



## **POWER** Inspires Progress

Shonda came to Venice on Vine after years of unemployment. She volunteered that she had been busy raising and caring for two sons with dramatic physical challenges. However, something had sparked a desire for change, and she was clearly prepared to begin to address some of the issues that had been challenging her.

Shonda connected with the folks at Education Matters in Price Hill and began in earnest to work on the many aspects of completing a GED. She faithfully arrived at Venice each day and quickly demonstrated mastery of almost all of the stations, often coming early and staying late to assist Sister Judy with the demands of catering. We were also impressed by her patience with other Trainees and how she shared her skills and expertise, helping them to settle in upon their arrivals. She soon came to know our regular customers and would greet them individually as they came into the restaurant.



But, when any of PIP's training staff would approach Shonda would almost immediately apologize for anything she might have done wrong or incorrectly. Yet, she was doing so many things right.

As we got to know Shonda better, we learned she had actually managed a restaurant for more than fifteen years. She had been a confident supervisor and had trained her own staff. What we all began to appreciate was that at some point in her past Shonda no longer felt safe, and a sense of victimization had washed over nearly every part of her life. That experience continued to victimize her robbing her of much of the confidence and success she had previously known both in her career and her community.

Shonda's experience has reminded us that the mastery of making a pizza is only one of the lessons shared at 1301 Vine Street. On that street corner, we attempt to create a sense of place and allow folks with barriers to employment to not only tell their individual stories but begin to write the next chapters. One realizes there are many different stories and many kinds of barriers.

In the Notre Dame and Dominican traditions, we remain teachers. But, in the case of this very capable woman, what was learned – with the assistance of many others – was how to create a good strong box for those experiences of past victimization, and she learned she could put that box up on a shelf rather than carrying its contents with her daily.

In the year since arriving at Venice, Shonda has earned her GED. She is working to secure industry certifications and has begun to interview for supervisory positions. She has also learned how to make a FINE Pizza!

We are grateful to you and all those who have helped to create such learning opportunities for us and the good folks with whom we spend our days.  
Thank you!

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We are thrilled to announce the addition of Lauren Roberts as PIP's part-time the program's Donor Relations Coordinator. Lauren spent two years with PIP as its Education Coordinator as a member of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur AmeriCorps program.

She remains dedicated to our mission of providing some of Cincinnati's most disenfranchised with employment training, stabilization and job placement opportunities. To this end, Lauren hopes to more effectively connect PIP with volunteers and donors in order to better harness the interest and passion from which this organization has benefitted for more than 30 years.

Working towards that goal, kindly return the portion below – making any corrections that may be needed to your name, address, and e-mail. Please list the incorrect information in the first section and the corrected information in the second.

Additionally, please indicate if you have a preference as to the form and mechanism of communication to be sent (both frequency and media). Finally, if you would like to include any additional notes concerning your contact information please do so! We will be carefully reviewing and updating our records accordingly.

### Contact information for Power Inspires Progress

#### Section 1 – INCORRECT INFORMATION

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Section 2 – CORRECT INFORMATION

Full Name (as you wish it to appear on the mailing list): \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **I would like to continue to receive mailings from PIP:**

- |                                                                                               |                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes                                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but only in the spring & fall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but only newsletters                                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but only event invitations    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No, I only wish to receive emails (please complete the next section) | <input type="checkbox"/> No                                 |

#### **I would like to receive emails from PIP:**

- No       Yes, the email I wish to be contacted at is: \_\_\_\_\_

**Special notes or instructions:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Donor Relations Coordinator  
Venice on Vine/Power Inspires Progress  
(513) 221-7020

