



# Gianna House Foundation

## Pregnancy & Parenting Residence

SPRING/SUMMER 2022

### President's Message

Daffodils are popping up all over and so are our hopes at Gianna House! Despite the burst pipes in December that flooded all four floors of Gianna House, our spirits are bright.

Through the efforts of our Executive Director, Joella Bush, and her dedicated team, we prevailed. They remain focused on our mom and baby community who come through our doors daily. **Many thanks** for the numerous monetary donations and meals/food from our loyal supporters who kept our moms and babies warm, secure, and well fed despite not having a functioning kitchen.

**God also blessed us with a benefactor** to help remediate our aging boiler system which contributed to the burst pipes. Through the benevolence of Nancy Pulte Rickard, her experts like Francis Desendes Consulting and the Pulte Foundation, Gianna House is the recipient of a new HVAC system. Words cannot express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for this amazing gift.

We continue to express our **thankfulness to both our sustaining and new donors** who gave so generously in 2022 and stepped up again during these past months. To our local churches and parishes that selflessly support us with treasure and time; the anticipated golfers who infuse our annual golf benefit funding (8/21/23—mark your calendar!); Chambers of Commerce, Rotaries, Kiwanis, and our loyal individual donors—I extend a sincere “thank you”.

To this donor community, along with the continued support of **organizational partners** like Pulte Homes, Comerica Bank, HAP, DTE, Crest Automotive, the Michigan Council of the Knights of Columbus (and countless local Knights of Columbus councils), I personally extend our heartfelt thanks. Your unwavering support and confidence in our mission and services keep our spirits high.

**Our focus in 2023** is to continue to provide our young ladies with avenues for independence and sustainability. We helped over twenty young, pregnant women and their babies in 2022 with shelter, education and care. In first quarter 2023, three young moms and infants have been launched to independence from Gianna House. We have also virtually maintained our community outreach programs for low-income families in the tri-county area.

We lost 80% of the community supplies and items that were stored in our basement during the flood. **We humbly ask** for your monetary donation to replenish our stronghold of these necessary items until the basement is sanitized. Lost in the basement flooding was formula, diapers, wipes, clothing and other much-needed items for daily living and care of underserved infants. Your cash donations today can help us to restock this bounty.

With an eye on the welfare of the young lives we serve, Gianna House remains optimistic. I hope you keep your faith in us by continuing to support the mission and vision of our founder, Sister Diane Masson. With God's grace, we strive to be the leading community-based residence that offers the least of us a hand up—not a handout! As we persevere, **thank you for your continued belief in our good work.**

Gratefully,

*Jamie K. Spriet*

Jamie K. Spriet  
Board President



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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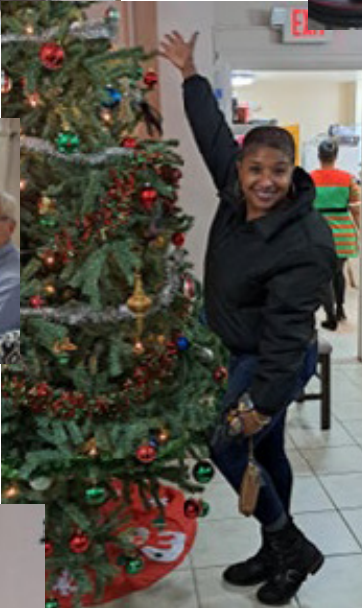
Joella E. Bush LLMSW  
*Executive Director*

## Renovations, Restoration & Renewal

Frigid temperatures, busted pipes, and waterfalls hit Gianna House just hours after the outpour of love on Christmas day. The end of 2022 seemed quite bleak for the staff and residents at Gianna House. BUT, with the love of our community and the resilience of our staff and residents, 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!

### Love is Giving

Gianna House cannot thank our donors and supporters enough for the love that has been shown over the past few months. And although February is considered the love month, love is a universal language that never expires. We want to extend a special thank you to everyone who has contributed to the mission of this organization!



# Love is Patient



*Have You Visited*

*Gianna House lately?*



*Please Excuse  
Our Dust!!!*



Special thanks to the Mom's Group of Saint Thomas Chaldean Catholic Church in West Bloomfield Township and St. Anne Catholic Church for their generous donations during the holiday season!

James Celentano

Robert Harrell

Richard Kurpovic

Cal Look

Brennan McHugh

Amy Muawad

Lynette Swayne

Stanley Ulman

Leigh Gatny

William Diehl

John Harrington

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Timothy Hogan

Dan Weingartz

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Linda Dillon

Fred Kobler

Kevin Liske

Jennifer Mazur

James McNulty

Carole Ritchie

Joseph Mallia

Leigh Czerwinski

The Ministry of St. Paul

Thanks for the donations from staff & other community members. Six of our residents, seven families were blessed with toys for their children and \$75 in Meijer Gift cards.



# SAVE THE DATES!

## SWING SUMMER AWAY!



**Monday, August 21, 2023**

**Greystone Golf & Banquet Center**  
67500 Mound Rd., Washington, MI 48095

**Early Bird Registration, Now through  
July 4, 2023**

**Save \$10/Golfer (off pricing below)!**  
*Pricing after 7/4/23*

**\$150/golfer & \$600/foursome**  
*Includes driving range, green fees, cart, continental  
breakfast and lunch plus reception and plated filet  
and chicken dinner and premium bar  
Sponsorship opportunities available.*

**Registration 8:00 AM**  
**Shotgun Start 9:30 AM**



For more information or to register visit:  
**[www.giannahouse.org](http://www.giannahouse.org)**

For questions contact Mike Fontana at:  
248-224-5583  
[mfontana1379@gmail.com](mailto:mfontana1379@gmail.com)

★ **10th ANNUAL SR DIANE GOLF OUTING: August 21, 2023**  
Greystone Golf Club & Banquet Center, Washington, MI

★ **GIVING TUESDAY: November 28, 2023**  
Kicks Off Our Year-End Giving

★ **HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE—Gratitude Event: December 2023**  
Gianna House Grounds

★ **HOLIDAY YEAR-END GIVING CAMPAIGN: November 30 – December 31, 2023**

# Peace, Love, and Hope are Expressed through Community Outreach and Our Volunteers at Gianna House

## Partners and Collaborators...Answer Our Call for Volunteerism

### Gianna House 2023 Benefactors of Michigan Council, Knights of Columbus Generosity

Many know the extraordinarily charitable deeds the Michigan Knights of Columbus councils perform. Gianna House became a recipient once again when the Knights of Columbus became **Donors of Love** at its 2022 Golf Benefit. Their significant 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.

### Macomb Community College

Gianna House is partnering with Macomb Community College in what has been coined as their Macomb Advocacy Project. In addition to speaking with our residents and community moms about furthering their education and internship opportunities, they will be assisting in the areas of fundraising and donating. Additionally, they will be facilitating an Easter Egg hunt right on our campus grounds. So, we are excited about this partnership. A special thank you to Ms. Stacie Keenan for making this connection with our Community Outreach Coordinator.

### Malika's Book Club Corner

Malika Williams, a former foster care recipient, founder of nonprofit organization L.I.V.E Outreach and author of "I'm just trying to live" has partnered with Gianna House to start a 12-week book club that focuses on helping young women within the foster care community and those in unforeseen circumstances overcome.

If this is of interest, please R.S.V.P by emailing [communityoutreach@giannahouse.org](mailto:communityoutreach@giannahouse.org)



### Mother's Day Sip 'n Shop – BIG HIT!

#### Special Thanks to Maria & Charles Lamia

The generosity of Maria and Charles Lamia was only exceeded by the beauty and bounty at their beautiful salon on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Almost 50 people enjoyed fun, food, friendship and fashion at Gianna House's third annual event at the salon. A few even won first-rate raffle gifts! The Lamia+Lamia Salon and Day Spa in Grosse Pointe Woods [www.lamialamia.com](http://www.lamialamia.com) is a secret gem for the eastside. Gianna House is ever grateful to the Lamia's and their team.



# UPCOMING EVENTS—JOIN US!

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

## Gianna House Supper Club

Gianna House Supper Club is a collaboration with Chef Duke to provide gourmet dinner gatherings to support the ongoing needs of the Gianna House Pregnancy and Parenting Residence. Our first dinner presentation will be scheduled soon. Stay tuned!

## Eastpointe Community Baby Shower ~ July 22, 2023

Dr. Chineva Early of the Bettye Harris Foundation and Lift up a Child nonprofit organization have rallied up community organizations and Macomb County dignitaries to host a community baby shower on the campus grounds of Gianna House in honor of helping the young women and babies we serve. Gifts are for newborns to two-year-olds. This event will take place Saturday, July 22, 2023, from noon to 4pm.

If you would like to donate to this event, contact Dr. Early at 313-384-7262.

## L.I.V.E Outreach Book Club

The LIVE Outreach book club is a 12-week program designed to spark interest, improve literacy and comprehension, to tell a story by channeling good & bad aggression and learn how to become a success story. Journaling and vision boards are just a couple activities that are included in this book club. Contact us at [communityoutreach@giannahouse.org](mailto:communityoutreach@giannahouse.org) to register.

## 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.

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

*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 volunteers in upcoming newsletters. We could not carry on the legacy of Sister Diane Masson's vision without YOU!**

## 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](http://www.giannahouse.org) or our Facebook page to place your order.



## OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE OF APPRECIATION



Joella E. Bush  
Executive Director LLMSW

My message is simple. It is one of thanks and appreciation. I continue to be amazed at the generous support of community organizations, businesses and individuals who donate dollars, volunteer hours, or offer gifts of clothing, furniture, toys, supplies and even the gift of their talents to our young ladies and their babies. From the Knights of Columbus, to local Rotary groups and parishes, to businesses and individual volunteers, all of you make our work at Gianna House so much lighter. I'm grateful to express my thanks here to all you. I hope you will continue to be generous to the underserved women in our community that we serve. I look forward to continuing to do good work with your support and generosity.

### MISSION

The Gianna House mission is to provide support through education and life skills programming to pregnant women and mother 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.

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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
-



# 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

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