



Gianna House

Pregnancy & Parenting Residence

FALL/WINTER 2023

President's Message

With Fall upon us, leaves may be falling but no longer are the walls, floors, or ceilings at Gianna House. Because of your generous support, over \$200,000 was raised to rebuild our damaged residence. Additionally, through the generosity of Nancy Pulte Rikard and her consultants, we have a proposed new HVAC system to secure our infrastructure and ensure proper heating and cooling for our beloved Gianna House. This system ensures such a catastrophe doesn't occur again. With your winter emergency donations, we have secured:

- A plan for a new HVAC system (with special thanks as well to the Michigan Council of the Knights of Columbus for their 2022 contribution of \$10,000)
- Repaired kitchen, dining room and living areas
- Replastered and painted walls, ceilings, and stairwells in the south wing of the House
- New office spaces with refreshed floors, ceilings, & walls (special thanks to DTE Energy)
- Replaced carpeting and flooring where it was destroyed or damaged
- Restored lower level that can again store much needed diapers, wipes, formula, and baby supplies
- Replenished supplies, clothing, baby equipment and even computers for our community families. A viable residence again for four young women (two pregnant and two with infants) and 2 more babies on the way in early 2024!

With our restored lower level in place, over 30 community moms have returned to online learning and can now "shop" once again in our lower level for much needed supplies, clothing and baby necessities, sundries and equipment. Through the generous donation of Grosse Pointe benefactors, Jean and Thomas Lacey, and DTE Energy, there are freshly refurbished resident living spaces and staff offices. Extra DTE office cubicles gently used furniture and other accessories will be shared with needy community families after Gianna House is fully restored.

Under the expert direction of our Executive Director, Joella Bush, her dedicated staff, the board, and you, we have succeeded this year! Through your generosity and participation, the golf event generated over \$30,000 and our Mothers' Day event exceeded over \$6000. These two major Gianna House fundraisers were expertly executed with the support of Greystone Golf Club and the generosity of Maria and Charles Lamia of Lamia+Lamia Salon & Day Spa. Their support and direction supported another year of successful fundraising. We continue to express our thankfulness to all of you for your ongoing donations as well.

The flood misfortune brought Gianna House into public attention. We became a household name! Many new donors generously gave repeatedly throughout 2023. To you, our faithful patrons and our new patrons, Gianna House graciously extends an invitation to join us on Sunday, December 10, 2023, from 1:00pm until 4:00 pm for a Thank You Open House. Join us and connect with Gianna House board members, team members and other supporters for an afternoon of Christmas cheer. Come see firsthand what your unselfish support has restored at our dearly loved residence.

As 2023 closes, so does my presidency. I will continue as an advisor to the board. Over the past two years, our board members, staff, and advisors have:

- Revised our by-laws—to ensure we are accountable to your donor dollars in a meaningful way
- Amended our Articles of Incorporation—to direct the board and staff with mission and vision in mind
- Created a Three-Year Strategic Plan for 2023, 2024 and 2025—which guides our growth and sustainability
- Enhanced our metrics and reporting—to remain accountable to you our valued partners and grantors. Upgraded our database—to accurately manage vital metrics, reports and donor information
- Refined our mission, vision, and values—which refresh our perspective and drive
- Improved our website—to keep you timely informed of our efforts, successes, and challenges
- Expanded our board members, advisors, and donors—to sustain Gianna House's future leadership
- Restored Gianna House facilities—to continue Sr. Diane's mission of service to at-risk young women and infants in need.

Our focus and hope in 2024 is to double our residential services. Your continued financial support will help secure this vision. Our attention also remains committed to expanding community-based learning and access to resources for the needy, low-income families in our area. The vision is to lead this community in premier care and service to those of us who have the least. Won't you please continue your support and dedication to Gianna House as I will? If we all keep an eye on the welfare of needy young lives, Gianna House remains viable. I hope you maintain your faith in us by continuing to support the mission and vision of our founder, Sister Diane Masson. Through the grace of God, we move forward in lending services and oversight that offer a hand up—not a handout—to those who need it most. As we do so, thank you for your continued faith in our good work.

Gratefully,

Jamie K. Spriet

Jamie K. Spriet
Board President



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jamie K. Spriet, *President*
Michael J. Fontana, *Vice President*
Cathy Valenza, *Treasurer*
Janielle Joseph, *Secretary*
Dennis Brescoll, *Legal Advisor*
Ryan Bowers, *Marketing/Public Relations*
Rev. Stanley Pachla
LaVetta Pickens, Ph.D.
Victoria Seay

Board Advisors

Jan Getty
Licensure & Strategic Advisor
Christine Nathman-Parisi
Financial Advisor
John Tangalos
Strategic & Financial Advisor
Maria Van Dyke
Hispanic Community Liaison
Cynthia Greening
Board Liaison

Staff

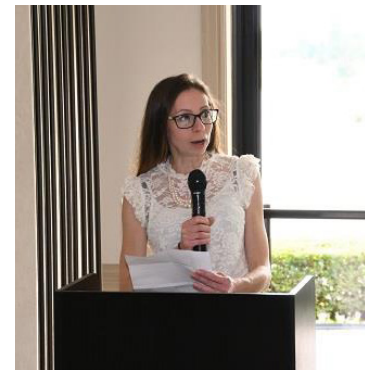
Joella E. Bush LLMSW
Executive Director

Sr. Diane Masson 10th Annual Golf Tournament

Thank you to all our donors, sponsors, and in-kind contributors of our largest fundraiser of the year...the Annual Sr. Diane Golf Outing. Over 80 golfers joined us for a continental breakfast, lunch at the turn, 18 holes of golf, and a fabulous dinner at Greystone Golf Club. Our "Over and Beyond" award was awarded to and graciously accepted by Paula and Tom Masson. Our residents and community moms shared and reminded us why Gianna House is so important to at-risk moms-to-be, young women and babies who are housing insecure and underserved families. Your generosity helped us raise over \$30,000! Our mission and vision will continue because of your support. We hope to see you next year!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 10TH ANNUAL GOLF FUNDRAISER



GIANNA HOUSE THANKS YOU FOR SAVING THE DAY!

Here are just some of our Gianna House Superheroes who came from near and far to support us during our Winter Emergency 2022. While we are not able to provide pictures of everyone, we appreciate you all for your love and support. If you sent up a prayer, gave a monetary donation, provided in-kind donations, prepared a meal for our residents, or simply sent positive thoughts our way... THANK YOU!!



40 years of Love & Devotion to the Community

On October 15, 2023, a special mass was held at St. Veronica's parish to celebrate Father Stan Pachula and 40 years of ministry, love, and devotion. It was a wonderful service with the Knights of Columbus leading the service. *What a wonderful tribute to Father Stan!!*



GIANNA HOUSE & COMMUNITY!

Gianna House partnered with The Bettye Harris Foundation and Lift Up a Child on July 22nd for a Community Baby Shower. Over 150 pregnant young moms were blessed with baby essentials and resources from our other community partners. Thank you, Dr. Early for sharing your vision with us. We are so happy that we were a part of one of the largest community showers held in Eastpointe. See you next year!

Looking to volunteer or would like to learn more about Gianna House? Contact jbush@giannahouse.org to hear how to get involved!

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

GIVING TUESDAY

November 28, 2023

Kicks Off Our
Year-End Giving

Holiday Open House - Gratitude Event

December 10, 2023
1-4 pm, Gianna House

Holiday Year-End Giving Campaign

Nov. 30 - Dec. 31
2023

11th Annual Golf Outing

August 19, 2024
Greystone Golf Club &
Banquet Center

OH, WHAT A YEAR!

Here's a glimpse of some of the damage done in winter 2022 and some of the work in progress. We've come a long way thanks to our wonderful Gianna House community of supporters. Join us at our Open House/Thank You event in December to see how far we've come!



RENOVATIONS, RESTORATION & RENEWAL

Frigid temperatures, busted pipes, and waterfalls hit Gianna House just hours after the outpouring of love on Christmas day. The end of 2022 seemed quite bleak for the staff and residents at Gianna House. However, with the love of our community, resilience of our staff and residents, and dedicated water restoration contractor-Midpoint Construction, we have embraced a fresh new year of renovations, restoration, and renewal. With the spirit of Sister Diane and a continued faith in God, we will overcome!



INFANT SAFETY EXPO

In October, residents attended the Infant Safety Expo with the Macomb County Health Department. The moms learned about Safe Sleep, CPR/ Choking Prevention, and Breastfeeding. Vendors also distributed other important parenting resources.



Gianna House Welcomes Our Newest Resident

Baby M joined this world early on October 27, 2023, at 11:24 pm. He is 4lbs and 11 oz. We are so ecstatic to have him here with mom at Gianna House. We welcome them with open arms. Mom and Baby M will be staying in our newly renovated apartment to help transition them to being on their own. We wish them both success and luck in their future.



Public Speaker & Certified Suicide Preventionist

In September, we were blessed to have La Toya Bond come speak with the residents, staff, and community members regarding suicide awareness. La Toya gifted the attendees with a signed copy of her top selling book: *Speaking of Love; A Suicide Loss*.



GIANNA HOUSE at Yates Cider Mill

The residents were blessed with a donation from Yates Cider Mill. Residents enjoyed seeing how cider is made, walking the nature trails, feeding the animals, and eating cider and donuts. One of our Gianna babies even rode a pony for the first time!



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Gianna House is proud to welcome our new Community Outreach Coordinator, Jennifer Shatz!

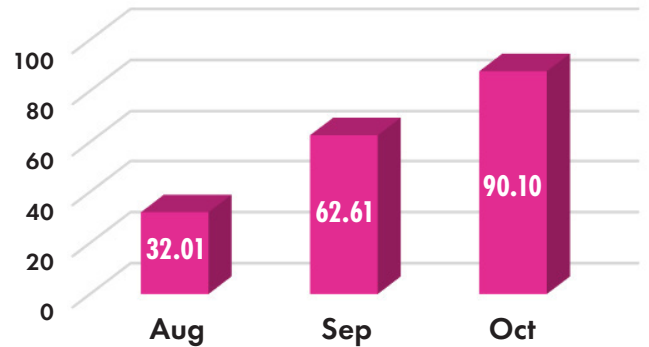
Jennifer joined Gianna House August 29, 2023. Since joining, she has focused on improving community involvement, specifically through Bright Course engagement and participation, which has already seen over 50% growth since August 2023.



Jennifer has a passion for bringing joy to whomever she comes across and enabling them to be their best self.

Her goal is to continue growing the outreach program and to provide much needed resources to the community. She is happy to be part of the team.

Monthly Brightcourse Hours



FLAME Cares Donation

Thanks to your votes, Gianna House received \$500 from FLAME Heating, Cooling, Plumbing & Electrical, through their monthly FLAME Cares program. We are truly grateful for this unexpected blessing and outpouring of support.



Would you like to know how you can help?

Volunteer Opportunities

Gianna House is always looking for volunteers to assist us with the work we do. From volunteering to cleaning, organizing, and sorting donations, to sharing recipes, hobbies, scrapbooking, sewing, general clean day, preparing nutritious meals and providing financial education or resume writing assistance. We appreciate your help.

Adopt or sponsor a mom and baby suite or an office and we'll honor you by having your name imprinted on a plaque and placed outside the door. For more information, email us at

communityoutreach@giannahouse.org and in the subject line put "Interested in Adopting a Room", and we'll contact you with the logistics.

"Giving is not just about making a donation, it's about making a difference"

— Kathy Calvin

Resident Highlight

Jiyah and Baby A came to Gianna in July. Jiyah likes our program because of the classes we offer and being able to work at her own pace. Jiyah is taking classes at Wayne Community College to become a sign language interpreter. She recently started work at a childcare facility. Right now, her main goals are to get her license and a car and find permanent housing. We are so proud of how far she has come and how much more she will achieve.



GIANNA HOUSE HAS SWAG!

Gianna House would like to introduce a new way to be of support to our mission. You can now purchase Polo shirts, T-shirts, hats and jackets with Gianna House name & logo. This is an excellent way to advertise your support for this organization, recruit new moms, volunteers and donors, and feel a sense of pride knowing your generosity is helping to save the lives of young mothers and their babies. Gianna House clothing will also make a good conversation piece. You get to tell our story! Visit our website www.giannahouse.org or our Facebook page to place your order.



OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE OF APPRECIATION



Joella E. Bush, LLMSW
Executive Director

As this year draws to a close, I would like to thank each of you for your love and continued support through such a devastating time when the pipes of our beloved Gianna House froze and burst resulting in major damage to our home. We reached out and the community answered the call. Whether you gave monetarily, in-kind, through deeds, or prayers, we could not have made it through this year without...YOU!

With love as our motivation, hearts are touched, and lives are positively impacted. Those who come in our door are often nervous, fearful, and even desperate. Yet when they see love through your donations and gifts, they find something wholesome that they want and need so much...HOPE for their situation and their babies. Thank you so much for your key role in everything accomplished here at Gianna House this year. Your support and generosity have been immeasurable and a major factor in all that we do. From my heart to yours...from the heartbeat of babies and moms that we have saved from life on the streets, domestic violence, human trafficking, and unsafe living/housing conditions...WE APPRECIATE YOU and are forever grateful! YOU...are a part of us...the Gianna House Family.

**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.
 - ✓ Master Card, Visa, Amex, and Discover donations can be made by phone or donation envelope.
-

MISSION

The Gianna House mission is to provide support through education and life skills programming to young pregnant women and mothers who are at-risk or lack safe housing to transition them to independence.

VISION

To lead in improving the lives of at-risk pregnant women, mothers and their babies by providing them with the opportunity of a community-based environment that offers education, life skills training and career planning that positively impact them, their children and their families.

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
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
www.giannahouse.org

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