



# Christmas Miracles at St. Gianna's Place!

## Greetings from the Executive Director

Dear St. Gianna's Family,

As I write this letter, it has been a little over a year since we took in our first resident, and what a year it has been! I am so very privileged and grateful to serve as the Executive Director of St. Gianna's Place. Since I have come on board in September 2019, we have had fourteen residents and seven babies have been born who may not have been born if it wasn't for the generosity, vision and commitment of our donors, staff, volunteers and board of directors. Some of our expectant residents came with toddlers, some with school-aged children, and we have been able to support them all! Some left before giving birth due to the Coronavirus, returning to families they were previously estranged from.

The growth we have experienced in one short year is nothing short of amazing! We have developed new programming, hired skilled staff, and hope to expand our living space in the very near future. We have strengthened community relationships, put many residents through education programs, and reunited families. All of this is only possible because of you! My goal for 2021 is to double our number of residents. We can only do that with your continued support. Please consider a one-time donation or becoming a monthly donor to help us support more women and most importantly save more lives.

I want to thank our Board of Directors for their faith in me, our fantastic staff and volunteers and our incredibly generous donors. Working together is what makes our mission possible.

In His Service,

Maura Fitzpatrick, MPH, Executive Director, St. Gianna's Place



*"It's a safe home. If I didn't come to St. Gianna's Place, I would be on the street. This place is filled with God's blessings. I am learning how to prepare myself to become a good mom with confidence."*

—resident

### Our Board of Directors:

Monica Rahilly, President & Co-Founder

Andrew Breuder, Vice President

Kevin Cronin, Treasurer

Kathy Mahoney, Secretary

Maria Szemplinski, Co-Founder

Liz Neville, Co-Founder

Dennis Pedley

### Advisors

Betty Breuder, Co-founder

Fr. Von DeRosia, Spiritual Director

Paul Swope, Senior Advisor

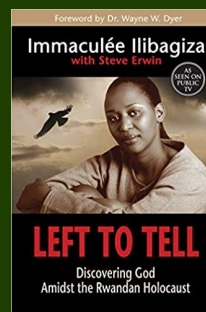
Laura Gandia, Attorney

Al Lemieux, Webmaster

Kelly McIntire, Marketing Advisor

## SAVE THE DATE!

Join us **Tuesday, March 23, 2021** for our 2nd annual Gala which will be held virtually this year. We are so pleased to announce our guest speaker, Immaculée Ilibagiza, renowned author of six books including *Left to Tell*, soon to be a major motion picture. Immaculée will share her story of surviving the 1994 Rwandan genocide that took the lives of nearly one million Tutsis and her journey to find peace, hope and forgiveness of those who murdered her family. **Watch our website for details: [www.stgiannasplace.org](http://www.stgiannasplace.org).**



# St. Gianna's Place: A Home Bustling with Activity

St. Gianna's Place is a Christ-centered ministry, rooted in Gospel values. Our mission is to support each expectant mother who comes to us to transform her life and the lives of her children. Every woman who contacts St. Gianna's Place is treated with dignity and respect and we cherish the opportunity to show each one God's love.



When I come to work each day, I am always amazed at the activity surrounding me. A typical day always begins with morning prayer, followed by breakfast and chores. There are doctor's appointments, meal planning and food shopping, weekly goal-setting with each resident individually,



toddlers scampering about and playing in our new play area, and school-aged children attending their virtual classes online with

*"No one has ever supported me to do things in life. Until I came to St. Gianna's no one helped me find out how you better yourself, and for that I am really thankful."*

the help of their moms and sometimes staff. There are residents coming and going from jobs, volunteering in the community, high school classes, GED programs, LNA programs, cosmetology school, AA meetings and Intensive Outpatient Programs. There are in-house trainings like Nutrition class, Faith Formation, Budget Buddies, Parenting Class and Cooking Class. We offer residents exercise programs, sewing instruction, arts and crafts class, and we even attempted our own organic vegetable garden this year!



At the end of the day the kitchen is busy as the residents begin to prepare the evening meal. Gathered as a family, supper is on, and always followed by evening prayer. Mostly prayers of gratitude from extremely grateful women and children.

There are days that are heartbreaking and filled with tears and others that are heartwarming filled with joy and laughter. All blessed by God and made possible by you, for without the kindness and generosity of our donors and volunteers our mission would not be possible.



Please consider keeping our mission *going and growing* by donating any amount large or small to support our residents and to make life possible for the most vulnerable among us, the precious, innocent lives of the infants God has brought to our doorstep. May God Bless you and your families with a beautiful Christmas and a happy and holy New Year.

—Submitted by Maura Fitzpatrick



*"Living at St. Gianna's Place is a whole great opportunity for me and my unborn child. Once I came here, I learned how to take responsibility for myself and my future."*



## *Warm Greetings from Monica Rahilly, Board President and Co-founder of St. Gianna's Place!*

Feeling that Holy Spirit nudge I have come to realize that God is calling me in another direction. Aspiring to be an obedient servant I am stepping down from the role of President of the Board as of December 31, 2020. I can promise you that my decision is bittersweet and does not come lightly as I am leaving a board position I love, but I put my trust in Him.

As I move forward, I will remain on the board, which has ignited my desire to do more, be more and serve more. I look forward to spending more time with our moms and their babies, which is my very favorite part of this ministry!

I am so grateful for the time spent working with our dedicated, hardworking board, staff and volunteers.

I am inspired daily by their faith, dedication and compassion. I see how God perfectly handpicked everyone to bless St. Gianna's Place with their special gifts. I have learned so much as Board President and am profoundly honored and humbled to serve in this capacity. With your support, we have accomplished nearly all of our objectives and goals over the past two years. It has been life changing for our residents, board members and staff. I have been so graced to see God's handiwork in action.

St. Gianna's Place is in very capable hands as Kathy Mahoney, RN, MSN our current secretary will be assuming the role of President beginning January 1, 2021. We are blessed to have Kathy at the helm, bringing her abundant talents to our mission and I look forward to serving under her leadership.

St. Gianna's Place is our ministry; you are integral to its success and without you St. Gianna's Place would not exist. We thank you for your support to transform and heal the lives of moms and their babies in need: one mother, one baby, one family at a time.

May God bless you, May His face shine upon you and grant you peace.

Wishing you a Blessed and Holy Christmas!

*Monica*



Monica Rahilly

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## *Looking to the Future with Kathy Mahoney*



Kathy Mahoney,  
RN, MSN

I started to write this while sitting quietly at Saint Gianna's Place, marveling at all the activity surrounding me. The residents had just finished a cooking class, the soup simmering on the stove had a wonderful aroma. The residents were excited that their fellow housemate would be bringing her newborn home in the next couple of days. At the same time, volunteers were working upstairs to renovate another bedroom for a new resident coming the next day. But it wasn't all sunshine- by the end of my visit, I would hear about pain felt as a result of destructive relationships- and yet, hope-that training, education and stability could lead to a better life for the women and their children.

While I was not part of the extensive startup phase of St. Gianna's Place, I came to know and love this place over the past couple of years, and have come to greatly admire those who followed a calling in their heart to provide a home for women in crisis pregnancies. I am deeply humbled to be asked to lead the Board of Directors, one which consists of people with strong compassion, a deep Catholic faith, and commitment to a cause which can be challenging. I also look forward to working with St. Gianna's Place' amazing and talented staff, volunteers, residents, and donors. I hope to continue the vision of departing President Monica Rahilly and the other founding members, a vision that has blessedly become a reality over the past year, to provide a safe haven for women and their babies, one where our Moms will develop confidence, independence and learn of the love Christ offers them. I know it will be a team effort, and I hope we can count on your support as well.

May God bless you and keep you safe,

Kathy Mahoney



*In January 2021  
we also look  
forward to wel-  
coming Kelly  
McIntire a new  
Board Member  
and Secretary.*



## Building & Grounds Report

One of our dreams at St. Gianna's Place is to expand in order to house more residents. Some of the related projects include an upgraded electrical system, a new sprinkler system, a whole-house alarm and improving the plumbing. These improvements will eventually allow us to double the number of women and children we can help. To co-sponsor one of our projects please email: [liznevillenh@gmail.com](mailto:liznevillenh@gmail.com)



### Merry Christmas from Our Board of Directors!

Front: Kevin Cronin, Kelly McIntire, Kathy Mahoney, Liz Neville, Maria Szemplinski. Back: Dennis Pedley, Andrew Breuder, Maura Fitzpatrick, Monica Rahilly & Laura Gandia



### Saint Gianna Beretta Molla

St. Gianna is the patron of pregnant women and the patron against abortion. While expecting her fourth child, St. Gianna's surgeon recommended that she abort her child in order to live but Saint Gianna refused. She died a week later. Our Patron, St. Gianna Beretta Molla's feast day is April 28th.

## FINANCIAL CORNER



St. Gianna's Place is blessed by you! Your continued support during this challenging time has enabled us to keep our doors open to receive residents and their babies, hire a much-needed part time case manager, and begin plans for a possible expansion.

We are very grateful to have been able to purchase a generator this year, one new laptop and one printer, Bright Course parenting software, training opportunities for our staff, Trailblazer to manage our marketing and help grow our list of donors and Quick-Books to help with budgeting and banking. Our growth is a direct result of your generosity.

**THANK YOU!**

## Baby Bottle Drive

After Covid-19 closed our churches this past winter and into the spring, our baby bottle campaigns that are usually held at many churches were also put on hold. However, we were able to resume them this fall thanks to the generosity of many area pastors and we look forward to many successful 2021 campaigns. A huge thank you to the parishes who have hosted us this past year:

St. Raphael  
 Ste. Marie  
 St. Francis  
 Infant Jesus  
 Blessed Sacrament  
 St. Patrick-Pelham  
 St. Patrick-Nashua  
 St. John Neumann  
 St. Kathryn-Hudson  
 St. Thomas  
 St. Mary and Joseph  
 Pope St. John XXIII Seminary

We thank you for your financial and prayerful support!!

## With Our Gratitude ...

Pope St. John XXIII Seminary in Weston, MA recently reached out to schedule a St. Gianna's Place fundraiser with their staff and seminarians. It was a pleasant surprise to connect with them and share our mission.



Fr. William Murphy, PSJS spiritual director, Liz Neville, cofounder of St. Gianna's Place, and Bert Proulx, 3rd year seminarian.

## GRANTS

We are so grateful to be the proud recipient of the Bishop's Charitable Assistance Fund and the Dobles Grant to subsidize our operational expenses. This generous support allows us to further our mission of helping pregnant women in need and their children by offering them a home, and the love, compassion, and education they need to secure a bright future.

**Ways to Help ...** St. Gianna's Place would not be here if it were not for the generosity of our donors and volunteers. Please consider one of the following:

- Become a monthly donor
- Mail a check in the enclosed envelope
- Make an online gift via our website
- Matching gift through your employer
- Choose St. Gianna's Place in your United Way giving or Amazon Smile
- Check out our online Wish List
- Sponsor the education of a resident
- Gift cards for Market Basket/Walmart
- Make a gift or bequest in your will
- Foundation Grants/Endowment
- Become a volunteer