



Supporting

babies in need

What is

St. Gianna's?



Our family, as the foundational building block of our lives, has the single biggest impact on our well-being. Every possible indicator highlights how strong families lead to a healthier, stronger, and more prosperous society. Although mothers and fathers may hold society's greatest role, the challenges, stressors, and traumas of life can take a toll. Published data and local surveys conducted by our agency identified various high priority needs of children and families in our community. These include:

- **Emergency access to infant food, hygiene and clothing supplies**
- **Child development and safety classes**
- **Infant and maternal wellbeing support**
- **Access to specialized in-home visitation services**

St. Gianna's is a comprehensive center of support that accompanies parents from their child's conception until 5 years of age. St. Gianna's offers a selection of free essential items for infants and toddlers. This includes baby food, formula, bottles, diapers, wipes, baby layettes, and clothing. St. Gianna's also acts as a principal connection point for families in need of other social services. When a parent or guardian is referred to St. Gianna's, a simple yet comprehensive intake is completed to ascertain their needs. In this way, individuals who may approach us for baby items are immediately able to access other support services. Lastly, St. Gianna's offers classes proven to educate parents on critical topics related to child safety.

This program relies 100% on the support of our community. Without you, the work we do would not be possible. Take the first step today by learning how YOU can support families in need....

Build strong *Communities*



St. Gianna's No Cost Baby Boutique

Through locations in Muskegon and Grand Rapids, St. Gianna's No Cost Baby Boutique has provided critical resources to thousands of families across West Michigan. Our facilities are designed to create a dignified shopping experience at no cost to those who seek support.

Within the first year of opening our Grand Rapids location, **over 6,000** children have been served and hundreds of families were connected with a network of support resources needed to succeed.

Our Muskegon location has seen a **400% increase in families served** over the past year.

- St. Gianna's is the only resource in Grand Rapids that provides essential resources for children up to the age of five.
- With a full maternity section and lactation supplies, St. Gianna's serves the infant, while supporting the mother.
- St. Gianna's is a gateway for families to access additional support services such as car seat safety training, safe sleep courses, and free in-home pregnancy counseling, with master's level therapists.

Michigan families in need

- **1.5 million** Michiganders struggle to afford the **basic** necessities of housing, child care, food, technology, health care and transportation.
- Close to **half** of U.S. families with babies or toddlers of diapering age are living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.
- **33%** of children in Grand Rapids are living in poverty with limited access to resources needed to thrive.

*United Way ALICE Report



Share your time as a *Volunteer*



Our volunteer family

The St. Gianna's volunteer family is dedicated to building healthy communities. They contribute their time and skills with compassion and empathy.

Volunteers are often the first face a visitor will see when they stop by a mobile diaper distribution or enter a St. Gianna's facility.

Whether sorting and organizing donations or walking alongside families as they shop our boutique floor, St. Gianna's volunteers help us build a foundation of love and hope.



The gift of time and talent

- Attend a volunteer open house to see how you can support the work of St. Gianna's!
- Join the St. Gianna's volunteer family and assist with stocking the boutique floor, greeting clients as they enter a St. Gianna's facility, or assisting shoppers as they select items from the boutique floor.
- Schedule an employee service day and bring your team to St. Gianna's where they can help with restocking the boutique floor, sorting donations, and organizing inventory.
- Assist with a mobile diaper distribution, ensuring families with limited access to transportation receive critical resources.
- Volunteer to organize a community diaper, formula, or baby shower drive.

Contact our Volunteer Coordinator to volunteer today and for more information on service opportunities

Reaching those in *Need*



Mobile Diaper Distributions

St. Gianna's mobile baby pantry launched in early 2023 in response to the transportation barriers that prevent families in crisis from accessing critical resources.

This mobile service has saved area families over \$330,000 dollars through the distribution of over 1,000,000 diapers, as well as resources such as wipes and diaper cream.

Mobile distribution locations also serve as a point of access for rural families to be connected with additional community support services.

Interviews with seventy low-income mothers of diaper-age children revealed:

- **93%** had exhausted their disposable diaper supply at least once.
- **69%** had borrowed either diapers, or money to buy diapers, from others.
- **79%** reported skipping other necessities in order to buy diapers.

*The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences

“Although we knew it would be quite a task to pull off this large of a distribution, we felt lucky to have this rare opportunity. It's hard to even describe what we have encountered in the last months as we've met with families at distributions across 9 West Michigan Counties, some waiting in hour-long lines. We have heard so many stories of joy and of struggle. It's been an honor to be able to walk alongside these courageous families.”

-Stephanie Busch, Pregnancy & Parent Program Manager



Welcoming new *Babies*



Gianna Boxes

Our Gianna Boxes are available for expecting mothers. Many of these women will not have a baby shower. We consider these boxes a **“baby shower in a box!”**

Help us make these boxes by donating items from our Amazon wish list!

Items vary from bottles, swaddles, clothing, pacifiers, baby wash and everything in between! These items help mothers feel prepared and supported as they welcome their child into the world.

Scan here to donate items!



“Sometimes all you need is someone to say I will be there, and Molly has done that for me.”

- Amanda, Pregnancy Counseling, Boutique Customer, and mother of eight.



In kind

Donations



Donations

St. Gianna's is fully stocked from donations from our giving community. We are always accepting donations!

We accept clothing in new and gently used condition (sizes newborn - 6T), accessories such as shoes and hats, blankets, formula, diapers, wipes, and large items such as high chairs and strollers.

Diapers, wipes, and formula are our most needed items!

Donation drop off details:

Catholic Charities

40 Jefferson Ave SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Monday-Thursday 8:30am-3:00pm

1720 Park St

Muskegon, MI 49441

Monday-Thursday 8:30am - 3:00pm

OR by appointment at:

St. Gianna's No Cost Baby Boutique

1400 Plainfield Ave NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Call 616-699-3642 to schedule a donation drop off!

St. Gianna's Wishlist!

Clothing, pajamas, developmental toys, shoes, books, tableware, blankets, hats, bibs, socks, strollers, high chairs, pack and plays, diapers, wipes, diaper cream, and baby wash



Stocking our Shelves



Grand Rapids St. Gianna's Diaper Days

Play a special role in supporting families, babies, and toddlers in Grand Rapids by sponsoring St. Gianna's Diaper Days in 2024.

The average family spends over one hundred dollars a month on diapers. For many families in crisis, that cost is insurmountable.

You have the opportunity to make a direct impact by providing diapers for children in need for a day, week, month, or up to a year.

- \$600 for a day = 50 babies & toddlers
- \$1,200 for a week = 100 babies & toddlers
- \$4,800 for a month = 400 babies & toddlers
- \$62,400 for a year = 4,800 babies & toddlers

Sponsor Levels

\$600 for a day

- Social media highlight, signage inside Gianna's highlighting your organization / business for the day

\$1,200 for a week

- Social media highlight, signage inside Gianna's highlighting your organization / business for the week, hand out your business' / organization's promotional materials for the week

\$4,800 for a month

- Social media highlight, signage inside Gianna's highlighting your organization / business for the month, hand out your business' / organization's promotional materials for the month, tour of Gianna's

\$62,400 for a year

- Social media highlight, tour of Gianna's and complimentary brunch, group volunteer opportunities throughout the year Hand out your business' / organization's promotional materials for the year, permanent plaque on wall

Sponsor Information

Sponsor Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Sponsorship Level

- \$600 for a day / 50 babies & toddlers
- \$1,200 for a week / 100 babies & toddlers
- \$4,800 for a month / 400 babies & toddlers
- \$62,400 for a year / 4,800 babies & toddlers

Total \$ _____

Method of Payment

- Check enclosed
- Charge my card

Credit Card # _____

Exp Date: _____ CSC# _____

Signature _____

- VISA
- MasterCard
- Discover

or you can scan here to pay with your
CC by selcting specify program and
typing "diaper days" in the box.



Please return this form to
Catholic Charities West Michigan
40 Jefferson Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Email: kmaurer@ccwestmi.org

Phone: 616.356.6207

Tax Exempt ID #38-301-2473

Stocking our Shelves



Muskegon St. Gianna's Diaper Days

Play a special role in supporting families, babies, and toddlers in Muskegon by sponsoring St. Gianna's Diaper Days in 2024.

The average family spends over one hundred dollars a month on diapers. For many families in crisis, that cost is insurmountable.

You have the opportunity to make a direct impact by providing diapers for children in need for a day, week, month, or up to a year.

- \$300 for a day = 50 babies & toddlers
- \$600 for a week = 100 babies & toddlers
- \$1,200 for a month = 400 babies & toddlers
- \$31,200 for a year = 4,800 babies & toddlers

Sponsor Levels

\$300 for a day

- Social media highlight, signage inside Gianna's highlighting your organization / business for the day

\$600 for a week

- Social media highlight, signage inside Gianna's highlighting your organization / business for the week, hand out your business' / organization's promotional materials for the week

\$1,200 for a month

- Social media highlight, signage inside Gianna's highlighting your organization / business for the month, hand out your business' / organization's promotional materials for the month, tour of Gianna's

\$31,200 for a year

- Social media highlight, tour of Gianna's and complimentary brunch, group volunteer opportunities throughout the year Hand out your business' / organization's promotional materials for the year, permanent plaque on wall

Sponsor Information

Sponsor Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Sponsorship Level

- \$300 for a day / 50 babies & toddlers
- \$600 for a week / 100 babies & toddlers
- \$1,200 for a month / 400 babies & toddlers
- \$31,200 for a year / 4,800 babies & toddlers

Total \$ _____

Method of Payment

- Check enclosed
- Charge my card

Credit Card # _____

Exp Date: _____ CSC# _____

Signature _____

- VISA
- MasterCard
- Discover

or you can scan here to pay with your
CC by selcting specify program and
typing "diaper days" in the box.



Please return this form to
Catholic Charities West Michigan
40 Jefferson Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Support our *Fundraising*



Support Holy Smokes!

The Holy Smokes BBQ Competition, in downtown Muskegon, offers a lively evening where the community gathers to taste and vote for a variety of barbecue entries from local restaurants.

Guests will also be able to sip on craft brews, play yard games, and enjoy live entertainment.. all for a good cause! Holy Smokes helps fund our St. Gianna's No Cost Baby Boutique in Muskegon.

Holy Smokes...

- Raised **\$42,000** dollars this year alone for Gianna's in Muskegon.
- Over **400** guests came out to Pigeon Hill to celebrate and raise funds for Gianna's!
- Over **50** volunteers make this event possible.

- All proceeds from this event will go toward CCWM's St. Gianna's No Cost Baby Boutique in Muskegon.
- Last year alone, we served over 2,000 children in Muskegon.



Get in Touch

Volunteer Coordinator

Contact Marianne Bockheim-Verhil at mbverhil@ccwestmi.org or 616-438-2735

Muskegon No Cost Baby Boutique

Contact Molly Thomas at mthomas@ccwestmi.org or 231-726-5341

Grand Rapids No Cost Baby Boutique

Contact Amanda King at aking@ccwestmi.org or 616-699-3642

Donations

Contact Karol Maurer at kmaurer@ccwestmi.org or 616-356-6207

Explore & Engage

Learn with us - Schedule a time for us to come speak to your class, student group, staff, or volunteers!

Our team members are experts on the many barriers in our community for families to receive adequate support. Let us help educate and inspire your group to be a part of the support parents need to flourish.

Come visit us - Come out to St. Gianna's in Muskegon or Grand Rapids for a group or individual tour. Tours are available Monday - Friday!

Contact Karol Maurer at kmaurer@ccwestmi.org or 616-356-6207 to schedule

**1720 Park St.
Muskegon, MI 49441**

**1400 Plainfield Ave NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505**