALL/WINTER 2022

### From our Board President

Valued Gianna House Supporter:

Proudly, Gianna House celebrates its 13th year in existence, thanks to the vision and dedicated work of our founder, Sister Diane Masson. Since Sr. Diane's work began in 2009, Gianna House has touched the lives of thousands of young women through our residence housing and community outreach programs. The tri-county region of Michigan has benefited by this unique residence. Again, this year, we have protected young women from their at-risk living conditions and assisted in the healthy delivery of their children.

With the opportunity to stay up to a year after the delivery of their child's birth, Gianna House extends education in healthy living conditions. We offer learning on nutrition and life skills like financial planning and homemaking, education to secure a GED or worthwhile work, skilled care for mother and child, and most of all shelter and food/necessities to sustain these young families until they can stand on their own feet.

COVID-19 continues to present challenges to our funding and expansion—not to mention today's suffering economic conditions and cost of living. Our need for generous donors to support this laudable work is needed now. Thanks to our current faithful as well as our new supporters, Gianna House continues to deliver community outreach programs and services as well as safe residence to pregnant young mothers and their newborn infants again this year. All our services are available at no charge. Our funding relies on the generous support of those with a passion to help young women and mothers suffering from the lack of safe housing.

We need your help now more than ever. Please be generous to our underserved moms and babies. Consider Gianna House in your year-end giving today. The young moms and babies of Gianna House thank you; and we, its board members, gratefully acknowledge you for your support.

With sincere appreciation.

*Jamie Spriet*

Jamie Spriet  
Board President



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jamie Spriet, *President*  
Michael J. Fontana, *Vice President*  
Cathy Valenza, *Treasurer*  
Janielle Joseph, *Secretary*  
Maceo Coleman, *Marketing*  
Sharnita Mangum, *New Board Member*  
Rev. Stanley Pachla, *Spiritual Advisor*  
Dr. LaVetta Pickens,  
*Board Recruitment Liaison*  
Victoria Seay, *New Board Member*

### Board Advisors

Dennis Brescoll  
*Legal Advisor*  
Janice Getty  
*Licensure & Finance*  
Christine Nathman-Parisi  
*Financial Advisor*  
John Tangalos  
*Finance & Strategic Planning*  
Maria Van Dyke  
*Hispanic Community Liaison*  
Cynthia Greening  
*President Emeritus*

### Staff

Joella E. Bush LLMSW  
*Executive Director*

### Gianna House Continues to Change Lives... Welcome Baby Kemari!



**Gianna House** is proud to announce the safe delivery and arrival of another healthy baby. Mom is doing fine as well. Baby Kemari makes the third baby born to Gianna House since our last update. He was born just in time for all the fall festivities. We are thankful to God for the purpose and plan He has for baby Kemari and his mom. Gianna House continues to save lives...two at a time!

### In Her Own Words: Raven shares her thoughts & expressions through Creative Writing

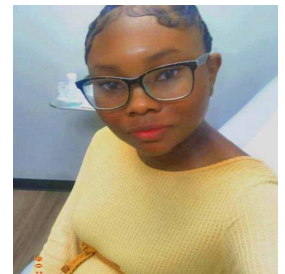
My First Creative Writing Reflection at Gianna House

Effective time management is the bridge over my troubled waters. Time management is an essential life skill that can be applied to various areas of life. The primary focus of enhancing my time management skill consists of nine elements. Those nine elements include: prioritizing, preparing, organizing, scheduling, taking baby steps, respecting others' time, following-up or through, self-care, and the ability to say "NO." By successfully utilizing these mini steps to improve my overall time management skill, I will become a much more sufficient person. More importantly, I will be able to apply this skill across the board in all categories of my life.

One of those categories that will greatly benefit from my improved time management skill is motherhood. Which will cause a domino effect refining other roles in my life such as being an employee, a daughter, a partner, and any other roles that I will occupy in the future. I am happy I can acknowledge that this skill is a weakness of mine and I understand the steps required to develop it. Hopefully, I will have the ability to heighten someone else's life by sharing these steps.

If that someone, is you, I hope you find inner peace in knowing that you are not the only person who struggles with this issue. It was once stated to me that "One event or challenge does not define your existence or your purpose." (Bryant, Katina. 2022) I choose to solely believe in that statement, furthermore, be inspired by that statement. And I hope you can too.

*~Raven*

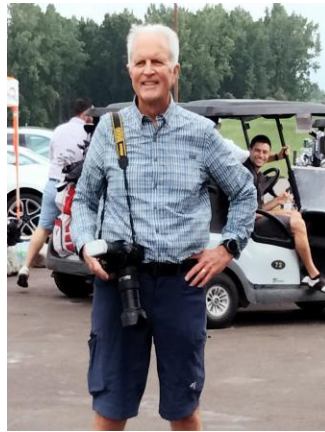


Gianna House residents participate in weekly activities that inspire them to aspire for greatness. One of our newest activities is CREATIVE WRITING. Residents dig deep, are encouraged to think critically, and motivated to be creative. Read on about how Gianna House is creating change...two lives at a time.

# Our 9th Annual Sr. Diane Memorial Golf Outing was a Success!

Close to 100 golfers attended our annual event at Greystone Golf Course and Banquet Center. Golfers were met at registration with Gianna House board members, staff, and volunteers. HAP sponsored our event and provided bottled water, HAP bags, neck cooling towels to each golfer as they arrived. Golfers enjoyed a continental breakfast before hearing the smooth yet explosive voice of Vanessa Carr as she bellowed out our national anthem-Star Spangled Banner. Tom Masson, former board member and resident photographer, captured amazing shots of this phenomenal event. The day could not have been more perfect. We were blessed that the rain was kept at bay and our golfers enjoyed perfect temperatures and sunshine. Lunch was served at the turn and an exquisite dinner awaited everyone upon their return to the club house. Father Stan was presented with Sr. Diane Memorial award for his steady, consistent, and ongoing support of Gianna House. We could not have come this far without him and St Veronica Parish. Two of our young residents attended dinner, gave compelling accounts of their time at Gianna House, spoke about their hopes...dreams...and future goals. If you were not there... YOU MISSED A TREAT! A special THANK YOU to all of our golfers, donors, and sponsors (see the list below) for bringing our yearly memorial of our founder, Sr. Diane, to life and making it a success. We hope to see you again next year. Here are a few snapshots of memories from this event that we will hold close for years to come.

## A Special Thank You... Knights of Columbus Michigan State Leadership PLATINUM SPONSOR



Andre Ahee  
Stephanie Bante  
Stephen/Jean Bryk  
William/Jennifer Chope  
Dennis Clark  
Ronald Clissold  
Clara Coppola  
Lindsay Coronel  
Barbara Jane Czeko  
Julia Delapp  
Chris & Margaret Doebler  
Jeffrey Ellis

Lee Ellwood-Filkens  
Janice Getty  
Kay Green  
Christina Haemmerie  
John Harrington  
John Hebert  
Cecilia Jackson  
John Kean  
Jeffery Kirkman  
Arturo Kilsowski  
Nancy Knuth  
Marianne Kost

Mr. Jan Krakowick  
Lisa Laureth  
Margaret Mancuso  
Cleve (Tom) & Paula Masson  
David Masson  
Jordan Masson  
Peggie Masson  
Allison McKay  
Brian Moler  
Beline Obeid  
Patricia O'Connell  
Richard & Mary Perfetto

Ross Reed  
Amelia Rista  
Candice Rusie  
Benjamin Rybicki  
Anna Smith  
Jamie Spriet and Family  
Diane Studnicki  
Fr. Theroux (Lady of Victory)  
Maria Van Dyke  
Juan Vela  
Lisa Weishaupt  
Biz Williamson

Joseph Wing  
Kevin Witt  
Patricia Wolfe  
**Father Stan Pachla**  
Christian Financial  
Genesis Cadillac  
Great Lakes Tent  
Hassig & Sons  
Knights of Columbus-  
**Michigan State Leadership**  
Knights of Columbus-  
Cushing Assembly

Knights of Columbus-  
Holy Innocents/St. Barnabas  
Knights of Columbus-  
LEO XIII  
Knights of Columbus-  
St. Paul of Tarsus  
Solomon Machinery Co  
Viviano Flower Shop  
Weingartz









## Gianna House...More than just a residence!

We provide various workshops and classes for our residents and our community moms. Becoming self-sufficient includes gaining skills related to daily living, recreation, education, and vocation. Every week, we offer a multitude of activities that are geared towards independence and that promotes good self-esteem, self-awareness, and empowerment. On Labor Day, we celebrated by creating a movie theater setting in our great room. Our kitchen was transformed into a concession stand where we served roasted hot dogs, nachos, popcorn & pop. Residents and staff enjoyed watching a blockbuster movie with family and friends. Residents and Community Moms have also enjoyed other activities such as Parenting Classes, Financial Literacy, Cooking Matters and Nutrition, Crafty Crafts, and Creative Writing Series. Gianna House is so blessed by the talents of staff: Program Manager, Katina Bryant and Activity Coordinator, Cynthia McFall. A special thanks to Cynthia for donating her equipment during movie night and making Gianna House feel like a real theater!



## IN-PERSON CLASSES ARE BACK IN SESSION! SAVE THE DATES!

### OCTOBERFEST

O'Hallarans  
October 7, 2022  
5-9pm

### Wines 4 Humanity

Plan your own fundraiser for  
GIANNA HOUSE!

### IN-PERSON FALL CLASSES ARE BACK IN SESSION

\*Registration Required

### Moving for Mommies

(6 weeks of dance & exercise)

### Halloween Party & BAKE SALE at Gianna House

OCTOBER 30TH @ 6:30 pm

### Bowling for Babies

(TBD)

### Holiday Open House Season of Giving @ Gianna House

December 11, 2022

3pm – 7pm

### Skating for Toys TOY DRIVE

December 19th

6pm until 8pm

- ★ **CREATIVE WRITING CLASS:** October 3, 2022, 11:45a-1:00p  
Gianna House (every 1st Monday of the month)
- ★ **COOKING MATTERS:** October 4, 2022, 1:00p-2:30p  
Gianna House (for 6 consecutive Tuesdays)
- ★ **CRAFTS R US:** October 4, 2022, 5:30p-6:30p  
Gianna House (every Tuesday)
- ★ **SPIRITUAL JOURNEY CLASS:** October 5, 2022, 11:45a-1p  
Gianna House (every Wednesday)
- ★ **MOVING FOR MOMMIES:** October 10, 2022, 6:30p-7:30p  
Gianna House (for 6 consecutive Mondays)
- ★ **DEALING WITH LOSS & GRIEF,** October 15, 2022, 1p-2:30p  
Gianna House (every other 3rd Saturday)
- ★ **THE FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES,** November 19, 2022, 1p-2:30p  
Gianna House (every other 3rd Saturday)

# Peace, Love, and Hope are Expressed through Community Outreach & Our Volunteers at Gianna House Partners and Collaborators...Answer Our Call for Volunteerism

## Gianna House Fall 2022 Benefactors of Michigan Knights of Columbus Generosity

Many know the extraordinarily charitable deeds the Michigan Knights of Columbus councils and assemblies perform. Gianna House became a recipient once again when the Knights of Columbus became **Donors of Hope** at our annual golf event. The Knights of Columbus major donation will assist our continuing efforts to provide shelter, services and innovative care for young mothers and babies in need. Words of thanks cannot express how grateful the Gianna House team is for the Knights' phenomenal gift. Many thanks and blessings to you all!

## Comerica Bank

Comerica bank hosted 6-weeks of virtual financial literacy for Gianna House residents, community moms, and staff. Vice President from various departments facilitated topics such as identity theft, credit utilization, opening accounts, retirement plans, CDA's, mutual bonds, stocks, IRA's and more to help our young moms learn life skills that will help them transition to successful independence. A very special recognition goes to Linda Nosegbe for making the connection and providing us with such valuable information. We look forward to this prestigious opportunity and partnership with Comerica again soon. Thank you, Comerica Bank!

## Community Outreach with RTTC

Gianna House had the opportunity to network with HAP (Health Alliance Plan) and several other community organizations in RTTC (Returning to Christ Ministries) Community Health Fair. We were able to speak to several community families about Gianna House and the services we provide. We appreciate the opportunity and look forward to the opportunity next year.



Gianna House would like to thank master gardener, Claudia Magnotte from Eastpointe Kiwanis and friends for de-weeding and planting flowers in our courtyard to make our garden beautiful for Gianna House's 1st Garden Party.

Volunteer efforts from **HAP** and Brenda Vorus of **Sabika Jewelry** led to a successful Garden Party.

Our Gianna House Boutique provides opportunities for our community moms to redeem their educational reward "baby bucks" to purchase essential items for their babies such as diapers, wipes, bottles, clothing, toys, and a host of other baby and mommy products.

**Thank you to our awesome volunteers,  
we appreciate you all very much!**

While we are not able to recognize each person and organization who volunteers with Gianna House in our newsletter, we are truly **THANKFUL** for each of you who give so selflessly and support our mission in so many ways. Look for highlights of other volunteer efforts in upcoming newsletters. We could not carry on the legacy of Sister Diane Masson's vision without **YOU!**

### **Donors of PEACE - \$1000 or more**

- William and Jennifer Chope
- Jeffrey Ellis
- Jamie Spriet and Family
- Tom and Paula Masson and Family

### **Donors of LOVE- \$5000 or more**

- Knights of Columbus

### **Donors of HOPE- \$10,000 or more**

- Knights of Columbus (State Leadership)

## HOW CAN YOU BE A BEACON OF PEACE, LOVE, AND HOPE? DONATE AND VOLUNTEER TODAY!

**There are many ways to support Gianna House:**

- Donate products, supplies, or volunteer services to help cut down on our everyday expenses.
- Check out our "Wish List" on our website [www.GiannaHouse.Org](http://www.GiannaHouse.Org) for the most needed items.
- Our online platform allows supporters to text a monetary donation right from their phone or tablet – anytime, anywhere. Register your payment method just once. Once your payment method is set up you may set your donation frequency to **once, weekly, or monthly.**
- Simply Text **Gianna** to **586-400-2446**. Saving this number in your phone will allow you to donate easily again as desired.
- **BE A TRENDSETTER!** Visit our website and purchase Gianna House apparel. We now have shirts, hats & jackets.
- Stay up to date with the various fundraising activities going on to keep our moms and babies in a safe loving home. Interested in fundraising for Gianna House? Host an event! There are a few fundraising opportunities for you, your family, and friends. Contact [jbush@giannahouse.org](mailto:jbush@giannahouse.org) for more information.

**"Giving is not just about making a donation, it's about making a difference" –Kathy Calvin**



## This holiday season is a special time of giving!

At Gianna House Pregnancy & Parenting Residence, FALL and WINTER 2022 hopes to bring courage, gratitude, prosperity, growth, and expansion. Our resident and community outreach programs are available and offering love, hope, and inspiration to young moms and moms-to-be.

### GIANNA HOUSE RESIDENTIAL NEEDS LIST

**Cash/Monetary donations by CHECK, PAYPAL, CASHAPP, and GOFUNDME are appreciated**

Other needs include but are not limited to the following:

- Meijer, Kroger, Walmart, Target & Amazon gift cards for the purpose of purchasing food and other essentials for the home
- LYFT cards for transportation to and from visits (doctor appointments and family visits)
- Bus Passes (D-DOT and SMART)
- Portable Air conditioner units and small heaters for Mommy and Baby Suites, community rooms, and offices
- Valances/window treatments for the new mommy/baby suites
- Grooming and Hygiene products: toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouth wash, bodywash, soap, lotion, and deodorant
- Baby lamps
- Baby Formula
- Pampers and Pull Ups (all sizes)
- Baby monitors
- Bedspreads /Comforters
- Ladies' pajamas and robes (sizes small-3x)
- Journals/Diaries
- Mommy and baby diaper bags
- Iron and ironing board
- Coats/jackets, hats/scarfs, and gloves for mommies
- Toilet Paper and Paper towel
- Cleaning supplies, masks, gloves
- Copy paper
- Notebooks
- Storage Racks

## GoFundMe 2022 Campaign

Last year we raised over \$10,000 through our GoFundMe campaign. This year our goal is to double those efforts. We would like to raise at least \$20,000. These funds will be used to help keep our moms and babies warm. Gianna House was built in 1947 and has an outdated boiler. We continue to raise funds so that we can purchase a new HVAC system. Additionally, we would like to begin renovations to expand Gianna House to accommodate more moms and babies. If the good Lord has laid it upon your heart to assist us with this effort, please scan the QR code below and give today. Just know that when you give you are helping to fulfill our mission to "save two lives at a time!" We appreciate your philanthropic heart and wish God's continued blessings upon you for giving toward this cause.  
<https://www.gofundme.com>

- Babysitting volunteers
- Baby humidifiers
- Baby wipes
- Diaper Genies for the baby rooms
- Twin sized: Fitted/Flat Sheets
- Electric blankets
- Ladies' slippers (all sizes)
- Towels and face cloths
- Maxi pads and tampons (regular and super)
- Hair dryer, curling irons
- Bibles, Meditation, and positive affirmation reading materials
- Trash bags
- Hand sanitizer, anti-bacterial hand soap
- Ink for (HP office jet pro-8710)
- Pens, white out, high lighters
- Crafting volunteers
- Community Outreach Volunteers (sorters and schedulers)

#### Email:

[communityoutreach@giannahouse.org](mailto:communityoutreach@giannahouse.org)  
for additional information. Or, you can give directly from our online webpage by scanning this QR Code.



## Gianna House Has Swag!

Gianna House would like to introduce a new and exciting way to support our mission, young moms, and babies. Purchase Polo shirts, T-shirts, hats, and jackets with Gianna House name & logo. What better way to generate conversation about your favorite charity than wearing Gianna House apparel! This is an excellent way to advertise your support, recruit new moms, volunteers, and donors. Feel a sense of pride knowing your generosity is helping to save...two lives at a time. Yes! You can tell our story too...share the good news about the great work happening at Gianna House. Visit our website [www.giannahouse.org](http://www.giannahouse.org) or our Facebook page to place your order.



# UPCOMING EVENTS—JOIN US!

Mark your calendar for all the fall & winter classes & events that are taking place at Gianna House. Register now by emailing [communityoutreach@giannahouse.org](mailto:communityoutreach@giannahouse.org)

## Giving Tuesday, November 29, 2022

Giving Tuesday, started in New York in 2012 and is a global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities. This special day encourages people to do good and is held annually five days after Thanksgiving. Gianna House raised \$25,000 on Giving Tuesday 2020, and our lead, Maceo Coleman, hopes to double that this year!

## Open House Appreciation, December 11

Gianna House would like to recognize the good faith and efforts of our donors and wish you all happy holidays.

**Please Join Us** at Gianna House on **December 11, from 3-7 p.m.** for refreshments, holiday music, and facility tours. Meet our residents, staff, and board members. There is no dress code or cost to attend. Come as you are, bring the family, and celebrate the holidays with us with our deepest appreciation!



Gianna House will be canvassing the neighborhood singing Christmas Carols in December. **Want to join us?**

Email [jfarmer@giannahouse.org](mailto:jfarmer@giannahouse.org) for more details.

Make your secure donation  
the most convenient way  
you wish

- ✓ Checks made payable to **Gianna House** may be mailed to:  
21357 Redmond, Eastpointe, MI 48021.
- ✓ Visit our website to donate at [www.giannahouse.org](http://www.giannahouse.org).
- ✓ Master Card, Visa, Amex, and Discover donations can be made by phone or donation envelope
- ✓ Access our GoFundMe page and donate at: <https://gofund.me/2f705b11>
- ✓ **NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS THROUGH PAYPAL:** [paypal.com/paypal.me/giannahouse](https://paypal.com/paypal.me/giannahouse) **AND CASHAPP: \$GiannaHouse**

## OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE OF APPRECIATION



**Joella E. Bush, LLMSW**  
*Executive Director*

I am in awe of the love, hope, and peace that has been given to the young mommies and babies of Gianna House. We would not have come this far without God and without wonderful donors and volunteers who give so selflessly of themselves...and for that, I am grateful. Every day, my team and I receive calls from young women in desperate need of a safe and loving home... with no place to go with their babies. So, every day, I am challenged, and I ask myself,

"...have I done enough? How can we continue the meaningful work of saving two lives at a time? The needs of these young women are dire. What more can I give to a young pregnant woman who has been told that she will never amount to anything, she's nothing without her abuser, she'll never make it, and that her life is now ruined? At Gianna House, we say, "Welcome! We have your back and we'll get through this...together!" I hope that you will continue to support our vision and mission. With your help, we will continue to welcome at-risk, homeless, and underserved young pregnant women and babies into a safe home of love, hope, and peace. Your prayers and donations are needed today.

May you all be forever blessed, and again, I say...**THANK YOU!**

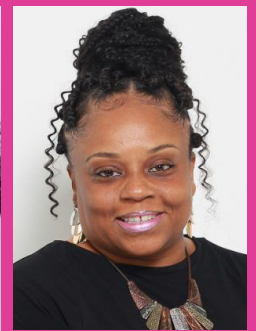
## Meet our newest Board Members and Staff!



**Sharnita  
Mangum**  
*Board  
Member*



**Victoria  
Seay**  
*Board  
Member*



**Katina  
Bryant**  
*Program  
Manager*

## MISSION MOMENT

Gianna House provides a safe residence for at-risk young mothers, their newborn infants, and young moms-to be who are homeless and/or housing insecure. We provide spiritual, educational, parenting, medical, and financial literacy resources to our young moms as well as to other underserved women in the community.

# Transforming shared beliefs and hopes into action...

Gianna House takes very seriously its responsibilities to the ethical use of donor dollars, each of which is used in the most thoughtful manner for maximum impact for those we serve. Our donors are valued partners in ministry to those who are underserved. Ways our donors make a difference:

- ✓ In memory of a loved one
- ✓ In gratitude for God's blessings
- ✓ Via estate planning/wills/trusts
- ✓ Via IRA withdrawal
- ✓ As a family in lieu of individual gifts
- ✓ Or "just because"

To unsubscribe, please email [info@giannahouse.org](mailto:info@giannahouse.org)  
Gianna House is a 501(c)(3) Michigan nonprofit organization

Gianna House  
21357 Redmond Avenue  
Eastpointe, MI 48021



Phone: 586-445-0440  
Email: [info@giannahouse.org](mailto:info@giannahouse.org)  
[www.giannahouse.org](http://www.giannahouse.org)

**NONPROFIT**  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Troy, MI  
Permit No. 155