

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 421 615

CE 076 646

AUTHOR Baker, Marie, Ed.; Rich, Julia, Ed.; Walker, Bill, Ed.; White, Connie, Ed.

TITLE Real Lives, Real Results. Preparing Tennessee's Workforce.

INSTITUTION Tennessee State Dept. of Education, Nashville. Dept. of Adult and Community Education.; Tennessee Association for Adult and Continuing Education.; Tennessee Univ., Knoxville. Center for Literacy Studies.

SPONS AGENCY Office of Vocational and Adult Education (ED), Washington, DC.

REPORT NO R01-1804-44-002-98

PUB DATE 1998-00-00

NOTE 64p.

PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC03 Plus Postage.

DESCRIPTORS Adult Basic Education; Adult Literacy; Adult Programs; Community Colleges; \*Education Work Relationship; Family Literacy; Intergenerational Programs; \*Job Training; \*Labor Force Development; Literacy Education; \*Outcomes of Education; Program Administration; \*Reentry Students; Retraining; Secondary Education; \*Statewide Planning; Two Year Colleges

IDENTIFIERS \*Tennessee; 353 Project

ABSTRACT

This document relays the stories of nearly 100 Tennessee adults whose lives were changed through participation in some form of adult basic education (ABE). The document begins with a brief explanation of how Tennessee's 102 ABE programs are administered and definitions of the following forms of ABE: Families First (a 20-hour weekly course of basic skills provided to welfare recipients with no high school credentials); English as a second language; adult high school (high schools where nontraditional adult students 25 years of age or older can earn state-accredited high school diplomas); One Room Drop In School (ORDIS) (a program designed to arrest intergenerational illiteracy among Tennessee's public housing development residents); and family literacy. The remainder of the document consists of the stories of 97 adults (1 each from 97 of Tennessee's 102 county ABE programs). The stories focus on how ABE has helped individuals overcome their specific personal challenges and improve their employment situation and life overall. Concluding each profile is the number of individuals who received ABE services in the given county in 1997. Appended are the addresses of Tennessee's 102 local ABE providers. (MN)

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ED 421 615

PREPARING TENNESSEE'S WORKFORCE

# Real Lives Real Results

CE076646

Office of Adult and  
Community Education,  
Tennessee Department  
of Education  
  
Tennessee Association  
for Adult and Continuing  
Education  
  
Center for Literacy  
Studies, The University  
of Tennessee  
  
and 102 local adult basic  
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PREPARING TENNESSEE'S WORKFORCE

# Real Lives Real Results

**State of Tennessee**

**The Honorable Don Sundquist, Governor**

**Department of Education**

**Dr. Jane Walters, Commissioner**

**Division of Adult and Community Education**

**Phil White, State Director**

Office of Adult and  
Community Education,  
Tennessee Department  
of Education

Tennessee Association  
for Adult and Continuing  
Education

Center for Literacy  
Studies, The University  
of Tennessee

and 102 local adult basic  
education programs  
throughout the state of  
Tennessee

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SPRING 1998

Adult basic education programs are provided through the Office of Adult and Community Education, Tennessee Department of Education, 710 James Robertson Parkway, 7th Floor Andrew Johnson Building, Nashville, TN 37243.

The Office of Adult and Community Education provides this toll-free number for assistance in locating an adult education class near you. Staff can also provide information, find volunteer opportunities, and provide direction to other resources:

**1-800-531-1515**

or visit the web site at

**<http://www.state.tn.us/education/aeintro.htm>**

Produced by the Center for Literacy Studies  
with a grant from the Office of Adult and Community Education  
through federal Adult Education Act Special Project funds.

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Design by  
Mary Revenig, DesignWorks

Spring 1998  
University of Tennessee Publication Number  
R01-1804-44-002-98

**Letter from Phil White, State Director  
Tennessee Department of Education**



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**DIVISION OF ADULT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION**  
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Phil White  
State Director

Roger Bynum  
Executive Director

February 19, 1998

Dear Adult Education Friends,

The Tennessee Department of Education, Office of Adult and Community Education, is very happy to promote the production of Preparing Tennessee's Workforce: Real Lives Real Results. The book represents the first of its kind in Tennessee. The collection of pictures and student profile data could not have been accomplished without the dedicated hard work of many individuals, including Adult Education supervisors, teachers, state staff, The Center for Literacy Studies staff, and most importantly the students themselves.

It is very rewarding to all of us in Adult Education to see the successes that our dedicated students are achieving. We know that Tennessee Adult Education programs are providing the vehicle that will enable students to acquire the basic educational skills necessary for literate functioning; to benefit from job training and retraining so that they may retain productive employment; enable adults to continue their education through at least the level of secondary education.

The Tennesseans represented in this book are wonderful examples of the state's nickname, "The Volunteer State". These individuals have volunteered to return to school in order to make their futures more rewarding.

Sincerely,

Phil White  
State Director

PW:HJ

**Letter from Julia Rich, President  
Tennessee Association for Adult and Continuing Education**



January 15, 1998

Dear Supporters of Adult Basic Education:

The Tennessee Association for Adult and Continuing Education represents a membership of approximately one thousand educators and collaborators who are committed to addressing the needs and problems of undereducated adults in Tennessee through the provision of unlimited educational opportunities. This publication reflects the success of Adult Basic Education programs located in all ninety-five counties and profiles students whose success stories are testimony of our role in their transition from dependency to self-sufficiency. Program goals are designed to empower each individual with the knowledge and skills needed to be capable, adaptable, employable, and contributing members of society.

This publication serves as a permanent record of both intellectual and occupational achievement. It features a small sample of the individuals who have overcome personal barriers with persistence, focus and courage. Furthermore, it highlights the programs that have supported them in making even the most elusive dreams reality. These students demonstrate the passionate commitment to obtaining the education and skills that will help them to help themselves. These students have enrolled in adult education classes to begin the journey to their individual destinations--a good job--a better lifestyle.

Adult Basic Education as we know it in Tennessee is the result of a vision for excellence. It is a vision implemented by many partners: The State Department of Adult & Continuing Education, The Center for Literacy Studies, Adult Education personnel, legislators, and, most of all, the students. On behalf of TAACE, I salute you as visionaries who have the ability to fill in the voids, to see beyond the blind spots and move forward while others may be still standing around rubbing their eyes in confusion.

Sincerely,

*Julia D. Rich*  
Julia D. Rich,  
TAACE President

*Developing the Human Potential through Lifelong Learning*

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## Introduction

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Inside these pages are the stories of nearly 100 Tennesseans whose lives have been changed through adult education. They represent over 52,000 people who participated in adult basic education in Tennessee last year. A willingness to work hard, a desire for a better future, and most of all, hope for their children characterize these learners. The programs in which they participated are sponsored by the Office of Adult and Community Education of the Tennessee Department of Education, and the 102 local service providers throughout the state.

## Answers to Frequently Asked Questions About Adult Education

---

### What is “Literacy”?

In the previous century, literacy instruction was defined as teaching people to write their names in order that they might vote. Countless variations on the definition have been witnessed, and still today, *literacy* is a dynamic term on which there is no clear agreement. In the early 1990’s, the Tennessee Department of Education defined basic literacy as “possessing reading, writing, and numeracy skills at no less than a sixth grade level” while at the same time defining functional literacy as having documented similar skills at the ninth grade level. The Center for Literacy Studies at The University of Tennessee defines literacy as the reading, writing, speaking, listening and critical thinking skills and practices essential for full participation in our democratic society.

### What is ABE?

ABE (adult basic education) is a program offering instruction and assistance to adults leading to mastery of literacy skills. Many adults work toward earning the General Educational Development (GED) diploma. Adult Basic Education was established by Congress in 1964 and has seen subsequent reauthorizations and reinterpretations of the original Act. Currently, multi-level ABE programs exist in every county in Tennessee.

### Who administers the 102 adult basic education programs across the state of Tennessee?

The 102 programs are administered in a variety of ways, but the majority of programs are administered through the local city and county boards of education.

- 96 programs are administered through Local Boards of Education
- 2 programs are administered through community-based organizations
- 4 programs are administered through the Board of Regents community college system

The delivery system has been proven successful in that the service provider has specific knowledge regarding the needs for each community.

### What are the major adult basic education programs?

Adult basic education takes many forms, including ABE, Families First, ESL, Adult High School, ORDIS, and family literacy programs.

### What is “Families First”?

Beginning in September 1996, the Families First welfare reform program provided thousands of single parents

receiving public assistance with an opportunity to rejoin the mainstream of working Tennesseans. Adult Basic Education programs in every county across the state provide a 20-hour weekly course of basic skills instruction to welfare clients who do not possess high school credentials.

### **What is “ESL”?**

ESL means English as a Second Language. The immigrant population continues to grow in Tennessee and we strive to meet the needs of all adults who come into adult education programs. English as a Second Language is needed for adults to be productive employees and citizens of our state.

### **What is the “Adult High School”?**

In 53 Tennessee counties, Adult Basic Education operates adult high schools where the non-traditional high school student 25 years of age and older can complete course work leading to a state-accredited high school diploma.

### **What is “ORDIS”?**

About half of Tennessee's adults with less than a high school education live in poverty and illiteracy with a third of Tennessee's children living with those adults. Unique to Tennessee is the One Room Drop In School (ORDIS), an attempt to arrest intergenerational illiteracy of residents within public housing developments. With ORDIS sites funded by Governor's discretionary funds in public housing developments in Memphis, Nashville, Kingsport, and Chattanooga, the Tennessee Department of Education offers basic skills instruction to children as well as adults.

### **What is “Family Literacy”?**

Family Literacy classes and approaches are a part of many adult basic education programs. Family Literacy joins parents and children in efforts to improve literacy and build healthy families.


**ANDERSON COUNTY • CLINTON**

## Anderson County Adult Education

**Natasha Griffin-Johnson** is an exceptional woman and an inspiration to her classmates, teachers, and family.

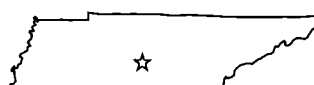


Natasha enrolled in Anderson County's Families First ABE class in September 1996, and she had near perfect attendance for four months. Natasha excelled in all areas of her studies except math which she found a tremendous challenge. She took the GED test in December of 1996 and received 226 points which is enough points to pass the GED, but she did not get the minimum score of 35 in math. She was determined to pass the GED, so Natasha continued studying her math and took the math section of the GED for the third time in April and passed it. Natasha attended Anderson County graduation ceremonies in June 1997.

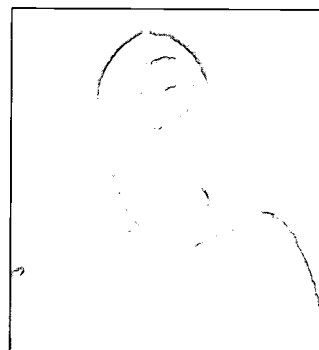
Natasha has overcome many obstacles and setbacks in her lifetime and managed to keep a wonderfully optimistic attitude. She is always positive and a joy to be around. Natasha is a recovering substance abuser who has been alcohol and drug free for three years. She has experienced a broken marriage and is now happily remarried. She has four children ranging from ages 10 to 19.

At the time Natasha entered the Families First ABE program she was working part-time as a waitress. She knew being a waitress wasn't her permanent career choice. She is very interested in counseling and helping other women. Natasha is a volunteer drug and alcohol counselor with the Hope of East Tennessee program in Oak Ridge. She would someday like to pursue a career in sociology and counseling. Presently, Natasha is attending Hair Academy of Knoxville and has a graduation date of July 1998. Natasha has also been a guest speaker in ABE classes encouraging students to work towards their goals.○

*This program served 615 adults last year.*


**BEDFORD COUNTY • SHELEBYVILLE**

## Bedford County Adult Education



**Patsy Stem**, an Adult Education student, was entered into a unique education program designed to combine job training with the academic program at the Adult Learning Center (ALC). The ALC worked with the Nutrition Department of the Bedford County Schools to develop a training program for food service workers. Patsy was fortunate enough to train at the elementary school where her daughter was in kindergarten. With this arrangement, Patsy was able to be involved with her daughter's schooling as well as prepare herself for a job.

After a four-month training program, Patsy was employed on a temporary basis as a replacement for any absent worker. In April 1997, Patsy went to work full time at a school cafeteria. Patsy is still working full time. This is a great accomplishment, as Patsy, a forty-one-year old single parent, had never before had a full time job. This has empowered Patsy to be a contributor to not only her family and child, but to society.○

*This program served 563 adults last year.*



**The Adult Basic Education (ABE) system in Tennessee is made up of 102 local programs, forming a service delivery network across the state providing access in all of Tennessee's 95 counties.**


**BENTON COUNTY • CAMDEN**

## Benton County Adult Education

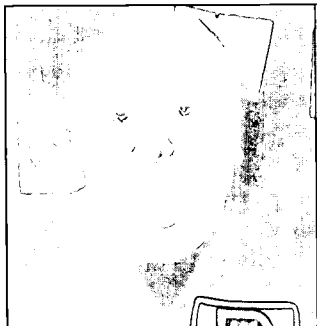
Tommy Carey writes:

In 1955 I was 15 years old, and my stepfather became paralyzed. We lived in Long Beach, Mississippi, the poorest state in the Union. I had to drop out of school in the eighth grade and try to help support my family. I lied about my age and registered for the Army. No one checked my age and for about eight years I sent my mother an allotment check from service to help with the bills.

As the years went by, I found that I needed to have a high school diploma. In 1974 I went to work for a foundry. I became interested in safety. Being a Safety Officer required a substantial education in English, Math and Science. It was that reason I arrived one evening at Benton County Adult Basic Education Center. With the help and guidance of the teachers and the principal I soon acquired a High School Diploma.

This helped me to improve my performance as a Safety Officer. The skills I learned have enabled me to take advanced training and become a Safety Consultant for many companies in the state. It also quickly added to my responsibilities, and earned me the respect of all the upper management at my job. I also earned the respect of all my friends. You see, I achieved my diploma at age 57. ○

*This program served 209 adults last year.*


**BLED SOE COUNTY • PIKEVILLE**

## Bledsoe County Adult Basic Education

Wanda Pelfrey enrolled in Bledsoe County's Adult Basic Education program during the 1996-97 school

year. Wanda was a 46-year-old married woman who had quit school during her eighth grade year. At the time of her enrollment, Wanda was unemployed. She had previously worked as a sewing machine operator, and her goal was to earn a GED diploma in order to obtain a better job.

Wanda earned her GED diploma on June 19, 1997. She is very successful in her job as cashier at Save-A-Lot and enjoys working with the public. In her spare time, Wanda makes dolls and sells her creations to various shops in the Gatlinburg area. During the annual Highway 127 yard sale in August, she sold 34 of her dolls.

Wanda says she couldn't have attained her GED without the help of her instructors and the ABE program. She now has more confidence in herself. Not only does she have a full-time job but also has a small business of her own using her creative talents. ○

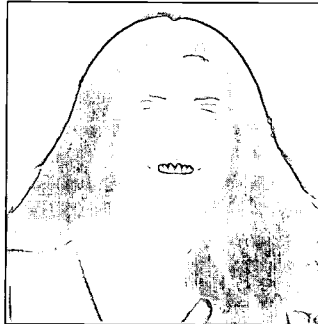
*This program served 175 adults last year.*



**The Office of Adult and Community Education developed and administered (with The University of Tennessee's Center for Literacy Studies) a comprehensive needs survey with ABE teachers and staff. The results were used to create a staff development plan and catalog of offerings state-wide to enhance the effectiveness of all personnel.**


**BLOUNT COUNTY • MARYVILLE**

## Blount County Adult Basic Education



Life has never been easy for **Tammy Thompson**. Born in Blount County in April, 1960, Tammy attended local schools until she decided, against her parents' advice, to drop out of the tenth grade and get married. Two years later, at 17, she found herself divorced and the mother of two baby girls. Life was further complicated by the discovery that her youngest daughter was hearing impaired and needed special treatment.

After a second marriage, three additional children, and another divorce Tammy was offered an opportunity to improve her family's future through the Families First Program.

Tammy enrolled in the Adult Basic Education component of Families First and began working on improving her basic skills. Six months later, with fear and trepidation, she took the GED test. Despite her fears, Tammy passed the test with a very satisfactory score, including a 54 on math, which she had thought would be her nemesis.

Since receiving her GED Tammy has achieved other goals. She has her first full-time job at Blount Memorial Hospital. Her family has moved from an apartment to a house. Tammy has shared her success with others in ABE classes and the community. She credits the patience and persistence of her ABE instructor Barbara Barton, and Department of Human Services Case Management Specialist, Sandra Cannon, for encouraging and inspiring her.

Now that her foot is in the door, Tammy realizes that she must take the next steps on her own. She hopes to continue her education and become a medical technician. Tammy hopes that her success will give her children more opportunities, and that her story will motivate others to make their own dreams become reality. ○

*This program served 788 adults last year.*


**BRADLEY COUNTY • CLEVELAND**

## Bradley County Adult Basic Education

**Diana L. Greene** started in the Families First Program on March 31, 1997, attending an adult education class with the hope of earning her GED. Diana, mother of two adult sons, was not working at the time she enrolled in classes, thus allowing her the opportunity to concentrate on her studies as a Families First student.

After much hard work and determination, Diana passed her GED on July 15, just three and a half months after she began classes. Many students would be glad to leave classes after obtaining their GED, but not Diana. She continued to work in the Families First classes as a volunteer tutor, helping other students to achieve the same goal she had just accomplished—obtaining a GED.

Diana's efforts are now paying off. In October 1997, Diana obtained a part-time job as a program assistant with the Adult Basic Education Program of Bradley County. Diana enrolled in Cleveland State Community College in January, 1998, where she hopes to obtain a business degree and then enter into a 9-month program to be a paralegal. While attending college, Diana plans to continue working as a program assistant for ABE. None of this would be possible if she had not had the opportunity to obtain her GED. ○

*This program served 803 adults last year.*



**Twenty percent of local adult education providers currently have a presence on the World Wide Web through their own home page.**


**CAMPBELL COUNTY • LAFOLLETTE**

## Campbell County Adult Education

**Donna Evans**, a divorced 25-year-old mother, is Campbell County's success story. Donna was unemployed and receiving AFDC at the time of enrollment in the Campbell County Adult Education Program. It took her approximately 5 months to prepare for her GED test. After receiving her GED diploma, Donna volunteered and was later hired as a part-time teaching assistant in the ABE program.

The ABE staff put Donna in touch with the counselor for Roane State Community College where she received grants and started attending school. The Adult Basic Education Supervisor referred her to the LaFollette Housing Authority to apply for a position as a VISTA worker. She is currently working full-time for the LaFollette Housing Authority and attends classes part-time at Roane State Community College. ◊

*This program served 593 adults last year.*



**The Office of Adult and Community Education developed a statewide adult education home page with individual pages for GED, Families First, ABE providers statewide, student spotlight, special projects and Workforce Development. The home page offers information to education professionals, policy makers and the public and provides Internet links to other resources and programs.**


**CANNON COUNTY • WOODBURY**

## Cannon County Adult Basic Education



**Teresa Gipson** is a wife and mother of four beautiful children, three daughters and a son. They reside on Auburntown Road in Woodbury, Tennessee. Teresa started the Cannon County Adult Education Program in October of 1996 and received her GED in July 1997.

Teresa worked hard inside and outside the classroom. She is an active member of the Faith Congressional Methodist Church. Teresa also participates in her children's school activities and is active in the PTO and Head Start Program.

While in the ABE program, Teresa received many certificates including Perfect Attendance, and recognition in Math and Reading. She also attended Fresh Start and received Perfect Attendance and a diploma upon completion of the class. The Tennessee Department of Human Services in Woodbury saw the potential, strengths, dedication and courage that Teresa possessed. She was nominated for the "Winner's Award" and received her plaque at the banquet held in honor of hard-working people.

After receiving her GED, Teresa was fortunate to be hired by the Cannon County Board of Education. She is currently working as a part-time Educational Assistant at Woodbury Grammar School. Teresa wants to further her education by attending college and taking classes to become a Special Education Teacher. ◊

*This program served 79 adults last year.*




**CARROLL COUNTY • HUNTINGDON**

## Carroll County Adult Education

Families First participant **Thomas Grant Rutledge** feels good about his future now. Thomas is a single parent with two of his five children still at home. Thomas enrolled in our Families First ABE program in October of 1996. He was a determined student and studied constantly. In May of 1997, after seven months of hard work and preparation, Thomas passed the GED test. What a boost for his self-esteem!



Being a father and a grandfather is an awesome responsibility in today's world, but the future looks brighter for Thomas and his family now. Thomas has job security—something he has wanted for a long time. He works construction, with an employer that is contracted with the Milan Arsenal in Milan, Tennessee. Thomas volunteers to participate in training classes his employer offers, and has been trained on how to deal with hazardous waste. Congratulations, Thomas! ○

*This program served 125 adults last year.*



**A combination of federal, state, and local funds combine to support 102 separate programs in all 95 Tennessee counties. Most counties contribute to their local programs in an amount exceeding their mandatory 5% matching funds.**


**CARTER COUNTY • ELIZABETHTON**

## Carter County Adult Basic Education

Catherlyne Greenwell is a young mother of two, who came to our program through Families First in November of 1996. When she entered the program, she was already on a very high level, and with only a little help in her math and some encouragement, she was able to pass the GED in December of 1996. After completing the Fresh Start program, Catherlyne returned to our office and volunteered here for several months. She was able to pick up some very valuable work skills, such as organization and computer skills. Catherlyne got a part time job at Little Caesars Pizza and is still volunteering here, tutoring several of our students. Catherlyne no longer receives a check from D.H.S., but they still help her with child care while she is working.



Catherlyne says, "I did not want to be here. I only came because I was on welfare and the government said, 'If you don't comply you will lose your benefits.' I went and made the best of it. I did not know anybody nor did I want to know anybody. That was in November of 1996. I received my GED in December of 1996. Now I have tons of friends and I enjoy volunteering here. In fact I can't wait until Monday and dread Friday! I tutor, answer the phones, and take charge while the staff is out of the office. Soon I will be attending Northeast State to get my Associate Degree in Business Systems Technology. I have come a long way and so can anybody out there. All you need is support and people around you who care. These people here at Carter County Schools ABE really CARE."

We will be very happy for her, but we will certainly miss her help around the office when she goes. Good luck, Catherlyne! ○

*This program served 228 adults last year.*



CARTER COUNTY • ELIZABETHTON

## Elizabethton City Schools Adult Basic Education

**John Echols** dropped out of school after the eighth grade because he was having such a hard time in school and was receiving very little encouragement at home. Later he obtained employment at Snap-On Tools, where he has now worked for twenty years. He married, and his family grew to include two sons.

Still, he wanted his GED. After entering the program, John was very faithful, never missing a session, and doing extra work at home. It took him about eight months to complete the program and pass the GED test. His wife has been his number one encourager, he says.

John will enter Northeast State Tech soon, and he plans to take computer drafting. He is currently serving on the Literacy Council. ○

*This program served 52 adults last year.*



CHEATHAM COUNTY • ASHLAND CITY

## Cheatham County Adult Education



**Priscilla Mooneyhan**, a divorced mother of three, came into our Adult Education program in September, 1996. She and her children were living with Priscilla's mother in an effort to make ends meet. Priscilla was unemployed at the time.

Priscilla came to Adult Education classes faithfully - which is a difficult task for a mother with three young children. Not only did she attend faithfully, while in class she motivated the others to keep coming and trying for their GED. Priscilla took and passed the GED test at the end of November, 1996.

With diploma in hand, she began working at a local grocery store while awaiting an opening in an LPN course. Priscilla is currently enrolled in the LPN class and is looking forward to the time she earns her next diploma. Priscilla still keeps in touch with her Adult Education teacher, whom she credits for giving her the skills necessary to succeed in life. Ms. Mooneyhan is a true success story! What a great example she set for her young children and those around her! ○

*This program served 543 adults last year.*



**The Office of Adult and Community Education and Tennessee Association for Adult and Continuing Education sponsor a yearly summer conference for the professional development of staff in the field of adult education.**




**CHESTER COUNTY • HENDERSON**

## Chester County Adult and Community Education



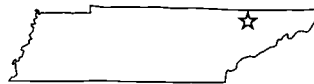
Tara McDaniel is twenty-three years old, married and the mother of a seven-year old daughter who is in first grade this year. Tara had been enrolled in our program approximately 6 months when she received her GED. She had one of the highest scores of any student who has completed classes here, a total score of 292 with an average of 58.

At the time of her enrollment, Tara was working at a gas station, pumping gas. She continued to work there for about 7 months. After she received her GED, we set a schedule to help her study for her entrance examination to get into vocational school to study practical nursing. As partial requirement for the portfolio to enter into the nursing program, she worked for three months doing volunteer work at our local nursing home. She is on the waiting list for the next available First Aid course to be offered by Chester County Rescue Squad.

We assisted her with completing her application and portfolio as the beginning process to enter into practical nursing at Tennessee Technological Center at Jackson. She applied for and received a better job as a result of having her GED. She was employed as secretary/receptionist for Care South, Jackson, Tennessee. We felt honored to write a letter of recommendation for her in regard to the job.

Tara is well on her way to a brighter future. She is working at a much better job and will begin LPN training in April. ○

*This program served 140 adults last year.*


**CLAIBORNE COUNTY • TAZEVELL**

## Claiborne County Adult Education



What was life like for a third grade dropout? **Sharon Wilmoth** found as a young adult with a family and financial responsibilities that a third grade education only offered factory production jobs and being passed over for promotions. She felt both she and her family suffered from her educational deficiency. So, twenty-eight years after quitting school she enrolled in the Claiborne County ABE program in hopes of obtaining her GED. Two years later she graduated with her goal accomplished.

She now serves as a VISTA Volunteer for the Claiborne County ABE program through the Tennessee Literacy Coalition. With the scholarship funds she is earning through the VISTA Program, she is attending Walters State Community College in the evenings pursuing a degree in elementary education. She plans to become a teacher so she can share her experience with her students and encourage them to stay in school and realize their own dreams can come true. ○

*This program served 638 adults last year.*



**The Office of Adult and Community Education and the Center for Literacy Studies provide an annual Fall professional development meeting for program supervisors across the state.**




**CLAY COUNTY • GELINA**

## Clay County Adult Education

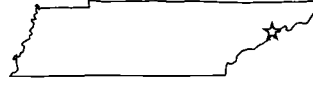
In July, 1996, Virginia Daniels received bad news—she was losing her job of 17 years as a sewing machine operator. The only major employer in Celina, Tennessee was closing. Virginia was worried. She had dropped out school in the 10th grade. She had always wanted to finish her high school education, but with a husband, two children, and a full-time job, it was difficult to work it all in.



Virginia decided to turn her “bad news” into something positive. She made a commitment to attend adult education classes every day, and she was faithful in her attendance. She made progress quickly. Even the terrible loss of her family's home and possessions in a fire did not stop her. When Virginia returned to class, she reported she had saved her GED books from the fire. The books were in her car, and she was very thankful they had not burned.

Virginia passed the GED in October, 1997, with an overall score of 52.4. This accomplishment gave her the courage to consider going to college. Virginia has been accepted at Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin to enter a program in Office and Business Management in January, 1998. With the help of the Clay County Adult Education Program, Virginia has taken the “bad news” in her life and turned it into “good news” for herself and her family. ○

*This program served 503 adults last year.*


**COCKE COUNTY • NEWPORT**

## Cocke County Adult Basic Education

Virginia Witt dropped out of school in 1987, her senior year. But through enrollment in the Cocke County ABE program at Centerview School, Virginia attained her goal of earning a GED on May 3, 1996.



Virginia's next goal was to enroll in the nursing program at Walters State Community College. Receiving her GED has allowed her to accomplish this. Since August 1996, Virginia has completed five developmental courses and thirteen hours of regular college course work. She currently has a 3.0 GPA. Virginia has continued to work full time as a certified nursing assistant at a local nursing home during her enrollment in the Cocke County ABE program and while attending Walters State Community College.

With her family duties, full-time employment, and college schedule, Virginia is commended for her hard work and perseverance. She gives much of the credit for her success to her husband and her father. Virginia stated “I want to thank my father, Leonard Sneed, and my husband, Ronnie Witt, for their love and support through all of this.” ○

*This program served 215 adults last year.*



**The Office of Adult and Community Education conducts a yearly GED Administrators/Chief Examiners conference.**


**COFFEE COUNTY • TULLAHOMA**

### Tullahoma City Schools Adult Learning Center



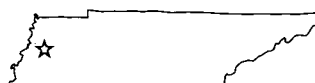
Shelia Luttrell was an unemployed, tenth grade drop-out. She really enjoyed working with elderly people, and wanted a job in a nursing home. In less than a year, Shelia made both of those dreams come true. She joined the Families First ABE class at the Adult Learning Center in Tullahoma in January 1997. Shelia took the GED in April 1997, and passed. She then was able to get a job at Crestwood Nursing Home in Manchester. She is preparing to take the CNA (certified nursing assistant) exam. Shelia said that after completing her GED she is certain she can successfully prepare for the CNA exam.

Shelia and her family have been able to move from public housing to a rental house with a large outdoor play area for her children. In addition to her work at Crestwood, she also cares for an elderly person in Tullahoma. Shelia has accomplished many of her goals since entering adult basic education. She is a real success story! ○

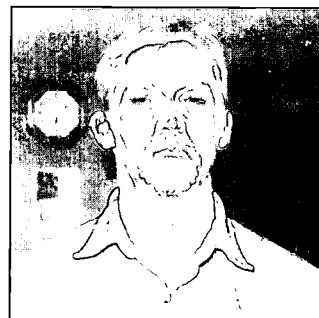
*This program served 293 adults last year.*



**In 1997 a total of 13, 270 GED diplomas were issued in Tennessee.**


**CROCKETT COUNTY • ALAMO**

### Crockett County Adult and Community Education Program

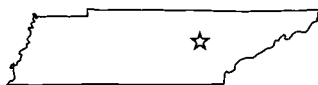


At the time of his enrollment in Crockett County adult education, **William L. Greenway** was 46 years old and a 12-year employee of Bruce Hardware Floors in Jackson. His educational goals included: "(1) to better myself, (2) to attend vocational school, and (3) to become a Licensed Industrial Electrician."

As a single parent, William continued his full-time job, traveling 60 miles each day, while consistently attending GED classes. With determination, he received his high school diploma (GED) just four months after entering adult education classes, and in May was awarded the "Most Improved GED Student" during graduation ceremonies. Well respected by his supervisors at Bruce Hardware, he is currently the highest paid hourly employee in the 700 member plant, and is lead employee in support production, including electronics, pneumatics, hydraulics, schematics, fabrication, purchasing, and millwrights.

William is now pursuing enrollment in evening classes in Industrial Electronics at Tennessee Technology Center, McKellar-Sipes Airfield, for licensure as an Industrial/Commercial Electrician. He credits his mother for her continued support and his ABE instructors for their encouragement and extraordinary perception of his needs. He states, "When I was in high school, if I had had teachers like Mr. Garrett and Mrs. Lavenue, who showed interest and were willing to take time with me, I would have graduated then. In my GED class, they sensed any question, explained in detail and then encouraged me to solve problems on my own." ○

*This program served 156 adults last year.*


**CUMBERLAND COUNTY • CROSSVILLE**

## Cumberland County Adult Basic Education



When Sherrie Neal, divorced mother of two sons, enrolled in the Families First ABE class in December of 1996, she was an unemployed Level I (literacy) student and had completed ninth grade. After only six months, including a bout with pneumonia, she passed her GED.

In less than a week, she was working full time as a dietary aide at Life Care Center of Crossville. Some of her responsibilities include ordering and replacing stock as needed in the kitchen, memorizing which patients are diabetic, and preparing carts with food for bedridden patients. While she does report specific accomplishments of which she is proud—including establishing her own bank account and being able to buy things for her children—she takes greatest pride in her increased self-confidence.

Sherrie stated that for her it is now easier to be in a group of people. "I love the people I work with," she said. "I feel more positive about my own life and my kids. I'm more patient with my kids. Their school work has improved ninety percent. Last year they were making Ds and Fs and this year they're bringing home Cs and Bs. I don't know whether it's because I'm able to help them more or because they saw me coming home and studying every night." She isn't stopping with her GED. She plans to take CNA (certified nursing assistant) classes and her state CNA exam. The real payoff for Sherrie's efforts show in her face. "I look forward every day to going to work." ○

*This program served 374 adults last year.*


**DAVIDSON COUNTY • NASHVILLE**

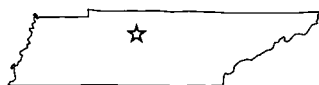
## Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools Adult Basic Education



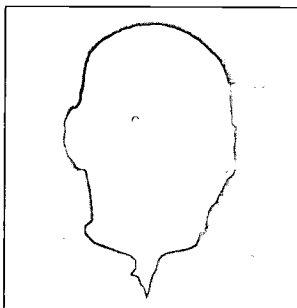
Twenty-four years ago Alaga Covic was born in the area now know as Bosnia and Herzegovina. He grew up in a large family with three brothers and five sisters. Upon graduation from high school his scores were high enough to be accepted in college. However, in his first year of college war broke out and he was forced to leave college and join the armed forces. Alaga calls that time a sad and horrible situation. He lost both family members and friends, and when the war was over he left all his hopes and dreams in that part of the world and came to the United States. He landed in Nashville and found a job washing clothes in a linen company to support himself and sent money home to help the family left there.

Through the help of World Relief, Alaga and his brother enrolled in Metro Nashville Public Schools English Language training for refugees. Alaga's English-speaking skills improved immeasurably, and he began to dream again of being an engineer. He was told that, although he had a high school diploma from his country, a GED would be the credential that he needed to get into college in America. So, in August, 1997, he enrolled in a Metro Nashville Public Schools Adult Basic Education class, attending every morning for three months. He never missed a class until the day he took his GED test. He passed the test with very good scores. He began working at Service Merchandise on second shift and studying in the morning ABE class to upgrade all his skills before applying for college. He took the entrance test for Nashville Tech, making scores that exempt him from basic level ESL classes. In January, 1998, he enrolled in Nashville State Technical Institute, pursuing his dream of becoming an engineer, a dream that war interrupted in 1991. ○

*This program served 3,000 adults last year.*


**DAVIDSON COUNTY • NASHVILLE**
**Nashville READ**

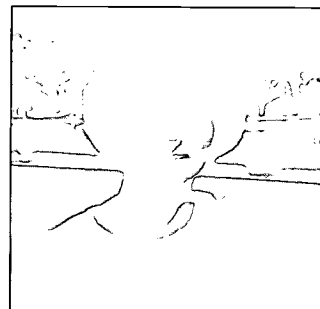
Gilbert Tucker is Nashville READ's success story. Gilbert was one of 424 adults who took part last year in Nashville READ's workplace and family literacy/adult basic education classes. There are also more than 100 volunteer tutors working primarily one-on-one with adult learners throughout the community.



Gilbert writes:

My name is Gilbert Tucker. I am single and I have a baby girl named Atealyah. She is two years old. I work full-time, but still I am determined to get my GED. I am a tow-motor driver. I have been coming to school for about six months now. It has been hard, but I am making it because I feel it will help me create a better life for me and my child. I am only a few points away from this goal. I feel that the greatest accomplishment I have made since I have come back to school is that I can read better and my comprehension is increasing. I also like the fact that I can learn more about computers in my class. ○

*This program served 424 adults last year.*


**DECATUR COUNTY • DECATURVILLE**
**Decatur County  
Adult and  
Community  
Education**


When the garment factory where she had worked for the past two years closed,

**Janie Bates** found herself out of work and without a high school diploma. Upon entering ABE, she knew she wanted and needed a GED diploma and that she wanted to work, but had no firm idea of what type employment would interest her. In our ABE classes, representatives from a wide variety of work force and technology institutes presented programs on the services they provided for displaced workers. Janie, a married mother of three and grandmother of five, was drawn to what is a nontraditional choice for women—machine shop.

Janie met her first goal and received her GED diploma. Next she arranged financial assistance with the local JTPA office so that she could participate in training at Tennessee Technology Center in Lexington, Tennessee. She then completed nine months of training in machine shop and is now working at Magnetek Century Electric. Congratulations, Janie, on your success! ○

*This program served 149 adults last year.*



**A total of 52,571 Tennesseans were enrolled in adult education during the 1996-97 program year, an increase of 4% over the previous year.**



DEKALB COUNTY • SMITHVILLE

## DeKalb County Adult Basic Education

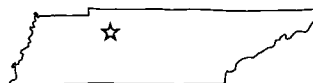
Dixie Talley writes:

I can never begin to express my thanks to the teachers at DeKalb County ABE program. I was a 45-year-old full-time homemaker with three elementary age school children at the time I completed my studies in DeKalb County Adult Basic Education. I had to work hard and devote a lot of time to my studies. Thanks to the staff I finally mastered the material well enough to pass the GED exam.



Through the ABE staff I gained more than a GED. I got my confidence and self esteem back. I am currently enrolled as a full-time student, majoring in education, at Motlow State Community College. Again, thanks for the ABE program. ○

*This program served 180 adults last year.*



DICKSON COUNTY • BURNS

## Dickson County Adult Basic Education

Dorothy J. Sullens enrolled in the JOBS program in Dickson County on February 5, 1996. Dorothy's entrance scores were on about a sev-



enth-grade level. She was an excellent student, always smiling, and her attendance was good. Dorothy truly wanted to get her GED and go into the health care profession. When the JOBS program changed to Families First program, Dorothy still attended class regularly and worked toward her goal. She took the GED test on three different occasions and is a wonderful example of a student who was motivated enough to achieve her GED. Dorothy passed the test on June 4, 1997 and was awarded the GED Student of the Year for the 96-97 graduating class in Dickson County. Dorothy is now working at Kroger's and wants to enroll in a nursing class soon. ○

*This program served 305 adults last year.*



Office of Adult and Community Education, with the Center for Literacy Studies, provided specialized training for more than 200 Families First teachers during the 1997/98 program year.





**DYER COUNTY • DYERSBURG**

## Dyer County Literacy Program

Donna Evans, a divorced mother with one child, started in our program on June 16, 1997 as a Families First student. In addition to her Families First class, Donna also was provided with a tutor. Since she has been working with her tutor, Doris Johnson, her scores have dramatically improved. Coming to the Literacy Program and being around other people have given her more self-confidence than she has ever had. On November 3, 1997 she began volunteer work at the Dyer County Literacy Program as part of her Families First requirements. Some of her duties as a volunteer are making copies for teachers, filing papers, and entering data into the computer. Donna believes that this work experience will enhance her opportunity for future employment. ○

*This program served 509 adults last year.*

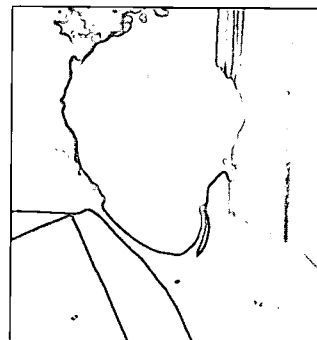


**Office of Adult and Community Education supports a mobile Learning and GED Testing Lab in the mountain counties of Claiborne, Hawkins, Sevier, Grainger and Hancock.**



**FAYETTE COUNTY • SOMERVILLE**

## Fayette County Adult Learning Center



Ruby Thomas was making one of her routine visits to the Department of Human Services when she noticed a bulletin offering GED classes through the JOBS Program. She decided to sign up because she was not satisfied being on welfare.

Ruby made this decision in 1994 and passed her GED in April of 1995. She continues to stay in touch with her teachers, Greta Wilburn and Michael Hailey. Ruby stated, "They believed in me and that made me believe in myself."

The first time Ruby took the GED test she felt devastated because she failed. She stated that she was willing to give up but her teacher, Greta, would write on the board "I Will Not Give Up" and make her repeat the words over and over. Ruby passed the GED on her next try!

Ruby enrolled in the nursing program at West Tennessee Area Health Education Center and graduated as a Certified Nursing Assistant. Ruby is employed as a Medical Outreach Worker and enjoys teaching her clients about nutrition.

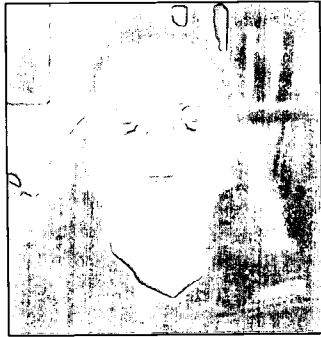
Ruby has six children and feels that her career has a positive impact on them. She noticed that one of her daughters was beginning to do poorly in school. Ruby was determined to change her daughter's negative feeling. These were the same feelings that Ruby had about herself before receiving her GED. Today her daughter is on the Honor Roll at her school.

"I used to be shy but now I have a more positive attitude about myself," states Ruby. Her advice to her classmates is "Don't Stop Trying!" ○

*This program served 202 adults last year.*


**FENTRESS COUNTY • JAMESTOWN**
**Fentress  
County Adult  
Education**

A divorced mother of three daughters, **Linda Copley** had to take various jobs to support her family. After several jobs, Linda realized that she would make a better life for her family if she had a GED or high school diploma. With her two oldest girls married, and her youngest living with her and attending York Institute, Linda entered the ABE program in December, 1994. At that time she had no high school credits and was receiving unemployment checks. While she was attending school, Linda also received assistance from Tennessee Opportunity Program (TOPS) and JOBS. When her unemployment assistance time limit was reached, Linda was forced to enter the work force and had to stop her educational pursuit. She began to work at Burnett's Superette and later at Hyder's Shoes.



After working seven months, Linda was laid off which gave her a chance to continue her program study at the Adult Learning Center. Her long time goal was accomplished when she earned her eighteen credits and graduated from the Adult High School with her diploma in February, 1997. The Adult Education Program assisted Linda with career awareness, life coping skills, job readiness skills, and assistance with college and financial aid applications. Linda is now attending Roane State Community College where she is majoring in education. Linda is an active member of the Fentress County Literacy Council. ○

*This program served 413 adults last year.*


**FRANKLIN COUNTY • WINCHESTER**
**Franklin  
County  
Adult Basic  
Education**

When 61-year-old **Helen Davis** came into the Adult Basic Education Program in Franklin County, she was unemployed. She had three grown children, two grandchildren, and was divorced. She was counseled and assessed on March 15, 1994 and was placed with a volunteer tutor. After a short period of time, she was placed in a Level I/II ABE class. One of Helen's goals was to receive more education. "I have a hunger for education," Helen says. Other goals were to improve self-esteem and to gain self-satisfaction.



Helen continued to participate in the ABE Program and progressed to the Level III class. In the class, Helen demonstrated enthusiasm and a zest for learning. She showed improvement in basic skills as well as higher order thinking skills. During the time that Helen was in the ABE class, she was offered and accepted part-time employment in the Campora Family Resource Center, which is also located at the Townsend Adult Education Center in Winchester, as a helper with pre-school children. She was given the affectionate name of "Grandma."

Helen passed the GED test on July 18, 1996. Helen is truly an example of how the ABE Program helped to improve her educational status and her belief in herself. ○

*This program served 272 adults last year.*



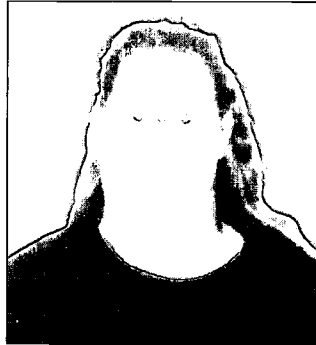
**With the Center for Literacy Studies and a group of ABE practitioners, the Office of Adult and Community Education coordinated peer evaluation reviews and developed an evaluation system based on national program quality indicators.**





**GIBSON COUNTY • TRENTON**

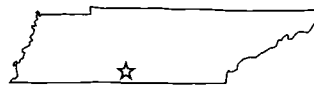
**Trenton Special School District Adult Education Program**



Rene Kilzer enrolled in Trenton Special School District's adult education classes in February 1997. She was a single parent living with her grandmother and had no plans for completing her high school education. She was referred to adult education by the Department of Human Services to participate in the Families First program. Rene became a model student and was elected Student of the Month by her classmates. Rene has a love for animals, especially for dairy goats. She is a member of the Tennessee Dairy Goat Association and presented a program on dairy goats to the students. Rene attended class for three months and tested for her GED in Martin. She made one of the top scores for Gibson County graduates and was honored for this at the GED graduation ceremonies.

Rene participated in the career fair sponsored by Even Start and Adult Education. She made the decision to continue her education and began asking her instructor, Linda Vaughn, about educational opportunities in this area. She stated that Ms. Vaughn was instrumental in giving her assistance and information about financial aid and resources available to her. The Families First class and ABE classes visited the University of Tennessee at Martin and were presented a program on the non-traditional student. As a result of the field trip, Rene made her educational choice. She is now attending the University of Tennessee at Martin and is living on campus with her thirteen-month-old son and her four-year-old daughter. Her major is communications with a minor in animal science. O

*This program served 618 adults last year.*



**GILES COUNTY • PULASKI**

**Giles County Adult Basic Education**



Dorothy Morgan was an unemployed 41-year-old divorced mother of three children when she enrolled in the Giles County Adult Basic Education night program. Her children provided the motivation for her to attend class. Encouraged by the ABE staff, Dorothy received her GED and became interested in attending Martin Methodist College. The ABE staff and Martin Methodist staff made enrollment and financial aid applications available for Dorothy. She enrolled in the 1997/98 flexible evening programs at the college.

Before receiving her GED, Ms. Morgan was ineligible for many jobs. However, after receiving her diploma she was able to apply for and obtain employment at Giles County High School cafeteria. Ms. Morgan is one of many Giles County residents whose success has been enhanced by adult basic education. O

*This program served 238 adults last year.*



**The Office of Adult and Community Education collaborates with the Center for Literacy Studies to participate in the National Institute for Literacy's Equipped for the Future Project.**


**GRAINGER COUNTY • RUTLEDGE**

## Grainger County Adult Education



Steve Swafford quit school in the ninth grade. He married at age 20 and worked different jobs over the years.

At age 37, he got the opportunity to go to work for KUB (Knoxville Utility Board). Only one thing stood in his way: he needed his GED. Steve studied for two months before trying the first time. He only missed by a few points, so he tried again. This time he succeeded and received his GED diploma. He was hired for the job and is making twice the pay of his former job, plus has good benefits. Steve wants to encourage everyone to “never give up on life because good things can happen.” ○

*This program served 147 adults last year.*


**GREENE COUNTY • MOSHEIM**

## Greene County Adult Basic Education



Patricia Gibson is Greene County ABE's success story.

Patricia, a married mother of one, had been employed for 15 years before being laid off from her job. She entered the program seeking a GED, and better self-esteem and more confidence. She worried that because she had been out of school many years, she wouldn't be able to pass the exam. With assurances from the staff that hard work would pay off, she participated in her adult education classes and received a GED after a year of study. Patricia credits the Greene County Adult Education program with helping her accomplish her goals. ○

*This program served 124 adults last year.*



Office of Adult and Community Education staff serve as members of the National Institute for Literacy HUB II Steering Committee, a project to promote the use of technology to help adult learners and adult basic education programs achieve their goals.


**GREENE COUNTY • GREENEVILLE**

## Greeneville Adult Basic Education

**Victoria Smith** writes:

Before obtaining my GED I felt as if there were no reason to pursue my education. I was thirty years old before I read a book from beginning to end. The day I received my test results, I was scared to open the envelope. I finally got the courage to peep inside and search out the results. When I saw the word PASSED, I started jumping up and down yelling, "I passed, I passed." Tears filled my eyes and I stopped to feel (really feel) the feelings of accomplishment. Then, I phoned everyone I knew to share my good news. When I went to the graduation ceremony, I was so proud of myself. Getting my GED helped me realize that I am teachable, that I am intelligent, that I can never ever learn enough, that I deserve an education, that I feel better about myself when I am learning and "It's never too late to be what you might have been."

I have since taken a semester at a local college, received a promotion at my full-time job, and gotten a raise at my part-time job. Reading is now my favorite hobby and I am typing this letter on a computer! Since I became willing to try, doors have opened in every direction. The most special gift I have been given is the ability to believe in myself and to never let go of my dreams. May God send many, many blessings to the ladies at the Greeneville Adult Basic Education program! If you think you can't you won't; if you think you can you will! ○

*This program served 639 adults last year.*



**There are approximately 95 workplace education classes associated with the Office of Adult and Community Education underway in Tennessee.**


**GRUNDY COUNTY • ALTAMONT**

## Grundy County Adult Education

At age 36, **Opal King** accomplished a milestone for herself and her family. She was the first one in her family to get a diploma. At the GED graduation her mother beamed as she shared Opal's success with passing the GED test. Opal grew up in Coalmont with four brothers and sisters; and by fifteen or sixteen, each had dropped out of school to work or raise a family. This is Opal's story in her own words:

"My name is Opal King, I live in Coalmont, Tennessee. I am 36-years old. I always wanted my GED. I wanted to feel proud and do better in life. My problem areas were math and writing skills. I prepared to take the GED test by attending GED classes at the Family Resource Center at Coalmont School for about 12 weeks. I took the test and passed. My two problem areas turned out to be my highest scores.

Mrs. Mayes, my teacher, really encouraged me all the way. She had confidence in me. I needed her extra push and I'm glad she was here. She's a great inspiration to anyone wanting to get a GED. My husband L.V., also encouraged me to get my GED. All that attend the classes are like one big family."

Opal passed her GED in March of 1997. Now she is working for the South Cumberland Recreation Area at Stone Door in Altamont, but this is not the end to this story—just the beginning. Opal's stepping stones to success are now being followed by her sister, her brother-in-law and his son, and Opal's daughter-in-law. Opal's mother may be watching three more in her family walk across the stage to receive their diploma and an opportunity for success. As Opal stepped across the stage at GED Graduation, she succeeded in changing the future of her family.○

*This program served 548 adults last year.*




**HAMBLEN COUNTY • MORRISTOWN**

## Hamblen County Adult Basic Education

Kim Ball entered the Hamblen County ABE program in October, 1997. Kim, a single parent to a high school senior, had a very "spotty" work record, very low self-esteem, and no high school credential. She came to our program as a Families First participant.



At first glance, Kim seemed unlike the typical "welfare mom." She was well-groomed, quite personable, and openly honest about the "nudge" needed to get her on track to a better existence. The common characteristics she shared with the other members of the Families First program was the lack of goals and self-direction.

Within two weeks Kim emerged as a leader. Elected president of her class, Kim became a self-styled spokesperson for the Families First program. She claimed that without the educational requirement she would never have finished her education. She stated that the program provided opportunities that she would never have pursued on her own. She was featured as "Jane Doe" in a newspaper article on Families First success.

Kim earned her GED, entered employment with Goodwill Industries, winning an award within the first few months of employment. In less than a year, Kim has been promoted to production manager with Goodwill Industries. Her responsibilities include oversight of all incoming merchandise, pricing of all merchandise, and stocking the front. Her daughter is currently a college freshman. ○

*This program served 402 adults last year.*


**HAMILTON COUNTY • CHATTANOOGA**

## Chattanooga State Technical Community College Adult Basic Education



Judy Masters, an adult basic education student at Chattanooga State writes: As a single parent with a teenage daughter and a pre-teen son, I never thought that I would have the opportunity to get my high school diploma much less attend college. I was given that opportunity by way of the Adult Basic Education Department at Chattanooga State Technical Community College. It was there that I learned that I am responsible for my own success. It is with that lesson that I started my college classes. I am studying to be a Human Service Specialist at Chattanooga State. This is only my first semester as a full-time student but I feel that ABE gave me a great start. I have also been given an opportunity to give back to the program by working as a student aide in the offices of ABE. It has given me a chance to learn new skills to go along with my college classes, such as information systems and computer record-keeping. It has also given me a chance to renew some old skills like photo copying, file management, and answering the phone. ○

*This program served 1,869 adults last year.*



**Tennesseans in adult basic education classes are urged to support our democracy by registering and voting in every election. Over 1,000 adult basic education learners registered to vote or voted the first time during the 1996/97 program year.**


**HAMILTON COUNTY • CHATTANOOGA**
**READ  
Chattanooga**

Terrance Clay, a 46-year-old former Chattanooga READ (Reading Education for Adult Development) student, is a real success story. Over a decade ago, Terrance was a TVA boilermaker with a good paycheck, but an on-the-job accident left him unable to do the kind of physical work he had done in the past. Years of disability pay at less than half his former salary, chronic pain, and medication left him without much hope for a productive future.

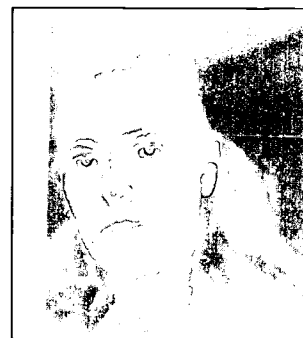
In 1995, Terrance found the resolve to go back to school. He felt he needed more than a high school education in order to find good employment; however, Terrance, who had graduated more than thirty years ago, knew his first step should be to brush up on his skills. He enrolled in the READ program and began going to class twice a week. Terrance commented that the hardest part was getting back into the routine of school and getting his study habits back.

Terrance's hard work has already paid off. Just two years after enrolling in READ, Terrance began a draftsman class at Chattanooga State. He expects to be earning a paycheck again before he turns fifty. Terrance has served as a volunteer spokesperson for the READ program. "READ gave me something," he said. "Like the song says, 'They put me back on the good foot.'" ○

*This program served 993 adults last year.*



**Basic skills that prepare Tennesseans for the workforce are emphasized in adult education programs. Over 4,000 adult basic education learners got a job during the 1996/97 program year.**


**HANCOCK COUNTY • SNEEDVILLE**
**Hancock  
County Adult  
Education**


Zelma Ruth Collins was born and raised in Sneedville, Tennessee, the oldest of thirteen children. She attended a two-room school at Fox Branch until she was in the sixth grade. She was then old enough to do farm work and had to drop out of school to work on the farm to help support her younger brothers and sisters.

Thankfully, Zelma Ruth got a second chance. She enrolled in the Hancock County GED Classes and attended the Hancock County Mobile Learning Lab. She graduated from the GED program when she was 49 years old.

After graduating from the GED program, Zelma Ruth enrolled in a CNA (certified nursing assistant) class. After completing the CNA class, she was hired at Hancock Manor Nursing Home. She worked at the nursing home until she acquired a better position at a manufacturing company, working six days a week for up to eleven hours a day.

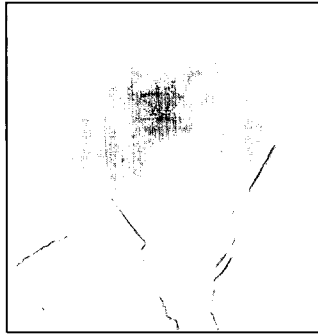
Until Zelma Ruth obtained a GED diploma, she had never been employed full time in any type of work. Zelma Ruth says the GED program is the "best thing that has ever happened to me." She states that "encouragement from the teachers and staff of the GED program helped keep me in the classes because many times I felt that I would not be able to finish." She is very thankful for the support of these individuals through her classwork. ○

*This program served 148 adults last year.*


**HARDIN COUNTY • SAVANNAH**

### Hardin County Adult Basic Education

**Kim Thompson** is a 39-year-old single mother with two children. She can be described as an ambitious, dedicated, and versatile young woman. At the time of entry into the Hardin County ABE program, Kim was working at a garment factory to support her family. She wanted more for her family and she wanted a career. The career of her choice was the nursing field. Being a high school dropout she first had to earn her GED Diploma.



In less than four months Kim was a GED graduate. She then returned to ABE class to learn more and prepare for the entrance exam for LPN class. Kim passed the exam and then applied for admission to the LPN class at Tennessee Technology Center at Crump. Hardin County ABE sent a letter of recommendation for Kim to the review committee outlining her dedication as an ABE student. However, she was named second alternate for the class. This meant that two of the twelve class members had to drop-out the first two weeks. It did not happen. Kim now has to wait until the next class. Disappointed? Yes. Defeated? No!

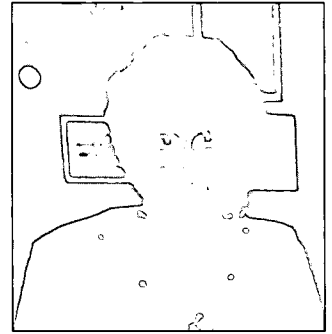
Kim instead entered CNA (certified nursing assistant) training and received her CNA certificate. She is presently employed at the Hardin County Regional Health Center as a Medical Assistant. Kim truly loves her job at the Medical Center and hopes this experience will help her to be accepted in the next LPN class. Kim is a good example for the saying "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." She has done just that. ○

*This program served 237 adults last year.*


**HAWKINS COUNTY • ROGERSVILLE**

### Hawkins County Adult Education

**Loretta Hickman** is a 54-year-old married mother of three and grandmother of two. In 1994, Loretta went to an employment office seeking a job. Because Loretta had dropped out of school and did not have a high school diploma or GED, the office sent her to the Adult Learning Center to study for her GED.



Loretta's scores on her entrance test were very high, but no one—least of all Loretta—thought she would be ready to take the GED exam in such a short time. After just three weeks of studying, Loretta took her test and passed it.

After obtaining a GED, Loretta volunteered to help students in the program. She said that the Adult Learning Center had meant so much to her that she wanted to give something back. When funds became available for another staff member at the Adult Learning Center in 1995, Loretta was hired to fill that position. Since Loretta started working at the Center, the number of students obtaining a GED have doubled in part because of the individual help she gives the students. Her dedication to the program is truly commendable.

Shortly after her employment she enrolled at Walters State Community College taking computer classes. She became an active member of the Chamber of Commerce and Republican Women. She received a \$500 scholarship from the Rotary Club of Rogersville. Loretta was featured on the front page of the *Rogersville Review* because of her accomplishments. ○

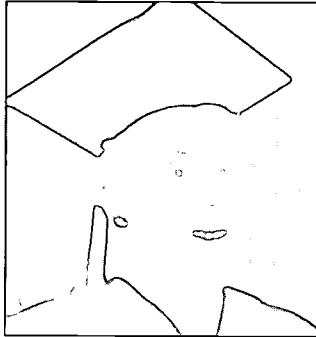
*This program served 566 adults last year.*




**HAYWOOD COUNTY • BROWNSVILLE**

## Haywood County Adult Basic Education

Although a busy mother of two children, **Mary E. Clayton** felt that "something was missing in my life" and enrolled in the Haywood County Adult Basic Education program. Only three of her ten brothers and sisters graduated from high school, and Mary dropped out in the tenth grade at the age of sixteen. She was now determined to get a GED diploma and a good job. Mary admits that her tenure in ABE classes was a hard struggle, but relates that passing the GED exam increased her confidence and opened many doors. She is presently working for Haywood County Food Service and states that ABE personnel keep her informed of job opportunities in the area which gives her options to further her education in future years.



Mary gives credit to others in her life for much of her success. She emphasized that her daughter "overdid her part" in helping her with housework, cooking, and other responsibilities while she participated in ABE classes and also urged her to continue classes when she became discouraged. She also credits her ABE teachers and counselor/recruiter with increasing her confidence and assuring her she could succeed.

Mary takes an active role in her church by singing in the choir, teaching Sunday school classes, and working with the church youth in various activities. She is also a member of the Band Boosters Club at Haywood County High School where her daughter is a member of the school band and participates in the "Distinguished Scholars" program. ○

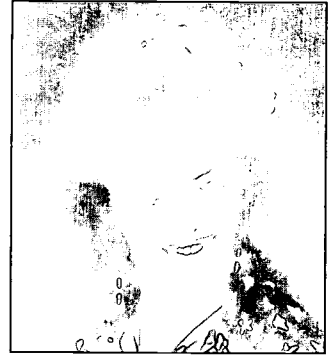
*This program served 377 adults last year.*


**HENDERSON COUNTY • LEXINGTON**

## Henderson County Adult Community Education

**Debra Ferrell** came to Henderson County's Adult Community Education program after the company where she worked, Brown Shoe Company, closed. Debra participated in a 20-hour-per-week intensive education class, through the Economic Dislocated Workers Adjustment Assistance Act, as did many others from Brown Shoe Company. Debra went to school for six months and later got a job as co-manager in a new business. "The classes were very interesting, and you could be proud you were trying to improve yourself," Debra said. While she continues to work, Debra is currently preparing to take her GED and is interested in a college degree in business to prepare her for higher level management positions.

Brad Davis, one of Debra's instructors, points out that when factories close, employees face the prospect of changing careers and needing new skills. "I strongly recommend others in similar predicaments to make the best out of a bad situation, like Debra did. With the help of Adult Education," Davis said, "this has now become an opportunity for these dislocated workers and their families to realize careers that had been only a dream." ○



*This program served 307 adults last year.*



**Adult basic education classes help Tennesseans who are progressing toward self-sufficiency. A total of 1,900 adult basic education students ended their dependence on public assistance during the 1996/97 program year.**


**HENRY COUNTY • PARIS**

## Henry County Adult Education

**Donna Bailey** quit school when she was seventeen years old and in the tenth grade. As an adult, she learned that being a high school drop out meant poor job prospects.

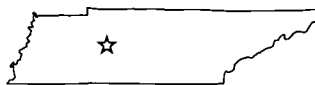


Being a single parent made it especially difficult for Donna to pursue her education, but she was determined to get her diploma. Donna began by attending one ABE class a week. When the Families First program began, Donna was able to attend class twenty hours a week. She worked hard to prepare for the GED exam.

It was almost two years after she enrolled that Donna took her test and passed. She was recognized as "Learner of the Year" at the GED graduation by the ABE Staff in Henry County. Donna has expressed her appreciation for the help she received from the ABE program by coming back to the program and offering assistance as a volunteer. She enjoys helping people reach their goals and is still totally committed to learning.

Receiving her GED was not to be the end of Donna's educational pursuit. She enrolled in Bethel College in McKenzie, Tennessee, and continued her studies. At her graduation exercises, she received a \$1000 scholarship to continue her studies. Donna is truly a Henry County success story! ○

*This program served 298 adults last year.*


**HICKMAN COUNTY • CENTERVILLE**

## Hickman County Adult Education

**Carolyn Baxter**, wife and mother of three, attended the Families First class in Hickman County while working part-time at a Subway restaurant. Carolyn initially enrolled in ABE so that she could help her children with homework, and only later gathered the courage to work toward a GED. After several months of study, Carolyn obtained her GED. She wanted to share her success with others, and for several months after passing her GED, Carolyn returned each morning for two hours to tutor her former classmates. Carolyn then obtained full-time employment at Pizza Hut.

Carolyn surpassed her short- and long-term goals in less than six months. Somewhere along the way, she gained self-confidence, self-respect, and a genuine belief that she could do anything that she wanted to do. She began her next challenge in January 1998 as a student at Columbia State Community College pursuing a career in education.

The Adult Education staff, teachers, and students look forward to congratulating her around 2002 for climbing and mastering yet another hill. Even then, we suspect that Carolyn will see another challenging mountain waiting in the distance! ○

*This program served 171 adults last year.*



**Parents who improve their own literacy skills support and encourage their children in school.**

**In 1996/97, over 1,700 adult learners reported they read more to their children; and over**

**1,500 adult learners say they are more involved in their children's schooling.**




**HOUSTON COUNTY • ERIN**
**Houston  
County Adult  
and Community  
Education**


Brenda Meyer completed the tenth grade before leaving school. She married and was a homemaker before deciding to enroll in the Houston County Adult Basic Education Program. She began classes in October 1996, and passed her GED in January, 1997, with a score of 45.8. Brenda says that the teachers were helpful while she studied for the test and in assisting her to set goals for the future. She plans to attend vocational school when her children are older. Her husband, William, works at Waverly Carpet Center and Brenda is encouraging him to get his GED. Brenda is pleased that her two sons, Trevor and Dakota, now have a mom with a diploma! ○

*This program served 46 adults last year.*


**HUMPHREYS COUNTY • WAVERLY**
**Humphreys  
County  
Adult Education**


In October 1997, Elaine Choate arrived at her job in the Humphreys County Circuit & General Sessions Court Clerk's office to find numerous gifts, balloons and congratulations from her boss and fellow employees for passing the GED. The celebration that day was especially important to Elaine since she plans to be a candidate for Humphreys County Circuit and General Sessions Court Clerk in the August 1998 General Election.

Elaine, who holds the position of Chief Deputy Clerk and runs the General Sessions Court Office, was twice enrolled in the Humphreys County ABE program. During her initial enrollment, Elaine became discouraged. But later she decided to make the GED her goal and began attending night classes. She passed her GED after only two months of class. By earning her GED, Elaine is a Humphreys County success story. She has achieved her goal and will use this opportunity as a stepping stone for public office.

Elaine is married to Bob Choate. They have five children. Elaine is also blessed with 11 beautiful grandchildren. ○

*This program served 111 adults last year.*



**Family literacy classes and approaches are a part of many adult basic education programs. Family literacy joins parents and children in efforts to improve literacy and build healthy families.**



JACKSON COUNTY • GAINESBORO

## Jackson County Adult Basic Education

Lisa Watkiss writes:

I dropped out of school after my sophomore year, got married, and had two kids. Last year I decided to go back to school and get my GED. I was working in the office at Memphis Chair. I knew it would be hard to go to school, go to work, and to take care of my children. I took adult education classes once a week for seven months. With the practice tests I had taken in my adult education class, I knew I would pass the GED test.

I graduated in June with honors, and I am very pleased to say my children and husband were able to attend graduation. Since then I have gotten a promotion and raise at work. I know my GED helped me get those. I also feel that I have given myself the confidence to know I can do things, but first I have to try. ○

*This program served 230 adults last year.*



**The Adult Basic Education program is currently serving as the educational and training service provider that offers a "hand up" to the first rung on the training ladder to the displaced worker or the job seeker. Adult Basic Education, with its multi-level course of instruction beginning with literacy instruction and ending with successful completion of the high school credential, prepares a candidate to enter other, more specialized training for the workforce.**



JEFFERSON COUNTY • DANDRIDGE

## Jefferson County Adult Basic Education

Alexis Martinez was born in Havana, Cuba in 1962. Due to the political and economic turmoil in Cuba, Alexis' family moved to

Miami when he was 3 years old. He grew up in South Florida and moved to Tennessee when he was 21 years old.

Alexis enrolled in the Jefferson County Adult Basic Education Program in September 1996, while incarcerated at the Jefferson County Detention Center. He was a role model for other inmates and encouraged several of his fellow inmates to join him in the ABE class. Alexis earned his General Education Diploma (GED) December 9, 1996, just three days after his release. He attended the annual GED Graduation and was accompanied by his daughter and mother. Alexis and his wife, Marianne, have three children, Teresa, Tara and Aaron.

Alexis is now enrolled at Walters State Community College and is seeking an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts. When not in class, he is working at Wholesale Food Outlet. The Martinez family is building a new home, with Alexis providing much of the labor.

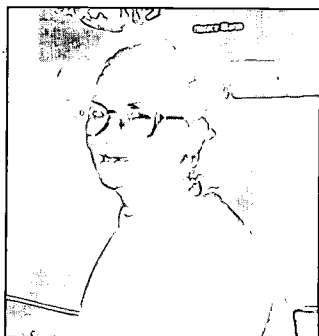
The family has experienced a great deal of stress, but their determination to succeed has drawn them closer together. The discipline they have developed has helped strengthen the family bonds. According to both Alexis and Marianne, encouragement from their children has helped Alexis reach many of his personal and educational goals. He is proud to be a positive role model for his children. With Alexis' and Marianne's encouragement, the children are determined to continue their education helping to ensure happiness and success. ○

*This program served 384 adults last year.*


**JOHNSON COUNTY • MOUNTAIN CITY**

## Johnson County Adult Basic Education

Judith Blevins entered the Adult Education Program in the Spring of 1996. She was separated from her husband and unemployed.



Judith faced the challenge of supporting herself and making a new life. Being successful in the adult education program became her main goal. She wanted to get education and training so she could better cope with her situation and eventually become self-sufficient. From the very beginning, Judith was motivated and excited about the new experience of learning.

An assessment helped determine that Judith needed help with her basic skills. Bringing her skills up was her first objective and she accomplished that quickly with hard work and perseverance. As her basic skills improved, she felt ready to take the GED. She missed passing the test by a point but did not allow that to discourage her. She came back to class and worked hard on the subjects she would have to retake. She took the test again and passed.

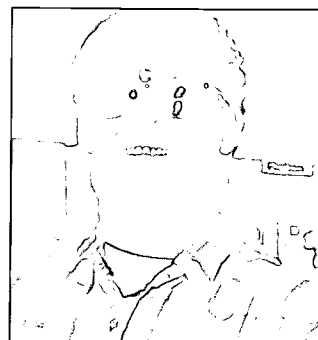
Judith really wanted to go on to school and we encouraged her in this endeavor. We worked with her on the financial aid and application process, and Judith enrolled in Northeast State Technical College for the fall semester. Judith is a shining example of adults who set a goal and no matter the setbacks, remain true to that goal. We are very proud of Judith but more importantly, Judith is very proud of herself. ○

*This program served 250 adults last year.*


**KNOX COUNTY • KNOXVILLE**

## Knox County Schools Adult Education

Lee Plumlee, age 39, has been in the Knox County Adult Literacy program since 1994. At that time he could not even write his



ABCs. Now he can read and write well enough to find businesses and street addresses that he needs to locate as a part of his job. He has become an accomplished speaker for clubs and organizations in the Knox County area. He enjoys telling listeners of his reading accomplishments and the confidence he has gained as a result of his new skills. He feels it is important to tell others about the help he has received through adult education. Lee says, "They have given me so much motivation and a better outlook on life." He encourages others like himself to go back to school and doesn't accept their hesitancy until "they at least agree to think about it."

Lee is married and has two sons. He is employed at Knoxville Utilities Board and has advanced in the maintenance department because of his new reading skills. He finds himself looking for new words and trying to figure them out by himself. "I am thankful I learned to read before my mother died. My father couldn't read and although my mother never mentioned it to me, I knew it bothered her." He still remembers the heartache of not being able to read to his children. "One thing I look forward to is being able to read to my grandkids!" His confidence has improved so much that he now goes to school often to talk about his sons' education to their teachers. The open doors he sees are tremendous. "I can now read historical monuments that my wife used to read to me and I can't wait to get good enough to read all the history books about faraway places I have seen on TV." ○

*This program served 6,706 adults last year.*



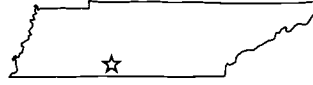
**KNOX COUNTY • KNOXVILLE**

## **Pellissippi State Technical Community College Adult Basic Education**

**Raymond Ho** left his native Hong Kong in May 1994 to visit his sister in Knoxville. When he arrived in Tennessee, Raymond faced a new country where he knew only his family members. Although he had a high school diploma from Hong Kong, it was not the type of diploma he needed for entering college. So Raymond soon began working toward a GED that would allow him to enroll at Pellissippi State Technical Community College and pursue his dream of a college education. Raymond worked diligently from April until November toward the GED. He spent about 25 hours a week studying at Pellissippi State's GED Preparation Program and at home. Raymond used every learning tool available to him. He worked on the GED preparation computer, was tutored by the GED instructor, and spent hours using educational workbooks. Like many non-English natives, Raymond faced the frustration of knowing the material and being able to speak fluent English, but not being able to understand some of the difficult vocabulary on the GED test. He persisted and obtained his GED.

Today Raymond is a successful college student at Pellissippi State majoring in Hotel Management. His days are busy with college classes and work, but he finds time to enjoy hobbies, participate in sports, listen to music, and take an active part in his church. A few short years ago he arrived in a country where he knew only five people. Today he has many friends and is well on his way to meeting his college goal. ○

*This program served 224 adults last year.*



**LAWRENCE COUNTY • LAWRENCEBURG**

## **Lawrence County Adult Learning Center**

**Angela Martin** is a single mother of three. Through the Families First Program, Angie learned about Adult Basic Education classes. She began attending classes in October, 1996 to get her General Education Diploma. Her math and reading were on the seventh- and eighth-grade levels, but after ten months and a lot of hard work, Angela earned her GED. Her whole life changed due to her success.

Angie earned a scholarship from the Junior Auxiliary of Lawrenceburg which enabled her to enter welding classes at Tennessee Technology Center in Pulaski. Angie is working part-time and has now received a Pell Grant, which will pay for her next quarter of welding classes. Angie wants to graduate from welding school and get a good paying job. Angie's goals are to support her children, buy a house and eventually go to college.

Angie was an asset to the class as she repeatedly motivated other students with her stories of success. She visits our class about once a week to keep in touch with the staff and other classmates. ○

*This program served 655 adults last year.*



**The Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) was designed to address the gap between programs offering mastery of basic skills and programs offering mastery of workplace skills. Several state departments administer JTPA funds in their training efforts.**



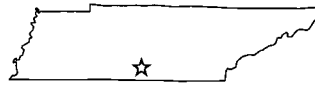
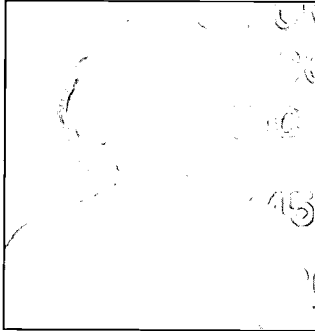
LEWIS COUNTY • HOHENWALD

## Lewis County Adult Basic Education

Delores Murphy was 60 when she received the news that the factory at which she worked would be closed. Through information provided by Employment Security, Delores decided she needed to finish high school and was referred to our Adult Basic Education program. She began ABE classes on April 21, 1997, and became a very dedicated student. Despite a 40-year absence from school, Mrs. Murphy was often able to help other students with their studies. Mrs. Murphy was a role model, a mother, and a grandmother to the other students in the class and gave valuable personal counseling.

Mrs. Murphy passed the GED test July 22, 1997 with an average score of 56. She is continuing to upgrade her skills in a JTPA computer applications course and will follow up at Tennessee Technology Center in the Business Systems program. Mrs. Murphy keeps contact with her former ABE classmates and continues to offer words of encouragement to the students, advising them to be persistent in their studies. ○

*This program served 410 adults last year.*



LINCOLN COUNTY • FAYETTEVILLE

## Lincoln County Adult Education

At age 13 Lisa Greenwood and her sister Lori were on the streets without any family support. After several years on her own, Lisa married her husband Jason and they have four wonderful children. Although she had a great family and a busy life, Lisa never felt complete. She always felt as if a piece of her life was missing. Lisa realized that if she were going to put an emphasis on education for her children, she needed to practice what she preached.

She enrolled in the Lincoln County Adult Basic Education program and never looked back. Despite learning disabilities and a very busy schedule Lisa was a determined student and made time to study. During the time she was enrolled, Lisa volunteered at her children's school by working the concession stand and running errands. She was also a volunteer driver for Meals on Wheels. Obtaining assistance from the ABE program helped Lisa attain her GED after just eight weeks of instruction. The instruction and assistance she received has enabled her to further her education and obtain a better job.

Lisa is now working as a bookkeeper and auditor for the Best Western Fayetteville Inn. After she received her diploma she enrolled at Motlow State Community College where her professors praise her for her hard work and determination to keep her 4.0 GPA. Her major is psychology with an emphasis in social work. Lisa is also peer tutoring at Motlow and is a volunteer tutor for the Adult Education Program in Lincoln County. She is thankful for the program and believes it gave her the self-confidence to go on to college and the strength she needed to fulfill her dreams. ○

*This program served 359 adults last year.*



**According to the most recent U.S. Census data, more than 1.3 million adult Tennesseans lack high school credentials and thus are potential candidates for Adult Basic Education. These least-educated Tennesseans may not be able to contribute fully as workers, parents or citizens without adult basic education.**


**LOUDON COUNTY • LENOIR CITY**
**Lenoir City  
Adult Basic  
Education**

**Johnny Thomas** writes:

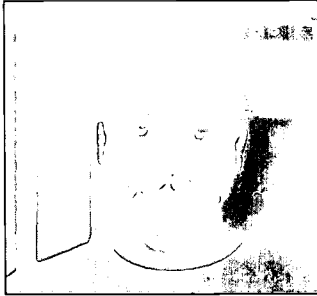
When I quit school I thought I could make it without an education. But I was wrong.

In this high tech world you need a good education! I found out that you cannot get a better job without it. It took me a long time to realize that all I was getting were dead-end jobs. My family tried to get me to go back to school but I wasted more time.

Finally I decided to finish what I started out to do. When I went to GED school I wasn't sure that I could pass the test. But the teachers instilled in me the confidence that I could do it. They always tried to give me a positive outlook on everything. I did pass!

Without the GED I would not have been able to go back to work at Yale Security. I have a good job now, and I know I am prepared to find another if I ever have that need. I would like to thank the teachers for their support and for being good teachers, and for giving me the chance to improve my life. ○

*This program served 289 adults last year.*


**LOUDON COUNTY • LOUDON**
**Loudon County  
Adult Basic  
Education**

**Sam Shubert** is the first of two generations to obtain his high school diploma. Sam enrolled in the adult basic education program in late fall of 1996. He entered as a very quiet, observant person but emerged through the year as a confident, compassionate, well-liked individual. Sam's primary goal in obtaining his education was to be a better role model for his son and other family members.

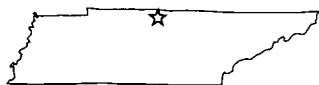
Sam is a single father of a high school sophomore. Sam's community involvements include being a foster parent for six years to a Loudon County youth, and is active in community and church activities. His hobbies include all outdoor sports, watching his son play football, and activities with family and friends. Sam has been employed by a local manufacturer for twenty-five years. After retirement from this company, he is looking toward new opportunities with his GED credentials. Sam has met and overcome many obstacles and challenges in completing his educational goals, and we are proud to nominate him as a Loudon County ABE success story. ○

*This program served 47 adults last year.*



**Beginning in 1989 and continuing today, the entire Adult Basic Education program was restructured into a multi-level instructional system: ABE 1, serving Beginning Literacy and all adults with proficiency levels in reading, writing, and numeracy skills below the sixth grade level; ABE II, serving adults with sixth to ninth grade proficiency; and ABE III, serving adults with ninth through twelfth grade proficiency levels. Instructors in each level receive level-specific, state-sponsored training and successful candidates receive Certificates of Accomplishment and Achievement upon completion of each level.**




**MAGON COUNTY • LAFAYETTE**
**Macon County  
Adult Basic  
Education**

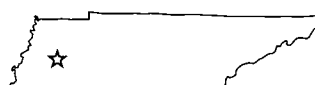
Monica Diane Carter was second from the oldest of four children. Neither of her parents were high school graduates, and education was not of importance to her family. Diane lived in a rural area where work was their primary objective. She dropped out of school in the ninth grade. Shortly thereafter she was married and went to work in a factory at age 16.



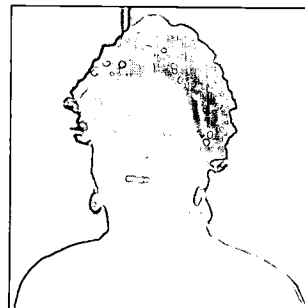
She and her husband, Jerry, have four children. As her children grew up, Diane was a familiar figure at school functions and enjoyed being a part of her children's achievements. She instilled a desire for an education within the children. Three of their children have already graduated from high school and two are now in college.

As time passed, Diane felt something was missing in her life. She began to see a need for her own education. In her workplace, a high school diploma or GED was being required for all new employees. Diane worried about her own employment future, should she ever need to get a different job. That concern was the push she needed. In August, 1997, she came to our office inquiring about the GED preparation program. Diane enrolled and became a very enthusiastic student. She studied very hard, and her quest for a GED was inspiring to others. She told others about the classes and tried to persuade them to attend classes. In November, 1997, she received her GED. Her self-confidence increased tremendously as well as her admiration from her family. She and her family are spreading the word about our GED program and recruiting others. Her goal is to get a better job or possibly further her education. ○

*This program served 213 adults last year.*


**MADISON COUNTY • JACKSON**
**Center for  
Adult  
Reading and  
Enrichment**

Evelyn Ware was born and raised in Jackson, Tennessee and is a single mother of



four. She has three daughters, Keisha, 15; Keyonis, 12; Karissa, 8; and one son, Billy, Jr. (BJ), who is 10. Evelyn enrolled in the Adult Basic Education classes at C.A.R.E. in November, 1995 to begin a recovery process from a long-term personal illness that had left her life unstable. She completed the program in February 1997, when she passed the GED exam administered at Jackson State Community College.

Evelyn believes her main accomplishment has been to reclaim her life. Obtaining her GED was a part of that process. She also wanted to graduate before her oldest child. Her long-term goal was to enroll in cosmetology school. Having her GED allowed her to enter Total Concept Beauty Academy in March 1997. In so doing, she obtained a great deal of self-esteem and a feeling of accomplishment.

A desire to help others, as she has been helped, prompted Evelyn to attend a tutor training workshop at C.A.R.E. She now plans to volunteer her time to help others improve their skills. It's her way of giving back to the community some of the assistance she received.

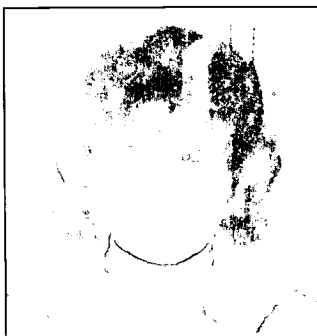
Gratitude to the C.A.R.E. staff, with special thanks to instructors Laura Beverly and Gloria Jones, and her current cosmetology instructor Josie Walton, is expressed frequently. Evelyn also expresses appreciation to Walter and Diane Long, Dr. Bernice Taylor, Jan Jones, Linda Jackson, and James Smith for their support and encouragement during her illness and road to recovery. Most of all, though, Evelyn states, "All praises and thanks go graciously to the Lord, because without Him I would not have been able to accomplish anything. Amen." ○

*This program served 786 adults last year.*


**MARION COUNTY • SOUTH PITTSBURG**

## Marion County Adult Education

**Teresa Anderson** was a single mother receiving public assistance in the form of AFDC. She did not work, and she had few acquaintances to whom she could look to as role models.



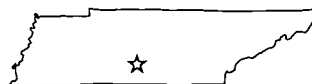
After years of negotiating with herself, Teresa began the process of improving her self-esteem and her quality of life. First, she attended a Fresh Start class provided by the Department of Human Services. This class taught her basic survival skills and self-motivation, as well as provided an opportunity to raise her self-esteem. As a result, she made many friends, learned the value of initiative and motivation and recognized the importance of self-worth.

The GED instructor for the Families First program visited the class near the end of Fresh Start. His words of encouragement convinced Teresa she needed to work toward obtaining her GED. At his prompting, she attended the Families First class. She stated, "I had to prove to myself that I could pass the GED test." In the course of the eight months it took her to accomplish this goal, she found the encouragement, motivation and educational help she needed.

As a direct result of receiving her GED diploma, Teresa obtained full-time employment. She stated, "I am now making \$200 per week versus \$185 per month. If I have to go out and find another job, I have the skills and abilities to find it."

Marion County Adult Education provides more than just the pencil and paper skills necessary to pass the exam. Teresa's story exemplifies the kind of support and encouragement provided to students to assist them in developing the confidence and perseverance to reach their goals in the GED program. ○

*This program served 381 adults last year.*


**MARSHALL COUNTY • LEWISBURG**

## Marshall County Adult Basic Education

Mrs. **Patsy Brock**, while working as a tool grinder at Marshall Manufacturing Corporation, wanted to move into a better paying job. Her



boss encouraged her to attend adult education classes and to "go for it." Patsy enrolled in the Marshall County Adult Education Program on January 28, 1995. The support Patsy received at work made it possible for her to get through the tough times. "If I had a math problem, there was one engineer I usually asked for help. He always had time for my questions and never turned me down. There were many days I studied and did homework during my lunch." Patsy's self-esteem grew as she learned new skills. At work she became a tool crib attendant which included paperwork duties. She was afraid of it at first but grew to feel confident about the new job she was doing.

Patsy passed the GED exam in January, 1997. When Patsy was asked what she felt her accomplishments were, she slowly smiled and said, "I have become a whole person. I feel good about myself. I now have the missing part of me; I have my GED diploma and have walked across that stage. I can do whatever I set my mind to do. In fact I just received a certificate for completing a computer course at the local college site."

Patsy has encouragement for everyone who is thinking about more education. "Education is continuous. Don't ever give up. I almost did many, many times but I always went back. I wanted that GED because I knew that would open the doors of opportunity to me. I kept on trucking and I made it!" ○

*This program served 242 adults last year.*





MAURY COUNTY • COLUMBIA

## Maury County Adult Basic Education

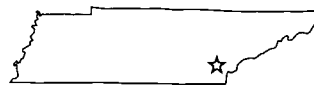
Johnny Farris is a Maury County success story. Mr. Farris's unwavering determination to improve his skills and get a GED kept him participating in Maury County Adult Education for most of six years, where he eventually earned not only his diploma but also a sense of pride that can't be taken away. Mr. Farris says that walking across the stage to receive his GED "was one of the happiest days of my life."

He reports that he now has more confidence on his job at GE, and has become a promoter of literacy in the workplace. Johnny also credits Maury County ABE's belief in the ability of all learners with his eventual success in obtaining a GED. Mr. Farris was a high school graduate with a special education diploma, but knew that job advancement was unlikely with his current skills. He also was unhappy that he couldn't read cards he received from his children. "One of the best things about learning to read was year before last I was able to read my own card on Father's Day," Mr. Farris said.

At Maury County ABE, his learning difficulties were not the stumbling block they had become in other educational settings. Mr. Farris has excellent mechanical ability and good math skills, but was reading at only the first grade level. The ABE staff used tutoring methods and materials developed for people with learning disabilities.

Since earning his GED, Johnny has given much to adult education. He talks with teachers and is a proponent of special training so that staff can work more effectively with students who learn differently. ○

*This program served 487 adults last year.*



MCMINN COUNTY • ATHENS

## Athens City/McMinn County Schools Adult Basic Education



Jenny Tudor enrolled in the Athens City/McMinn County Adult Education program

in June of 1996. Jenny was a very bright, energetic, goal-oriented student. At that time in her life, she was unemployed and undereducated, searching for a means of improving her life and, therefore, bettering conditions for her family. It took Jenny only nine months to rapidly progress through our GED curriculum. In every spare moment she worked with her teacher or independently in the computer learning lab. While attending class, Jenny got a job in a health care facility as a nurse's aide. In a short time this blossomed into a CNA (certified nursing assistant) certification and an increase in salary.

In April of 1997, Jenny passed her GED with high marks. She has the desire to further her education and enhance her qualifications in the nursing field. Because of Jenny's tremendous love of learning, she is destined to achieve her highest goals. Adult Basic Education has served as an essential tool in allowing Jenny to develop to her fullest potential. ○

*This program served 766 adults last year.*



**State of Tennessee certified teachers teach adult education classes.**


**MCNAIRY COUNTY • SELMER**

## McNairy County Adult and Community Education

**Tammy Doles** has overcome many challenges. She had been a foster child in several homes during her young life. She had very low self-esteem and doubted her ability. She had been in special classes throughout her school years and had low literacy skills.



She enrolled in the Adult Education program on December 13, 1994. From the beginning Tammy was an energetic worker. She volunteered to help others in our program. She picked up lunches for our Families First classes. She became active in her children's school work and found a tutor to help her children improve their study habits. She also worked hard on her own class work. She had to overcome many difficulties but continued her studies until she received her GED on May 31, 1997. Tammy was our 1996-97 Student of the Year. She has written letters to the editor of our local newspaper on behalf of the program. She is now working full time and feels good about the accomplishments she has made in her life. ○

*This program served 615 adults last year.*


**MEIGS COUNTY • DECATUR**

## Meigs County Adult Basic Education

**Connie McHone** is a single mother of three children. She enrolled in ABE class in October of 1996, as a Level II student. Connie worked extremely hard and received her GED in December 1996. Connie enrolled in Cleveland State Community College in January 1997. She is currently majoring in accounting at Cleveland State. When Connie first enrolled, she was seeking a two-year degree. However, her grade point average is above 3.5, and she is now planning to receive a four-year degree. Along with improving her basic skills, Connie was able to learn some computer skills while attending the ABE class. ○

*This program served 142 adults last year.*



**Many students enter adult basic education with the goal of improving their basic skills, and often, getting a GED. Academic subjects are taught based on each adult student's initial entry test score. For example, in math, a student's initial test results may indicate the need for basic skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication or division, while another student may need help in algebra or geometry. The teacher addresses each of these needs on an individual student basis. When a person is achieving, there is an increase in self-esteem; the student becomes more positive and confident. Adult educators are sensitive to this and work to help students in all areas of their lives.**



**MONROE COUNTY • MADISONVILLE**

### Monroe County Adult Basic Education



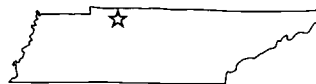
Opal Sledge, a Monroe County Families First participant began ABE classes in March 1997, with the goal of acquiring her GED by the time that her youngest of five children graduated from high school. At 53, Opal set a calendar date for herself, and achieved her GED goal in May 1997.

Opal says that obtaining her GED has opened doors and broadened her horizons. She is now able to obtain jobs that she was initially unable to even consider. She immediately gained employment with a security service, and is currently employed as a security guard at an area manufacturing facility.

Opal's future plans are to continue her education by enrolling in college next year. Her GED score of 60 has opened financial options to her, enabling her to pursue her dreams. Through her employment, she has acquired higher self-esteem and a new sense of self-worth. Her "off work" time is devoted to church activities, as well as putting her newly acquired skills to work caring for an elderly individual's clerical needs.

Opal has a READ, READ, READ! philosophy, and she is a firm believer in keeping the mind exercised. She stresses the importance of setting personal goals. Opal says, "People look at me differently now, and I feel like I'm a new person. I'm experiencing freedom for the first time in my life. I know that I can take care of myself!" ○

*This program served 257 adults last year.*



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY • CLARKSVILLE**

### Clarksville/Montgomery County Adult Education



Vanessa Hodge was in our Families First ABE classes in the spring of 1997 only 2 months before earning her GED. During her class time she was very frank with her fellow students and teachers, sharing with them her anguish over a mother suffering from cancer and siblings involved in addictive situations. Vanessa is determined that her three children, ages 14, 3, and 11 months will be raised in a better environment. She knew the Families First program was her avenue to reaching a long-awaited opportunity to go back to school. Two days before her scheduled test, Vanessa's mother passed away. She expresses how difficult it was to sit through the test during her grief, but she made it. Not only did she earn her GED, but she was voted "Most Improved Student." After obtaining her GED, she set her goals higher and is attending Austin Peay University, knowing this will lead to a good-paying job and a brighter future for her and her children.

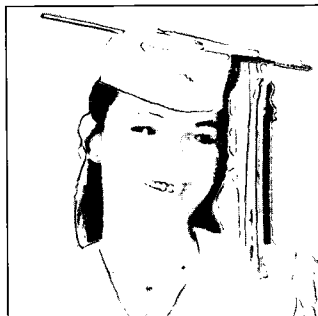
Vanessa is legally separated and is experiencing the many challenges faced by single mothers. During the summer she worked at Kroger. She credits the job application information and interview skills covered in the life skills curriculum with helping her obtain the employment. Vanessa is a member of Mt. Oliver Baptist Church where she enjoys monthly Christian Rock art performances, and teaches vacation Bible School. ○

*This program served 1,283 adults last year.*



MORGAN COUNTY • WARTEBURG

## Morgan County JTPA/Adult Basic Education



Kelly O'Neil was eighteen years old and had never attended high school. She had "slipped through the cracks" in the system and had not attended school in several years. Kelly came to our county to live with friends and was excited about the opportunity to get her GED and an education. She enrolled in the adult basic education program in Morgan County in February of 1997 and was placed in Level I ABE. She was an excellent student who worked very diligently and mastered items quickly. Kelly tested in May of 1997 after scoring a 57 on her math predictor test. She passed her GED exam with no problems.

We assisted Kelly in the summer youth program and in adult driver education. Kelly gained some valuable work experience and her driver's license. We then assisted Kelly in her plans for the future. She was interested in attending college. We did some career placement work with her and gave her information on area colleges. Kelly is now attending Roane State Community College in the social science department. She plans to finish her degree at The University of Tennessee or Tennessee Tech University in criminal psychology.

Kelly was a delightful student. Not only did she attain her GED and pursue other aspects of higher education, but her self-esteem and confidence rose. ○

*This program served 105 adults last year.*



OBION COUNTY • UNION CITY

## Obion County Schools Adult Basic Education

Ok Chu (Kim) Hatchett was born 46 years ago in Korea. Kim met and married her husband in Korea where he was stationed with the military service. They moved to the United States in 1977 and she obtained her U.S. citizenship. She is now living in Troy, Tennessee, with her husband and son.

Kim entered our ABE program in the winter of 1995. She had lost her job of 9 years due to a factory closure. She wanted to improve her English and further her education to increase her chances of re-employment. She initially tested at Level One and has since progressed to Level Three. This has been accompanied by a strong work ethic and desire to achieve her goals.

Kim was recently hired by Tyson Foods and was chosen as one of ten people to receive specialized training at Tyson's home office in Fayetteville, Arkansas. She continues to participate in GED classes with an ultimate goal of passing the GED exam and receiving her GED diploma. Kim has a strong desire to become an excellent speaker and writer in the English language. She works hard and loves to share her knowledge of Korea with other students. Kim truly exemplifies ABE students who reach their educational and life goals with hard work and dedication. ○

*This program served 410 adults last year.*


**PERRY COUNTY • LINDEN**

## Perry County Adult Basic Education

Perry County's student success story is **Stephanie Sipes**, single parent of four children. She enrolled in the Perry County ABE program July 1997 and passed the GED test in October 1997.

Stephanie is currently involved in a Department of Human Services job training program with the goal of a career in health care profession. ○

*This program served 85 adults last year.*


**PICKETT COUNTY • BYRDSTOWN**

## Pickett County Adult Education

Although **Mary Mitchell** enrolled in ABE classes in January of 1997 and earned her GED in April, the impact that Mary made is still being felt in Pickett County's Adult Basic Education program. When Mary came to class, she didn't come alone. She brought friends and coworkers with her. After attending her first class, she began recruiting others to join. Mary was also diligent in her attendance.

Although she worked full-time, she came to class every time that the doors were opened. If some of her classmates missed a scheduled class, she contacted them to make sure that they would be returning. Due to Mary's extraordinary personality and efforts, eleven of her friends and relatives have now earned their GED. Many of these are in new jobs and plan to continue their education.

Mary's goal when she came to ABE was to finish what she had started nearly thirty years ago when she had taken the GED test for the first time. She wanted her GED and to have her family, which includes four granddaughters, see her graduate. Mary Mitchell wants them to value their education now. ○

*This program served 164 adults last year.*



**Many adult education students have not had the opportunities afforded students who finished high school and furthered their education through a college or technical school. Supplementary activities such as field trips provide a larger view of the world and thus a better understanding of how adults can achieve their goals in life.**


**POLK COUNTY • OLD FORT**

## Polk County Adult Basic Education

DeWayne Kirksey was a high school drop-out who enrolled in the Adult Basic Education night class at Polk County High School. DeWayne was a young man who realized immediately after quitting school that he really needed a high school diploma to get and keep a decent job. After working at different jobs without much success, he made one of the most important decisions of his life. He called the school for information about adult education. The first night of class he was unsure of himself but before the class was over he was determined to get his GED.

At class he worked hard and always took lots of books home to study between classes. He encouraged other students and began to develop more self-confidence. When he took his test and received his passing score, he returned to class to tell all of his classmates the good news. He worked with them and told them that he felt he had accomplished the impossible.

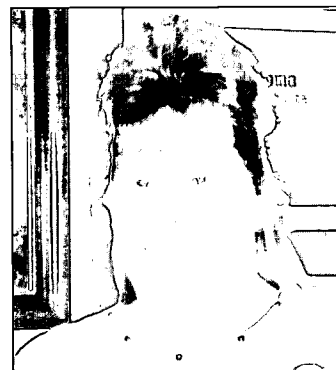
DeWayne was so motivated he began to make plans for his future, which included starting college. He hopes to enroll in the Spring. He wrote an article to the local newspapers (*Polk County News* and *Cleveland Daily Banner*) stating how his GED was making a difference in his life. He is concerned about young people and tells them how rough the job market can be without a high school diploma. DeWayne always encourages them to stay in school and get their education. ○

*This program served 165 adults last year.*


**PUTNAM COUNTY • COOKEVILLE**

## Putnam County Adult Education

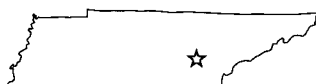
Dawn Vernon is married with four children ages 9, 6, 3 and 3 months. She enrolled in ABE classes in January 1997, took 4 weeks off in February when she had her baby, and passed her GED exam in April. While she was enrolled, she worked at Sonic. Dawn listed the following goals she achieved as a result of being in the Adult Education Program: 1) can help children with homework more; 2) improved interactions with family and friends; 3) renewed my family's faith in me that I can be productive in my life; 4) feeling of self-confidence, faith in myself; 5) leading a more fulfilling life; 6) setting a good example by making education a priority; 7) making my kids feel good about themselves by focusing on what they can do because that's what ABE classes focused on when I was in class; 8) a sense of independence; 9) not relying on others for my happiness or welfare—having choices about what I can be.



Dawn's teacher, Lynda Breeden, gave her entire class brochures of the local college and vocational schools and encouraged them to make field trips to the campuses. Ms. Breeden gave Dawn and other interested students financial aid forms, answered their questions about post-secondary education, and gave them constant encouragement that they could continue their education and succeed. As a result, Dawn has enrolled in Livingston Technology Center's LPN program. She wants to eventually work in a hospital specializing in OB. ○

*This program served 655 adults last year.*





RHEA COUNTY • DAYTON

## Rhea County Adult Basic Education

When Tracey Gravett Smith entered the adult education program, she was a single mother with one child. Tracey entered the adult education program in March of 1996, testing out on Level 2. She was part of a group of students involved in a pilot program known as PATH (Providing Adults Trade Help). During her enrollment in that program she studied a business curriculum.



Tracey attempted the GED test four months after entering the program but her score of 200 was not high enough to pass. Three months later she tried again, raising the score to 209. She continued to study and with everyone's encouragement passed the test on February 14, 1997. During all this time Tracy had excellent attendance and often encouraged those around her.

Tracy shared with us that her parents were divorced when she was very young, but upon hearing about her GED graduation they eagerly attended it together...making it all the more special. Tracey says she is very fortunate to have had the assistance of her parents and grandparents throughout her participation in adult basic education, and credits them with much of her success. Tracey is now a newlywed. She is the assistant manager at the Dayton Dollar Store, and is no longer on government assistance. O

*This program served 461 adults last year.*



ROANE COUNTY • HARRIMAN

## Roane County Adult Basic Education

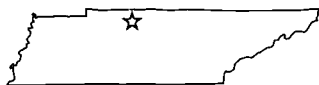
Faye Lail is a seventy-year-old mother of five, grandmother of ten and a great grandmother of three. Most people at this age are thinking about retirement, staying home, and enjoying their grandchildren. Faye did not choose to let her story end that way. She had to quit school at a very early age because her parents needed her to help on the farm. Her goal of getting a high school diploma was something she wanted but it never seemed possible. Even after losing her husband to cancer and being physically and emotionally broken, she still wanted to pursue her education. When the Volunteer Adult High School opened, she was elated at the idea of finally being able to fulfill her life-time goal of receiving a high school diploma.



At the high school, Faye encouraged other students by explaining why their education was so important. She let it be known that without hard work and a steadfast effort, success is not an option. To accomplish her goal, Faye sometimes spent 46 hours per week working on her assignments that had to be just right. Not only did she earn the 16 credits necessary for graduation, Faye received perfect attendance. One day she started for school on the bus during an ice storm that forced cancellation of classes, and arrived only to be sent home. Nothing kept her from attending school.

Faye is now employed as an office worker at the Kingston Elementary School for the Green Thumb Agency. Faye is a dedicated worker and an inspiration to her family, friends, and community. She keeps up with community events and enjoys talking to young teens, giving them advice and encouragement to continue their education. O

*This program served 382 adults last year.*


**ROBERTSON COUNTY • SPRINGFIELD**

## Robertson County Adult Education



"He's my hero", says Jeane Baker, literacy coordinator for Robertson County, of **Billy Ray McMurry**. "Mr. McMurry is a special human being, gifted with determination and courage," she continues. But in many ways, his life exemplifies the story of GED graduates across this state.

Billy Ray left school when he was fifteen. He started work in 1956 on the assembly line at Jamison Bedding, eventually becoming a supervisor. He and his wife Betty opened an upholstery store in 1980. The business was a success but the McMurrys were forced to close the store after Billy Ray's second heart attack.

When Billy Ray set upon his journey to obtain a GED, most of his working years were behind him. He wanted a sense of completion. He wanted to finish what he had started, to prove he had "the right stuff." He worked hard to prepare for the test. Problems with an artificial eye made parts of the test particularly difficult. Even though the first nine attempts were not successful, Billy Ray persevered. "There's no such word as 'can't'" he said. When he passed the test on the tenth try, he wept tears of joy. Billy Ray received congratulations from many friends, admirers, and supporters—including President Bill Clinton.

Mr. McMurry speaks emotionally of the role God had in setting his feet on a path which led to the door of Robertson County ABE. The ABE staff credits McMurry with giving back to the program gifts beyond measure. Since earning his GED, Billy Ray has gone on to become a manager of the produce section of a grocery store, as well as an Alderman for the city of White House. ○

*This program served 364 adults last year.*


**RUTHERFORD COUNTY • MURFREESBORO**

## Rutherford County Adult Education



Over 20 years ago Florine Carter made a promise to her mother that she would finish school. In April of 1997, Florine kept her promise when she passed the GED test. Florine had enrolled in the Rutherford County ABE program in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, in April 1996. At that time she was employed at an automobile glass company.

Within eight months Florine's reading comprehension and math levels came up more than three grade levels. Four months later she passed the GED test and proudly graduated from the ABE program. Florine takes great pride in knowing that she is setting a wonderful example for her children and grandchildren.

Florine knows that obtaining her GED has helped in the job market because she is now qualified for more employment opportunities and is more confident in her abilities. Where she used to hesitate she is now more willing to risk trying new things—failure does not scare her like it previously did.

Florine is currently employed at a Murfreesboro-based company as a machinist, a position which required a GED. She proudly applied for the position without any hesitation. She also hopes to enter nursing school to fulfill a life-long dream. ○

*This program served 634 adults last year.*

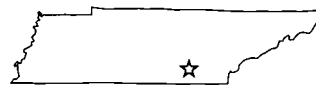

**SCOTT COUNTY • HUNTSVILLE**
**Scott County  
JTPA/Adult  
Basic Education**


Allen Helton is married and has two children. He enrolled in ABE classes on December 16, 1996. He was referred by the Employment Security office to begin ABE classes. He attended at least twenty hours per week of classroom time. Allen was also chosen "Participant of The Month" for always coming to class, and doing his work, as well as being a role model for other students.

While in class Allen concentrated on improving his math skills so he could find better employment. He worked very hard while he was in class, and was not afraid to ask for help if he needed it. Allen was a wonderful participant to be around who was very friendly, caring, and respectful. Allen left the program in June when he got a job at a building supply store.

Allen wants to continue classes when he can because he wants to receive his GED, but right now he has to focus on work and taking care of his family. Through the ABE classes Allen was able to improve his math skills and go to work. ○

*This program served 246 adults last year.*


**SEQUATCHIE COUNTY • DUNLAP**
**Sequatchie  
County  
Adult Basic  
Education**


Kelly Keener, a 1996-1997 Sequatchie County student, is being highlighted for her accomplishments in the Adult Basic Education Program. Kelly is a single parent of a young boy and at 25 found herself out of work and on welfare. She had held jobs in the past, but the pay was minimum, and she was constantly being laid off. Kelly had always regretted quitting high school and needed her diploma to be able to apply for better jobs and enter college, a lifelong dream of hers.

During 1996 and 1997, Kelly did some very positive things for herself. She entered the Families First Class, attended sessions daily, studied hard at school and home, and after five months passed her GED exam. With help from the ABE staff, Kelly entered Chattanooga State where she is now making As and Bs. She has a position as sales representative at Southern Home Rentals which she received because of her GED diploma and the computer training and experience she obtained at the Adult Learning Center in Dunlap. Kelly says, "Now that I have my diploma my future looks better than ever. I am off welfare, in college and being a productive citizen and parent. Thanks to the ABE Program in Sequatchie County, I am on my way!" ○

*This program served 160 adults last year.*


**SEVIER COUNTY • SEVIERVILLE**

## Sevier County Adult Education

When **Ralph Helton** enrolled at the adult high school, he was 34 years old. He needed only second semester of English IV, Economics, and to take the TCAP exam in order to earn his high school diploma.



While this may not seem much, for Ralph it was a great deal. Ralph had been the victim of a brutal beating and had only recently begun his recovery from a 3-month comatose period and a series of surgeries. Confined to a wheelchair and walker, he was separated from his wife and had custody of their two children, both under the age of 4.

In the beginning, Ralph was fearful, insecure, and teary-eyed about both the ride to school on the ETHRA van and the association with others. Low self-esteem and the symptoms of depression hounded his early efforts. However, his family, doctors, counselors, teachers and classmates gave him the support needed for his success.

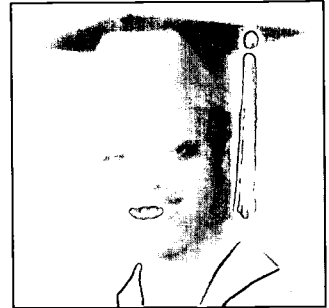
His moment of triumph came after 15 months. On a June evening before an audience of over 700, he walked across the stage at Music Mansion Theatre to a standing ovation and received his diploma. Ralph truly exemplifies the motto of the adult high school: "No one can predict to what heights you can soar; even you will not know until you spread your wings." ○

*This program served 439 adults last year.*


**SHELBY COUNTY • MEMPHIS**

## Memphis City Schools Adult Basic Education

**Chantilly Harrell** is a 1997 graduate of Memphis City Schools Adult Education program. Chantilly, an avid reader, had been in the program about four months before receiving her GED in March, 1997.



After receiving her diploma, she returned to the classroom as a volunteer helping her classmates, working diligently, tutoring them in reading, mathematics, social studies and writing. Most of the students discovered their interest in literature from her one-on-one tutoring in reading. She truly motivated all her classmates and inspired many to further their education. As a result of her tutoring, five students passed the test and received their diploma.

When Chantilly was not in class, she could be found at the front desk of the Workforce Development Center as a volunteer receptionist. She answered the telephone, greeted students and guests, made copies, input data into the computer, and performed other duties the staff and faculty asked.

Chantilly is currently enrolled at Shelby State Community College where she plans to become a Special Education teacher. She received a scholarship from the Memphis City Schools System and the local Memphis Chapter of the National Coalition for 100 Black Women.

In the midst of her busy schedule, Chantilly always makes room for spending time with her son. ○

*This program served 5,022 adults last year.*


**SMITH COUNTY • CARTHAGE**

## Smith County Adult Education

**Wilma Jo Sponaule** was second from the oldest of six children. Her family did not have much money. Her stepfather had no education, so he would not allow the children to study at home and kept them out of school until the truant officer made them attend. Jo's mother worked to support the family. Education was not a priority with her mother either, so when Jo should have been in third grade, she could not do first grade work. This embarrassed her, and it became easy not to go to school.



When Jo reached age 12, she worked in a restaurant. She married at age 20, and became the mother of three children. When the children started to school, Jo attempted to teach herself to read, but it was hard without help. After Jo enrolled in the Adult Basic Education literacy program, she learned very fast. By the end of the first month, she could read at fourth-grade level.

Jo suffered a series of setbacks in her education, including breaking her back in a fall and undergoing major surgery. When she was able to return to class, she inspired others to continue and even helped with transportation when needed. Jo took the GED test, did not pass, but continued to study. Within two months, she took the GED test and passed! Jo was so proud to have gotten so far: from barely being able to read to receiving a GED diploma within two years!

Since graduation, Jo has been operating the concessions during baseball season and doing volunteer work at the hospital. She says that her self-confidence has increased tremendously since she got her diploma. Now she is comfortable talking to people and doing her work. She has a goal of going to college after her youngest child completes high school. ○

*This program served 164 adults last year.*


**STEWART COUNTY • DOVER**

## Stewart County Adult Basic Education

**Karen Deien**, now 26, has had to face great obstacles in her life. When she was a young girl she went through things that no young child should ever have to face. The trauma affected her life and made her unable to concentrate in school. As a child and teen, she kept her experiences bottled up inside. She struggled to believe in her own capabilities but never had the courage to complete anything she started. She was unable to disclose information about her experiences until she grew older and saw the same things happening to others. Through her pain, she took the opportunity to help others in need. Karen Deien grew into a strong, young woman and a friend whom we will never forget. This is her story.

Karen entered the Stewart County Adult Basic Education program on September 30, 1996. Her major goal at the time of enrollment was to pass the GED examination. Ms. Deien worked very hard for seven months and accomplished a great deal. She was dedicated and consistent in her attendance and performance as an adult learner. Not only did Ms. Deien progress academically but socially, physically, and mentally as well. Attending ABE seemed to give her the courage she had never possessed. She passed the GED exam in May of 1997.

Her success as an adult learner and in reaching her first major goal has empowered Karen in all aspects of her life. She is now working toward her long-term life goal to become a juvenile probation officer.

Ms. Deien is a loving mother and a devoted wife. She is married to Marty Deien and they have two adorable little girls, Kayla, six, and Keara, four. ○

*This program served 189 adults last year.*


**SULLIVAN COUNTY • BLOUNTVILLE**
**Sullivan County  
Adult Basic  
Education**

Fletcher Vernon desired a GED diploma to continue his studies to become a minister in the United Methodist Church. "My decision to become a minister," states Mr. Vernon, "was a call of God when I was 46 years of age." He had attended Marion High School (VA) but had not completed his senior year in 1969. Mr. Vernon enrolled in the Sullivan County Adult Basic Education Program during the 1996-97 program year and received his diploma on March 21, 1997. He gave the invocation and commencement address at the GED graduation ceremony on June 3, 1997.



Mr. Vernon is now in his final year of candidacy to become an ordained minister and he is presently a lay pastor at Rock Hold United Methodist Church in Gray, Tennessee. Rock Hold is a basic sponsor in the Piney Flats and Bluff City area for Habitat for Humanity. Mr. Vernon will be leaving the area for a period of time while he attends intensive seminary training. He has chosen Duke University for this training.

Mr. Vernon is the owner and operator of Vernon's Antique Repair where he restores and refinishes Victorian furniture. His three-story, A-frame home, which he built in Piney Flats, is filled with the furnishings he designed and handcrafted. Mr. Vernon's wife, Kathie, is a kindergarten teacher at Gray Elementary School. ○

*This program served 409 adults last year.*


**SULLIVAN COUNTY • KINGSFORT**
**Kingsport City  
Schools  
Adult Basic  
Education**

Constance Lau Vannoy writes: I am a lucky Chinese! I remember when I first came to the United States I could hardly communicate with people. I was embarrassed and afraid to talk. I felt like I was dumb. Life was not easy at all.



I started my ESOL class in Kingsport Adult Education Center a few years ago. I was very lucky to have an experienced, good teacher. She taught me both speaking and written English. She also taught me the knowledge of American customs and the right attitude to become an American. I learned a lot from her class. At the same time I met a lot of new friends too.

In 1996, I passed my GED test and got my first job in the United States as a Travel Consultant. I want to take this opportunity to say "Thank you" to my wonderful teacher - Mrs. Heather Nicely. You are remarkable! ○

*This program served 748 adults last year.*



**A tutor usually works with one student or a small group of students under the supervision of a certified teacher. Many tutors are volunteers who give their time and energy to support adult education in a number of ways, including becoming members of their local literacy councils.**




**SUMNER COUNTY • GALLATIN**

## Sumner County Adult Education

**Earline Holt** enrolled in the ABE program in order to fulfill a directive to "do something for herself" issued by a family counselor. At the time, she and her husband Bob owned a garage where she worked as an auto mechanic. She attended GED classes at Volunteer State Community College for eight months. She passed her GED exam on the first try. While enrolled, Earline was a dedicated student who always had her books with her wherever she went.



After receiving her GED diploma, Earline began driving a bus for the Sumner County School System. After one year, she was made Fleet Service Manager. As Fleet Service Manager, her responsibilities include overseeing the maintenance of the system's 250 vehicles as well as being the supervisor over 8 other mechanics. "Without my GED diploma, I would have never had this wonderful opportunity," she says. "I had the skills to do the job, but without my diploma I could not even have applied for the position."

Last year, Earline became president of the Sumner County Adult Education Advisory Council. No one works harder than she at supporting the Adult Education Program of Sumner County. For her efforts, she received the Sumner County GED Alumni Association Award at GED graduation in May 1997 for her outstanding dedication and service to the ABE program. ○

*This program served 938 adults last year.*


**TIPTON COUNTY • COVINGTON**

## Tipton County Adult Education

**Frankie Branum** is a 25-year-old single mother of three children. She dropped out of school in the tenth grade. She was working full time as a laborer when she enrolled in the Tipton County ABE Program in September 1996 at the Drummonds Elementary site. Her reading score was above the twelfth grade level but her math score was seventh grade level.



After one month of attendance in the ABE Program, Ms. Branum moved from the southern part of the county to Covington, approximately twenty miles away, but she didn't let this change derail her plans. She transferred to the Covington ABE night class and continued to attend until passing the GED test in February.

Frankie then decided to try to her hand at entrepreneurship and started her own housecleaning business just a week after passing the GED test. Currently she is working full time and attending Dyersburg State's Covington campus working on a degree in a business/computer field. We consider Ms. Branum one of our most successful students since she never gave up her dream of making a better life for herself and her three children! ○

*This program served 561 adults last year*



TROUSDALE COUNTY • HARTSVILLE

## Trousdale County Adult Basic Education

**Carol Scruggs**, a 42-year-old married mother of two, is a lifelong resident of Trousdale County. Carol married while in high school and did not return to school after completion of the tenth grade.

She has worked for a local industry for a number of years and was still employed when enrolling in Adult Basic Education. Carol worked very hard independently. She did not attend GED classes but instead came to the ABE office to get materials for her weak areas. After approximately six weeks of preparation and several practice GED tests, Carol took and passed the GED exam. Carol participated in our GED graduation exercise and received an award for the highest score in the area of writing.

She has remained employed by the same company. Carol's daughter is a twirler in the Trousdale County High School marching band, and Carol is an avid band booster and helps tremendously in fund raising and chaperoning their activities and performances. ○

*This program served 135 adults last year.*



UNICOI COUNTY • ERWIN

## Unicoi County Adult Basic Education

**Patti Peterson**, the divorced mother of a high school student, began with the ABE program in February of 1997. She was referred to us by DHS for the Families First Program.

Although scared at first, Patti put her whole heart into achieving her goals. She wanted to get her GED and train for a good job. She worked very hard and took the GED exam in the late spring. She passed with a very impressive score. While in class, she took the Career Aptitude test from the Appalachian Educational Opportunities Program and filled out the application for a Pell Grant to be sent in as soon as she passed the GED. While waiting for approval, she has attended the Job Training Program and has concentrated on computer skills. She will take the AAPP test soon and then enter Northeast State Community Technical College. None of this was easy for Patti, or for us. There were times when the goals seemed far away. She always managed to pull herself back before she reached the edge. We are so very proud of Patti and wish her the best. When I visited her last week, one of her comments was: "You people always believed in me and no one had ever given me a chance to prove myself." ○

*This program served 128 adults last year.*



**Students learn about the role of citizens through reading, discussion and real-life activities in the community. They learn how to participate and contribute to a democratic society. Field trips often are taken to the courthouse and city hall. Students who are not registered voters may register, and all learners are encouraged to vote in every election. Students gain an understanding of how to make their voices heard and how to get results by going through the proper channels of government.**


**UNION COUNTY • MAYNARDVILLE**

## Union County Adult Basic Education

Beulah Joyce Vanbebber has accomplished many important things in her life. She has raised three children of her own including one who is deaf. She is the primary care giver to a 14-year-old grandson since his birth and has seven other grandchildren.



When Joyce enrolled in Union County adult education classes, she was employed as a part-time cook at a local restaurant. While attending ABE classes faithfully for ten hours per week, Joyce continued working at the restaurant, caring for her family, and encouraging her husband to attend his reading classes. When she passed the GED test in May, Joyce rewarded herself by purchasing a class ring. She says, "I'm really proud of my accomplishments." She holds up her ring finger, displays her class ring, and continues, "Most of all, I'm proud of this! I now flash my class ring at my grandson, and tell him 'I did it, and you can do it too!'"

Joyce currently works at Target Stores. She says, "Having my GED may have helped me get hired. Another woman I know also applied, but she didn't get hired. She doesn't have her GED yet." Twice each week Joyce helps at the adult learning center by tutoring, answering the telephone, and performing other clerical duties. ○

*This program served 229 adults last year.*


**VAN BUREN COUNTY • SPENCER**

## Van Buren County Adult Basic Education

Violet Crider writes:

I was a 37-year-old high school dropout, raising four children by myself, when I joined the Families First program last summer. I worked hard and attended class every day, and was able to obtain my GED after only three months. I had never done algebra before, but now I can work problems in the highest level. I improved five grade levels in math, and two grade levels in reading. Because of this achievement, I feel better about myself, which also improved my home and family life.



I know you can do anything, with encouragement. All you have to do is try. I am so encouraged by my progress that I am enrolled at Motlow State Community College and will begin next semester. I am attending computer classes, volunteering my time as a tutor for elementary school students in the Family Resource Center, and the Families First class.

At first, I wanted my GED for my children, to show them that I could go forward and make a better life for myself and for them. Now that I have my GED and have enrolled in college, my children are pleased with my achievement, and so am I. ○

*This program served 174 adults last year.*


**WARREN COUNTY • McMINNVILLE**

## Warren County Adult Education

**Sheila Eversole** is married and has four children. Sheila is currently in the Families First program, because her husband is disabled.



Sheila started attending ABE classes at the Adult Learning Center on November 25, 1996. After attending ABE classes for seven weeks, Sheila passed the GED test with honors on January 16, 1997. Then, Sheila enrolled at the Tennessee Technology Center in McMinnville.

While waiting for an opening in the Business Systems Technology class, Sheila worked part-time at the Adult Learning Center. This was Sheila's first job, and it really helped raise her self-confidence. When asked if her children missed her while she worked, Sheila stated, "No. They look forward to my paycheck, because they know that I'm going to spend it on them."

Sheila is currently in her second quarter at the Technology Center and maintains a 92 average. By getting her GED, Sheila is able to pursue her dream of a higher education. Sheila plans to attend Motlow State Community College and major in accounting after she finishes at the Tennessee Technology Center.

Sheila's long-range goals are to be self-sufficient and to be able to support her family. ○

*This program served 376 adults last year.*


**WASHINGTON COUNTY • JOHNSON CITY**

## Johnson City Adult Basic Education

**Carolyn Whittemore** dropped out of school at 17. She began adult basic education classes, but wasn't ready to concentrate on school at that time. She ran away from home and was gone for three months. She learned that she couldn't make it on her own, without a GED. She returned home and to adult basic education classes. Four months later, in April 1997, Carolyn passed her GED exam. Carolyn is now working full-time and attending East Tennessee State University. ○

*This program served 498 adults last year.*



**Many programs address the needs of employers and their industries. Needs addressed range from teaching basic skills in reading and math to GED preparation classes. Industry-specific skills are also taught such as computer keyboarding, spelling, writing memos, reading micrometers and learning how to use measurement instruments. Many of the students in these classes have a high school diploma but realize the need for updating skills to remain competitive in today's job market.**



WAYNE COUNTY • WAYNESBORO

## Wayne County Schools Adult Basic Education

Teresa Staggs is a resident of Waynesboro, Tennessee. She is a single parent with four children, ages 17, 15, 14, and 12. She also is the proud grandparent of two. Teresa began her tenure with the Wayne County ABE program in September of 1996 in the Families First class.

Teresa's dedication to the task of improving herself was immediately evident, and that dedication was demonstrated by a constant increase in grade level equivalency. By mid-November, Teresa had scored above 50 on the GED Practice Test, and by the end of November she had passed the GED test with points to spare.

Prior to attaining her first job, Teresa continued her attendance in the Families First class and assisted the instructor as a tutor. As in her studies, her efforts to assist her peers were fervent. In that role, Teresa was instrumental in helping to lead three more Families First students to the successful mastery of the GED test by the end of the school year.

Being the proud holder of a GED, Teresa was able to gain employment in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, at Dyn-Pac. If her dedication to her job matches the dedication to her studies, Teresa will be a great asset to any employer.

Teresa is a member of the ABE Advisory Committee, and her input has been, and will continue to be, helpful to the cause of better educating Wayne County adults. Since beginning her ABE studies, Teresa's personal goal has been to continually better herself and her family. After this educational goal was reached, the opportunity to continue to set and attain goals lies in front of Teresa. May her dedication and effort to work toward a reachable goal be contagious through the adult community. ○

*This program served 293 adults last year.*



WEAKLEY COUNTY • DRESDEN

## Weakley County Adult Basic Education

Mrs. Beatrice May Dean, 1997 GED graduate, is Weakley County's featured Adult Basic Education participant. She was voted Weak-



ley County's 1997 Learner of the Year by her peers and her teachers. The program then nominated her as a candidate for Tennessee's 1997 Adult Learner of the Year. Although she competed with several other outstanding nominees, she was the recipient of this great honor and will also be entered in the 1998 National competition.

Although Mrs. Dean had a lifetime goal of earning her GED diploma, her success as an adult learner was a long hard struggle. She entered this program three different times in pursuit of her goals, but was forced to drop out each time due to barriers such as grueling poverty and long terminal illnesses of immediate family members and their subsequent deaths.

Finally, in September 1996, she enrolled in ABE classes for the fourth time. With great courage, she studied hard and battled to overcome her fears of having difficulty learning at fifty-four years of age. In March of 1997, her test date arrived and no one was more amazed than Mrs. Dean herself when she found out that not only did she pass her GED, but made the highest essay score (10) that Weakley County has ever had.

Already Ms. Dean is enjoying the rewards of her hard work. She is employed by H&R Block during tax season and also works as a part-time employee of C.E. Weldon Public Library. As for the future, Mrs. Dean plans to enter The University of Tennessee at Martin to seek her next quest. ○

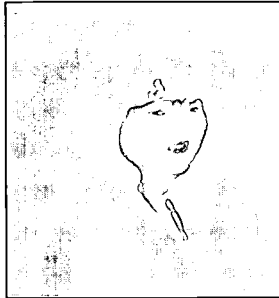
*This program served 642 adults last year.*



WHITE COUNTY • SPARTA

## White County Adult Education

Lisa Conners is a 27-year-old single parent with two children, Brandy, age 10 and Trint, age 8. Lisa had dropped out of school when she was in the tenth grade, had her first child, and began receiving public assistance payments. She was totally dependent on other people until she began attending adult education classes through the Families First program.



After Lisa enrolled in adult education classes in January, 1997, her life began to change. She took a serious look at her life and set some goals for herself and her children. She began attending classes on a regular basis. While studying to prepare for the GED exam, she also studied to receive her driver's license, something she had always been afraid to do in the past. Passing her driver's test was a big turning point in her life. For the first time in her life she felt a sense of accomplishment and independence. Then, on April 3, 1997, she passed the GED test, becoming the first person in her family of five brothers and sisters to receive a GED or high school diploma.

After passing the GED test, Lisa attended Fresh Start, the survival skills class, and then, with financial assistance provided by the Families First program, she enrolled in CNA (certified nursing assistant) classes. She graduated from CNA class with a grade of 94 on June 28, 1997. In July she began working part-time at the National Health Corporation of Sparta, and in September 1997, she started working there full-time. This was the first time that Lisa had ever had a job and been able to support herself and her children.

Lisa now knows she can accomplish any goal she sets for herself. ○

*This program served 295 adults last year.*



WILLIAMSON COUNTY • FRANKLIN

## Williamson County Adult Education

Pam Hooper was selected as Williamson County's success story because she has established herself as a role model for other adult learners. Pam



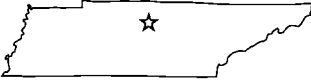
is a single parent with four young children ages 4 to 9, and she is deeply committed to fulfilling all of her goals which include her education and a secure job as well as the careful nurturing of her children.

For several years, Pam has worked part-time on a paid and volunteer status. She entered the Families First ABE class in February 1997 and has maintained a perfect attendance record despite not having a car. She is a familiar figure walking all over Franklin with her four children. Through her part-time jobs at church and the Boys and Girls Club, she has managed to regularly contribute to a savings account so that she can one day buy a car. Pam is a soloist in her church and is called upon often to read her inspirational poems, one of which has already been published. Pam has found time in her busy schedule to volunteer for such organizations as Graceworks, an organization of numerous churches that assists residents in need. Pam regularly volunteers in her children's classes and takes every opportunity to enroll her children in positive, educational, and nurturing activities that are available through the YMCA, The Family Resource Center, and The Boys and Girls Clubs.

Pam has made steady academic progress and hopes to pass her GED in the near future. For several months she has walked across town to the Adult Education's computer class to learn WordPerfect in preparation for the computer training she hopes to receive after passing the GED. Pam is quick to give credit to God for any success and talents she has. She is grateful to the ABE/Families First program for giving her the opportunity to learn and achieve. ○

*This program served 747 adults last year.*





**WILSON COUNTY • LEBANON**

## **Wilson County Adult Basic Education**



Wanda Price entered the Wilson County Adult Education program in October, 1996. When entering the program, Wanda listed her goals as earning her GED, getting job skills, and improving her feelings about herself.

Wanda has reached each of these goals and is in the process of setting even higher ones. In September 1997, Wanda received the letter that she had been waiting for since she entered the GED classes. She had passed the GED!

While enrolled in adult basic education, Wanda learned some valuable job skills which she is now putting to use as an assistant to the Wilson County Adult Education supervisor. As far as the feeling better about herself, Wanda's face shows that this goal has also been reached. Wanda now knows that if she is willing to work for it she can accomplish any goals she sets. ☺

*This program served 622 adults last year.*



**Most programs work in conjunction with local school systems and parents are encouraged to participate in their children's school activities. Instructors serve as mentors to their adult students and are always ready to discuss ways to more effectively work with the students' children. Many communities across the state offer parenting classes and students who have these needs are encouraged to participate.**

## Tennessee Adult Basic Education Programs

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### Anderson County Adult Basic

Education  
 Contact: Debbie Warrington  
 117 S. Charles Seivers Boulevard  
 Clinton, TN 37716  
 423/457-7323

### Athens/McMinn County Adult Basic

Education  
 Contact: Steve Heath or Winona Pless  
 943 Crestway Drive  
 Athens, TN 37303  
 423/745-2863

### Bedford County Adult Basic

Education  
 Contact: Marie Baker  
 326 E. Depot Street  
 Shelbyville, TN 37160  
 931/684-8635

### Benton County Adult Basic Education

Contact: Alvin Smothers  
 197 Briarwood Street  
 Camden, TN 38320  
 901/584-1372

### Bledsoe County Adult Basic Education

Contact: Carol Colvard  
 P. O. Box 369  
 Pikeville, TN 37367  
 423/447-6314

### Blount County Adult Basic Education

Contact: Bo Henderson or  
 Carol Ergenbright  
 1500 Jett Road  
 Maryville, TN 37804  
 423/982-8998

### Bradley County Adult Basic Education

Contact: Hazel Finnell  
 833 N. Ocoee Street  
 Cleveland, TN 37311  
 423/478-1117

### Bristol Adult Basic Education

Contact: Ron Fink  
 1112 Edgemont Avenue  
 Bristol, TN 37602  
 423/652-9402

### Campbell County Adult Basic

Education  
 Contact: Rita Goins  
 Route 4, Box 691  
 LaFollette, TN 37766  
 423/566-5436

### Cannon County Adult Basic

Education  
 Contact: Linda Armstrong  
 301 West Main Street  
 Woodbury, TN 37190  
 615/563-7323

### Carroll County Adult Basic Education

Contact: Brenda Parish  
 P. O. Box 510  
 Huntingdon, TN 38344  
 901/986-4482

### Carter County Adult Basic Education

Contact: George Blankenship  
 305 Academy Street  
 Elizabethton, TN 37643  
 423/547-4004

### Center for Adult Reading

and Enrichment  
 Contact: Sandra Long  
 110 Irby Street  
 Jackson, TN 38301  
 901/422-6175

### Chattanooga State Technical College

Contact: Tom Trevor  
 4501 Amnicola Hwy.  
 Chattanooga, TN 37406-1097  
 423/697-4790

### Chattanooga READ

Contact: Martha Cates  
 6000 Building, Suite 2600  
 Chattanooga, TN 37411  
 423/855-4443

### Cheatham County Adult Basic

Education  
 Contact: Lynn Oglesby  
 2418 Bell Street  
 Pleasant View, TN 37146  
 615/792-5664

### Chester County Adult Basic Education

Contact: Emma Hopper  
 247 East Main Street  
 Henderson, TN 38340  
 901/989-2404

### Claiborne County Adult Basic

Education  
 Contact: Roger Hansard  
 P. O. Box 600  
 Tazewell, TN 37879  
 423/626-2273

### Clay County Adult Basic Education

Contact: Donald Sherrell  
 P. O. Box 469  
 Celina, TN 38551  
 931/243-3310

### Cocke County Adult Basic Education

Contact: Jesse Denton  
 305 Headrick Dr.  
 Newport, TN 37821  
 423/623-7179

### Coffee County Adult Basic Education

Contact: Melvin Duke  
 865 McMinnville Hwy.  
 Manchester, TN 37355  
 931/723-5177

### Crockett County Adult Basic

Education  
 Contact: Catherine Via  
 Rt. 2, Box 143  
 Alamo, TN 38001  
 901/696-4525

## Tennessee Adult Basic Education Programs

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Cumberland County Adult Basic Education  
 Contact: Diane Parvin  
 20 West Second St., #102  
 Crossville, TN 38555-4404  
 931/484-5446

Davidson County/Metro Public Schools  
 Contact: Barbara Brown  
 2601 Bransford Ave.  
 Nashville, TN 37204  
 615/259-8548

Decatur County Adult Basic Education  
 Contact: Rebecca Webb  
 P. O. Box 369  
 Decaturville, TN 38329  
 901/852-2391

DeKalb County Adult Basic Education  
 Contact: Boyd Cantrell  
 110 S. Public Square  
 Smithville, TN 37166  
 615/597-4084

Dickson County Adult Basic Education  
 Contact: Phyllis Bradley  
 P. O. Box 164  
 Burns, TN 37029  
 615/446-2114

Dyer County Literacy Center  
 Contact: Sharon Bessent  
 115 King Ave.  
 Dyersburg, TN 38024  
 901/285-3020

Elizabethton Adult Basic Education  
 Contact: Buddy Farmer  
 907 West E Street  
 Elizabethton, TN 37643  
 423/547-8060

Fayette County Adult Learning Center  
 Contact: Molly McCarley  
 16210 Highway 64W  
 Somerville, TN 38068  
 901/465-4231

Fentress County Adult Basic Education  
 Contact: Donna Choate  
 P. O. Box 963  
 Jamestown, TN 38556  
 931/879-3802

Franklin County Adult Basic Education  
 Contact: Mary Faris  
 900 S. Shepherd, Townsend Center  
 Winchester, TN 37398  
 931/967-8961

Giles County Adult Basic Education  
 Contact: Foster Harlow  
 720 W. Flower St.  
 Pulaski, TN 38478  
 931/363-4558

Grainger County Adult Basic Education  
 Contact: Edwin Jarnagin  
 P. O. Box 38  
 Rutledge, TN 37861  
 423/828-5436

Greene County Adult Basic Education  
 Contact: Lloyd Morelock  
 Mosheim School  
 Mosheim, TN 37818  
 423/422-4123

Greeneville City Adult Basic Education  
 Contact: Kim Gass  
 215 North College St.  
 Greeneville, TN 37743  
 423/638-2512

Grundy County Adult Basic Education  
 Contact: Margaret Beaumont  
 P. O. Box 97  
 Altamont, TN 37301  
 931/692-3467

Hamblen County Adult Basic Education  
 Contact: Jan Stelzman  
 210 East Morris Blvd.  
 Morristown, TN 37813  
 423/581-5812

Hancock County Adult Basic Education  
 Contact: Danny Turnmire  
 P. O. Box 629  
 Sneedville, TN 37869  
 423/733-4848

Hardin County Adult Basic Education  
 Contact: Judy Warrington  
 116 N. Guinn St.  
 Savannah, TN 38372  
 901/925-7821

Hawkins County Adult Basic Education  
 Contact: Charles Fugate  
 608 Watterson Street  
 Rogersville, TN 37857  
 423/272-8345

Haywood County Adult Basic Education  
 Contact: Ralph Cochran  
 900 E. Main St.  
 Brownsville, TN 38012  
 901/772-9734

Henderson County Adult Basic Education  
 Contact: Stewart Stanfill  
 P. O. Box 189  
 Lexington, TN 38351  
 901/968-6886

## Tennessee Adult Basic Education Programs

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Henry County Adult Basic Education  
Contact: Sue Underwood Quinn  
217 Grove Blvd.  
Paris, TN 38242  
901/642-7956

Hickman County Adult Basic Education  
Contact: Jimmy Copley  
1675 Bulldog Blvd.  
Centerville, TN 37033  
931/729-5406

Houston County Adult Basic Education  
Contact: Jeanette Hoskins  
Rt. 1, Box 154  
Erin, TN 37061  
931/289-3127

Humphreys County Vocational Center  
Contact: Ethel Hatcher  
612 Main St.  
Waverly, TN 37185-9768  
931/296-4677

Jackson County Adult Basic Education  
Contact: Carl Anderson  
205 W. Gibson Ave.  
Gainesboro, TN 38562  
931/268-3929

Jefferson County Adult Basic Education  
Contact: Linda Shannon  
P. O. Box 190  
Dandridge, TN 37725  
423/397-9385

Johnson City/Science Hill Vocational School  
Contact: Julius Lady  
501 Liberty Bell Blvd.  
Johnson City, TN 37604  
423/461-1696

Johnson County Adult Basic Education  
Contact: Jewell Hamm  
211 N. Church St.  
Mountain City, TN 37683  
423/727-2652

Kingsport City Schools Adult Education  
Contact: Brenda Hurst  
1701 E. Center St.  
Kingsport, TN 37764  
423/378-2130

Knox County Adult Basic Education  
Contact: J. B. Bolin, Jr.  
101 E. Fifth Ave.  
Knoxville, TN 37917  
423/594-3620

Lawrence County Adult Basic Education  
Contact: J. C. Barnett  
410 W. Gaines St.  
Lawrenceburg, TN 38464  
931/762-4381

Lenoir City Adult Basic Education  
Contact: Susan Williamson  
2145 Harrison Ave.  
Lenoir City, TN 37771  
423/986-0674

Lincoln County Adult Basic Education  
Contact: Dr. Lewis Bledsoe  
208 Davidson Dr.  
Fayetteville, TN 37334  
615/433-3565

Loudon County Adult Basic Education  
Contact: Sara Watkins  
299 Edwards School Rd.  
Loudon, TN 37774  
423/986-5411

Macon County Adult Basic Education  
Contact: Brenda Eller  
501 College St.  
Lafayette, TN 37083  
615/666-2125

Marion County Adult Basic Education  
Contact: Randall Brown  
426 Battle Creek Rd.  
South Pittsburg, TN 37380  
413/837-9107

Marshall County Adult Basic Education  
Contact: Sarah Campbell  
700 Jones Cir.  
Lewisburg, TN 37091  
931/359-1581

Maury County/BEST Adult Education Center  
Contact: Susan Westberry  
210 W. Eighth St., Suite 4  
Columbia, TN 38401  
931/380-4687

McNairy County Adult Basic Education  
Contact: Charlotte Boley  
182 W. Warren Ave.  
Selmer, TN 38375  
901/645-5386

Meigs County Adult Basic Education  
Contact: Bill James  
P. O. Box 1039  
Decatur, TN 37322  
423/334-5207

Memphis City Schools Adult Basic Education  
Contact: Willie Slate  
620 S. Lauderdale  
Memphis, TN 38126-2756  
901/775-7264

## Tennessee Adult Basic Education Programs

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- Monroe County Adult Basic Education**  
 Contact: Larry McCulloch  
 205 Oak Grove Rd.  
 Madisonville, TN 37354  
 423/442-7101
- Montgomery County Adult Basic Education**  
 Contact: Betty Cook  
 430 Greenwood Ave.  
 Clarksville, TN 37040  
 931/648-5650 ext.112
- Morgan County Adult Basic Education**  
 Roane State CC (SDA #4 PIC)  
 Contact: Sarah Phillips  
 129 S. Kentucky St.  
 Kingston, TN 37763  
 423/376-3799
- Nashville READ**  
 Contact: Carol Thigpin  
 421 Great Circle Rd., Suite 104  
 Nashville, TN 37228  
 615/255-4982
- Oak Ridge Adult Basic Education**  
 Contact: Gayle Ward  
 127 Providence Rd.  
 Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
 423/482-8519
- Obion County Adult Basic Education**  
 Contact: Sharon Connell  
 316 South 3rd St.  
 Union City, TN 38261  
 901/885-9743
- Overton County Adult Basic Education**  
 Contact: Edith Key  
 112 Bussell St.  
 Livingston, TN 38570  
 931/823-7761
- Pellissippi State Tech. Comm. College**  
 Contact: Joan Newman  
 Box 22990  
 10915 Hardin Valley Rd.  
 Knoxville, TN 37933-0990  
 423/694-6453
- Perry County Adult Basic Education**  
 Contact: William Potts  
 Rt. 10, Box 3B  
 Linden, TN 37096  
 931/589-2102
- Pickett County Adult Basic Education**  
 Contact: Peggy Smith  
 1216 Woodlawn Dr.  
 Brydstown, TN 38549  
 931/864-6940
- Polk County Adult Basic Education**  
 Contact: Margaret Swafford  
 Rt. 1, Box 540  
 Old Fort, TN 37362  
 423/338-5125
- Putnam County Adult Basic Education**  
 Contact: Hope Lancaster  
 1400 E. Spring St.  
 Cookeville, TN 38506  
 931/526-9777
- Rhea County Adult Basic Education**  
 Contact: Margaret Bott  
 305 California Ave.  
 Dayton, TN 37321  
 423/570-1100
- Roane County Adult Basic Education**  
 Contact: Bobby Jackson  
 326 Emory Heights Rd.  
 Harriman, TN 37748  
 423/882-7405
- Robertson County Adult Basic Education**  
 Contact: Jeane Baker  
 P. O. Box 130  
 Springfield, TN 37172  
 615/382-7323
- Rutherford Co./McFadden Comm. Center**  
 Contact: Melanie Richardson  
 211 Bridge Ave.  
 Murfreesboro, TN 37129  
 615/896-0876
- Scott County Adult Basic Education**  
 Roane State CC (SDA #4 PIC)  
 Contact: Sarah Phillips  
 129 S. Kentucky St.  
 Kingston, TN 37763  
 423/376-3799
- Sequatchie County Adult Basic Education**  
 Contact: Susan Greer  
 P. O. Box 488  
 Dunlap, TN 37327  
 423/949-5307
- Sevier County Adult Basic Education**  
 Contact: Curtis Clabo  
 226 Cedar St.  
 Sevierville, TN 37862  
 423/453-4671
- Shelby County Adult Basic Education**  
 Contact: Dr. Xavier Wynn  
 160 South Hollywood  
 Memphis, TN 38112  
 901/325-7900
- Smith County Adult Basic Education**  
 Contact: Jane Cassetty  
 135 Gordonsville Hwy.  
 Carthage, TN 37030  
 615/735-8246
- Stewart County Adult Basic Education**  
 Contact: Marcia Robertson  
 P. O. Box 433  
 Dover, TN 37058  
 931/232-5351

## Tennessee Adult Basic Education Programs

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Sullivan County Adult Basic  
Education  
Contact: Ann Poe  
P. O. Box 306  
Blountville, TN 37617  
423/279-2250

Sumner County Adult Basic  
Education  
Contact: Frank Brinkley  
225 E. Main St.  
Gallatin, TN 37066  
615/451-5415

TN Tech at Hohenwald/Lewis County  
Contact: Wanda Cameron  
813 West Main  
Hohenwald, TN 38462  
931/796-5351

TN Tech Ctr. at Newbern  
Contact: James Combs  
340 Washington St.  
Newbern, TN 38059  
901/627-2511

TN Tech at Whiteville  
Contact: Jo M. Etheridge  
P. O. Box 489  
Whiteville, TN 38075  
901/254-8521

Tipton County Adult Basic Education  
Contact: Harvey Witherington  
P. O. Box 486  
1580 Hwy. 51 South  
Covington, TN 38019  
901/476-7148

Trenton Special School District  
Contact: Peggy Davis  
201 W. Tenth St.  
Trenton, TN 38382  
901/855-1191

Trousdale County Adult Basic  
Education  
Contact: Vicki Holder  
214 Broadway  
Hartsville, TN 37074  
615/374-2193

Tullahoma City Adult Basic Education  
Contact: Joyce Hiebert  
510 S. Jackson St.  
Tullahoma, TN 37388  
931/454-2638

Unicoi County Adult Basic Education  
Contact: Barbara King  
600 N. Elm Ave.  
Erwin, TN 37650  
423/743-1609

Union County Adult Basic Education  
Contact: Bonnie Thomas  
P. O. Box 607  
842 Main St.  
Maynardville, TN 37807  
423/992-0805

Van Buren County Adult Basic  
Education  
Contact: Sydney Beard  
P. O. Box 98  
Spencer, TN 38585  
931/946-2242

Warren County Adult Basic Education  
Contact: Ron Martin  
111 WCMS Dr.  
McMinnville, TN 37110  
931/473-5860

Wayne County Adult Basic Education  
Contact: Jim Pope  
P. O. Box 658  
Waynesboro, TN 38485  
931/722-3548

Weakley County Vocational School  
Contact: Julia Rich  
Rt. 2, Box 337-A  
Dresden, TN 38225  
901/364-5481

White County Adult Basic Education  
Contact: Kay Maples  
136 Baker St.  
Sparta, TN 38583  
931/836-2229

Williamson County Adult Basic  
Education  
Contact: Bill Seifert  
1320 W. Main St., Suite 202  
Franklin, TN 37064-3706  
615/790-5898

Wilson County Adult Basic Education  
Contact: Jewell Jennings  
501B Park Ave.  
Lebanon, TN 37087  
615/443-8731





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