

Hello. My name is _____ **. I am a (volunteer, director, supporter/donor _____) for St. Gianna Crisis Pregnancy Home which opened its doors in Bowling Green, KY on August 20, 2024 and is located on Holy Spirit Catholic Church property.

St Gianna CPH is a non-profit, faith-based residential program that falls under Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro. Our mission is to help the pregnant woman in crisis who has chosen life for her unborn child by striving to provide her support, spiritual guidance, a safe and nurturing environment, and life skills to achieve independence. This crisis could be due to being unhoused or living in an unsafe situation. The goal of the program is to give a participant in our program a secure, loving place where she has a chance for a healthy pregnancy. The plan is to offer her life skills and resource knowledge she will need to transition out of the home to a new life in stable housing.

St. Gianna Crisis Pregnancy Home began when a group of members from Holy Spirit and St. Joseph churches felt a call to open a residential program. They prayed about it and investigated the region's need and found that, according to local doctors, community agencies and organizations, there was indeed a great need for such a home in Warren County. Pregnant women were discovered couch surfing, sleeping in cars, and one woman was found living in an unheated shed right before the December 2022 freeze.

Although we are a Catholic home, we welcome expectant mothers regardless of their religious beliefs, ethnicity, or location. We will provide most of the basic day-to-day needs of the women and their infants who may stay for up to 8 months after delivery at no cost to them. If the child is no longer in her care, she may stay up to six weeks after delivery. Some of the things provided are: housing, evening meals, linens, toiletry products, wipes, diapers, maternity and infant clothing, and in-house life skill classes. Parenting, infant care, household budgeting, property rental, writing resumes, job interviewing, and sewing are a few of the classes that will be offered.

As the mental and emotional well-being of the mothers-to-be is a primary concern, each woman is also provided a 1-on-1 Mentor to help her navigate a positive new path, helping her to set goals and strive towards reaching those goals. Mentors will meet with their assigned participant once a week to guide and encourage them along their journey.

St Gianna CPH is a working program so, all participants who have no health restrictions are required to have a job or be going to school. Staff will assist them in applying for either.

All positions at St Gianna CPH, except for the Housemothers are volunteer, from the board of directors to the house and committee directors and their teams. We have dedicated house directors who will be in charge of the day-to-day operations of the house and committees for fundraising, agency resources, communications, operations, mentoring, spirituality, and volunteerism.

There are many volunteer opportunities available to support the home and its participants. Some include: teaching a life skills class, transporting participants to doctor's appointment, organizing a baby bottle or diaper drives, yard maintenance, post flyers, or even hosting a game night. All volunteers who will be inside the home or have face-to-face contact with participants must be female and will be required to have a background check and other trainings and certifications that can be done on line. We welcome men to serve in other ways such as in communications, house maintenance and repairs, development, and resources. Volunteers do not have to be Catholic. We want this home to be a unifying program bringing people together from all walks of life and faiths to support pregnant women facing life obstacles and difficulties.

The estimated to cost to house six women, our maximum capacity, and their infants for a calendar year is \$180,000. This includes, rent, the housemother's salary and all operational expenses to provide support and run the home. Towards securing those funds, we actively fundraise throughout the year through our Do a 180 three-year planned giving campaign, grant applications, an annual gala event, and online giving. We also rely on the generosity of those who make in-kind donations such as diapers, formula, household cleaning products, gift cards for maternity and infant clothing, and other household and office supplies.

As you can see, operating a crisis pregnancy home is challenging, expensive and takes a whole community effort to successfully fulfill its mission. By supporting this home, you would help expectant moms in crisis turn their lives around and give them a strong and solid foundation to build their family on.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today about our home, the great need that exists for it here in our region, and the positive impact that contributions of time, talent, and treasure will have on the women and babies served by our program. If you have any questions about St. Gianna Crisis Pregnancy Home or would like more information on volunteering or how you can financially support these pregnant women in crisis, please see me after the (Service, program). Thank you.