



Dependent upon none but the Lord— thanks to you!

“The Nest brought me back to Jesus.”

Today, as her father battles cancer, 28-year-old Missy is a real support to her mother and grandmother. But two years ago, no one—not even Missy herself—could have envisioned her in such a role.

“I have a learning disability,” Missy explains. “I learn at an eighth-grade level, [so] I always depended on other people: my mother, my family, even my ex[-boyfriend].”

But in December 2005, Missy suddenly found herself alone in Toledo with no one to depend upon.

She’d been traveling with her trucker boyfriend, and by the time they reached Toledo, she’d had enough of his emotional abuse—so she left him. Suicidal and far from her family in Des Moines, Missy called the police, who took her to Rescue Crisis. She stayed there four days before coming to the Sparrow’s Nest.

At first, Missy’s only goal was to obtain a bus ticket home. But when both the Nest’s Miss Yolanda and Missy’s father—a child psychologist—couldn’t find a place in Des Moines that offered the help the Nest did, Missy’s family encouraged her to stay put.

“When I asked Miss Yolanda how long I could stay at the Nest, she said I could stay as long as I wanted,” Missy says. “That made me feel a whole lot better, [because] it takes me a while to understand things.

“My goal was to be independent. [Through the Ready for Life program] I was able to get counseling and go to classes. [I appreciated] the one-on-one time, being able to ask a question and not feeling stupid, [knowing that] no one would judge me.

“I also completed a State Tested Nurses Aide (STNA) class. I received 88.8 percent on the skilled portion of the exam. My parents are so proud of me!”

After a year at the Nest, Missy returned to Des Moines last December. She now works as a home care aide, is saving money for a car, attends church, and lives with her parents. (“Dad is doing okay, but I know there’s a reason I’m here.”) She plans to have a place of her own by the time she’s 30—a goal she’d never dream of setting before her experience at the Nest.

“When I left [my boyfriend], I didn’t know where I was going,” Missy states. “I didn’t know where I was at. At that point, I didn’t care. Now that I’ve been at the Sparrow’s Nest, I care about a lot of stuff. I’ve grown a lot there. I have become independent . . . and more responsible. The Nest brought me back to Jesus. And I now know that God has a plan for my life. I am so grateful for [it] all.”

As a supporter of Cherry Street, you not only gave Missy the resources she needed to become independent; you also gave her the time she needed. Your gifts enable us to care for guests as long as they need our help.