

St. Gianna Women's Homes
Catholic Social Services
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No Greater Love

The Quarterly Newsletter of St. Gianna Women's Homes of Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska

TRUE ROLE MODELS FOR THOSE THEY SERVE

Lovely Lady Dressed in Blue

Lovely Lady dressed in blue ----
Teach me how to pray!
God was just your little boy,
Tell me what to say!

Did you lift Him up, sometimes,
Gently on your knee?
Did you sing to Him the way
Mother does to me?

Did you hold His hand at night?
Did you ever try
Telling stories of the world?
O! And did He cry?

Do you really think He cares
If I tell Him things-
Little things that happen? And
Do the Angels' wings

Make a noise? And can He hear
Me if I speak low?
Does He understand me now?
Tell me ---- for you know?

Lovely Lady dressed in blue ----
Teach me how to pray!
God was just your little boy,
And you know the way.

Written by Mary Dixon Thayer



Artwork created by St. Gianna

Our wonderful Marian Sisters at St. Gianna Women's Homes live these virtues every day. With humility, grace, and beauty they have been working on the front lines during this pandemic still caring for the women and children under their protection. It is humbling to see their strength on a daily basis. We ask you for your prayers for them. And we ask you for your continued financial support to ensure that they are able to bring Mary and Jesus to the women and children they serve.

Be proud of our Sisters Bernadette, Karen, and Carol!!! They are resilient heroes and are strong role models for all of the women and children they serve.

Thank you for your support of St. Gianna Women's Homes. And thank you for your faith in Jesus Christ! May God bless and keep all of us.

Cheers,
Fr. Justin Fulton
Executive Director, Catholic Social Services

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Here is your copy of *No Greater Love*



PROVIDING A LEGACY OF LOVE FOR ST. GIANNA WOMEN'S HOMES (CONTINUED)

her that night that if they were married, he wouldn't leave her, so why would he leave her now. They were married ten months later at St. Angela Merici Church in Brea, CA. At the time, the doctors told Sean and Elizabeth that it would be a risk to have children given the amount of chemotherapy, but Elizabeth wanted to try anyway, and they had two healthy children thanks be to God. Unfortunately, Elizabeth's cancer returned one year after arriving in Lincoln, and since that time over ten years ago, she had been all over the world seeking treatments.

In 2017, Sean went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Fr. Kubat along with 20 other pilgrims including St. Gianna's daughter, Gianna Emanuela. This was Sean's first time learning about the story of St. Gianna and how she chose to deliver her baby, Gianna, despite the risk associated with

having a cancerous tumor on her uterus. Gianna Emanuela survived but St. Gianna passed away a week after the delivery.

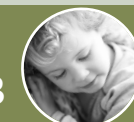
When Elizabeth heard her story, she became aware of all that Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska and St. Gianna Women's Homes were doing to help so many courageous young women in Southern Nebraska. She wanted to do her part to help them. Sadly, Elizabeth passed away on January 1st 2020, and asked that people donate to St. Gianna Women's Homes in lieu of flowers. Over \$5,000 was raised at the time of the funeral, and Sean matched those donations for the benefit of St. Gianna Women's Homes. Elizabeth's legacy will continue to help many women receive the care and support they need while facing their unique challenges with faith and courage.



MATCHING GIFTS ALLOW YOU TO DOUBLE YOUR GIFT

Many companies offer a Matching Gift program through which they will match an employee's charitable contribution. Often it's as simple as completing a form... that's it! That may be all it takes for your gift to be doubled (in some cases, *tripled*) with no extra cost to you. Check with your employer or your spouse's employer to see if they offer a Matching Gift program. If your company is eligible, request a matching gift form from your employer, fill it out and send it to us... we'll do the rest! If you have questions regarding monetary or matching gifts, contact Michelle Birkel, Advancement Director, at (402) 327-6235 or email her at mbirkel@cssisus.org.

Thank you for bringing Hope in the Good Life!



A FRIEND IN NEED IS A FRIEND INDEED

On May 13, 2020, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, we celebrated our ninth anniversary of opening the doors at St. Gianna Women's Homes. As we look back to those first weeks and months we have many unforgettable and interesting memories. Some we have a good laugh over, others we keep "in house". All in all it has been a wonderful nine years.

But now, as we step into our tenth year, with masks on our faces, social distancing and signs all over the place with reminders of washing hands and using hand sanitizer, one wonders what memories we will have from this COVID-19 experience. There is a sign on our front door stating "NO VISITORS", the playroom is closed, women are asked not to visit each other's rooms, and our private conferences with the ladies now are via texting or phone conversations. The ladies have been wonderful under all these constraints, but they are, like so many, showing signs of being weary of it all and becoming lonely and depressed. COVID-19 is taking its toll on everyone.



Our wonderful volunteers and friends have repeatedly called, asking what they can do to help. Cash and gift cards for groceries have been coming in on a regular basis and distributed to the ladies. How grateful the ladies are since some have either lost their jobs or were laid off when the pandemic took hold. Thanks be to God for all his blessings in this time of need.

On May 1, May baskets appeared for each family and darling soft, cuddly stuffed animals found their way to St. Gianna. On Mothers' Day each lady received a bottle of Mary Kay perfume. Household items have been coming in from several parishes. All of these are from friends, volunteers and strangers. The women cannot believe the generosity to them from total strangers. Most have not seen this much kindness and love in their lives and they are totally amazed by it all.

What is really totally amazing, however, is that St. Gianna even exists since it depends on donations to stay in operation. For nine years the wonderful people of the Lincoln Diocese have made it possible for women to escape domestic violence and the horrors of abortion. Thank you!!! Thank you!!!

In the next few weeks we will be taking in four new families. With all the COVID-19 restrictions, it will be especially hard for them to make this transition. Please pray for them that between the masks and the sanitizer they will feel welcomed. Thank you all again for being such good friends with your prayer support as well as your material and financial support. Be assured that you are remembered daily in our prayers. Stay healthy and God Bless You.

Sr. Bernadette Radek, M.S.

PROVIDING A LEGACY OF LOVE FOR ST. GIANNA WOMEN'S HOMES

This spring, Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska was honored to receive a \$10,000 gift in memory of Elizabeth Quigley. Elizabeth passed away on January 1, 2020 after a courageous battle with cancer. Donated by her husband Sean and children Chad and Megan, as well as from memorials, this generous donation will support women and children at St. Gianna Women's Homes, a cause near and dear to Elizabeth's heart.

Since 2011 direct client assistance has been provided to victims of domestic violence through St. Gianna Women's Homes. St. Gianna's consists of a range of services for women and their children escaping domestic violence and other forms of abuse and control. It includes a 24-unit long-term housing complex. These fully-furnished units are designed to give women and their families the time and support they need before transitioning into permanent housing. In addition to housing, CSS provides education, employment, and counseling services for families left homeless because of domestic violence.

Elizabeth Quigley was born in Los Angeles, CA on July 5, 1961 to loving parents Gerald and Mary Nash, and she and her husband, Sean, moved to Lincoln, NE in August 2009. Their children, Chad and Megan, attended St. Joseph Catholic School and Pius X High School, and Elizabeth worked in the St. Joseph Parish office and was also the Director of Stewardship for the Parish.



Elizabeth Quigley

St Gianna Women's Homes was very close to Elizabeth's heart for many reasons. The week Elizabeth met Sean in 1993, she was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 32. On their second date, she told Sean the news, and told him that she would be going through radiation and chemotherapy treatments and did not expect him to stay with her. Sean told

(Continued on back page)

PROVIDING MORE THAN A SECURE HOME

During this time of COVID-19, social distancing, community restrictions and graduated reopenings, a lot remains uncertain. One thing that is certain is that each of us has been affected by this virus. Maybe not physically contracting it, but we all are responding to it in some way, shape or form, in order to protect ourselves and our loved ones. We are staying home, wearing masks, zooming with family and friends, schooling our children, working remotely, watching more Netflix.

For women who experience domestic abuse and violence, they are doing similar activities. They are also isolating, social distancing, quarantining. However, such seemingly "safe" measures may now actually increase their risk of harm to themselves or their children. Women who are in abusive relationships may have fewer social outlets and limited opportunities to seek help. Such confinement may increase the intensity of the abuse inflicted. There is added stress within the home environment due to children not being able to be in school, not being able to be with friends, not being able to be in recreational activities. Along with the pandemic has come financial changes and challenges, perhaps in the form of decreased working hours or pay or loss of employment. Maybe their abuser is the primary source of income for them and their family.

Research indicates that approximately three out of four Americans personally know someone who is or has been a victim of domestic violence. Domestic violence hotlines receive approximately 21,000 calls per day, approximately 15 calls every minute. Psychologically, domestic victimization is correlated with a

higher rate of depression and suicidal behavior. Further, 1 in 15 children are exposed to intimate partner violence each year, and 90% of these children are eyewitnesses to this violence. And on a single day in 2015, 21 Nebraska domestic violence programs served 472 victims, survivors, and their children. Another 105 were turned away due to lack of resources.

St. Gianna Women's Home is one such program that strives to fill this need and provide the necessary resources to victims of domestic violence and those escaping abortions. In addition to providing a safe and secure home, St. Gianna's also supports the spiritual and psychological needs of the women. A chapel with the Blessed Sacrament is part of the residency and women are welcome to visit anytime. Counseling services are made available through the Immaculate Heart of Mary Counseling Center and provided without cost to the women.

During this pandemic, it is ever more important that we are continuing to provide support to women who are in abusive relationships and unsafe environments. As St. Gianna gave her life for her children, these women too are making tremendous sacrifices for their children to protect them and to give them a better life. Thank you for your continued generosity in financial support and for your continued prayers for our work and for giving hope to these women and their children.

Dr. Courtney Miller, Director of Clinical Services
Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska

1 Statistical information obtained from National Coalition Against Domestic Violence at www.ncadv.org

