



## Feeling Blessed *with* God's Merciful Love!

I am writing from the New Hampshire Catholic Expo in Laconia, feeling so blessed to experience the richness of our Catholic faith in a public forum. It has allowed me time to continue my pondering on the goodness of God's merciful love, which has been our constant reflection this year. The fruits of His merciful love have been experienced at St. Gianna's Place in many ways. We were blessed to have three wonderful volunteers step forward to join our very active and involved Board of Directors: Michael Redding (our treasurer), Cindy Bortz and Tara Bishop. They are each a gift to us as we continue to manage our day-to-day ministry while maintaining our Catholic tradition.

The house is also full! We are housing six families - three pregnant and three parenting moms. They are developing as a community while working on their personal goals. It takes constant prayer, good communication, coordination and coverage to provide comprehensive support. We are so grateful for the dedication of the staff and the generosity of the volunteers that make this possible.

Thanks to the prayers of our supporters, our residents and our residence is covered with God's love and protection. Our residents have enjoyed the "Made for More" event that was held at St. Patrick's Parish in Pelham. This event followed a resident retreat with Fr. Volney De Rosia about the Eucharistic presence. The residents were then guests at our Annual Gala where they heard the words of Sr. Deirdre Byrne about God's merciful love. We were also showered with an abundance of love and attention for Mother's Day, from the very young (who offered their Lenten sacrifice to buy gifts for our moms), church groups (such as the Holy Spirit Parish in Keene who brought flowers, cards and donations), charitable organizations (such as the United Way whose volunteers made personal visits to the house) and to photographer Jennifer Hynes, who did free professional shoots of our moms and babies for the moms to have as keepsakes.

Thank you to the many members of the St. Gianna family who constantly remind us of God's merciful love. We are blessed indeed!

*Donna*

### Donor Teas!



We are very grateful to those who have consistently supported us financially and through prayer over these past four years. Without you, St. Gianna's Place simply could not exist. To show our gratitude, we are holding Donor Teas to give house tours, meet staff, and have conversation over tea and snacks. If you would like an invitation, please call or email us. We would love to get to know you better!

### Welcome, Jackson, to St. Gianna's Place!



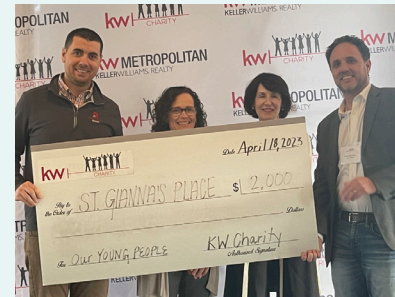
# We Love our Volunteers!



(Clockwise from left)  
 1-2) St. Matthew of Windham and St. Thomas Aquinas of Derry Youth Groups assembled baby bottles for parish baby bottle campaigns  
 3-5) St. Matthew Parish volunteers spent a recent morning doing a much needed spring clean up.



## Thank you donors!



In addition to Keller Williams Charity's generous donation, St. Gianna's Place is grateful for the following grants so far this year:

- Dobles Foundation
- New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
- The Angell Foundation
- Global Prairie Foundation

# Resident Spotlight: Meet Caroline

My name is Caroline and this is my story. I was homeless and as a result I was very unhealthy and mentally unstable. I felt like I was in a dark, dark place where no one understood me and no one knew how I felt. I was being controlled by my ex-boyfriend who spoke for me, so I had no voice. I slowly had erased who I really was.

When I was in recovery, a girl I lived with told me about St. Gianna's Place and how it was helpful for her. When I saw the place, I felt peace and acceptance. I felt like I was cared for for once in my life. It was a very happy feeling that made all my worries and everything that had been bothering me slowly fade away. I began to find my true self in a deeper and more meaningful way because of prayer and the programming offered at St. Gianna's Place. I also got outside counseling which helped me, too.

The workers here have been very helpful. Being a first-time mom is very scary. I had no idea how to take care of a child. But the staff gave me help because I had issues with my son trying to calm down. Being a new mom is stressful. I felt a lot of support here at St. Gianna's Place. All the work the staff does here is out of love and support.

I needed to build up healthy relationships. It's been very helpful to meet these other residents that are in the same boat as me. They have similar stories here so we have been able to connect with one another. St. Gianna's Place is a very loving family and a great place to make long-lasting friends.



Caroline



# House Happenings



## Gardening

Our flower boxes and patio planters are getting much-needed attention from resident, Victoria, staff member Meg Gaydos, and board member Cindy Bortz.

**“The Eucharist is the highway to heaven”**

- Blessed Carlo Acutis



## Spiritual Retreat

Recently, Father Von held the first-ever spiritual retreat for our residents and staff. He taught about adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and gave other inspiring teachings to help us grow in faith and love of the Lord. Afterwards, he consecrated St. Gianna’s Place to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Our home is now more blessed than ever! Thank you Father Von!

*“While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” Then Jesus took a cup, and after giving thanks, gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you: for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured for you for the forgiveness of sins.”*

(Mt 26:26-28)

## Sephania’s Successes

*Sephania is a true inspiration of perseverance for us all! She worked hard at her job outside of St. Gianna’s Place in addition to completing our program. She was able to move into her own apartment with her beautiful little girl to begin a new chapter of her life. Thank you to Bless this Home ministry for helping Sephania with the move-in and with the beautiful furnishings. May God continue to bless Sephania in all that she sets her sights upon.*

“Living at St. Gianna’s Place was the best thing that ever happened to me. Every morning when I woke up, I felt so happy and safe. I liked my friends at St. Gianna’s and they became family to me. I loved the way we were together, how we shared things, laughed together and supported each other. St. Gianna’s Place taught me how to be independent and how to take care of my baby. When I moved out to my new apartment it was hard at first because I missed St. Gianna’s and my family there. St. Gianna’s Place was my first real home. When I visit, I feel like I’m home again. The love is still the same there. If I need anything, the people there still help me. I feel blessed for having St. Gianna’s and will never forget it. I’ll always want my daughter to know where she was born. To the founders of St. Gianna’s Place, I want to say thank you and God bless you for all the women you’ve helped.”



# Banquet Gala 2023



Sr. Deirdre Byrne was the keynote speaker speaking about God's merciful love.

Former resident, Chloe, shares her testimony with the audience.



Join us for Rally for a Cause, a golf tournament to benefit St. Gianna's Place, on Thursday, August 31, 2023 at Nashua Country Club. The format will be a 9-hole scramble, 4 golfers per team. Greens fees are \$90 and include dinner and a cart. Visit our website at:

<https://stgiannasplace.org/golf-tournament> to learn more.

*"The more Eucharist we receive, the more we will become like JESUS"*

- Blessed Carlo Acutis

# Mother's Day at St. Gianna's Place

Thank you to Bar Harbor Bank and Trust employees, Joanne Tercho and Tiffany Law, who came to St. Gianna's to present flowers to each of our moms for Mother's Day (shown in photo below). In addition, parishioner, Cheryl Mihaly, from Parish of the Holy Spirit in Keene, came bearing flowers for all our moms on behalf of her parish. The residents were so appreciative of these kind acts.

Anne, a young donor, recently stopped over to give our moms her thoughtful and generous monetary gift. Jen Hynes volunteered her time and talent to take Mother's Day portraits of the residents. Anne's gift was able to then be used by the moms to purchase their keepsake photos. God is always at work in so many ways at our home! Thank you Ann and Jen!



## Our Board of Directors

- Monica Rahilly  
*President & Co-Founder*
- Liz Neville  
*Vice-President & Co-Founder*
- Celeste Horan *Secretary*
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- Maria Szemplinski  
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- Cindy Bortz *Board Member*
- Tara Bishop *Board Member*
- Elizabeth Breuder *Co-Founder*
- Rev. Volney DeRosia  
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