

# LETTERS FROM HOME

FOR THE FRIENDS OF GIANNA HOMES

serving our community since 1999

## Angels Among Us Volunteer: Deacon Francis Tangney

By Claire Klein, Program Director

Seven years ago, I connected with Deacon Francis. He expressed interest in providing residents with spiritual care as his friend, Deacon Richard Broich, had lived here years before. During our volunteer training, he shared that he was familiar with BeFriender ministry, and he loved being able to hear people's stories. Since then, he has been witness to a number of our residents' lives, families, and stories.

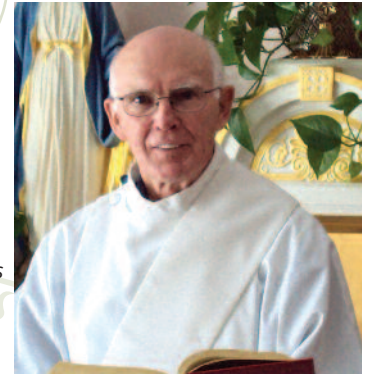
One family member, Karen Strachota (now herself a Gianna volunteer!), remembered Deacon Francis and her dad, Sylvester, in this way: *[Deacon Francis] was just such an overwhelming part of our time there that it is hard to pinpoint [one memory]. His humility, compassion, and patience was palpable anytime my dad and I had the blessing to be with him. His quiet and prayerful demeanor was so calming for me during my dad's last years, months and days. When I think of Deacon Francis, I think of St. Mother Teresa's words, "Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love."*

Indeed, it is with great love that Deacon Francis leads communion service in our Sursum Corda chapel every other Thursday. Our motto for these services is "Full and active participation!" Each resident has an opportunity to do the reading for the day, participate in the creation of the homily, and share their prayer concerns. These are certainly holy moments where we see the true essence of our residents shine through.

On the opposite weeks, Deacon Francis rides in on his bicycle and takes the residents for a walk in their wheelchairs, usually singing all the way. Residents return with a big smile and may be even a blossom they picked along the way. Deacon Francis takes the time to chat with those who are not up for an outing that afternoon, sharing their own little private jokes and asides.

It was with great joy that we awarded the Angels Among Us Volunteer Appreciation Award to Deacon Francis Tangney on the night of our gala, October 27.

Deacon Francis, Angels Among Us Volunteer Appreciation Award Winner



Leading mass with Fr. Jerome Fehn in honor of St. Gianna's feast day



Deacon Francis connects with all of our residents with a gentleness of heart



Carol and Francis start a kick line!



# An Artist for Life: Mary Ellen's Journey to Gianna Homes

## Creating through the Years

Mary Ellen Haggerty was destined to be an artist. Born in Wyandotte, Michigan, a city just outside of Detroit, she was surrounded by a family of creatives. Her father, a wholesale meat salesman and an accomplished photographer, often employed Mary Ellen as his assistant when he went on photo shoots. She speaks in admiration of his keen eye for nuances of color and talent for great composition. Her mother ran a bakery, a place where Mary Ellen recalls the smell of fresh bread baking in the early mornings and the texture of dough after a long kneading process by hand.



During her youth, Mary Ellen attended St. Francis Xavier Catholic School, situated along the Detroit River. Upon graduating, she attended Michigan State University, where she studied art. Her talent, intelligence, and beauty led her to win the university's "Beauty and Brains" collegiate pageant, allowing her to compete for the national title.

Mary Ellen graduated from college in 1957 and soon found herself teaching art classes at a university out East. It was there she further developed her talents as an artist. From canvas painting and pottery, to porcelain painting, sewing, cooking, and jewelry creation, Mary Ellen didn't meet a fine art she didn't like. A frequent traveler, she was known to fly regularly to China, which maintains the centuries-old secret ingredient to making high quality porcelain. Her talent and drive to keep bettering her skills made her an excellent



teacher, and her knowledge led her to write several books and open her own art studio where she taught classes.

Mary Ellen's hobbies outside of the arts are equally



impressive. She was a talented downhill skier, winning several medals and awards for her talents. This was something she shared with her loving partner Mohammed Allie "Ali" Kalish. She loved skiing so much, they built her a sauna outside her home to warm up and relax after a long day outside.



Loved by three children, and three partners over the decades, Mary Ellen was never short on things to do. She enjoyed staying as busy as possible, and still does today. It was during one of these such busy days that her first symptoms of dementia were observed. In 2007, a student in her pottery class noticed Mary Ellen had forgotten to fire up the pottery kiln overnight, and their clay creations were still sitting there wet. This was highly unlike her and raised a red flag regarding her health. From there, the symptoms increased and her forgetfulness became a pattern. It was also during this time her partner, Ali, was diagnosed with cancer. Not wanting to be parted from her, Ali made his family promise that Mary Ellen would stay with him in their home until he passed away, and that promise was kept. When Allie passed away in April 2017, Mary Ellen moved into Gianna Homes a few weeks later.

Gianna Homes has been the perfect place for Mary Ellen. It was chosen for its low staff-to-patient ratio, its one-on-one individualized care, daily activities, and its truly home-like setting. Mary Ellen's bedroom even closely reflects what it was like in her room before and brings her a sense of comfort in a relatively new place.

Her passion for art and her beautiful personality have made her a fantastic addition to the Gianna family. At Sursum Corda, you can even see a portrait of flowers on the wall she painted, a truly perfect piece for her new home.





# Programming Highlight: Trip to Apple Jack Orchards

By Claire Klein, Program Director

Nothing says “fall” like fresh apples, pumpkins, and changing leaves. Early in October, I accompanied residents from both homes to Apple Jack Orchards. The residents lit up as they peeped at the brilliant fall foliage along Highway 55. We were delighted to meet up in the café where we sampled different types of apples, cider, and apple baked goods. The apple donuts and the Sweetango apples were our favorites. We got a smile from watching some of the students there for a field trip and a chance see the rabbit, goats, and sheep.

Not only did we get to engage in the fall atmosphere, but we also got to connect with old friends! We were met at the door

by one of our former family members, Kit Dekarski. Her dad, Dr. Jack Kelly, started Apple Jack Orchards as a passion project after retiring from his work as a psychiatrist. He spent his final months as a resident at Gianna Homes. One of our residents recognized Kit right away and remembered her dad as “a good guy.”

We were thrilled to have enjoyed a beautiful autumn day with good friends and good food!



*Curious goats at Apple Jack Orchards*



*Darlene and her daughter check out the pumpkins.*



*Many apple-tastic treats at Apple Jack Orchards!*



*Gianna Homes staff member Emily helps Catherine sample the cider.*



*Catching up with former family member Kit at Apple Jack Orchards.*

## Volunteer Spotlight

By Claire Klein, Program Director

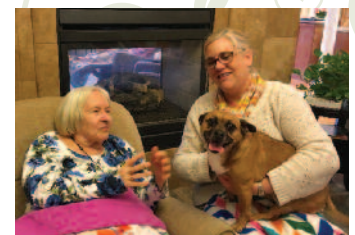
After having to say good-bye to several top-notch graduating senior volunteers last year, we are back to a busy volunteer schedule at Gianna Homes! Both of our homes, Sursum Corda in Minnetonka and Gladys' Place in Plymouth, have greatly benefitted from the volunteer recruitment tool, VolunteerMarch.org. Through this website, we are able to connect with people in the community seeking volunteer opportunities by posting volunteer job positions from Pet Visitor to Christmas Caroler to Activity Leader. In the last fiscal year (July 2016-June 2017), we were honored to have 20 volunteers at Gladys' Place give 195 hours of their time and 32



## VolunteerMatch

volunteers at Sursum Corda donate 413.25 hours of their time to our residents. **That's a total of 49 volunteers and 608.25 hours of volunteering!** That's almost an entire month of volunteered hours!

*We are so grateful for our volunteers who so lovingly give of their time and talents. Please contact Claire Klein ([claire@giannahomes.org](mailto:claire@giannahomes.org) or 952-443-6106) if you are interested in joining our team!*



## IN MEMORIAM

Charles "Chuck" Munster  
4/17/2017

Dr. John "Jack" Kelly 5/10/2017

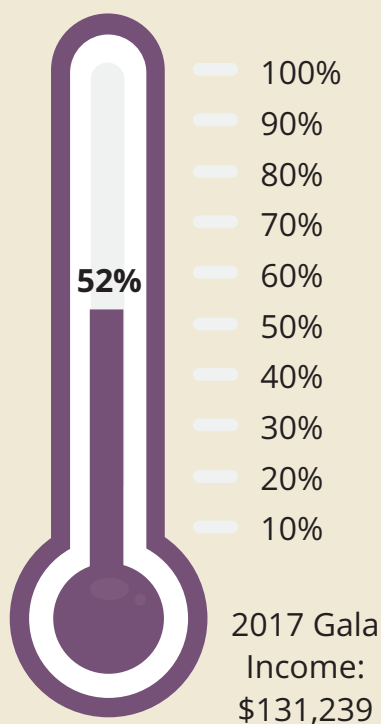
Duane Walton 11/30/2016

Eva Bates 9/30/2016

Alice Wolfe 7/15/2016



## 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Goal: \$250,000



## Dear Friends,

*With Letters from Home, we hope to share with you, our friends and family, a little bit of what life is like here at Gianna Homes.*

*Each stage of life brings its own changes. At Gianna Homes, we create a place where our residents can feel at home and where they will find care, companionship, and dignity.*

—Anne Marie Hansen,  
Founder & President



## Dear Friends of Gianna,

As I write this note to you, we have just finished our annual Gala that honored The Angels Among Us! What an evening we had. You can read all about it on page 6 of this newsletter.

You will note in this Fall/Winter edition of our newsletter our typical stories and overview of life here at Gianna Homes as well as the 2016 – 2017 Annual Report. We also added something a bit different this year.

I wish to explain it here so it is not confusing. As you know by the scads of requests for donations coming to you from non-profits right now, we are all in the typical end-of-year giving campaigns. Gianna Homes has not done a lot around this in year's past but feel it is something we should do a bit better. You will find in this edition of the newsletter stories, opportunities for giving, and the current needs we have here at Gianna. Just to clarify: we are only in the second quarter of our fiscal year. You will note our annual fundraising needs and the amount we raised during our gala efforts so far this fiscal year.

Each year, the gap between delivery and cost of care and services and our revenue grows. Every year, the growing burden of fundraising is a hard reality for the board of directors. Your continued generosity and support of our mission is greatly appreciated. Please consider an end-of-year gift to the Steve and Mary Mattson Resident Care Fund. If you would like to know more about how your donation can make a difference or tour our homes, please contact me directly.

The board of directors and I deeply appreciate your support.

Warmest regards,  
Anne Marie Hansen

President / Gianna Homes Board of Directors

**Can't think of the right gift  
for someone on your list this holiday season?  
Share a gift created by the Gianna Homes residents!**



**Note cards**  
featuring residents' artwork,  
Set of 15 - \$20

Order online at  
[www.GiannaHomes.org](http://www.GiannaHomes.org)





## How you can make a difference...

Below you will find suggested donation opportunities and how they impact the lives of our residents here at Gianna Homes:

**\$5,000**

Supports one resident on elderly waiver for one month



**\$2,500**

Supports one resident who receives accommodated daily rate for one month



**\$1,000**

One month of ancillary services such as Massage Therapy and Mneme therapy painting, like the angel paintings created for our gala, at each home



**\$500**

One month of activities like music entertainers and COMPAS community art programming



**\$250**

Events like a visit from the Minnesota Zoomobile



**\$250**

Month of one-on-one outings to places like Adele's custard, the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Apple Jack Orchards, out to coffee, and Target Runs



# Angels Among Us

A Gala Event for Gianna Homes

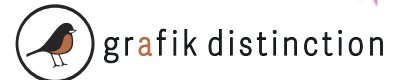
*How very blessed we are to have  
so many people join us at the Gala!*



## Gala Gratitude

Gianna Homes would like to express their deepest gratitude for all those who made our Angels Among Us Gala a success.

## Event Sponsors







## Cake Auction Donors



Anne Marie Hansen



## Heads & Tails Prize Donors



## Raffle Donor

*Kuhrmeyer*  
Family Foundation

## Sponsors and Table Hosts

### Legacy Sponsors

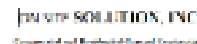
Terry & Debbie Kopp  
Ursula & Paul Kuhrmeyer  
Paul & Jean Mooty  
Mary Mooty Kileen  
The Kauffman Family

### Heritage Sponsors

David "Skip" Orlady & Patricia Orlady  
Betty Kane Family

### Table Sponsors

Marvin Sondag  
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Julie & Michael Braun  
Bill & Jackie Schroeder  
Peter & Deirdre Hansen  
Henry Hansen - On-Site Solution



## Frame Game Donors

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Apple Jack Orchard  
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Breakout Games  
Big Bowl/ Lettuce Entertain  
You  
Chanhasen Dinner Theatre

Comedy Sportz  
Dale Studios  
Darlene's Family  
Davanni's  
Element's Therapeutic  
Massage  
Escape Frenzy  
Escape MSP  
Fabulous Fern's  
Fitzgerald's  
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Guthrie Theatre

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Jungle Theatre  
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Minnesota Lynx Foundation  
Minnesota Orchestra

Minnesota Pro Paintball  
Minnesota Vikings  
Old Log Theater  
Ordway Center  
David "Skip" Orlady  
Panera Bread  
Penumbra Theater  
Pizza Luce  
Porter Creek  
Punch Pizza  
Red Balloon Bookshop  
Saint Paul saints

Showplace Icon Theatre  
Simonsson's Salon  
Stages Theatre  
Steppingstone Theatre  
Surdyk's  
Three Rivers Park  
Theatre in the Round  
University of Minnesota  
Landscape Arboretum  
Uptown Curl

## Thank You, Volunteers

Brielle Bornhorst  
Donna Bornhorst  
Denise Budde  
Emily Budde  
Gabby Budde

Nathan Budde  
Cari Doucette  
Katie Gross  
Wendy Ferril  
Cindy Fermanich

Kate Frost  
Kyle Frost  
Claire Klein  
Linda Phillips  
Pearl Phillips

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Sonja Romportl  
Pam Schultz  
Sophia Schultz  
Alice Tangney

Francis Tangney  
Katelyn Watson

## Gala Donors 2017

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Gary Opperman & Kay Wolfe  
Ron & Gail Wolfe  
Bill & Bonnie Young  
Jessica Zittlow-Aleman



# TAKE MY HAND, NOT MY life

LIVING MOMENTS OF GRACE AT LIFE'S END

**Take My Hand Not My Life Symposium** occurred Saturday the 28th of October. More than 200 people attended the event to spend a morning with Dr. Gianna Emanuela Molla (the daughter of St. Gianna) and local guests including Mother Maria Francis, LSP, Mother Superior at Holy Family Residence, Little Sisters of the Poor in St. Paul; Michael Degnan, Philosophy Professor at St. Thomas University; Susan Windley-Daoust, Theology Professor and Ethicist at St. Mary's University in Winona; and Dr. Tod Worner, physician and clinical instructor at Abbott Northwestern Hospital. The guests shared their perspectives on living moments of grace at life's end.

Now, more than ever, Minnesotans need to be aware of the gospel approach to loving and caring for someone with a serious or terminal illness and understand what our faith demands versus what the culture tells us.

The morning started with Mass at St. Mary's Chapel at the St. Paul Seminary with Auxiliary Bishop Andrew Cozzens. The presence of Dr. Gianna throughout the morning and her words of encouragement and joy that can be found in caregiving was much loved. You could feel the positive joy and love each presenter shared in regards to compassionate care for those with chronic and terminal illnesses. Joy and love filled the auditorium and the lines of attendees who waited to have a word or hug from Dr. Gianna.



The *Catholic Spirit* wrote a beautiful article about the symposium. You can read it at: [thecatholicspirit.com/news/local-news/st-giannas-daughter-parents-showed-suffering-can-be-embraced-with-joy/](http://thecatholicspirit.com/news/local-news/st-giannas-daughter-parents-showed-suffering-can-be-embraced-with-joy/)

We would like to thank the local organizations who collaborated with Gianna Homes in making this event possible: The Minnesota Delegation of the Order of Malta, the Minnesota Catholic Conference, Curatio, the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, and the Catholic Medical Association.

## A Funeral for Nasha – *a true outpouring of love for a stranger in need*

It is with profound gratitude that we would like to thank everyone who generously performed a great work of mercy and justice in helping me pay for the funeral and burial of one of our staff, Nasha a few months ago. Nasha died unexpectedly of a massive coronary event and her loss is still felt by all of us here at Gianna Homes. She had no family in the United States, nor could her family pay for her funeral. It was truly inspiring to see strangers step forward to help out, from my friends and family to Gianna's staff and their connections. Dan and Joann truly humbled me by their generosity and reminded me of the gospel story of the Good Samaritan. Together, we were also able to place a modest headstone to mark her grave, which her mother and brother in Zimbabwe helped design.

I'd also like to thank Dan McGraw of Gill Brothers Funeral Homes who was so generous in helping me navigate the funeral and burial for Nasha and guide me in the process

with her next of kin in Zimbabwe. With his guidance and generosity, we were able to provide a dignified funeral service and burial for her. I'd also like to thank Joanne Dudycha, who donated the burial plot at Shady Oak Cemetery. I asked Joanne to share in her words what this means to her and her family.

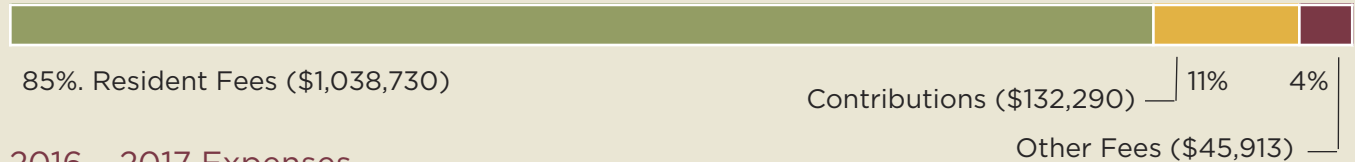


*Shady Oak Cemetery was the final resting place for the first settlers of Hopkins, the town where Nasha lived. My father Joseph Dudycha had taken responsibility for the cemetery in the 1960s. We saw the compassion he displayed to families at their lowest points. He taught us that this is the greatest honor given to another person. It was a privilege to pass this on to Nasha and her family.*

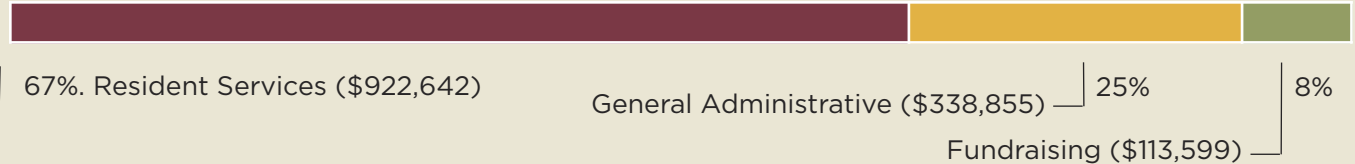
*Nasha's final resting place is near my dad. I know he would be pleased.*  
– Joanne Dudycha

# GIANNA HOMES SURSUM CORDA AUDITED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION NON-PROFIT ANNUAL REPORT - JULY 1, 2016 to JUNE 30, 2017

## 2016 - 2017 Revenue



## 2016 - 2017 Expenses



*In thousands*

	2016	2017
<b>Assets</b>		
Current Assets including Cash	\$124,323	\$92,102
Fixed Assets	\$826,604	\$792,802
Other Assets	\$76,221	\$75,657
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,027,148</b>	<b>\$960,561</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Current Liabilities	\$140,875	\$248,408
Long Term Debt	\$463,748	\$447,790
Net Assets	\$422,525	\$264,363
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,027,148</b>	<b>\$960,561</b>

## Thank You Fiscal Donors July 2016 through June 2017

Access Lifts	Christine & Daryl Eastburg	Todd & Linda Johnson	Eileen Moore	Tom & Susan Skoug
Brian & Laurie Acker	Steven & Barbara Ellingboe	Dr Chris and Julie Johnson	Paul & Jean Mooty	Suzie Smerz
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John & Monica Carey	Kimberly Hansen	Cheryl & Mike Lankes	Chad & Jenny Richardson	Don & Deanne Wessel
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Paul & Ann Dickinson	Nicole Holmes	John Manion	Sheila & Steve Schumacher	Alice Wolfe
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Ken & Pam Dubose	Amy & Craig Jensen	Dennis & Dorry Minnice	Mary Louise Sirignano	
Barbara Dugan		Alejandro & Jane Montoya		



# Gianna Homes – Marketing Corner

By Cari Doucette, Marketing Director

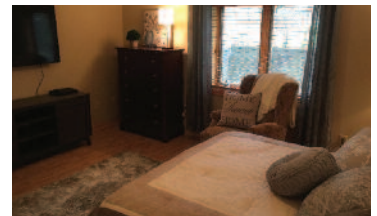
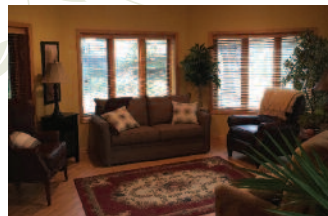
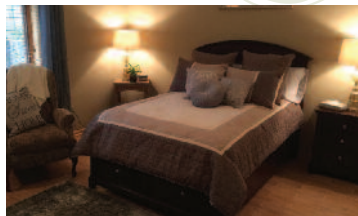
## Gianna Homes Home Care

Gianna Homes Home Care has been created to offer those in the western suburbs a home care option with the same loving care and respect as is offered at Sursum Corda and Gladys' Place. Inquire today about our newly opened home care and an independent living option in Plymouth with all the supportive services of assisted living.

Contact: Cari Doucette  
cari@giannahomes.org  
952-443-611

## Referrals welcome and appreciated!

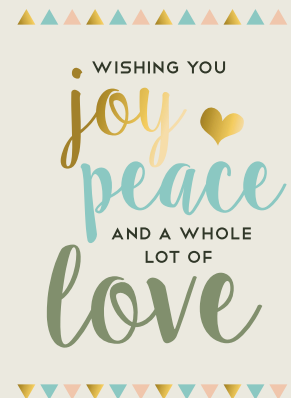
Thank you for your referrals! Each month we receive several calls from families who have been referred to us from other families, volunteers or friends. Thank you! This is a tremendous help to us. Referrals are an important aspect to the marketing of Gianna Homes and we could not be where we are today without your help. If you know of someone who could benefit from our services, either at Sursum Corda, Gladys' Place, please let me know.



## Mark Your Calendar!

### Family and Resident Events

- **Friday, December 15, 10am** – Family Christmas party with caroling by the Minnesota Chorale (GP)
- **Saturday, December 16, 10am** – Family Christmas party with caroling by the Minnesota Chorale (SC)
- **Monday, December 18, 2:30pm** – Chanukah Sing Along (SC)
- **Monday, December 25, 2:30pm** – Hot cocoa, opening gifts, and Christmas cookies (both homes)
- **Sunday, December 31, 2:30pm** – New Year's Eve celebration (both homes)
- **Saturday, January 6, 10:30am** – Jim Shaw piano performance (SC)
- **Saturday, February 3, 10:30am** – Jim Shaw piano performance (GP)
- **Saturday, February 10** – COMPAS art program with Anne Krocak (both homes)
- **Saturday, March 17, 2:30pm** – St. Patrick's Day Happy Hour (both homes)



- **Sunday, April 1, 2:30pm** – Easter egg hunt and Easter celebration (both homes)
- **Monday, April 2, 2:30pm** – Taste of Passover (SC)
- **Tuesdays, 10am - 1pm** – Massages with Wendy (SC)
- **Wednesdays, 10am - noon** – Massages with Wendy (GP)
- **Every third Friday of the month** – Mneme therapy painting with Suzy Volden (both homes)
- **1-1 and Group Music Therapy sessions** with Claire Klein regularly throughout the month (both homes)
- **Volunteer visitors** throughout the month (both homes)
- **Communion services and masses** offered throughout the month (both homes)

SC = Sursum Corda (Minnetonka)  
GP = Gladys' Place (Plymouth)

- **May 6 - 12** – Celebrating our Nurses with National Nurse's Week!

# Time to celebrate the “Angels Among Us”

Friday, October 27, was a special night, not only because we had our annual Gala, but because we were able to honor the true “Angels Among Us,” some of our “Angels” from Gianna Homes.

We are delighted to have received a generous donation from the Kelly family to honor our amazing staff members. The Dr. John Kelly Angels Memorial Award will be given annually to staff who exemplify Gianna Home’s mission of “providing memory care with loving kindness that respects the dignity of each resident. Welcome Home!”

Over the last few months, staff were encouraged to write notes of gratitude to each other for the acts of service that go above and beyond their assigned tasks and duties on their shift. Those peer notes, along with nominations from families and volunteers, helped us decide on the winners of these awards.

The first place winner is Emily Badio, affectionately known as “Momma Emily.” Emily has a presence about her that helps anyone feel at ease and at home. One family member who nominated her remembered: “The day my Mother moved into Gladys’ Place, we were blessed with Emily’s calm, kind, warm and compassionate demeanor. As I observed her interact with my mom, and the other residents, I was moved to tears as she treated each individual with respect and dignity. It was everything we needed in a caregiver for our mother! As I left Gladys’ Place that day, I felt many Angels around the home! I was filled with comfort and peace knowing her needs were being met with kindness, compassion, respect and dignity.” Director of nursing Katie Gross adds: “I look at her with such admiration in how she cares for each resident and honors their individuality. She sees the person beyond the illness and exudes such joy in caring for them.”

Emily has worked at Gianna Homes for 10 years and she explained that her favorite part of her job is “When I do something for my residents and it makes them happy, it makes me happy. When I do Catherine’s hair and she smiles, I smile!” She continued, “Making everyone happy and feel at home. If I can put a smile on their face, then I know I have

done my job.” When asked what keeps her working at Gianna Homes with the residents, Emily responded “The Standard of Care. We give them a great standard of care. Your heart has to be in it.”



*Staff member Emily Radio-Meh receives the Dr. John Kelly Angels Memorial Award at the annual gala.*



*Second place award winner Rose Barber playing music with resident, Dick.*

The second place winner is Rose Barber. Rose exemplifies our mission of “loving kindness.” She has an ease and confidence in caring for those with memory impairments. She brings solutions to situations that arise in memory care. She is a highly admired mentor to staff. One of the moments that stands out for Katie Gross, Director of Nursing, was watching Rose care for a resident in their final hours. “You could feel the love in the room as she gently provided care to him.” Rose has worked at Gianna Homes since 2008. When asked what some of the favorite parts of her position are, she indicated “connecting with the residents.” What keeps her working at Gianna Homes is the fact that she “likes working with people and at the end of the day, feels like she has done something.”

When asked what her philosophy of care is she responded, “to do for others like I would want them to do for me.” Rose indicated she felt many of the staff deserved this award, that it “is not something for just one person, there are many.” She is right; we are blessed by many wonderful staff. Thank you Rose.

We are honored to have both of these women on our Gianna Homes staff. Emily expressed her gratitude for recognition in this way: “The award means a lot to me because it means that someone saw and recognized me for the job I have done. Sometimes you know you are doing a good job but it feels good when others recognize it and tell you that.”

At our gala, we took time honor one last Angel, who is watching from the front row of Heaven. We lost our dear Nasha Dube in July of this year. Nasha was a home coordinator at Gladys’ Place. She was humble and kind and had a quiet and strong presence about her. She loved our residents as if they were her family. She is deeply missed. We are honored to have such amazing staff and want to thank all of them for their service and for the loving care they provide our residents. We are truly blessed!



# Walk to End Alzheimer's

By Claire Klein, Program Director

In September, residents' family members, board members, volunteers, and staff came together to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association at the Walk to End Alzheimer's. It was a beautiful sunny Saturday when we met at Target Field for our 2-mile walk. The event opened with words from Kare11 news-anchor, Karla Hult, who shared stories about caring her father who recently passed away with Alzheimer's. With the residents past and present on our hearts, we held fabric pinwheel flowers aloft in their honor. The various colors represented different ways we were connected to the disease — as caregivers, advocates, people honoring those who have passed, and people diagnosed with dementia. We marched this garden out into the streets of Minneapolis and walked together remembering all of our Gianna Homes residents.

Team Gianna surpassed its fundraising goal of \$4,000 and had a member in the Champion's Club (raising over \$500) and another in the Grand Champions Club (raising over \$1,000)! The entire event raised near \$1.5 million for research, caregiver support, patient care, and steps toward a vision of a world without Alzheimer's. Thank you to all who donated to make this success possible!



Team Gianna walked through Minneapolis along with nearly 6,700 other participants.

## Dr. Gianna Emanuela Molla's Historic First Visit to Gianna Homes

In 1999, Gianna Homes President & Founder, Anne Marie Hansen, was inspired to name her newly established memory care home after Saint Dr. Gianna Beretta Molla, a doctor in Italy who lived out her faith both in her work and with her family. When she became ill during pregnancy, she gave up her life for the life of her child. This child grew up to be a medical doctor herself, specializing in geriatrics. This was Dr. Gianna Emanuela Molla.

Dr. Gianna Emanuela was honored that Anne Marie chose to name our home after her saint mother. The two grew to know each other over the years and met in person when Dr. Gianna Beretta Molla was canonized as a saint. This year was the first time Dr. Gianna Emanuela had come to see the homes that bear her mother's name.

The moment she walked in, Dr. Gianna Emanuela filled the house with love. She tenderly walked from resident to resident at Gladys' Place, holding their hands and speaking to them. They gazed up at her with smiles and giggles. Even though these residents are not able to tell us directly about their experience, the looks on our residents' faces spoke volumes about the warmth they felt from her.

Dr. Gianna Emanuela then traveled to our Sursum Corda home in Minnetonka. There, we had a "high tea" complete with scones and Devonshire cream! Again, hugs and smiles were exchanged as each resident was touched by her presence.

It was an honor to have Dr. Gianna Emanuela visit and share with us about her philosophy of care and show us the love she has for this work.





Gladys' Place



*Our Mission: Providing memory care with a loving kindness that respects the dignity of each resident. Welcome Home!*



Dear Gianna Homes' family,

Winter seems to have come early this year with temperatures in the teens already here in November! Brrrrr! Just yesterday, the management staff here at Gianna were discussing Christmas parties for residents and their families, Christmas gifts, Christmas caroling, decorating, baking and all the traditions that go along with the celebration of the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. They each have much to coordinate, and the nurses keeps a vigilant eye on how all of these things will impact the day-to-day lives of each resident such as who can go on an outing, how that caroling group will impact that particular resident, time of day, length of events, etc, etc. It might appear as a seamless process to the outside eye, but I guarantee you there's not one aspect of life here at Gianna Homes that doesn't go through some pretty critical thinking process by our staff.



However, I was pondering all of this and it occurred to me that each of you go through this same hectic process for the holiday season as well. The hurry and scurry of gift buying, decorating, parties, and baking often leave us wishing for a quieter celebration of the Christmas holiday season.

So from our home to yours, we wish you a little less chaos, space to enjoy the traditions of this season, and blessings to you and yours in the New Year.

Anne Marie and all the staff here at Gianna Homes.