



Sister Pamela Marie, SND,
and Gloria

Thanks to you, mission fulfilled!

Rescuing
the downtrodden.

Restoring
hope to the hopeless.

Releasing
God's greatness to
our community.

This is the mission of Cherry Street—and you'd be hard-pressed to find a better example of it in action than Gloria, a former Sparrow's Nest guest and Ready For Life graduate.

Nor would it be easy to find a better example of the faithfulness of Cherry Street volunteers than Sister Pamela Marie of the Sisters of Notre Dame (SND), who helps our guests and others from the community at Cherry Street's Education and Career Center.

Put Gloria and Sister Pam together—as the Lord did earlier this year—and you have the remarkable story you're about to read.

Seven months ago on a Tuesday evening, Sister Pamela Marie, SND, was doing what she'd been doing on Tuesday nights for roughly a year: volunteering at Cherry Street's Education and Career Center to serve people unable to come during the day.

"Gloria came in that night and told me that she wanted to 'play with algebra,'" remembers Sister Pam. "That delighted me, because I'm a former math teacher. We sat down together, and I discovered that Gloria has wonderful skills in math and a good memory. What she didn't have was a high school diploma."

The road that led Gloria to her meeting with Sister Pam had been rough and strewn with potholes. After losing her job in May 2007, she struggled with substance abuse and ended up homeless and in debt. A creditor took her to court, where she was sentenced to jail time. However, after ten days of incarceration, a judge made it possible for her to work off her fine at Cherry Street's Sparrow's Nest.

"The Lord led me there," Gloria said. "I brought a whole lot of wreckage with me. At the Sparrow's Nest, I got my sobriety, and they helped me find my spirituality." With Sister Pam's help, she also pursued—and achieved—two big goals.

"In the last seven months, Gloria has earned her GED and STNA (State Tested Nurse Aide) certification," stated Sister Pam, who tutored Gloria several times a week in preparation for the tests. "For the STNA, she also had to pass a skills test, so I arranged for her to practice her skills with the elderly and ill sisters who live at the Notre Dame Health Care Center in Toledo.

"The staff fell in love with Gloria. She worked so well with the sisters, even coaxing some of the very quiet ones to interact and talk again. I think that those weeks she volunteered at the Health Care Center confirmed in her own mind that she's very good at what she does. She needed that."

"I like elderly people and have a knack for working with them," remarked a newly confident Gloria. The Notre Dame Health Care Center thought so, too. After she was certified as an STNA, they hired her.

"I'm impressed with the way she's growing into herself," commented Sister Pam. "Now we're talking about her becoming an LPN. Whatever her next goal is, she's bound and determined to achieve it, even when it takes her beyond her comfort level. Gloria is a phenomenal person."

Rescued and with hope **restored**, Gloria now **releases** God's greatness to our community by serving women who once spent their days serving others. What a great **example of our mission being fulfilled by God's Grace** and the support of good folks like you.