



Gianna House

Pregnancy & Parenting Residence

FALL/WINTER 2025

TOGETHER WE THRIVE WARM HEARTS, STRONG FUTURES

Every mother deserves a safe place to heal, grow, and thrive.

Residential Spotlight

We're celebrating double the joy!

Gianna House recently welcomed two beautiful baby girls into the world—Baby T, now almost three months old, and Baby W, now just two months old! Both moms and their little ones are doing wonderfully and thriving with love, strength, and grace.

It's a season of new beginnings, tiny miracles, and endless possibilities. Let's continue to surround these families with warmth, support, and celebration as they embark on this incredible journey of motherhood.



Community Outreach Spotlight

My name is Kahlisha Pettway, and my journey with Gianna House Community Outreach began in 2022, when I attended a community baby shower that changed my life. At a time when I was facing significant hardships—struggling to provide essentials like diapers, wipes, hygiene products, clothing, and shoes for my children—Gianna House became a beacon of hope.

Through the Bright Course lessons, I've not only gained valuable knowledge but also earned baby bucks that allow me to shop monthly for my family's needs. What touches me most is the genuine care I feel from the staff. I'm not just a number here—I'm seen, heard, and supported.

Last Christmas, my family was adopted through the program, and the joy it brought us was indescribable. My children received gifts I could never have imagined providing on my own. The Zoom and in-person classes have been a blessing, especially because I can bring my children along to learn and grow with me.

I am deeply grateful for everything Gianna House has done for us. Their support has empowered me to keep moving forward, and I now face each day with renewed strength and hope.



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Joella E. Bush LLMSW, *Executive Director*

Together We Thrive reminds us that hope grows strongest in community

As the second year of my board presidency draws to a close, I am happy to report that things have been going very well at Gianna House. Here's a quick summary of some of our accomplishments in 2025:

- We have an excellent management and staff that has been ably led by our Executive Director, Joella Bush, who is the face of Gianna House at the residential home and at outside community and fundraising events. Ms. Bush completed a year-long course in nonprofit management and has applied these skills to perform her job at a high level. She has recruited and helped train the team, which is also performing exceptionally well in serving our mission. The skill of our staff has been evident in driving the positive outcomes of our resident moms and their healthy babies.
- The year-long "Heat the House" project to replace our antiquated boiler and window air conditioners with a new HVAC system is almost complete. This means that we will soon be able to double the capacity of residents in our pregnancy and parenting program, now that the north wing of the residence building can provide safe, comfortable shelter for our moms and babies. We are so thankful for all of you who contributed to fund this effort, led by major gifts from The Pulte Family Charitable Foundation, The Pulte Legacy Foundation, The Van Elslander Family Foundation, St. Veronica Parish, St. Kenneth Parish of Plymouth, and The Archdiocese of Detroit.
- We have a thriving community outreach program where we provide educational courses to underserved community moms that enable them to earn "baby bucks" to obtain essential donated products such as diapers, formula, and clothing from our basement boutique that they need to help raise their children.
- Our 12th Annual Sr. Dianne Masson Golf Tournament, which was held this past August at the beautiful Greystone Golf Club & Banquet Center, was a huge success with record proceeds taken in thanks to those who planned the event, volunteered at the outing, participated in the golfing, and those who were sponsors, bought raffle tickets, or donated prizes for the raffles.
- The "Tree of Life" wall display is now proudly hung in the "purple room" on the first floor of our residence building. This initiative, led by former Board President Jamie Spriet, has been a way for our donors to buy an engraved leaf, acorn, branch, or stone to honor the memory of someone special and to help support our mission of "saving two lives at a time."
- Our Board of Directors has strong and committed members who contribute to essential fundraising and grant writing efforts, direct the policy of the organization, and participate in committee work in support of our mission and vision. Over the past year, thanks to a generous donation from former board member Colleen Thompson, our board received excellent training from the nonprofit Advancing Macomb on the fiduciary duties and responsibilities they perform as board members. We are also interviewing several new potential board members with impressive resumes and aligned with our organization's mission. New board members provide fresh ideas, additional skills, and the needed passion to meet the plans and goals of our organization into the future.
- We are so thankful that the members of St. Keiran Catholic Church, located in Shelby Township, dedicated the entire \$20,000 proceeds from their golf outing to Gianna House in support of our mission. This generous gift was truly manna from heaven, and we can't thank their good people enough for this support.

As we move into the holiday season and then onto 2026, we are thankful to all of you who have supported our organization with your time and financial support. The young women, babies, and families that we serve are grateful for the ability to have healthy, safe pregnancies and, after the birth of their babies, to move on to independence. We pray that you will think of us again in your year-end giving.

Dennis Brescoll
Dennis Brescoll, Esq.
Board President

Community Outreach Impact Report *(Your compassion reaches far beyond our walls.)*

Serving More Families. Spreading More Hope.

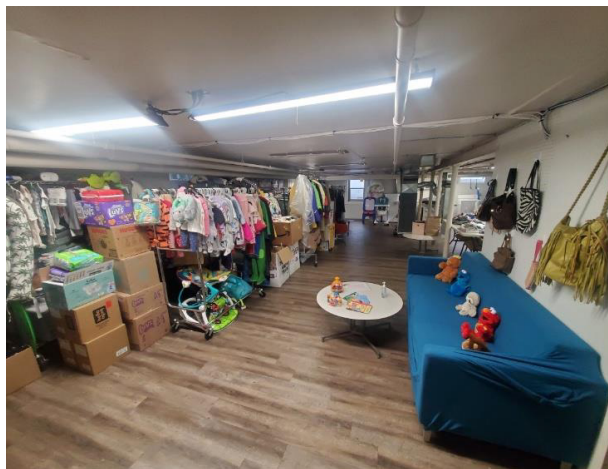
This year, our outreach efforts supported hundreds of women and children. From life-skills classes to emergency essentials, our programs meet mothers where they are and uplift them every step of the way. We are proud to share the incredible progress made through our Community Outreach efforts. Currently, we are supporting **216 families**, and between August and September, we provided essential resources to 159 families, helping meet their immediate needs and empower their futures.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our volunteers, we distributed:

- **Adult Clothing:** 94+ items
- **Baby Clothing:** 256 items
- **Diapers:** 6,684 units
- **Wipes:** 190 packs
- **Toiletries:** 413 items
- **Bedding & Blankets:** 62 sets
- **Infant Formula:** 257 cans
- **Baby Food:** 164 jars
- **Self-Paced Educational Lessons:** Offered to all participating families
- **Volunteers Engaged:** 20+

Each item represents hope, dignity, and care for families navigating challenging times. We remain committed to expanding our reach and deepening our impact—one family at a time.

Your faith in our mission is the foundation on which lives are rebuilt!



Together, we are building stronger communities through compassion, connection, and service.



Heating the House: Warm Rooms. Warm Hearts. Warm Beginnings

Keeping Gianna House Safe & Cozy This Winter

Winter brings higher heating costs—and greater challenges for Gianna House. This season, donor support ensures that every room in Gianna House remains warm, safe, and welcoming for our mothers and babies. Your contributions will continue to help us face rising utility expenses and continue providing a home filled with comfort and dignity. It is YOU who keep the cold out—and the hope in!

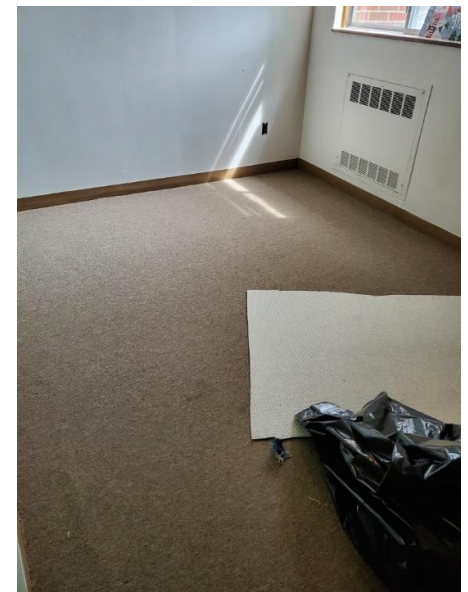
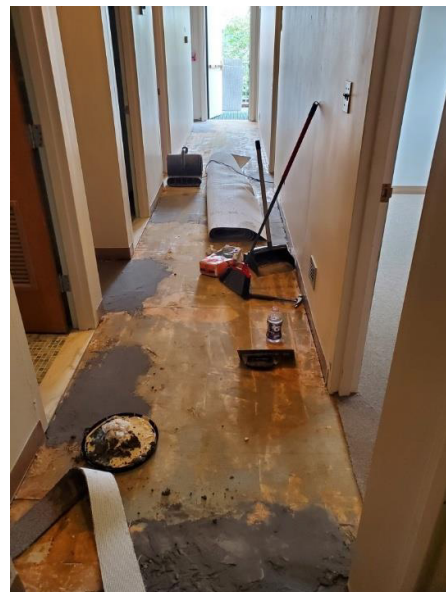
We are thrilled to share that we've entered Phase 2 of our HEAT THE HOUSE and HVAC project—a significant milestone for Gianna House! With this upgrade, our entire building will now be equipped with forced heating and air conditioning, creating a more comfortable and welcoming environment for everyone we serve. Every heated room is a reminder that your gifts become comfort for our mothers and babies.



A Beautiful Gift for the North Wing

In addition to the HVAC improvement, we've also installed new carpeting in our North Wing, allowing us to expand our capacity and welcome four additional pregnant mothers into our care. This brings our total residential capacity to nine—a significant step forward in our mission to provide safe, nurturing housing to young moms and babies.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to **Allen and Donna Marshall** for their extraordinary generosity. Their donation of carpet, padding, and professional installation in the North Wing, along with carpet cleaning services for the entire building, is a true blessing. Their kindness has made a lasting impact on our residents, community families, and dedicated staff. This donation reflects what happens when community meets mission—beautiful change.



Fundraising at Gianna House...Where Hope Begins

12TH Annual Sr. Diane Golf Outing – This year's Golf Outing was our largest and most successful event to date. With 100 golfers—more than we've ever welcomed—and 37 generous sponsors and dinner guests, the day was filled with energy, community spirit, and heartfelt purpose. With perfect weather, golfers enjoyed a beautiful program and exciting raffle and auction, and a day of connection that directly supports the mothers and babies of Gianna House. Thanks to everyone who participated, sponsored, or volunteered, we continue "Driving Hope Forward"—creating stronger futures, one swing at a time. See you all next year!

A Big Thank You to our Champions for Mothers and Heroes for Babies

Gold Sponsors

- Weingartz
- Backman Wealth Management
- Margo & John Hebert
- Crest Automotive

Silver Sponsors

- Spriet-Snyder Family
- Delta Dental
- Lakeshore Knights of Columbus #2733
- HAP CareSource
- Dennis & Mary Brescoll
- SWOOP
- Michael J. Fontana
- The Family of Sister Diane Masson
- Marsh McLennan Agency
- St. Ambrose Parish
- St. Isidore Church
- St. Kenneth Catholic Church
- Walter, Boesky & Associates, P.C.
- Brandon Grier

Dinner Sponsors

- Margaret Beauregard
- St. Fabian Catholic Church
- Felician Sisters of North America
- Guardian Angels Parish
- Entech Staffing Solutions
- Genesis Chevrolet
- Luna Entertainment – Celani Companies
- Sierra Donovan
- Veronica Klinefelt

Lunch Sponsors

- Bill & Judy Diehl
- Ken & Joan Isherwood
- Christian Financial Credit Union
- Joseph & Rosalie Vicari

- Richard Cardinal Cushing Assembly #0484 KOC
- Luna Entertainment – Celani Companies
- St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church

Breakfast Sponsors

- Susan Kenney
- Council of Catholic Women Archdiocese of Detroit
- St. Lucy Catholic Church
- Katy & Keith Noser
- Ken & Claire Perry
- Celtic Cove Catholic Bookstore
- St. Rene Goupil Parish

Hole Sponsors

- Bill & Judy Diehl
- Solomon Machinery Co.
- Great Lakes Tent Co.
- Anne Prince
- Rehmann
- Technology Resource Group
- Commercial Services 360
- A.H. Peters Funeral Home
- Detroit House of Recovery
- Eastside Community Chamber
- David & Karen Seitz
- Villa Restaurant
- Freers, Freers, Freers Attorneys at Law
- Laundrolab Roseville
- Brilliant Edventures
- DrivePutt Promote
- Our Lady of La Salette
- Jan Krakowiak
- Knights of Columbus Michigan State Council
- Seaway Painting
- Ann Howard
- Viviano Flower Shop
- The Professional Group

Fundraising at Gianna House...Where Hope Begins *(continued)*

Legacy Tree of Life: Every leaf represents love. Every name means hope. Our Legacy Tree of Life continues to grow thanks to your commitment to mothers and babies.

Giving Tuesday: This Giving Tuesday, our community came together in an extraordinary way to support Gianna House's mission. With a goal of \$10,000, we were humbled to exceed it, raising over \$16,000. These funds directly support the mothers and babies we serve by sustaining essential programs, housing, and life-skills education during a time of increased need.

We extend our sincere gratitude to every individual who gave, shared, and advocated on our behalf. Your generosity strengthens our mission and reminds our mothers that they are not alone.



*Your support
multiplies through
every grant
we receive.*

Grants: Strengthening Our Mission Through Funding

Grants play a vital role in sustaining and expanding the programs that support mothers and babies at Gianna House, and we are deeply grateful to the funders who have entrusted us with their faith and hope—believing in our ability to steward these resources with integrity in service of the mother and families we support. The grants awarded in 2024 and 2025 have strengthened our capacity to provide consistent housing and life skills during a time of economic uncertainty and shifting funding priorities across the nonprofit sector.

A special thank you to Grant Chair Cynthia Cockrel, President Emeritus Jamie Spriet, and Executive Director Joella Bush for their leadership, thoughtful guidance, and countless hours of work securing critical funding.



Grant Name	Amount	Date
Grant 1	\$10,000	12/15/24
Grant 2	\$5,000	1/10/25
Grant 3	\$15,000	2/05/25
Grant 4	\$8,000	3/01/25
Grant 5	\$12,000	3/15/25
Grant 6	\$7,000	4/01/25
Grant 7	\$9,000	4/15/25
Grant 8	\$6,000	5/01/25
Grant 9	\$11,000	5/15/25
Grant 10	\$4,000	6/01/25



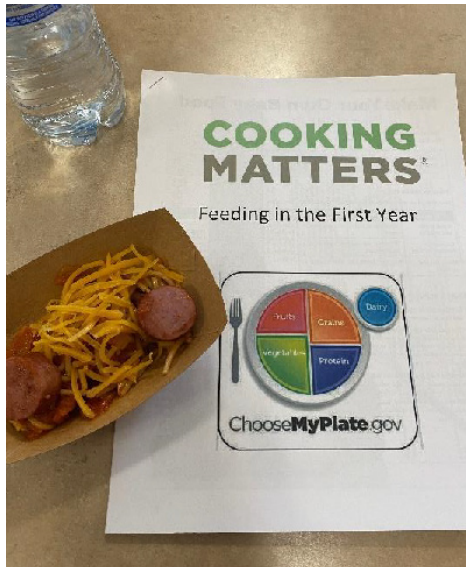
Empowerment: New opportunities. New Skills. New confidence. New Futures.

Programming Highlights

Our commitment to education and empowerment continues through our Launching into Independence program, offered both in-person and online. Recent workshops have included:

- Healthy Cooking & Baby Food Preparation
- Canning & Food Preservation & Nutrition
- Financial Literacy with Comerica Bank
- Hair Braiding & Healthy Hair 101
- Massage Therapy
- Employment and Housing Search
- Life Skills Training
- Parenting Education
- Goal-setting and self-esteem building

These sessions are often the first step toward stability. We're excited to offer even more workshops in the coming year to help our community members build new skills and strengthen existing ones. When mothers learn, their futures open. Together, we are building a stronger, more compassionate community—one step, one family, one life at a time.



Your generosity fuels every step forward.

Celebrating Those Who Walk with Us

Community & Partnerships: The heartbeat of progress.



2026 SAVE THE DATES!

Save the Dates – Celebrate the Season with Gianna House!

We're thrilled to invite you to a series of heartwarming events that celebrate generosity, community, and the joy of giving!

GIVING TUESDAY

December 1, 2026 (Online Event)

Join us virtually for Giving Tuesday, a global day of generosity. Your support helps us continue our mission of empowering and uplifting the women and families we serve.

OPEN HOUSE & COOKIES WITH SANTA

December 6, 2026

Come experience the magic of Gianna House! Our Open House is a special opportunity to thank our incredible donors and welcome the community to enjoy a festive day filled with delicious food, joyful music, and guided tours of our facility. Bring your family and friends to see firsthand the impact of your support.

CASINO NIGHT

May 8, 2026 TBD

Stay tuned for more exciting news about this inaugural fundraiser!

SISTER DIANE GOLF OUTING

August 17, 2026

Fore! Join us on the greens as we enjoy a day of golf and fellowship while supporting our mission of helping at-risk mothers and their babies. We can't wait to see you there!

END-OF-YEAR GIVING

November 1 to December 31, 2026

As the year comes to a close, we invite you to make a lasting impact. Your generous contributions during this season of giving help us continue to provide hope, healing, and support to those who need it most.

Let's keep the spirit of giving alive and make this season unforgettable for even more families in need.

Together, we can spread joy, hope, and love — one family at a time.

HEAT THE HOUSE

Ongoing Fundraiser!

Help us keep Gianna House warm and welcoming all year long! Your gift ensures our new heating and cooling system continues to provide comfort for mothers and babies who call Gianna House home.

LEGACY TREE OF LIFE

Ongoing Fundraiser!

Leave a lasting mark of love and hope! By purchasing a leaf, acorn, or sapling for our Legacy Tree of Life, you honor someone special while supporting mothers and babies at Gianna House!

Join us in making a difference!

Board Leadership Updates

With deep gratitude, we honor two valued members of the Gianna House Board of Directors as they conclude their terms of service. Their leadership, insight, expertise, and steadfast commitment have helped guide our organization through seasons of growth, challenge, and impact. Through thoughtful governance, advocacy, and generous service, they have strengthened our mission and helped ensure that mothers and babies continue to receive the support they deserve. Their contributions have left a lasting imprint on our organization, and their dedication will continue to inspire the work we carry forward.



Cynthia Cockrel Ph.D.



Jamie Spriet

Staff Spotlight

Cianna Bertholet, our Office and Business Manager, recently graduated Magna Cum Laude with her Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) from Oakland University. She is now continuing her academic journey by pursuing a Master of Social Work (MSW) at Oakland University. Cianna is also a proud member of the Phi Alpha Honor Society and the National Association of Social Workers (NASW).



Work-study Student Spotlight

We're excited to welcome Melody Patton, a work-study student from Dorsey Schools, to our team! Melody is currently studying Medical Coding & Billing and will be assisting us at Gianna House. Her enthusiasm and fresh perspective make a positive impact!



Letter from our Executive Director — Together We Thrive



As we enter the close of 2025, we find ourselves in a season shaped by both challenge and hope. Recent economic shifts—including administrative changes and freezes on essential programs like SNAP—have left many of the families we serve in vulnerable and uncertain positions. For young mothers who already face significant barriers, these reductions create a real fear about meeting their basic needs.

Yet, even in the midst of these difficulties, one truth has remained constant: when our community comes together, we thrive.

Every day at Gianna House, I witness resilience—not only in the mothers and babies we serve, but in the generous people who surround them with compassion, support, and unwavering belief in their worth. Your kindness is the bridge over uncertain times. Your faith in our mission is what keeps our programs strong. And your involvement ensures that no mother walks this journey alone.

This season, I extend my deepest gratitude for your continued support. Whether through gifts, volunteerism, partnerships, or prayer, you help make Gianna House a place where hope grows, futures take shape, and families find stability when everything around them feels unstable.

Together, we are proving that community is stronger than crisis. *Together, we thrive.*

With gratitude and hope,

Joella E. Bush, LLMSW
Executive Director
Gianna House

Where your dollars go: Your impact in motion.

YOUR IMPACT...



Gianna House

Saving two lives at a time



HOUSING, SHELTER, & SAFETY

- \$200 - Helps maintain a safe and monitored living environment free of re-victimization
- \$250 - Ensures a 1 week stay in a safe home for mother and child
- \$1,000 - Secures a 1 month stay in a safe home for mother and child

FOOD & NUTRITION

- \$100 - Guarantees that every infant in our care has access to sufficient formula and baby food for two weeks
- \$325 - Covers one week of groceries for residents in our home

EDUCATION & TRAINING

- \$300 - Empowers our young women by giving them monthly access to online learning through the BrightCourse platform
- \$400 - Covers the costs for one mom to complete GED testing

TRANSPORTATION

- \$100 - Provides secure and reliable Uber/Lyft support to help mothers access employment and childcare
- \$150 - Ensures agency van remains fueled and operational to meet vital transportation needs weekly
- \$750 - Offers safe, dependable rides to pre- and postnatal care for one month or beyond

HELP US CONTINUE TO HEAT THE HOUSE

- \$50 - Supplies a day of warmth for mothers and babies at Gianna House
- \$1,550 - Secures one month of heating for our beloved 10,000 square-foot-home

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*Ways to Give Today:
Every gift becomes
a lifeline.*

- IRA Giving
- Legacy Giving
- Corporate Sponsorships
- Monthly Donations



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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"

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