

*This 4th edition of Beginnings
is dedicated in memory of
Christopher Graves,
the loving son of Penny Graves
of the OLC.*



Foreword

In this 4th edition of *Beginnings*, the Ohio Literacy Resource Center (OLRC) once again celebrates the voices of adult literacy students throughout the state of Ohio. This collection of original works represents a variety of genres in which the authors effectively and creatively demonstrate the power of the written word. *Beginnings IV* features poetry, short stories, and personal reflections selected from over 300 entries. We are proud of these students and their outstanding achievements as writers and applaud them for sharing their talents.

The authors of *Beginnings IV* and their teachers were honored during the 4th Annual Writers' Conference sponsored by the OLRC in the spring of 2001 at Mohican State Park. Additionally, this edition of *Beginnings* recognizes *every* student who took the initiative to submit his/her writing to the OLRC for review for this publication. We commend all of the students and their teachers for their dedication to writing as a vehicle for self-expression, as well as a tool for enhancing literacy learning. The students who submitted entries that are not included in *Beginnings IV* are listed in the *Honorable Mention* section of this book.

Finally, the OLRC would like to acknowledge the following people who contributed to the success of this project. *Beginnings IV* would not "be" without the support of: Jim Bowling, of the Ohio Department of Education, for his continued financial support; Nancy Padak, the OLRC Faculty Advisor, for her extraordinary leadership, enthusiasm for the project, and editorial assistance; Marty Ropog and Dianna Baycich, Co-Directors of the OLRC, for their expert organizational skills and support; Connie Sapin, the OLRC Literacy Projects Coordinator, for her incredible guidance; Chris Fullerton, the OLRC Webmistress, for her critical web editorial assistance; Carrie Spence, for her countless hours of work including assisting with the cover design, publication logistics, and conference organization; Penny Graves for her

assistance with formatting, and to Andrea Yates, as well as the other student workers at the OLRC, who diligently worked with reams of paper as this publication unfolded.

The OLRC also thanks the following people who reviewed submissions: Bryan Bardine, Dianna Baycich, Lynda Cornett, Judy Hendershot, Chris McKeon, Nancy Padak, Connie Sapin, and Lisa White.

The staff of the OLRC hopes that you find this latest edition of *Beginnings* a memorable literary adventure. Enjoy reading reflective pieces about loved ones, memories of long ago and faraway, musings about living things, and a medley of other treasured thoughts, entitled lagniappe!

Chris McKeon

Writers' Conference 2001 Organizer