

Author Biographies

Fumiko Adair (p. 44)

Finding myself to be a mother of a multi-handicapped child crushed my heart and body. It is hard to keep up myself without support; family, especially my husband, friends and all sorts of professionals helped. Too, finding [my] Self Even Start program and enrolling myself as an ESOL student is very soothing and indispensable. Receiving this honor, I thank people who carry on this program with enthusiasm, including my teachers.

Etta Lorene Bailey (p. 87)

I was born in Dickenson County, Virginia, but I have lived in Ohio for forty-two years. I am a wife, a mother of two, and a grandmother of two. I am retired and enjoy trap shooting, gardening, church, reading, writing, and spending time with my grandchildren.

Christopher Barker (p. 28)

I have been incarcerated for eleven of the last fourteen years, currently at Montgomery County Jail. While incarcerated, I started looking for God because I realized I couldn't do it by myself. Now, my goals are to help others who have been incarcerated, to express myself through my writings, and to be a living example that anyone can change.

Karen Barnes (p. 14)

Jeff Bell (p. 91)

Roberto Benitez (p. 27)

Dawn Bradley (p. 42)

I have a 2-year-old son. I am working toward my GED so I can have my own daycare. I love to read and write poetry.

Diane Brown (p. 19)

Quang Minh Cao (p. 72)

He likes to write, and this is his first year studying English (ESOL) in Scarlet Oaks.

Faith D. Crabtree (p. 13)

Faith has recently received her GED. She looks forward to continuing her education. Among her many talents, writing is one of her favorite things to do!

Twila Cross (p. 33)

Amanda JoAnna Edge (p. 96)

Amanda is the proud new mother of a baby boy! As well as working hard on her math and science so she can go to college this fall, she is also interning as a pharmacy technician. She hopes to pursue that coursework in school.

Philip H. Edwards (p. 56)

I make no illusions to the fact: I don't know the difference between an adverb and a denominator. But my pen is my passport to the past.

Prescious Eutsey (p. 41)

My name is Prescious Eutsey. I attend Lathrop Even Start. I have 2 children, both girls. Jazmin is 3. Rochelle is 8 months.

M. Foltz (p. 99)

Ed Garcia (p. 93)

Carol E. Gessner (p. 17)

I'm the proud mother of two girls and grandmother of 3 grandsons and mother-in-law of the world's greatest son-in-law. I've been line-coordinator at Pierre Foods for ten years, and I enjoy working and learning about different nationalities.

Renee Glaze (p. 35)

Laura Lee Green-Kulcak (pp. 47, 66)

Vickie Hargraves (p. 94)

Cynthia Harrison (p. 78)

I'm nineteen years old, from Dayton, Ohio, and enrolled in GED classes at Montgomery County Jail. My goal is to get my GED and go to college. I love literature, and my favorite writer is Shakespeare.

Larry Hurd (p. 21)

Tri Huynh (p. 97)

I was born in Vietnam and came to the United States of America on October 10, 1995. I've been working at Pierre Foods for 3 years. I became a United States citizen last summer.

Kum Sun Kim (p. 34)

Mahammed Kutubuddin (pp. 24, 60)

I was born in India and have been in the U.S. for one year. I am married and the proud father of two children. I work at Pierre Foods and attend their Learning Center. My hobbies include stamp and coin collecting.

Lonnie Littleton (p. 4)

I have a dream, and that is to be the world's greatest living poet if there is such a thing. I've been writing since I was a child. I have always wanted to be famous before I die . . . so I am having a race with death. To make a long story short, always put God first and [yourself] last and then maybe [your] dream might just come true.

Art Massengill (pp. 39, 53, 81)

I never dreamed that I would be writing as I am, much less be submitted in a contest. I am excited!

Michael McFadden (p. 7)

Carrie Miller (p. 43)

I am 29 years old and have lived in New Lexington since I was in the 4th grade. I was always in special education classes and have been working on my GED off and on for about 10 years. I'm not going to give up.

Linda Montgomery (p. 18)

Writing is my hobby. I recently bought a typewriter because I want to be able to write more. I am a grandmother of ten grandchildren and I write stories for them. They like for me to read to them. I think reading and writing are very important.

Regina Mulkey (p. 6)

My name is Regina Mulkey. I have been married for five years, and I have a three-year-old son. I'm proud to say this is my third year at the Writers' Conference.

Angela Murphy (p. 85)

I am a mother of two girls and a stepmother of two boys. We joke and call ourselves the little Brady Bunch. The only two differences are we don't have a nanny or a dog, but we do love our animals.

Marjie Mustard (pp. 11, 80)

Anh Phuong Nguyen (pp. 77, 83)

I was born in Vietnam. I work at Pierre Foods, and I attend the Learning Center there. I am working to improve my writing and English skills.

Thuy Nguyen (p. 69)

I am from Vietnam. I've been in the United States ten months.

Tatyana O'Neill (p. 71)

Shirley Pettit (p. 3)

I would like to write children's books.

Mary Rapp (p. 5)

Adam D. Rice (p. 32)

I have always had a keen interest in writing and, thanks to the Writers' Conference, I am even more enthusiastic. I have always believed "if you put your mind to work, it will work for you."

Monique Ross (pp. 38, 40)

Ms. Ross received her GED on February 21, 2001, and scored in the upper 25th percentile in writing. In an essay written during class, she shared that she "would like to be remembered as an inspiration" and her writings demonstrate how she can inspire others.

Carol Rudder (p. 84)

I was born in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. We moved to Chicago when I was 5 years old. I lived in California for awhile and ended up in Ohio. I am married and have two children and four grandchildren.

Cynthia Rush (p. 31)

I was born and raised in Beckley, West Virginia. I am attending Project Learn and studying for my GED. Someday I would like to get my poems and stories published and become an author.

Patricia Santos (p. 23)

I'm from Brazil. I've been in the U.S. for 1 year.

Christine Seman (pp. 12, 37)

Dale Sherman (p. 9)

Karen S. Smith (p. 16)

This makes my fourth year of being published in the *Beginnings* series. Pierre Frozen Foods makes this possible for me, by providing the Learning Center for me to further my studies. I love coming to the Writers' Conference. It's always a learning experience.

Toshia Smith (p. 8)

Toshia is a loving, caring mother of 2 girls. She enjoys expressing herself through writing.

Milita Stringer (p. 62)

Heather Tilley (p. 82)

I am a proud parent of two boys, Jamire Westbrook Jr. and Jeremy Tilley. I plan on furthering my education, and I am looking forward to a great new job! I wish all current and future GED students best wishes and luck for their future, just as I have.

Christian Velez (pp. 15, 95)

I was born in New York City, lived in the States for 12 years, moved to Puerto Rico and went to three schools. I lived in Puerto Rico for 6 years. I decided to move to Ohio with my brother and family. Playing in two Latin bands named Latin X-Posure and Fiesta del Soul, we recorded four CDs. I started to write poems 2 years ago and am going to school now at Princeton for my GED.

Katherine White (p. 92)

Sally White (p. 36)

I'm a mother of seven children and very busy. Having my work recognized has been so exciting for me. I hope to inspire my children to enjoy writing as I have come to.

Earl Willford (p. 55)

I am 77 years old. I spent most of my life working in the oil field. My hobby is playing the guitar and singing country music.

