



A Grace-Filled Journey at St. Gianna's Place

As we come to the close of another year, I am humbled by God's goodness and His guidance in our lives. We at St. Gianna's Place have continued to experience change and growth. Our home continues to thrive as we are at near-capacity with six moms and seven children. St. Gianna's Place is a home brimming with new hope for the future and many learning opportunities. We have focused on education and how to discern God's word amid worldly chatter. With the help of our knowledgeable volunteers and skilled staff, we have focused our attention on basic life support skills (CPR/First Aid), Theology of the Body through orientation to the Creighton Fertility Model, sound nutrition (for ourselves and our children), establishing relationships with our children, gaining literacy (with English as a Second Language), enhancing our social skills, developing our parenting skills (using self-awareness and self-sacrifice) and grounding ourselves with our Lord in each moment of each day to open our hearts to His presence in our lives. The journey continues. Thank you to those of you who bring your prayers, time, knowledge and support to our efforts.

Blessings,
Donna

Save the Date!
St. Gianna's Place annual Spring Gala will take place on May 23rd, 2024 at the Event Center in Nashua.

John 3:16
For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

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!

Meet Our Newest Residents

Ashton Ashland Rose Lesley & Liam *Baby J.J.*
due in November

We Love our Volunteers!



(from left to right)

Alexis Hilborn has been a consistent volunteer helping with any task asked of her.

Corey Porembski cheerfully helps with building and grounds each week.

A wonderful crew of Thomas More College students arrived on short notice to help move a new piece of furniture.

Where do our donations go?

At St. Gianna's Place, being good stewards of our financial resources is important to us. Our generous donors have enabled us to make much-needed improvements to our kitchen like a new double oven and refrigerator. We will soon have a new floor in some rooms as well. Last spring, we were able to improve yard safety with the installation of a fence to keep busy toddlers in check. Lastly, we are working with the Diocese of Manchester to soon be owners of our house instead of tenants. We look forward to sharing good news in 2024!



Resident Spotlight: Meet Carolyn

My name is Carolyn and this is my story. After graduating from college, I found myself in serious financial difficulty because of student debt and because of the college's poor career guidance. Soon after, I found myself facing a profound moral dilemma. I was living in a women's sober house in New Jersey, far away from my family and hometown in New Hampshire. Here I was, pregnant, overwhelmed with fear and struggling to keep my head above water. The women I lived with in the sober house convinced me to make an appointment at Planned Parenthood.

On the day of the appointment, as I sat on my doorstep waiting for a ride service. It never arrived and I realized that this was no coincidence. God had intervened. But soon after, I was told to leave the house and I became homeless.

Alone and with nowhere to go, I saw no way out. I found myself in a park with my suitcase, looking up at the sky, deciding to surrender to God's will. It was then that I decided to confide in my sister, despite my shame. She flew me home to NH and I began the journey to healing and self-discovery.

My path led me to St. Gianna's Place; a place I never expected to find. Here, I discovered the care and support I needed to restore balance in my life. St. Gianna's Place provided not only a safe haven for my son and me but also the resources to succeed. I am now attending AA and have a sponsor. I have a bank account and am saving money for the first time. St. Gianna's has taught me about God and about the Catholic faith and I plan on getting baptized along with my son. St. Gianna's has taught me values and how to live with guidelines—something my life had lacked. Now I will raise my son with what I have learned and he will have a better life for it.

Looking at my son now, I am filled with love and awe. He is happy, healthy, and whole, and I have the privilege of being his mother. I find peace today by accepting the things I cannot change, having the courage to change the things I can, and being aware of the difference.



Carolyn

Christmas at St. Gianna's Place

Christmas is a beautiful and joy-filled time for all of us at St. Gianna's. At our annual party, we celebrate with friends, sing carols, and give thanks for all God has bestowed upon us. The precious babies in our midst are the poignant reminder of the Babe in the manger come to earth for love of each one of us.



Wish List

We are in great need of:

- **Gift cards from:** Market Basket, Amazon, Walmart
- **Baby bottles** - Dr. Brown brand
- **Diaper genie refills**
- **New bed pillows**
- **Paper towels & toilet paper**
- **Copier ink:** HP 64XL Black High-yield Ink Cartridges
- **Printer Ink:** Canon PG-245 XL Black Ink
Brother Genuine LC401XLBK High Yield Black Ink

Donations can be arranged for drop-off by calling (603) 521-8440



Thank you!

We, at St. Gianna's Place, are humbled to have been able to serve many families in 2023. We continue to thank God for providing the necessary means to do so.

- **Mothers we housed - 12**
- **Babies we housed - 8**
- **Graduated residents - 7**

We're so grateful for our mission and the help of our supporters!

2023 Snapshot



So Much to Celebrate!

Clockwise from left:

The moms and staff of St. Gianna's gather for resident Angelina's baby shower (pictured center).

Meko celebrates his first birthday with family, friends and Mom by his side.

Resident Sammy's baby shower brings big smiles.

Staff, residents, and Board members celebrate summer with a barbecue at Kathy Mahoney's house.



In Memoriam



It is with a heavy heart that we bid farewell to our dear colleague, Jaqueline (Jackie) Picken, who passed away in late August of this year. Jackie was an Overnight Staff person at the house, providing her warmth, firm faith and gentleness to everyone here. She would lead us in prayer during meetings and pray individually with residents at night. She left a profound impact on each of us. We know she is now our prayer warrior in heaven and are grateful for her continued care. May her soul rest in peace.

Welcome New Staff

We wish to thank *Mary Menendez*, who has recently resigned as part-time House Manager to start a family business. We wish her the best as she continues her new venture! We welcome *Kathryn McMillan* to St. Gianna's Place in the House Manager position who will be with us full-time to keep up with the bustling schedule at the house. *Danielle Schuh* is onboard as our newest Overnight Staff person. A very warm welcome to our new hires and thank you to all who have been a part of the St. Gianna's Place family.

Our Board of Directors

Monica Rahilly
President & Co-Founder

Liz Neville
Vice-President & Co-Founder

Celeste Horan Secretary

Michael Redding Treasurer

Kevin Cronin Board Member

Maria Szemplinski
Co-Founder & Board Member

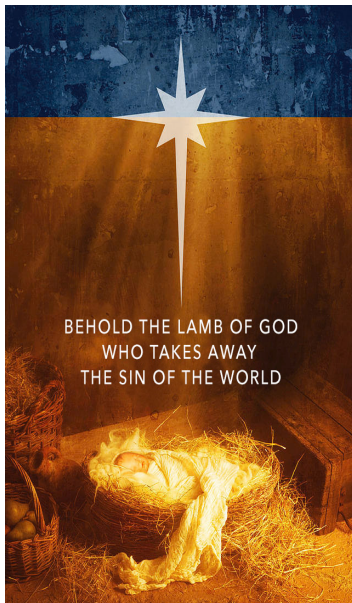
Cindy Bortz Board Member

Tara Bishop Board Member

Elizabeth Breuder Co-Founder

Rev. Volney DeRosia
Spiritual Director

Donna Meade Director



From a Former Resident...

"When I first came to St. Gianna's Place I was 7 months pregnant and homeless. I was so scared I was going to lose my baby because I didn't have the means to provide for him or any idea how I was going to be able to get all the things I would need. The staff at St. Gianna's gave me hope for my future and the stability to get things together so I could live on my own. I was given a baby shower to help me get the things I needed for my son. My son's father was excited to know that his son and I were safe and taken care of while we were getting our life together at St. Gianna's Place. I'm extremely grateful to have been given the opportunity to be there. The groups for the residents were also helpful to me. I loved the cooking class and counseling groups—those were my favorites. Although I was only at St. Gianna's for a little while, it made a huge positive impact on my life. I plan to go back to visit and keep in contact. I will recommend St. Gianna's Place for any woman in need because the impact it has made for me is unbelievable. I want to give a quick thank you to all the people who have donated to St. Gianna's Place that help make it the peaceful and amazing sanctuary that it is."

Rally for a Cause

On August 31st, the Nashua Country Club Women's Golf Organization held their annual Rally for a Cause benefit golf tournament. We are so grateful to have been chosen as this year's beneficiary. A special thanks to Dr. Ann Vermette and Jessica O'Neil, two members of the group as well as volunteers at St. Gianna's Place, who worked tirelessly to organize this event.



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A Safe Harbor For Mother and Child
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