



NORTHWEST PILOT PROJECT, INC.

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Doris is a survivor. After her motor home and all of her possessions were taken from her in 2000, Doris found herself without a place to live and with only a single bus ticket in her pocket. It was the second time in her life that she had lost everything. In the course of a day, Doris was homeless. Because her beloved husband, an accomplished brick-mason, fell ill and had to be hospitalized, she had no family to ask for help.

After a few long, restless nights of sleeping on friends and strangers couches, Doris used her bus ticket to get downtown so that she could go to Northwest Pilot Project. Cindy Mosney, a housing specialist, worked with Doris and immediately got her a room at the Salvation Army. From there, things got gradually better. She was soon moved to a temporary apartment and shortly after to the apartment in northwest Portland where she resides today. The manager of the building, who recently passed away, helped situate Doris in her new apartment and provided her with some essential pieces of furniture. Recently, she received a brand new, pearly white refrigerator.

In 2002, Doris was at her husband's side in the hospital as he passed away. At the time of his death, they were married nearly thirty years. But fate and intuition led her to reconnect with her estranged brother and son. She has a family again. In addition, she is very close with her housekeeper, who she describes as the daughter that she never had. Doris loves the community feel of northwest Portland. She has befriended many of the residents in her apartment and spends her free time making beautiful and colorful beaded jewelry. Doris stressed that she would not be where she is today without the help of Northwest Pilot Project. "Blessings happen," she says, "I am a fighter." Doris is all smiles sporting a fabulous new perm courtesy of the Friendly House. It's her first perm in years.

Doris' wellness plan includes eating at Loaves and Fishes and playing bingo there. Doris says "thank you, Northwest Pilot Project. On July 29th I'll be 68 years old and I'm very happy to be here."



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It was one of the first sunny days of the year. As I approach her house, I see Sue West with a shovel in her hand, planting colorful flowers in her front lawn. Her face lights up when she sees me; she warmly greets me with a smile and invites me into her house. We sit on a plush, suede couch adorned with throw pillows. A friend, Sue proudly explains, gave the couch to her as a house-warming gift. Her addiction left her with nothing but the clothes on her back.

Sue was an alcoholic for thirty-seven years. While she was once a successful business owner in southwest Portland, her addiction cost her both her career and her family. Instead of drinking water, Sue drank wine. Eventually, Sue entered into De Paul Treatment Center. From then on, her life started to improve. "God has a plan for everything and everyone," Sue says. 1/9/09 are Sue's lucky numbers and also the day that Sue became sober. Shortly after, her caseworker at Central City Concern

approached her about moving out of De Paul. She was sent to see housing specialist Cindy Mosney at NW Pilot Project. Cindy helped her obtain the documents that she needed to live on her own including her birth certificate and her social security card. Cindy also helped her enroll in the six-week class, Ready to Rent, to help her succeed in a place of her own. With the retirement money that she duly received from social security after years of running her own business, Sue was able to financially support herself for the first time in many years.

A friend offered Sue the opportunity of a lifetime: to rent and run a sober house in Tualatin. Sue moved in last February. She and her roommates support and care for each other in their battles with alcoholism. "How can I help?" These simple words are the motto that Sue lives by. Since becoming clean, Sue has developed two main goals in her life: to give back to Central City Concern and NW Pilot Project for their work in helping her succeed. Today, Sue is an involved and active volunteer at NW Pilot Project. An advocate for what she believes, she regularly visits women's shelters and refers people to many of Portland's resourceful nonprofit organizations to receive help. "You're keeping me sober," Sue says, "by allowing me to help you."

Sue learned from Cindy at NW Pilot Project that it is okay to ask for help in life, that it is okay to have boundaries. In addition to running her sober house, Sue frequently attends AA meetings at Eastside Sunrise. She makes use of her beloved car, referred to by many as "Suzy's Suzuki," to help out other recovering alcoholics in their times of struggle. She has built a support system for those around her.

After Sue leads me back outside, she gives me a big hug, thanking me for listening to her story. Grinning from ear to ear, she truly glows in the sun. Cindy describes Sue best, once calling her one of Portland's most outstanding ladies.