

## Author Biographies

**Sandra Al-Deen:** Praise the Lord! I'm 43 years old and have 5 children and three grandchildren. I have worked as a health care provider for 18 years of my adult life. At this time I attend GED classes in human services. My goal is to succeed in all I set out to do. I seek God in troubled times and pray. (Feelings section)

**Glen A. Baldwin:** I am now working on Reading for Today. I am learning a lot from this. I wrote my stories because I like to remember about the old days and how I used to do these things. (Reminiscences section)

**Annie Bell:** (Reminiscences section)

**Karen Bowman:** (Learning section)

**Martha H. Brinker:** I was a young girl when I moved from Kentucky to Ohio. My parents divorced, and my mother still lives in the old log house today. I decided to write about the differences between living in the country and the city. (Reminiscences section)

**Kathy Brooks:** (Learning section)

**Andrea M. Calhoun:** Andrea Calhoun is a mother of four—ages 2-11. She enjoys reading, relaxing, and spending time with her children. She feels reading is very important and reads to her children every night. Andrea hopes to write a novel about her unique life experiences and continue her education with an emphasis on writing. (Nature section)

**Sharon Cavell:** To begin I want to say that the Lord works in mysterious ways. It was that mysterious way that brought me to this transition in my life. I had a careless accident that carried me into a goal-achieving world: the world of disability. At age 44 I'm a work in progress. I'm back in school and changing my career. I give myself a reward everyday and that reward is knowledge—cause I believe you learn everyday. (Family section)

**Amy Chandler:** I am a mother of four, and I wrote this piece because at age 15 I lost my first child whom I still think of often. On April 9 she would have been nine years old. I am going through GED

classes to better myself and get a better job to provide better care for my loving children. (Family section)

**Traci Cornist:** I am a 25 year-old mother, wife, and student. I enjoy family outings, writing, and dancing. I am currently getting my GED and very proud of the rapid progress I'm making. (Reminiscences section)

**Paula Darovich:** I am a student of Even Start ABE. They've taught me a lot. After this submission, I have realized how much I enjoy writing and would like to pursue this. I am hoping to finish my class with my GED and keep in touch with all my great co-students. (Family section)

**Christine Deal:** I am 29 years old. I started taking GED classes in August. I got my GED in December. I am now working at Genesis Elder Care at Somerset Center. I live in a camper without water or electric. It is a very enjoyable experience. (Reminiscences section)

**Phil Edwards:** (Feelings section, Reminiscences section)

**Pam Fiore:** I have been a wife and mother for 27 years. Out of five children, three are sons, who are now graduated and together with their father run our own family business. Yes, it is true, Italians do have explosive tempers and thrive on drama. (Feelings section)

**M. Foltz:** At age 70 I began to take classes in the LEARN GED program. I'm amazed at what I have learned in these classes. My desire is to continue to learn for a better life. I thank God for my successes. (Reminiscences section)

**Mary L. Garrison:** I just write about the things I feel. (Feelings section)

**Tracy Graham:** Tracy's essay says it all! Being the mother of 10 children has created problems for Tracy as far as helping with school work. Tracy "jumped right in" and started working very hard. She brought her mother, brother, and his girlfriend to school also. She has recently gotten a job and is bringing in much needed money. (Family section)

**Vickie Hargraves:** I love to write. I enjoy writing about real things that have happened to me. I was also in Beginnings II book last year. (Family section)

**Sharon Harsh:** I am a mother of three healthy boys and I am 31 years old. I am a student at Baxter Even Start. I hope to achieve my GED so I can get a job anywhere in the Canton City School System. (Family section)

**Vicki Hobbs:** My reason for coming to Learn GED Program was determination to get my education. I know that once I achieve my degree it will open doors for me. I am 35 and hope that by the age of 40 I will have successfully reached my goals. (Family section)

**Frances Kay Jenkins:** I am a 53-year-old female. I am presently taking GED classes, for I feel that you never get too old to learn and try to set an example for your children and grandchildren. I always hope they will realize how important an high school diploma is. (Nature section)

**Stacy Jones:** I am a single mother of 3 and 4 year old girls from the Urbana area. I am unemployed and started ABLE to get my GED. I want to go to college for computers so I can get a good job. (Learning section)

**Kum Sun Kim:** I am a mother of two daughters. I have been in the United States for 23 years. I am presently working on attaining my GED. (Family section, Nature section)

**Norma J. King:** I am a married woman with three daughters and eleven grandchildren. I care for four of my grandchildren. I work full time at Pierre Foods and go to the Learning Center. My teacher, Marty Lopinto, has inspired me to write—telling me I could do it. (Family section, Reminiscences section)

**Zenia Kovalska:** I am from Ukraine. I have been in the USA for five years. I came to the English Center last fall. I am in Level 5. I love to be here. Our teacher is terrific. (Reminiscences section)

**Harold Lester:** I was born in Georgia in 1932. I moved to Cleveland in 1956. I've been at Project: LEARN about four years. (Reminiscences section)

**Lonnie Littleton:** First, let me tell you I'm an Afro-American male and proud of it. I was born in Columbus, Ohio in 1951. What divides me from other great dead poets is that I'm unique, what you call a ne breed of poet. So, therefore, I believe I'm the world's greatest living poet. (Feelings section)

**Tavia Lorenzoni:** I am currently studying for my GED with ample help from my GED instructor Sue Conkle. I enjoy writing and learning new things. I will continue writing short stories and poems forever, with the possibility of making it a career. Thank you very much. (Feelings section)

**Ruan Luong:** I am Ruan Luong. I'm working for Pierre Food Company and taking a class at its Learning Center. (Learning section, nature section)

**Cicely Mason:** Cecily Mason is originally from Arkansas. She is a mother, nurse's aide, and friend to many. She cares more about others than herself. She has a beautiful smile that lights up a room. She has three children and a crazy, fun brother who is about 6 ft. 9 in. tall. (Feelings section)

**Tiffney McNicol:** I attend ABLE-GED classes to work on my writing skills. I love to write different poems that are about my life. My life is full of emotions that can be written down on paper. (Feelings section)

**Regina Mulkey:** I enjoy writing, photography, crafts, and reading. I have a two year-old son, and I have been married for four years. I am in school to get my GED. (Family section)

**Anh Phuong Nguyen:** (Family section)

**Yuki Ohashi:** About two years have passed since I began to live in Cincinnati. I go to ABLE class at Live Oaks because I want to get more English skills. Now, I'm enjoying writing essays from my daily life in my class. (Family section)

**Yuki Ohashi, Vicki Hargraves, Monica Bustos, Rosalba McCain, Sherril Knight, Kum Sun Kim:** These students all participate in ABLE classes. Two of them are also participants in ESL classes. (Learning section)

**Bart Rethmeier:** Through my piece of writing I wanted to show my love for my father who passed away from the effects of lung cancer. (Family section, Feelings section)

**Carol Rudder:** I was born in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. We moved to the United States when I was five. I was raised in the Chicago area. I then moved to California and ended up in Ohio. I have two grown children and four grandchildren. (Nature section, Reminiscences section)

**Karen Safewright:** Karen is a working mother of a young boy. She now works a daytime shift so she can attend the night time ABLE program. Karen enjoys writing and says she has written other pieces. (Feelings section)

**Karen S. Smith:** I'm a working mother of two girls. I enjoy writing in my free time. It is my goal to help others through my writings. (Family section, Learning section)

**Sharon Sheppard-Scott:** Sharon Sheppard-Scott is a divorced mother of four children. She works as a cleaner/cafeteria worker in an elementary school. She had difficulty in school, but through trial and tribulation is striving to succeed. (Family section)

**Dale Sherman:** I have been a student at Project:LEARN for four years and am very involved in our student group as well as at the state and national levels. I am also a board member in Project:LEARN. I have two young boys who take books with them wherever they go. (Learning section)

**Shannon Showalter:** (Family section)

**Michelle Spencer:** Michelle Spencer is a lifelong resident of Dayton. A mother of three, she likes to help others and read and write. She also enjoys a variety of sports including basketball, skating, bowling, and swimming. (Feelings section)

**Natalya A. Stare:** I'd been studying English for a year before we arrived in the U.S.A. I've been in America for one year and a few months. I'm Russian and I lived in a big city, Saratov, on the river Volga. I'm a musician- I play the piano. I got married in America. I have a five year-old son who can speak two languages—Russian and English. (Reminiscences section)

**Dragana Stevic:** Dragana came to this country from Bosnia and has lived here for two years. She has two children and works for Giant Eagle grocery store. (Reminiscences section)

**Ken Tallon:** (Reminiscences section)

**Nora Thomas:** In all my years attending school I always wanted to succeed. At the age of nineteen I began a GED program. My determination has enabled me to submit a piece of writing for this

contest. This is a wonderful challenge, and I am very privileged to be able to do this. (Learning section)

**Sherry Thornsberry:** (Nature section)

**Sarah Vinion:** I am an 18 year-old student at OCCHA where I am trying to get my GED. By next year I am going to go to college for nursing. I have a son, Austin, who is 15 months and a baby due at the end of March. (Feelings section)

**Toni Whitt:** Toni Whitt has seen and lived through many hard times. This makes it easy for her to observe people and sometimes to write about them. Even sometimes to just hear a story on the news makes her write. For example, "An Evening Death" came from a news story. (Family section)

**Helen Wiggins:** I am 74 years young and like being around people. I do volunteer work two days a week and enjoy that. I live in a rural area and do some gardening and have some flowers. I have two grown daughters, three grandchildren and a great granddaughter. I my spare time I enjoy reading. (Reminiscences section)

**Cindy Wright:** I am married with three beautiful children. I have enjoyed writing since I was a young child. I especially enjoy writing poetry. Any recognition I get as a writer is the best compliment I could ever receive. (Family Section)