

Wishing You a Peaceful and Healthy Holiday Season.
May 2010 be a year of Power, Inspiration, and Progress.

Welcome to our FIRST EVER E-Newsletter. A print copy is on its way. Please let us know what you think, and forgive us if you get two.

December 2009

Dear Friends,

Thank you for supporting the mission of Power Inspires Progress in 2009. With your support, PIP remains focused on providing on-the-job training and employment education for inner city residents with employment barriers.

As we close out 2009, we've seen a year of power, inspiration and progress. Many of our graduates are working, staying in recovery and participating in the community. New partnerships have included Cincinnati Workforce Network, TAPP House, Off the Streets, Center for Independent Living Options, Queen City Vocational, and the YWCA GED programs. Gloria Cure coordinates monthly in service workshops as well as arts and community building activities. We also have a new focus on academic learning in addition to our job training

Led by Sr. Judy Tensing with several key volunteers, our catering program is at full capacity with customers all over town. Our restaurant, Venice on Vine, is filled at lunchtime, with daily specials, new menu items and fast slices. Chef/Trainer Flo McCray guides the trainees in learning to take full responsibility for each station. A marketing intern this spring spruced up our restaurant and our image; we've added local music, live music events and art exhibits. We've also added handmade gift items as an income strategy: We sell organic free-trade coffee, cocoa mix, brownie mix, sauce mix, soup mix and gift cards.

In fundraising, we added two successful "pizza parties" to compliment our September Brunch and February raffle. Many volunteers are helping in the program: They include our finance and cash management team, computer support, fundraising/events committee, catering volunteers, in-service speakers and our tutors. We still need a facilities volunteer, a few job search mentors and raffle ticket sales captains, so let us know if you can help!

If you have questions or comments, would like to purchase a sweetheart raffle ticket or gift items, place a catering order, volunteer, or take a tour of the restaurant, please give me a call at 513 221-7020.

We wish you and your loved ones a joyful holiday. We hope that in the New Year, you experience some of the joy, success and community that we build here at Venice on Vine.

With best wishes,

Rina

Rina Saperstein, Executive Director

New Tutoring Curriculum & GED Club

By Tebbe Farrell, Notre Dame Mission Volunteers Americorps

There have been some great changes here at our Venice Learning Center. Trainees have two computers to use for the computerized "learning library," along with new curriculum sheets which cover all requirements for the GED test. Volunteers helped us build study modules in each area: math, reading, writing, grammar, social studies/science, computer. We offer projects in each subject as well as interviewing, presentation, research and business plan development. We hope PIP graduates will be able to show a potential employer a portfolio with completed projects and certificates such as food safety, written essays, computer training, etc.

We recently started a GED Club: five trainees actively taking GED classes elsewhere and studying here. We also have one trainee enrolling at Cincinnati State, and one enrolling in pre-apprenticeship training. Collaboration with education programs, peer support, and great volunteer tutors are our keys to success.

"I believe PIP is an inspiration to all those who have had troubles in their past or just can't hold focus enough to hold down a job. It has built confidence in me in areas that my past wouldn't allow me to overcome. It has strengthened my skills from past jobs and taught me skills in starting my own business. It gives a person that was on the other side of the law the respect of becoming a law abiding citizen." (PIP Trainee)

Where are they now?

When we first met Donald, we had a lot of questions. How would a person who is deaf handle a restaurant environment where calling out "hot behind you!" and "no pickles!" is standard practice? How would he take orders and serve customers? Would customers cooperate? How would we explain training information? Would he feel included in the PIP community? How would tutoring work?

Donald wanted to work but also had several other employment barriers including a criminal record and mental illness. His patience, sense of humor and great work ethic, along with interpreters and coaches from Touchstone Employment Network, made the training year a success. Since graduating, Donald now works as a prep cook and dishwasher at a local restaurant. He has kept the job over six months and gained a promotion. He loves his job and is proud of his progress. Congratulations Donald!

PIP RECIPES: Tomato Bisque

This recipe was the favorite at an all-soup fundraiser we catered in November. It will keep you toasty all winter.

2 carrots, peeled, coarsely chopped

2 celery, chopped

2 small onions, chopped

2 garlic cloves, crushed

½ c butter

56 oz crushed tomatoes

1½ cup tomato juice

4 T brown sugar

½ tsp pepper

6 T tomato paste

4 plum tomatoes, chopped

1 lb mushrooms, sliced

4 c chicken or vegetable stock

1 T chopped parsley

1 tsp oregano

1 tsp basil

1 tsp thyme

2 c heavy cream

½ tsp salt

Melt 2 tablespoons butter and sauté half of the carrots, celery, onion and garlic. Add crushed tomatoes, tomato juice, sugar and pepper. Cover and cook (simmer) 1½ hours to develop flavors. Cool and puree. Melt remaining butter and sauté the remaining carrots, celery, onions and mushrooms. Combine the puree, spices, plum tomatoes, stock, and tomato paste and slowly add cream. Bring to boil, then simmer without lid for 15 minutes.

Source: St. Charles Borromeo Parish Cookbook

Empower PIP

PIP earns half our budget with sales and fundraising events. We rely on donations and grants for the remainder. Some of our average monthly costs include:

- ▶ \$400 rent; \$1461 gas and electric; \$60 water; \$350 phone/fax/internet.
- ▶ \$360 last time the dishwasher repair guy came in! (yoicks!)
- ▶ \$5825 food supplies for catering & restaurant (44% of sales)
- ▶ \$433 training stipend for each of our 16-18 trainees.
- ▶ \$650 site fee for the Americorps Volunteer who coordinates our tutoring program.
- ▶ \$7106 salary for 3 full time management/ program/training staff
- ▶ \$1222 payroll taxes; \$96 payroll prep fees
- ▶ \$458 office paper, ink, postage, computer supplies for computers for staff, volunteers and trainees.

Your gift of any amount is deeply appreciated. Consider donating the food cost for your next catering job, or a virtual pizza feast, or the training stipend for one trainee for one week (\$130).

Your tax deductible donation supports PIP's employment education program for inner city adults.

Thank you.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Donation amount: \$ _____

In honor of: _____

Mail to: PIP, 727 Ezzard Charles Dr, Cincinnati OH 45203

Good Food for a Good Cause
Venice on Vine Restaurant & Catering
1301 Vine Street
Cincinnati OH 45202
513-221-7020

www.powerinspiresprogress.com