



• MERRY •  
*Christmas*  
and Happy New Year

# A Year of Abundance

At the Maternal Housing Conference in Louisiana last year, I was given one word to reflect on: abundance. I had never thought about this word before, but I spent the year reflecting on this word as it relates to God in my life. That word changed my perspective in so many ways!

I had always put limits on God, but in reflecting on His abundance, I was immediately brought to humility. How great is our God! Is there anything else we truly need? Our Blessed Mother knew this about our Heavenly Father. When asked to be the Mother of Our Lord, she didn't understand, but she knew of God's abundance. She based her answer not on absence, but on God's presence in every aspect of her life and she said "yes".

At St. Gianna's Place, we rely heavily on God's abundance, and He does not disappoint. Our gratitude to you, our volunteers, prayer warriors and donors, goes deep. God continues to meet our every need through your prayers and presence. We do everything in His name and for His greater glory. We offer His love and grace to those who come to us in need. He is the change agent; we are His vessels.

May the love and presence of the Christ child bring you hope and joy this Christmas and may you recognize His abundant love and mercy throughout the New Year.

God bless you and yours,

*- Donna*



## We Love Our Volunteers!

Laurie Watkins has been an invaluable member of the St. Gianna's Place Family for many years. She runs our Parenting Journey class where residents come to understand their value as women and mothers, been the force behind the banquet committee's ability to gain sponsorships, and has assisted in the writing of an important, much-needed grant. Her cheerful disposition and her ability to engage deeply with others allows the women to feel their God-given dignity. Former residents remember her impact as they move forward with the struggles of daily life. Thank you, Laurie, for all you do and for all you are.

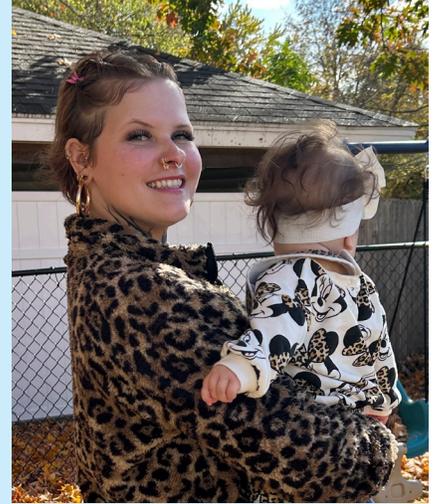


Paul Roy has been a longtime, selfless volunteer using his carpentry and handyman gifts to make our home both safe and beautiful. Whether it's checking smoke detector batteries, hanging new light fixtures, or overseeing hired contractors, he is a constant presence at St. Gianna's Place. The little boys of the house are often seen following Paul around and "helping" him with his tools. We love you, Paul!!



## Resident Spotlight: *Meet Kelsey*

Hi, My name is Kelsey. I have been a resident at St. Gianna's Place since October 2024. Before I got pregnant, I was living what I thought to be my "best life." I had a decent job in a factory, a room that I was renting, and a boyfriend who I would go drink with. Within a couple of months my whole world got turned upside down. I lost everything. I was so lost and broken. In the midst of all this, I also found out I was pregnant. I was so shocked – I was not ready to have a baby. While being homeless, I ended up back at one of my old foster homes sleeping on a couch. I knew I couldn't stay there long so I started looking for other places to go. Unfortunately, I couldn't find any shelters with openings. I felt so defeated and worthless. I come from a broken family so being in situations like this really hurt me. I've always felt so unlovable and so alone my entire life. To be honest, I had lost my way with God for a couple of years. During my struggle, I didn't know what else to do so I decided to turn to God again and pray. The next day, a friend told me about St. Gianna's Place. I decided to call and a woman named Donna answered. After telling her my situation and having an interview, I received a call from Donna a couple of days later telling me that they would love for me to come live at St. Gianna's Place. I felt so much joy and a sense of security knowing that me and my daughter had somewhere to call home. I just knew God was watching out for me. He knew I needed my daughter and that I needed to rest and to focus on what matters most – my faith and my daughter, Rosie. I might have lost my faith for a little while but God knew I would come back to Him. Rosie is my world and without St. Gianna's Place I would still be lost. Living here has brought me closer to God. I am so thankful for everyone who supports St. Gianna's Place. Without you guys this place wouldn't exist. God bless everyone and thank you for giving me this opportunity to reset my life.



*Kelsey*

*Thank you!*

We are grateful to God for giving us the means in the form of dedicated staff and financial support to serve those most vulnerable—mothers and their babies. Thank you to all of our supporters!

- Mothers we housed - 7
- Children we housed - 7
- Graduates - 5
- Former residents still in contact - 11
- Telephone outreach & support - 29

*2025 Snapshot*

To be directed to our Wish List use this QR code or link:  
[stgiannasplace.org/wish-list](https://stgiannasplace.org/wish-list)

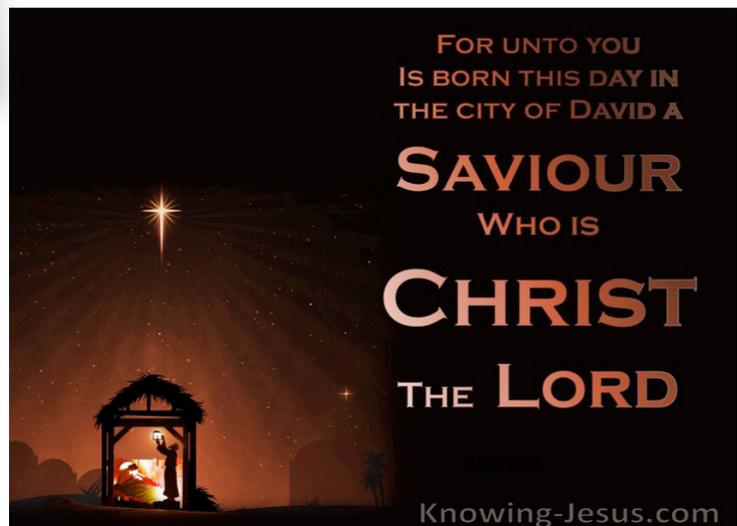


You may also call  
(603) 521-8440  
for more information.

*Wish List*

## Save the Date!

St. Gianna's Place annual Spring Gala will take place on May 28th, 2026 at the Castleton Banquet and Conference Center located in Windham, NH. Keep an eye on our website, [Stgiannasplace.org](https://stgiannasplace.org), for ticket sales and more information.



# Joyful Farewells

Three of our moms have recently received keys to their new apartments. During their time at St. Gianna's Place they all experienced the birth of a child, attended our in-house life skills classes, and have grown in their knowledge and love of God. Each has either obtained steady employment or is completing a certificate program. We are very proud of these beautiful young mothers for working so hard to achieve their dreams, and we wish them well as they step into independent living.



▲ Erika and her two daughters also moved into a new apartment.



▲ Paul Swope, friend of St. Gianna's Place, helps Carolyn move into her new place.



▲ Caroline receives help on move-in day from friends, Peter and Kathy Mahoney.



▲ Volunteer Joe Palfini surprised Carolyn with newly refinished table and chairs. (with friend, Meg Gaydos)

## From the President...

On behalf of St. Gianna's Place, I wish you a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas. As I reflect on the past twelve months, I am amazed and humbled by all that God has provided:

Since this time last year, we have welcomed two new board members. Silvia Croteau and Rachel Veilleux bring many gifts and talents to our ministry, and we thank God for these two women who round out our already capable Board of Directors.

Additionally, during 2025, our board took on the task of updating our strategic plan. Melissa, along with help from our Operations Manager, Celeste Horan, and board treasurer, Mike Redding, planned and organized this productive initiative. Fruits of our strategic plan include a new theme of "rest, recover, and rebuild" to guide us in our daily work, and the decision to focus on strengthening and deepening our existing program.

As we look ahead, we are filled with gratitude and hope. Our beloved Director of Resident Services, Donna Meade, will retire in 2026. In this new season, we are preparing to restructure staffing and hire an executive director.

And last, but certainly not least, by the time you read this we hope to have signed a purchase and sale agreement with the Diocese for our home. We have been happily leasing this property since St. Gianna's Place opened in 2019, and are thrilled to finally call it ours.

We thank God for all He has done over the past year, and we look forward to His continued blessings in 2026.

- Liz

## Baby Bottle Campaign



The St. Gianna's Place baby bottle campaign is one of our favorite fundraisers. Over the past seven years, 18 parishes in the Diocese of Manchester have allowed our volunteers to hand out baby bottles to their parishioners who then return them with donations that help fund our ministry.

We want to thank the many priests who allow this fundraiser in their parishes for their ongoing support and steadfast generosity. We also owe a debt of gratitude to our volunteers who put in hours of time and effort to manage this fundraiser. Many thanks to the parishes and volunteers listed below:

**Our Lady of Mercy - Merrimack**

**St. Aloysius Gungalaz - Nashua**

**St. Catherine - Manchester**

**St. Francis - Litchfield**

*Laura and Chris Gandia*

**Holy Rosary - Hooksett** *Tony Noce*

**St. John Baptist - Suncook**

*Barbara Donovan*

**St. Joseph - Epping** *Respect Life Committee*

**St. Jude - Londonderry** *Karen Gleason*

**St. Kathryn - Hudson** *Deacon Ray Marcotte*

**Ste. Marie - Manchester** *Debbie Thibault*

**Sts. Mary and Joseph - Salem**

*Rachel Veilleux*

**St. Matthew - Windham**

**St. Patrick - Nashua** *Mike Dangel*

**St. Patrick - Pelham** *Donna Smith*

**St. Peter - Auburn** *Celeste Horan*

**St. Stanislaus - Nashua**

**St. Thomas - Derry**

**St. John Neumann - Merrimack**



## Our Staff - Our Heatbeat

HI! My name is Alexis and I have had the honor of working as a resident services assistant at St. Gianna's Place for the past year and a half. Serving women who have chosen life for their children has brought countless graces to my own life. During my time at St. Gianna's Place, I have seen hearts softened, emotional healings, and souls turned back to Christ. I have also witnessed the baptisms of three children, one adult, and a birth by C-Section. I frequently find myself in prayer for the staff, volunteers, board, and residents of St. Gianna's Place and I am filled with awe of what God has done here and continues to do for us each and every day. Working at St. Gianna's Place has empowered me to follow my dream of becoming a certified doula, allowing me to further serve women inside and outside of this house. Each and every person who has crossed my path here at St. Gianna's Place will forever have a place in my heart and I will always be grateful for the time I have spent serving at such a beautiful home.

## House Happenings

### Vehicle Scholarship Program (1)

Two years ago, St. Gianna's Place was able to establish a vehicle scholarship program for its residents thanks to the generosity and vision of one of our donors. To date, we have successfully matched four residents with well-maintained used cars. A qualified resident with a driver's license can request up to \$1500.00 toward the purchase of an approved car or toward the repair of a car that she has purchased.

Additionally, thanks to our friends at Driving Legends NH, St. Gianna's now offers driving lessons to residents wanting to get their licenses.

This important initiative has been life changing for our moms. Having their own cars significantly improves the quality of their lives as it provides the flexibility and freedom for stable housing, employment, daycare, and other valuable opportunities.

You can support this program in three ways. If you have a used vehicle in good condition that you would be willing to either donate or sell for a reasonable price, we will connect you with an eligible resident. If you would like to contribute to the scholarship fund, you can make your donation to St. Gianna's Place and earmark that donation for the Vehicle Scholarship Fund. Finally, please keep this initiative in your prayers, asking God's continued blessing on our work.

### CPR Training (2)

Recently, Andrew Thibault visited St. Gianna's to offer CPR training to residents and staff. All who participated are now certified in the American Red Cross adult and pediatric first aid, CPR, and AED. Thank you, Andrew, for donating your time and talent to St. Gianna's Place!

### New Mini-Split System (3)

The hot summer days were considerably more comfortable for our moms and babies thanks to the continuous generosity of our many donors. Mini splits were installed throughout the house in late spring just in time for the humid weather. We are so grateful for this much-needed house improvement.

