

Author Biographies

GUY BRIDGEFORTH (p. 30)

I am grateful that I've been blessed to live two lives in one lifetime. I'm glad that I got to go back to school after 20 years. I really believe that education is a journey of discovery, and it is a great benefit to have a teacher (Carol Smithers) that really cares about my progress and accomplishments.

MARGARET CARTER (p. 32)

I was born at home on the westside of Columbus on January 12, 1967. I was raised by my parents, Lillian and William Wholaver Sr. I have one older brother, James L. Ward Jr., and two younger brothers, William Wholaver Jr. and Gary Lee Wholaver. I also have an adopted sister Tammy Smith. I live with my husband of five years, Richard Carter, and my three dogs— Pudgy, a St. Bernard; Jasmine, a Beagle/Hound mix; and Morning Glory, a mixed-breed. I'm a full-time housewife studying for my GED. My hobbies are reading, camping, and watching old classic movies.

MIKE GECSEDI (p. 24)

I am attending ABLE to get my GED. I am 46 years old. I have been married for 30 years and have two boys. I like hunting and fishing. My goals are to get a diploma and go on from there.

DENISE HANKS (p. 7)

VICKIE HARGRAVES (p. 21)

CASSANDRA HARLACH (p. 13)

KARLA HOWARD (p. 18)

I attend Jefferson Center in Springfield, Ohio, to receive my GED. I also work as a nursing assistant at Oakwood Village Nursing Home.

I became interested in the history writing contest in memory of my uncle William Daniels. His quest to restore the Gammon House was a dream he very much wanted to fulfill. As a child he was raised next door to the Gammon House. He had told many stories that he had heard over the years. No one was keeping up the property and the house was deteriorating. He purchased the house in the early 1900's. He passed away and left the property to his friend, who is now fulfilling my uncle's dreams to restore the house for its history.

TREVA JACKSON (p. 20)

I'm 33 years old and I have five beautiful girls and one handsome little boy. I reside in Columbus, Ohio. I'm very thankful for having my essay chosen. First of all I would like to give thanks to the Lord above and secondly to my teachers Karen and Mary Jane. I love you both.

JAN JAY (p. 31)

I was a G.I. wife when I came to the United States. My three sons were born in Columbus, Ohio. Before, I helped with my husband's business. I worked long hours at my job. Not only was there no time to go to school, but not much time to eat and sleep. After I retired and my husband passed away, I felt too lonely and bored. I started school to learn English. Now, I do volunteer work for the Chinese community and our Chinese Christian Church. I help the seniors, interpret for people when they go to the doctor or the hospital, etc. I really need to learn more English so that I can help more people. My hobby is baking and cooking. I bake for my Sunday school class and my class at school.

ANTHONY JENKINS (p. 2)

I am 17 years old and plan on becoming a fireman and attending some type of art college in the future. I would like to thank those who gave me faith when mine was done.

NADER KAYALI (p. 2)

I have recently attended a GED class. I also took the GED exam not too long ago. I am going to attend Columbus State Community College, and then I will transfer to OSU. I am proud of taking my GED as I now am graduating a year earlier. Before I attended high school in Egypt. I am a 17-year-old Egyptian. Egypt taught me British grammar and that is really helping me now.

MARCIA LONES (p. 11, p. 26)

I have a learning disability and have trouble concentrating, but I have determination to learn to write. This was very hard for me. God helped me to do this. I'm very proud and happy to be in this book. I like to read and go to the movies.

KARLITA LOVE (p. 17)

I would like to become a nurse after I get my GED. Sometime in the future I would like to look into writing.

ALAN MELLOR (p. 33)

I have been married for 19 years to my wife Mary. I have three children, two girls and one boy. I have seven grandchildren - all girls! My wife and I own a restaurant called Mellor Family Restaurant. I have worked two jobs which both closed causing me to be unemployed. I am taking my GED and enjoying it a lot because I have a good teacher.

IDA OSBORN (p. 16)

I raised one child. I quit school in the middle of 9th grade. I got married at age 18, but it didn't last. I stayed single until I was 25 then I remarried. He passed away. I married two more times. But now I am trying to get my GED. Thanks to Mary Jane & Karen, my two teachers.

YVES PEREZ (p. 27)

I've lived in Ohio for about 1 1/2 years. I come to school two days a week. School is helping me get my GED. I work six days at the GAP. It's nice. Before I got the job, I didn't have any money. Now I spend money on clothes, video games, rent and food. On the weekends, I play basketball with my friends.

AMYLYN PERRY (p. 4)

I am a student of ABLE. This story is dedicated to my great-grandmother, Mary Ellen Vincent. She lived from March 1907- April 2001.

REBECCA ROBINSON (p. 10)

I have lived in Columbus, Ohio, all of my life. I now live in the same house I grew up in and my children are going to the same schools that I attended. The four oldest of my seven children had the same kindergarten teacher that I had!

DENISE SALAIS (p. 8)

I am an ABLE student. Thank you for choosing my essay and thank you to my teacher, Karen, for giving me the strength and support to write it.

FAYE SHEARS (p. 6)

I was born in Columbus, Ohio, in 1944. We moved to Waverly, Ohio, where I attended school through the 11th grade. I got married in 1963 to Roy Shears. We had three sons. My husband died in 1997. My boys, James, Billy and Frankie, are living with me. I serve the Lord and he takes care of me. I go to church every Sunday. I go to school every time the doors are open.

JIMMY SIGLOS (p. 37)

I've lived in the USA for ten years. I've worked as a dishwasher, cook, supervisor at a glass company, and as a stocker at Target. Now I'm in school to improve my skills and get a GED. I still work two jobs, and I play in a band on the weekend. I've played in the band for twenty years now.

JERRY STROBLE (p. 36)

My name is Jerry Stroble. I will be 57 on May 18th. I was born in 1945 in Lima, Ohio. I moved to Columbus in June of 1958. I work as a maintenance worker here in Columbus.

SAMUEL TOLLIVER (p. 12)

Thank you for choosing my essay. Lisa and I really had a good time writing our essay together. Hope you enjoyed reading just a little about me and my life.

RUTH VILLARREAL (p. 19)

I am married and have two children. I recently passed my exam to get an Ohio Driver's License. I work full-time at the Hilton Hotel. My hobbies are sewing and baking.

LISA WRIGHT (p. 12)

I have two children, Josh and Kyle, and a husband named Dwight. I keep very busy trying to go to school, helping out with homework, and running our farm. Life has had many challenges along the way, but it is always worth it.