

Message from the Executive Director

Good Friends:

I would like to tell you a bit about one of the folks currently enrolled in P.I.P.'s program. Rachel is a young woman who approached Venice on Vine about six months ago. She was determined to "start over". She was prepared to work hard and wanted to learn what it meant to have a job.

While at Venice she has moved through a number of positions in the commercial kitchens and is currently thriving at the front of the house greeting guests and taking orders.

She has learned the names of many of our regular luncheon customers and greets them individually upon their arrivals. She has become an important member of a shift of Trainees / workers who continue to generate more sales than ever in the restaurant's history. When necessary, Rachel has begun to step in as a team supervisor and has proven to be an effective coach for others who are new to our system.

Rachel has worked hard for these new successes and to create a sense of stability in her life.

She was offered a micro-loan from P.I.P. to meet the outstanding obligations of a past bill owed to the utility company and has already paid it back. She has secured her own apartment and is enjoying decorating her new home.

On a recent Wednesday afternoon over coffee, Rachel mentioned that she had gotten her paycheck from Venice, paid her rent, took care of renewal tags for her car, purchased groceries, and had money left in her pocket. She disclosed that was the first time in her life she ever felt she had enough money to take care of herself.

Rachel is already making plans for long-term employment when she completes the program at P.I.P. She would like to work behind the scenes at an area non-profit and is exploring enrolling in a computer training course to polish her skills.

Rachel's story is one of many that are played out at the corner of 13th / & Vine Street everyday. Our hope at P.I.P. is that we can create a sense of place in which individuals feel safe enough to share their own unique stories, take a breath, develop their skill sets, and begin to write the next chapters of their lives.

We are all grateful to you for your support.

Please consider joining Rachel and Sister Judy for P.I.P.'s 25th /Annual Brunch at Corryville Catholic School on **September 20, 2015**.

The Brunch is an opportunity for ole friends to gather, share a delicious meal prepared by the hands of many, bid on great silent auctions items, and possibly win big in the Tri-fecta drawings. The Brunch is P.I.P.'s most significant fundraising event of the year and historically raises important programming dollars to fuel our work.

Hope to see you there!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Shannon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.