



# St. Gianna's Place, Inc.

## A Safe Harbor For Mother and Child

Summer 2025

*Prayer is the Answer!*

We recently shared with each other quotes that we hold close to our hearts from mission trips we were on years ago. Celeste's came from children gathered in song and it is "Put your hand in my hand and we'll build together a new tomorrow." Donna's came from a mission leader who said, "We may spend one week working but we spend fifty-one weeks in prayer and preparation." It took 4 women 3 years of praying before they ever found a home to call St. Gianna's Place. Mother Teresa once said that if you can't pray for an hour every day because you are too busy, then pray for two hours! Prayer is the foundation of what we do as Christians.

We were recently reminded at our St. Gianna's Place retreat that we need to love God more than we love the work. It is impossible to form true relationships with those in need if we don't have a relationship with God, and relationships are built on communication. When we are working, we know that many of you - our prayer warriors - are keeping this ministry in your prayers. We receive emails from you reminding us that you are lifting us up during adoration and in your homes. We are blessed to have you and your prayers as a part of our ministry as we all work together to build a new tomorrow!

*- Celeste & Donna*



▲ Bobi is dressed for the holiday.



▲ Former resident, Christina is welcomed into the Church by Father Mike Zgonc, and sponsor, Chris Beliveau.

## So Much to Celebrate

The Easter season is always a time of great joy, but this year we had extra to celebrate as one of our former residents, Christina, entered fully into the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil at St. Mark Church in Londonderry. Long time volunteer Eileen Beliveau continues to be a steady support in Christina's life and she and her husband walked with Christina through the OCIA process.

The Easter festivities continued on Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday at St. Gianna's Place. The little ones participated in a backyard Easter



▲ Ellie enjoys Easter treats.

egg hunt and enjoyed a delicious meal with staff member, Meg, who oversaw the preparations. It was a wonderful celebration of the Resurrection.

And lastly, our residents enjoyed Mother's Day with each other and their children. We are all so grateful for the thoughtful cards and gifts that flowed in from so many in our community.



▲ Julia and Caroline enjoy flowers and gifts for Mother's Day.

## Resident Spotlight: *Meet Sam*

There were 2 things I didn't want to be: fat and sober. Pregnancy required both. But after getting married at 26 and being widowed at 29, I'd lost both my purpose and my will to survive. I figured reproduction would provide a legitimate reason to exist, so I got pregnant. After positive test results, I spent the entirety of the following months making doctors' appointments and attempting to find a treatment facility to help me stop using drugs. Still after two months, nobody would take me in. I was still using drugs with no hope in sight. I ended up asking for help at a nearby hospital where I finally got an ultrasound and was admitted to a recovery center. I delivered a beautiful, happy, healthy baby girl on August 20, 2024. I completed several rehab programs but still had nowhere to live. Confident in my sobriety, I prayed to God that I would find somewhere safe to bring my baby; a place to call home. I was terrified that all of my hard work of finally getting sober would be for naught. I shared my concerns with my Ob-Gyn and she told me about St. Gianna's Place. Hallelujah!! My prayers were answered!! Now, healthy and sober, I'm happier than ever. I owe substantial gratitude to the staff, volunteers, and donors here at St. Gianna's Place without whom, I fear, I wouldn't have had the legal right to raise my baby. I would have nowhere safe to bring her home, most likely would be broke, homeless, and certainly incapable of providing adequate care for her. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart.



Sam



Wish List



To be directed to our Wish List use this QR code or link:

<https://stgiannasplace.org/wish-list>

You may also call (603) 521-8440 for more information.



# Donations, Donations!

We are always heartened but never surprised when we receive exactly what we need for our home. Calls continually come in from big-hearted donors offering items like maternity clothes, diapers, and gently used high chairs and cribs. Business owners also offer essentials like new area rugs and even appliances. It all comes from the Hand of God. He knows exactly what we need, and His timing is perfect. Thank you to all our donors!



▲ St. Stanislaus' Knights of Columbus in Nashua recently purchased requested items from our Wish List.

▶▲ House Manager, Kathryn McMillan (R), receives baby supplies from Trinity High School's Campus Minister, Alana Babineau (L).

▶ Paul Roy, contractor volunteer (second from left), accepts donated flooring and area rugs from Essex Flooring of Salem, NH.



# We Love our Volunteers!



▶ Jane Hoyt is a valued childcare volunteer.

▶ St. Matthew's Parish volunteers spent a morning Spring cleaning.



▶ John Higgins has patiently spent hours restoring and painting our many kitchen cabinets.



# Testimonial



Carolyn, right, meets with Meg for Sunday Mass with son, Jax.

During my time at St. Gianna's, I accomplished more than I ever thought possible. I earned my driver's license and completed parenting and religious education classes. With St. Gianna's support, I found employment and secured childcare. A staff member even drove me back and forth to work until I was able to save enough money to buy my own car.

I was baptized while at St. Gianna's, along with my son. My son's God-mother, Meg, is one of the amazing staff members who is now a vital, positive influence in both our lives and is the most important relationship I have today. I have gained a family, my St. Gianna's family.

I continued my education and became a certified recovery coach. Today, I have a fulfilling career as a peer support counselor. I've completed multiple certifications and now work with the City of Nashua to support people facing homelessness and addiction. I believe I am doing God's work and would not be here without the foundation that St. Gianna's provided. "Where God Guides, God Provides."

I am forever grateful to St. Gianna's Place because they helped me rebuild my life, strengthen my faith, and become the mother, woman, and leader I always knew I was meant to be.

Carolyn



# Spring Gala

Our recent Spring Gala was a huge hit! From raffles, live and silent auctions, to engaging speakers, good food and great friends, a wonderful evening was enjoyed by all!



# Spring Retreat

The Saturday morning before Holy Week, staff, board members, volunteers, and a former resident came together at Ste. Marie Parish in Manchester for our bi-annual retreat. Spiritual Director Father Von DeRosia offered Holy Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and praise and worship music. Additionally, all present were spiritually enriched as our invited speaker, Justine Dufour, gave a reflection on keeping Christ at the center of our ministry. Our morning ended with a beautiful testimony by staff member Meg Gaydor explaining the impact St. Gianna's Place has had on her life. We are blessed beyond measure at the continued outpouring of God's graces upon this ministry!

# Welcome New Babies!



Welcome Bobi (in photo), Rosita, and Baby W!



## Our Board of Directors

- Liz Neville .....*President & Co-Founder*
- Tara Bishop .....*Secretary*
- Michael Redding .....*Treasurer*
- Kevin Cronin .....*Board Member*
- Melissa Kalpakgian .....*Board Member*
- Rachel Veilleux.....*Board Member*
- Celeste Horan.....*Director of Operations*
- Donna Meade.....*Director of Residential Services*
- Elizabeth Breuder .....*Co-Founder*
- Monica Rahilly .....*Co-Founder*
- Maria Szemplinski .....*Co-Founder*
- Rev. Volney DeRosia ..*Spiritual Director*

