

REFLECTIONS: Our Stories, Our Words

Writers' Circle at The Learning Center



Literacy Works



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~ Excerpts ~

A Message from the Authors at The Learning Center

To all the women I just wanna wish you all good luck and success in your goals.

And always keep a positive head and things will go right.

Always be positive about what you are going to do—never look back.

Always be happy and keep on going.

Stay confident, and encourage others.

I love to write journals, and play with my children.

Sometimes, it is hard to write in a journal for me.

I like to come to school, but sometimes it's hard.

And school is also fun sometimes.

Like when we are doing work I like to do.

Work together because it is a lot of fun to help.

I like to help others and doing it together.

The End.

From:

*Helen, Betty, Tameeka, Quiera,
Sharon and Maria*



**Why Do I Cry?
By Betty**

Why do I cry?

'Cause of all the hatred and ignorance
in the world of different kinds of peoples.

Why do I cry?

For those of hunger and homelessness.

Why do I cry?

For the sounds of "Freedom."



**Poem
by Nicole**

Nicole

Loving, nice, thankful

Myself

Who feels happy glad, and joyful

Who gives advice & remorse

Who fears dishonesty and no money

Who likes food, boys and fun

Who dreams about money

happiness and love

Who lives in a world of free education and
freedom of speech



The Hardest Thing I Had To Do

By Quiera

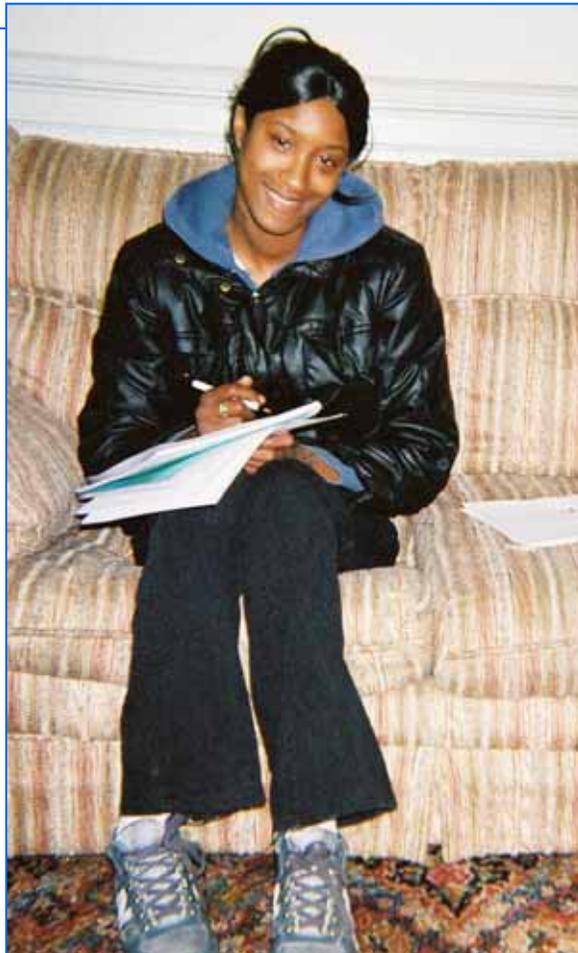
The hardest thing I think I had to do was the first time I got pregnant. My father was alive. My father was like both of my parents; I was closer to him than I am to my mother. I got pregnant and I had to tell him. I was so scared. I thought he was going to make me get an abortion and I didn't want one. But, I had to tell him because eventually he was going to find out.

So I told him. He just asked me what I wanted to do. I said, "Daddy, I want to have my baby because it is the first one." And guess what, he said, "OK." I can have it. My mother was the one who said I had to get an abortion. My daddy told her,

"No she doesn't."

So that was the hardest thing I had to go through as far as with my kids. I'm sorry to say 3 weeks after I had my first baby boy, my father passed.

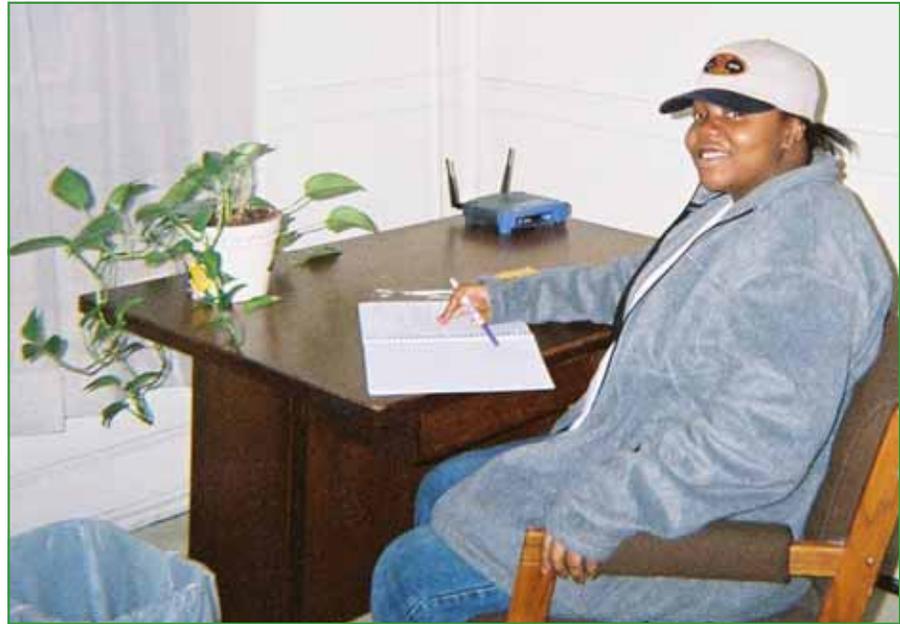
~ RIP Melvin Evans ~



School

By Tameeka

School is very important to me. I was in school for at least 12 years before I joined The Learning Center. This is the first time I realized how important my education is. I guess when you get older and have more responsibilities on your hands, you snap into reality. But still in all, I'm here, and I'm going for my goal.



The Best Thing That Happened to Me

By Stephanie

The best thing I would say that probably happened to me in my life would be having my 1st child, Andrew McGhee. He is the most important person in my life. I feel as if he gives me the courage and strength to do anything. He makes me look at life with a positive perspective because everything I do, I do it for him so that he can have a better life. So that we will never have to want or need for anything. I also feel he is the best thing for me because I feel by having him, I am really starting to see what life is about and learning how to be a strong, responsible, mature parent.

My Self

By Sharon

Hi my name is Sharon and I have something that I have been able to get past – I had to tell my mother about my sex life and pregnancy. When I had gotten pregnant with my first child I didn't know how to act. So I went on and told my mother about it and her reaction was, "My child is going to be a mother!" It was a boy, his name is David Thomas. He is a handsome little boy. She loves him like he was her own, and when he starts to cry she always babies him up. Now I have a little girl. Her name is Sherry. She is my mother's little doll and my little princess doll. I love them. I want them to grow up and be something in life. I had messed up in my lifetime by not finishing school. But, now I am going to school and getting my GED. Then I'm going to be something in life for my children.

The End.



A Poem

By Marie

Marie
Joyful, loving, caring
Family
Who feels loyal and committed
Who gives advice, help and prayers
Who fears flying
Who likes music, celebrating
and dancing
Who dreams about houses and careers
Who lives in home, church and school
Marie



A Poem

By Maria

Maria
Quiet and shy
My husband and my 2 boys
Who feels frustrated and aggravated
Who gives orders and advice
Who is afraid of the dark
Who likes to be with my two boys and have a nice day
Who dreams about having a business,
having my GED and having my own home
Who lives to be a good mother
Maria



A Poem

By Kimberly

Kimberly
Joking, laughing, loving
Mother of a beautiful son
Who feels irritated and frustrated
Who gives love and support
Who fears getting my feelings hurt
Who likes having fun and listening to music
Who dreams about a big beautiful house
Who lives on my own—
a parent with a big beautiful son
Ms. Lady Carpenter