

## Author Biographies

**Mona Achkar** (p. 47)

I am from Lebanon. I have three children.

**Carol Adams** (p. 139)

**Jessica Barton** (p. 130)

**Dink Bishop** (p. 135)

It was hard to write what I feel inside, but if you write, keep on writing.

**Kelly Bond** (pp. 15, 43, 130)

**Kathy L. Boyd** (p. 103)

Kathy Boyd grew up in West Virginia and has spent most of her life caring for people as a nurse's aid. She got her GED in 2002 and is now a student at Rhodes State College working to become a licensed social worker.

**Michael Brown** (p. 44)

**Gary Burnside** (p. 43)

**Jeffrey R. Carter** (p. 60)

**Tonya Chadwick** (pp. 73, 129, 130)

I am a mother of two boys and one daughter, and I have one granddaughter, and I am pursuing my education.

**Tonya Charles** (pp. 43, 129, 130)

**Nina Chesser** (pp. 129, 130)

**Stephanie Clark** (p. 23)

I wrote this in dedication to my father.

**Lety Cornell** (pp. 129, 130)**Isaac Dahl** (p. 68)

I am a 25-year-old student and janitor from Sudan. I will be going to college next year.

**Blondine Davenport** (p. 163)

I have five kids, I'm in the ABLÉ program to reach my goals in life. It's been hard, but it takes time, and I'm going to make it. I want a few things in life and to get them, I now know it starts with me. I have made up my mind that it is also going to end with me getting everything in life that I always wanted—a good life!

**Kandice DeMare** (pp. 4, 11)

Kandi is the mother of a seven-year-old boy and is currently involved in post-secondary education.

**Laura Disbro** (p. 131)

I am 43 years old and I have always enjoyed writing. I am a mother of two sons. I am currently working towards my GED, so I can further my education.

**Jin Hui Dulle** (p. 43, 65, 130)

I came from South Korea about twenty years ago. I'm married and have two sons, and I'm currently taking GED classes.

**Tosha Evans** (p. 153)

I am a 28 year old high school graduate. I have completed two years of college but I am not a graduate yet. I am currently enrolled in a Health Unit Coordinator class at Health Professions Academy with a program called Project: Search. I am also consuming some extra skills with Cincinnati Public Schools which will assist me in my HUC classes. I am a volunteer at Orion Academy for PTA as well as a mother of two. My goals in life are to be a registered nurse, writer, and social worker.

**Lisa Ewert** (p. 85)

I have four kids who all love to read. I am interested in writing children's books.

**Missy Franz** (p. 129)**Susan Fugett** (p. 130)**Krystal Gibson** (p. 167)**Kelly Giffin** (p. 165)**Elizabeth Haddad** (p. 48)

I'm a 23-year-old woman with three children. One of my children has a mental illness called Autism. I'm a recovering drug addict. I'm much happier now in my life. I really hope my letter has helped other drug addicts in this world. I hope to be the best I can in my life. Thank you.

**Tammy Hardy-Anyia** (p. 107)

I'm 41 years old. I attend ABLE classes to assist me in preparation for a LPN examination. I've attended since September 2004.

**Ivette Hernandez** (p. 126)

Ivette Hernandez is currently enrolled in the Lorain, Ohio ABLE/GED program. She hopes to graduate this year and plans to study English/Spanish translation at Lorain Community College.

**Dale Hudec** (p. 67)**Kevin L. Izor** (pp. 24, 115)**Anthony Jackson** (p. 123)**Alondra Johnson** (p. 43)**Aurelia Johnson** (p. 107)

I started ABLE classes because I set goals for myself. One of my goals is to get my GED and put it to use. I would like to attend college and become a mortician. I am 47 and I will not give up.

**Dorothy Jones** (pp. 43, 130)**Kum Sun Kim** (p. 130)**Terry Kimbler** (p. 28)

I'm a twenty-year-old man that is being shown how to fix things the hillbilly style and being shown the back roads of life.

**Teresa Marie Leisure** (p. 116)

I am 37 and have been married for twenty years to my high school sweetheart who I love very much. I also have a daughter who is nineteen and a son who is sixteen. They are my heart and soul. I would like to take this time to thank my teachers, Maureen and Louise, for all their help and for having confidence in me when I didn't and for ABLE and GED.

**Yolanda Lewis** (p. 36)

In memory of my mother, Ms. Jane M. Scales Ellington.

**Geetha Lingan** (p. 69)

I'm 39 years old, and I was born in Sri Lanka. I've been in the U.S. for five years. I want to get my GED and accomplish my dreams, and I want to have a wonderful future with my family.

**Live Oaks ABE Class** (pp. 43, 129, 130)**John Lloyd** (p. 158)

I am living life just for today and for no other reason than to better myself.

**Cathy Loikoc** (p. 51)

I am in my late forties and married with three kids who are now adult. I have three grandkids and am trying to get my GED. I would like to go on and help others.

**Danhui Long** (p. 121)

In China, I am a computer engineer. But one year ago, I came to Cleveland with my husband who is studying at CWRU. I have been studying in the ESL program for about one year. I love this program very much because it is useful, the teachers are lovely, and my classmates are friendly.

**Carlos Lopez** (p. 71)

I lived in Colombia almost all my life (51 years). I'm father of two boys and one girl. I worked with the Colombian government in national security for 22 years and I was a businessman there for 13 years. I like to read, listen to music and cook for my family and my friends.

**Arthur L. Massengill** (pp. 26, 43, 130)

**Carl McDonald Sr.** (p. 11)

My name is Carl McDonald Sr. of Dayton, Ohio. I am a husband, father, and grandfather.

**Don N. McVey** (p. 107)

I am 59 years of age. I have been attending Scarlet Oaks since September 14, 2004. Returning to school after 42 years is a challenge.

**Donald Menough** (p. 118)

I live in Southeast Ohio. I am the father of three children ages 16, 13, and 6. I am a security officer for B.M.H.A. I completed GED classes in Bellaire, passed the practice test in January, and will take the official GED test February 11.

**Shirley Mercer** (pp. 3, 147)

I'm 34 years old and I got my GED in December 2004. I was born and raised in Texas. I have three daughters, one son, and two step-sons who have supported me all the way with my education, along with my husband. I quit school at sixteen, so this is a welcome accomplishment for me. Thank you everyone!!

**Jessica Merritt** (p. 154)

I'm currently in the process of getting my GED after a long battle with Math. I hope to go to college to pursue English or Theology. My dream is to be published. I hope to inspire others the way I've been inspired.

**Taiesha Metcalf** (p. 102)

I am a 24-year-old mother of two girls. I go to Canton City Schools Even Start. I plan on going to college for Criminal Justice to become a probation officer.

**Gloria Meza** (p. 50)

I'm from Peru and I've been in the U.S.A. for one year. I'm one of seven children. I enjoy writing poems, reading and traveling. I'm learning ESOL at the English Center in Youngstown, Ohio.

**Keiko Nakasuji** (p. 78)

Keiko Nakasuji, an advanced ESOL student, has returned to Japan with her family and very loved dog.

**Allena M. Norris** (p. 45)

I'm a 23-year-old female trying to honestly make it in this crazy world. I enjoy working hard and meeting all my goals.

**Emily Nutter** (p. 8)

I was born in Manizales, Colombia, South America. This beautiful city celebrates the Festival of Culture every year. I came from a humble family with good values such as honesty, work, and strong family unity.

**Heather Oblinger** (p. 108)

Work, work! Go! I feel very enthusiastic about the classes that I am taking at the ABLE Center. It has boosted my self-esteem and above all teaches me to help myself!

**Ida E. Osborn** (p. 16)

I am a grandmother, also a great-grandmother.

**Lynette Overbey** (p. 43)**Rudy Perez** (p. 145)

I would like to thank God and the people who made it possible for me to learn to read and write short stories. Thank you supporters at CLC.

**Sheila J. Pittman** (pp. 43, 130, 152)

I am the mother of two beautiful children. I am working hard on getting my GED.

**Jose Plaja** (p. 46)**Geeoun Lee Post** (p. 143)

I've lived my life with lots of love, and I'm very happy. I've worked very hard for everything that I have. I married a very generous man, James, and I'm very proud of my son, Kenny. I received my U.S. citizenship in 2003. Life is good.

**Joel Reese** (p. 86)

I wish to write to help pay for college. I love to write; it's my whole life.

**Gina Rodgers** (p. 38)**Theresea Roth** (p. 110)

I am 23 years old and I love to go to school to further my education. My interests are computers, education, reading, and writing. I want to be really smart so when I get older, I can pass my intelligence down to the younger generation.

**Carol Rudder** (pp. 109, 128)

I work at Pierre Foods. I have been there eighteen years. I have two children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

**Sharon Russell** (p. 150)

I am 56 years old and I live in Newark, Ohio. I am happily married and we have combined eight children. I have twenty grandchildren. This is my second year story. I want to thank my two wonderful teachers, Maureen Gilbert and Louise Rivero for giving me the encouragement to write and for convincing me that I am somebody special.



**Lisa Rutherford** (p. 141)

I'm a mother of three wonderful kids, and I'm single with a great man in my life. I love to write and I always have. After I get my GED, I would like to go to college and take a writing program. Maybe someday, I'll write for a newspaper or publish books. I'm dreaming of that.

**Rebecca Sablosky** (p. 81)

I am a student at Cincinnati State. I am studying diagnostic medical sonography. Instructor Marty helps me with my writing.

**Agness Saduka** (p. 107)

I'm a 29-year-old African woman. I came here to get my GED then I will go to college to get more education. I hope I will change my life.

**Rose A. Salyer** (p. 25)

I am twenty-one years old. I have a four-year-old son. I live in Columbus, Ohio. I go to Franklin Learning Center to study for my GED.

**Sochea Sang** (p. 30)

I was in America for 22 years. I have four kids: three boys and one girl. I'm 26 years old, going to school to get my GED, hoping that I pass the test.

**Jacob Saylor** (p. 130)**Scarlet Oaks ABLE Class** (p. 107)

**Debbie Shepherd** (pp. 19, 43)

I am now fifty-one years old. I have been attending the Adult Learning Center at Live Oaks for five years. Having been diagnosed with a learning disability, it has been a struggle. I pray every night that when the time comes to take test that I will pass so I can go on. With lots of praying, I think that it will be heard. God bless me.

**Andrea Sloter** (p. 5)

I have learned about life the hard way and learned to take life one step at a time, and with love, anything can be achieved. I am a mother of three children. I feel I am wiser than my 27 years in many ways.

**Karen S. Smith** (p. 31)

I am a mother of two girls. I wrote "In My Father's Time" for my children and my nephew, but as I talked with my father, I realized that this story has interesting facts that I wanted to share with the world.

**Lisa Smith** (pp. 43, 130)**Carrol Starcher** (p. 58)**Jami Stover** (p. 66)

I am a Christian wife and mother of two beautiful boys age 8 and 5. I work and go to GED class at Lancaster Even Start every day. So when they say it can't be done, it can!

**Marcela Szipina** (p. 57)

I am from Buenos Aires, Argentina. I started in the ESOL program in October 2003 when I came to this country.

**Maria Thomas** (pp. 43, 129, 130, 157)

**Teddy Thompson** (p. 62)

I'm a 46-year-old single father of two young sons from West Jefferson.

**Katia Ulysse** (p. 107)

I'm a 28-year-old woman from Haiti. I decided to come to class to get my GED so I can go to college. I want to go to business school.

**Michelle Underwood** (p. 129)**Tara Vargo** (p. 124)

Working at Portage Industries has helped me put some meaning into my life. The supervisors have always encouraged me to do my best and to enjoy myself in the process. Becky has inspired my work more than she'll ever know.

**Peter Waat** (p. 137)

I am writing from Cleveland, Ohio, United States. I am one of the Lost Boys from Sudan. I got the name "Lost Boy" because I lived most of my life without parents. I separated from them when I was six years old by war in Sudan, and I find myself today in the United States.

**Mittie Walker** (p. 77)

Mittie Walker started Project: Learn in December 2002. Her goal is to earn her GED. Mittie attends small group classes and works with a tutor to help achieve her goal. She is currently in the pre-GED class and is one of the hardest working students.

**Brenda Wiseman** (p. 107)**Robert Wynn** (p. 6)

**Rebecca Zielinski** (p. 17)

I have always been a fan of writing and have always worked to improve my own skill. Sharing my work can only help me to improve and, perhaps, to inspire others.