

**“For I know the plans I have for you” says the Lord,
“to give you a future and a hope.”**

On the feast of the Assumption 2012, a **great friend of Saint Gianna’s, James Misialek, died**. He suffered from cancer for many years, which, according to James, gave him time to prepare to meet our Lord. James stopped at Saint Gianna’s 7 years ago looking for a rosary and a Bible, which we were able to find for him. In turn James prayed and offered much of his suffering for us; he also made many sacrifices to send a monthly financial gift, not for the residents of the home but for our former residents – those who had moved away but were still connected to the ‘Saint Gianna Home Family’. **He understood our mission very beautifully, knowing that many of our women have no family except the “Saint Gianna family”**. And over the years he bought many winter coats and boots and paid for groceries and electric bills, as well as a haircut and new Easter dresses. Indeed, he placed a smile on the faces of many young mothers struggling to make it, and he only asked for prayers in return.

With his passing, the thought has been placed on the hearts of those involved with this work to start an account or fund to continue James’ work, and possibly to do more as well. In our own families we save money for our children’s education. For single mothers it is hard to put away money when they are struggling to make ends meet. Yet, the children of these mothers who have generously chosen life deserve a chance to start their adult life as others do. Poverty and lack of higher education become a cycle that often repeats itself. While their mothers live at Saint Gianna’s, we focus on helping them get an education, and we believe this is a great gift to their future, a gift of hope. This too is something that Saint Gianna’s parents gave to her and her siblings. To be a woman and educated as a medical doctor in the 1940’s and 50’s was not common practice. **The Berettas (Saint Gianna’s parents) made sure that each of their children studied a profession so that he or she would be able to carry out, in some way, Christian service to the community and permeate the professional world with the example of a Christian life.**

Here at St. Gianna’s we think it would truly be a gift, **an investment in the future**, to be able to give them a chance to succeed. We would like to be able to offer the women who stay at Saint Gianna’s for a year or more and who complete our program here, some kind of gift or incentive for their children’s college fund. Also, we would like to offer something similar for the mothers who generously place their child for adoption. Usually these women are young and alone, and this same kind of funding for education could be made available for them, since they have placed their children in homes where the adoptive parents would be able to provide for them. Thus, the gift of education could be used for themselves.

We would love to be able to do more for them, especially in the way of education, a way that helps them become more independent and successful. In order to start a separate fund for education of the children whose mothers have completed the program here at Saint Gianna’s Maternity Home, we need a few generous people who would share this vision. If you might be one of them, please let us know. Thank you for considering. We also ask in a special way for your prayers for these women and their little ones, **that they may always feel the love of Christ and support of others to instill the gift of hope in their life and the lives of their children.**