



You Gave Laurinda the Fresh Start She Longed For.

For Laurinda, Toledo was supposed to be a fresh start.

Just 37 when she moved to Toledo from the state of Washington in 2005, she had already experienced her share of struggles and

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sorrows, including 13 years of incarceration. After living with a succession of relatives in 2005, she found herself on the verge of homelessness. So when “friends” in Toledo told her she could stay with them, she moved here, thinking she’d at last found a way to escape her past and build a new life.

Sadly, her so-called “friends” changed the terms of their offer, and Laurinda was suddenly without a home. Alone in a strange city with no other place to go, she made her way to the Sparrow’s Nest.

“God led me to the Sparrow’s Nest, and has blessed me many times over,” Laurinda states with great conviction. She counts among her blessings the opportunity to grow her relationship with God at Calvary Bible Chapel, where she derives great joy from working with 3- and 4-year-old children in the daycare ministry. She has also successfully completed computer training at the Education Center and classes in our Ready for Life program.

To Laurinda, the Sparrow’s Nest is a place of love and peace. “I really don’t know where I’d be without it,” she stresses. “The staff offers so much love that you can see God in how they treat everyone.”

Because Laurinda has taken to heart James 2:14 – *Faith without works is dead* – she now volunteers at the Sparrow’s Nest. Once she leaves the Nest after her upcoming graduation from Ready for Life, she plans to continue to volunteer here as often as possible.

We know that – just as surely as God led Laurinda to the Sparrow’s Nest – He led you to provide the resources we needed to help her. As a result, when she leaves us to build a new life in our community, she’ll be equipped with a deepened faith and filled with the Word of God. We thank you for opening your heart to His prompting so that Laurinda might at last make her fresh start.



Last year, 28 men and 14 women graduated from our Ready for Life program, an individualized care plan designed to move our guests from poverty to self-sufficiency. On average, 74 percent of our Ready for Life graduates won’t become homeless again.