



# A New Season of Opportunities

Dear Readers,

As you bask in the summer sun, this note was written during the Easter season with Spring's young growth heralding a new year of opportunity for St. Gianna's Place. This Easter season we have been blessed in abundance. We have witnessed many of our residents (babies, children, and moms) enter into the Catholic faith. There have been Baptisms, Confirmations, First Communions and First Reconciliations at the parish communities of St. Patrick's in Pelham and St. Aloysius in Nashua. The sacramental life of the Church enriches our home and the lives of the residents at St. Gianna's Place.

Along with these graces, we were blessed with the donation of a vehicle for staff to provide transportation for the many needs of our residents. God's blessings abound as He also helped us connect a donor with a former resident with the gift of a needed vehicle. Two of our current residents recently have acquired vehicles as well, and another is in the process of saving for one. Last but not least, one resident is working towards obtaining her driver's license with the hopes of having her own vehicle one day. Access to transportation can be a huge barrier for our residents but God makes the impossible, possible.

Childcare needs can also keep our families from moving forward. However, one resident succeeded in securing childcare and is now able to work in her field of interest. Other residents have learned that when they work in the childcare system, it can assist them in accessing it in a more affordable way. Currently, one of our residents is working at a childcare center and is able to be with her baby, and another is in the process of applying for a job there. Living at St. Gianna's Place, provides our mothers with the experience of working with a group of babies! Still another mother is working at her older child's school for a first-time job since her baby was born. It takes persistence and creativity for our residents to meet their goals and move forward, but with God all things are possible.

May He bless you this summer with His peace and joy!

**Donna Meade**

## 2024 Gala Banquet a Big Success!



Father Rory and auctioneer Daniel Horan have fun hamming it up.



Residents Carolyn and Caroline share their moving witnesses before a packed house.

## Thank You!

...to the following organizations for awarded grant money for St. Gianna's Place:

- Bishop's Charitable Assistance Fund
- Dobles Foundation
- BAE Systems, Inc.
- New Hampshire Charitable Foundation's Carol and Timothy Hoyt Charitable Fund



# We Love our Volunteers!



*(Left photo)* Rachel Veilleux has been an invaluable and reliable house monitor for several years. She is a compassionate and loving support for our moms, kids and staff. Rachel fills many roles at St. Gianna's Place including academic tutor, babysitter, and even fundraiser. Her sound insight has helped us to improve house regulations and policies, resulting in a safer and more secure home. Thank you, Rachel!

*(right photo)* The students at St. Thomas More College are always available to assist us, often on a moment's notice. They help with the hard stuff: moving refrigerators and heavy furniture, spring cleaning and yard work. They are not afraid to get dirty and we are grateful to them. Pictured here are Molly, Madeline, Thomas, and Patrick digging up sod for new plantings.



## Resident Spotlight: Meet Summer

*What did you think about motherhood and the baby when you were pregnant?*

I was thinking I should give some things up for him. So, I gave up video games because they didn't have value and I didn't feel good when I was playing them. I didn't want my son growing up watching me play violent video games—I didn't want his innocent little mind looking at that kind of thing. I also gave up some friends because my child comes first and because they were a bad influence in my life. I also gave up talking to guys because they're not really important right now.

*What has your experience of motherhood been now that your baby is born?*

I see how hard it is. I went through challenges like staying up all night feeding him and realizing it's not easy being a mother. But at the same time, I worked hard to stay positive, seeing his smile and hearing his laugh and his big ole eyes looking at me. I love holding him, rocking him and watching him sleep. He makes me feel proud that I am his mother and that I came this far. Then the baby's skin issues began and he was colicky. I had to change formulas multiple times to figure out what would work for him. It was a very emotional time for me because he was sick and screaming all the time. It made me feel very sad to watch him and it was hard to go through. Now that he's 5 months old, he has a helmet for his head that he has to wear most of the time. The helmet will shape his head the right way.

*Looking back, do you see any benefit to the challenges you've gone through?*

It's made me a better person. I used to be very negative before I had my baby, but being a mother made me open up and see what God can give you. I am very appreciative and grateful to God and St. Gianna's Place for giving me a roof over my head, support, and love. This is the first time in my life that people have shown that they love and care about me. I'm just very thankful.





# House Happenings

1. We hosted a residents' reunion several days after Christmas for past and present residents as well as staff and volunteers. It was a beautiful celebration of friendship as we shared food, sang Christmas carols, and reminisced. It was truly gratifying to hear about how the lives the our mothers have moved forward and to see how the children we knew as babies have grown!

2. Our popular cooking class has developed over time and has recently been enhanced to provide our residents with a wider range of life skills. The course now teaches nutrition, budgeting, food shopping, meal preparation, family style etiquette, and also encourages our moms to examine their relationship with food. The four hour class meets bi-monthly and is led by knowledgeable volunteers and staff who keep the the instruction lively, fun, and engaging, culminating in a family meal. Many thanks to Peter Mahoney, Matthew Leonelli, Juliana MacLeod, and staff members Kathryn McMillan, Kathy Mahoney, and Danielle Schuh for sharing their time and talents!

3. St. Gianna's Place is very grateful to Karen Oulette who recently donated her used car to us. Now our volunteers and staff are able to transport our residents and their children to school, the grocery store, appointments, etc. without having to use their own vehicles. It is the perfect car for our needs and we thank Karen for her generosity.

4. This beautiful statue of St. Joseph now graces a well-traveled corner of the house where all can see him regularly. He is a strong father figure for many of our mothers that may not have had a positive male in their lives. St. Joseph shows us his gentle masculinity as protector of family life, is a pillar of strength, and mirror of patience. We are grateful that God directed him to us. St. Joseph, pray for us!



**Join us for Rally for a Cause,  
a golf tournament to benefit  
St. Gianna's Place, on Aug. 28, 2024  
at Nashua Country Club. Please  
contact the office at 603-521-8440  
for more details.**



# Front Yard Facelift

We would like to recognize Laura Cramer, an intern at the UNH Extension Master Gardener Program, for initiating a much-needed landscaping improvement for our front yard. After raising the funding for this project herself, Laura planted flowers and bushes native to New Hampshire that provide food, nectar, and proper habitat for native pollinators. Our yard looks beautiful! Thank you, Laura, for all your hard work!



(above) Bill Neville gave his time and energy to remove stumps and old bushes to make room for the new plantings.

## Wish List

- Huggies Diapers – Sizes 5, 6, 7
- Paper Towels and napkins
- Liquid hand soap
- Method All-Purpose cleaner
- Tide PODS Free and Gentle
- Dawn Dish Soap
- Cascade Dishwasher Pods
- Baby Wipes
- Genie and Munchkin Diaper Pail Refills
- Swiffer Wetjet Solution (purple bottle)
- Copier ink: HP 64XL Black High-yield Ink Cartridges

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

# Growing in Faith

Over the past several months, the mothers at St. Gianna's Place have experienced the profound love of the Father. As a result, many have chosen to receive the sacraments of the Church, and to give this great gift to their children as well. Demonstrating the strong relationships that develop at St. Gianna's Place, the mothers frequently choose our volunteers or staff members as Confirmation sponsors and Godparents. We continue to be amazed at how the Holy Spirit works in our midst. We are grateful for the Father's abundant love for our mothers and babies.



Heidy returned to the Catholic faith after many years away. She chose baptism for both of her children. In addition, her daughter, Leslie received First Communion and Confirmation on Easter Sunday.



Alanna chose baptism for her daughter, Emma.



Carolyn was recently initiated into the Catholic Church, receiving Confirmation and First Communion while her son, Jaxson, was baptized.

## Our Board of Directors

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