

# Because of You! (continued)

“You will know them by their fruits.” Matthew 7:16



◀ You might call it *giving from the heartburn*: at just \$1 a bowl and 50¢ a taste, the good folks at Great Lakes Windows raised a remarkable \$2,000 for Cherry Street during the company’s recent Chili Cook-Off. Competition was as hot as the spicy concoctions judged by Shenikwa Stratford of NBC News 24; Tony Packo, owner of the famous East Side restaurant; Jason Webber, *The City Paper*; Greg Irving, Great Lakes’ VP/general manager; and Cherry Street’s own Randy Kutz. On behalf of our guests who will benefit from Great Lakes’ generosity, we extend our thanks!

▶ A long-time choir director just launching a solo career as a singer, Sandy Martin felt a burden to help the homeless. She held a concert at a Waterville church and raised \$852 in a freewill offering for Cherry Street Mission Ministries. Sandy is making plans to perform for our guests at Cherry Street and the Sparrow’s Nest, and hopes to do more concerts for freewill offerings at area churches. If your church would like to host a concert by Sandy, please contact Randy Kutz. We know that Sandy will bless you as she’s blessed us.



▲ Talk about pizza delivery! Cherry Street’s guests enjoyed the tasty results of Campus Heat, an event at the University of Toledo designed to raise hunger awareness and eliminate hunger. More than 80 students from campus organizations made 1,000 pizzas for local shelters, and gave 250 of them to Cherry Street.

◀ Guests at the Sparrow’s Nest now exercise in a room completely revamped by Youth Leadership Toledo in April. Using materials provided by Home Depot, volunteers painted the old exercise room, purchased exercise equipment, and placed colorful posters on the walls. YLT’s director is Cory Diptold.

*If you’re interested in donating supplies or volunteering, please contact Randy Kutz at [rkutz@cherrystreetmission.org](mailto:rkutz@cherrystreetmission.org) or 419-242-5141, ext. 241.*



## From Drugs to the Dean’s List

*Here are excerpts from an email Jenny sent us recently:*

*I just wanted to let the staff at the Sparrow’s Nest know that I am forever grateful for their services. The Ready for Life program has given me structure in my life, and more important, it has instilled in me a faith in God that has really helped me through some hard times... Last semester, I earned placement on the dean’s list with a 3.98 GPA. Without the Sparrow’s Nest and my continued sobriety from heroin, this would never have been possible. You and your staff have truly helped me change my life.*

Jenny is a University of Toledo business major with a bright future ahead of her. But just 14 months ago, she realized that she was in danger of having no future at all.

A heroin addict since age 15, Jenny had been in and out of rehab several times. In early 2006, after watching a friend nearly die of an overdose, it finally hit home that *she* could die. She went through rehab one more time, and made plans to return to UT, where she’d completed a year of college before dropping out because of her drug problem.

But Jenny’s mother was afraid that her daughter would start using again when she left home. So she contacted a mental health professional in Toledo who said that the Sparrow’s Nest might help Jenny maintain her sobriety.

And we did. In fact, Jenny, believes that without the Nest, she’d be using again.

“The difference is that [the Nest] is Christ-based,” explains Jenny, who accepted Jesus not long after arriving last May. “That gave me a lot of hope. With God, anything is possible. The other programs touched on [a higher power], but not like here.”

When she completed the program in August and moved into a dorm, Jenny took the self-discipline she’d learned at the Nest with her. “The Nest is regimented,” she states. “They keep you very busy. [So] I took a full course load, joined the marching band, and pledged a coed business fraternity.”

In moments of temptation—and there have been some—she turns to Christ. “I’ve had to lock myself in my room and pray,” Jenny says. “The experience at the Nest helps me get through difficulties on the outside. It also makes me want to try harder, because now I realize the value of my life.”

Each day, you enable us to help people like Jenny. Just as she thanked us, we thank you for giving us the opportunity to help them all build new lives in Christ Jesus.

Leave a Legacy of Caring

If you’re reading this newsletter, there’s a very good chance that you’re an active supporter of Cherry Street’s ministry to the homeless. You know that your support changes lives and furthers the Gospel. You believe in our work.

That’s why we ask that you consider making a planned gift to Cherry Street Mission Ministries. By remembering Cherry Street in your estate, you help ensure that the work you hold dear will continue. You also establish a legacy of caring that may inspire future generations of friends and family to invest in the Lord’s work.

We understand that you need to balance your giving with your financial and estate planning goals, so we would be happy to work with you and your professional advisors to find charitable gift strategies that are best for you. To learn more, please contact Rodney Schuster at 419-242-5141, ext. 221 or [rschuster@cherrystreetmission.org](mailto:rschuster@cherrystreetmission.org). By planning today, you’re planting seeds that may bear fruit far into the future, perhaps even for all eternity.