



POWER Inspires Progress

Our gratitude extends all the way to Seattle – and beyond

Dear Friend:

One of the Trainees currently at P.I.P. is a middle-aged man by the name of Tony. He arrived interested in working to provide for his young family, but with significant barriers. While at P.I.P., he has mastered a number of skills and become a highly valued member of Sister Judy's catering team. Tony is now famous for his colorful catering trays with wonderful *texture, height, and contrast*.

While at P.I.P., long-standing oral health issues were addressed, and Tony was provided resources to secure needed corrective lenses. As his year drew to an end, the staff was puzzled by his difficulty securing a permanent position in the workforce. After we had reviewed all of his paperwork and found nothing amiss, someone suggested a full background check be run through a national database.

The check surfaced a seven-year-old outstanding warrant for arrest in Seattle, Washington. Although frustrated, those working with Tony could appreciate his reticence to share this information. He had been living "under the radar" for all these years and had hoped to keep this information secret. But it was explained that this unresolved issue was holding him back and needed to be addressed.



With Tony's permission, the staff at P.I.P. began to act. In Cincinnati, council was sought both utilizing pro bono representation and within the non-profit sector. However, all advised that this was a matter for the Seattle courts and needed to be addressed locally.

We made many of the same contacts in Seattle, but were advised that all were already over-taxed and could not take on the case of an individual from out of state. Eventually, P.I.P. contacted the Public Defender's Office in Seattle in the hope of understanding that community's system. Staff from that office made the effort of attempting to secure eligibility for Tony and went to work.

We were apprised that Tony would most likely need to present before the local courts. P.I.P. staff offered to accompany Tony to Seattle, but felt he needed some assurance of a reasonable resolution before placing himself and his family at such risk. The Prosecutor's Office insisted that it would not commit resources to pursue him, but should Tony arrive in that community, he would be arrested.

We decided to go directly to the courts. The representative from the Public Defender found a judge who would take our call. P.I.P. staff indicated that we sought probation with court-ordered community service supervised by P.I.P. in Cincinnati. The judge asked a number of questions about our organization and took the matter under advisement. Upon consideration and after studying the details of the case, the judge responded with his decision: all charges were dismissed. Tony is now positioned to confidently approach local employers. His future has been changed.

In this season of Thanksgiving, all of us at P.I.P. are grateful for the many blessings that have been ours. We are truly grateful for all the wonderfully unique individuals who come to P.I.P. wanting to work and change their lives. We are equally grateful for the extraordinary folks who continue to help in that work – each in their own way.

Many thanks to you for your continued interest and support!

Best wishes from all of us to you in this holiday season.

Mark Shannon, Executive Director Power
Inspires Progress / Venice On Vine