



# POWER Inspires Progress

Good Friend,

November 15, 2014

November is another busy month but, with time dedicated to grateful reflection. It is a time One is repeatedly asked, "For what are you thankful?" At Power Inspires Progress (PIP) we are grateful for so much! We are blessed by the presence of extraordinary Volunteers who tutor Trainees, work along side us in the kitchen, assist with catering, and contribute at the back of the house. We are blessed by the generous patrons of the restaurant, our amazing staff members, Program Participants, and supporters like you. In this season of thanksgiving I wanted to share with you a story of courage, hard work, and success straight from our own kitchens. It is a story that speaks of a sense of gratitude.

## Eugene

Eugene was a very busy young man. Some times that worked for him and sometimes it didn't. Eventually, one day Eugene decided it was time to grow up. Through the Urban League he heard about PIP's Venice on Vine training program. While many others scoffed at the low pay, he jumped at a real chance to enter the workforce.

He believes he made the right decision. As a Trainee Eugene took full advantage of the program and did so well that he was eventually recruited and hired as an assistant manager within PIP's own restaurant. This new role has allowed Eugene to help train and mentor others in need of encouragement as they attempt to enter / re-enter the workforce – and to build a more stable life for himself and his family. Eugene says,



**"Anyone can be successful, as long as they put their mind and heart into their dreams and believe in themselves."**

For Eugene, the future may hold returning to school and possibly to owning his own business. When we asked Eugene for what he is grateful for this season he shared,

**"I am grateful for Venice, for all the people that were patient with me, especially my family, those that taught me, and were there for me. I cannot be anything but thankful to Venice on Vine for helping me to overcome so many obstacles."**

Imagine how powerful it is to be given a second chance in life, a gift made possible by people like you. Please consider helping Power Inspires Progress continue this important work.

With gratitude and best wishes,

Mark Shannon  
Executive Director