

Bringing Literacy to Life

By: Tanya Murray

How does literacy affect people? More importantly, how has it affected me? I was in a rough patch in my life, depressed and finding it hard to get out of bed, or even go to work. I was diagnosed with depression and anxiety. This was when I realized to was time for me to make some positive changes in my life. I enrolled into the C.V.A.L.C. and took my first step and it was a huge decision for me. I left a fulltime management position not only to better educate myself, but also to reduce stress.

I am pleased that I followed the advice given to me by my friends and family members, all of whom are 100% supportive of my decision.

Back many years ago when I was sixteen I ended up leaving school to have my first child. I never thought I would have time to go back, so I just never bothered. I decided to instead start my family. After having three more children and going from job to job, I started to lose hope that I would ever be able to make something of myself, and set an example for my children.

My last job was great, but I began to face many challenges on a daily basis. I was assistant operations manager, but whenever opportunity for advancement arose, my name was brought up, but never chosen. Inside I personally thought it was due to my lack of education. This would lead to more stress for me.

I know that I am capable of getting by with what I know, but the fear of expressing my opinions with others, holds me back from getting ahead because I feel that I am not smart enough.

I am doing this program for myself. It is my goal to accomplish this. I also feel that I am showing and teaching my kids, that you can do anything you set your mind to do, no matter what age you are.

Each day here for me is a great learning experience. I enjoy coming to class. Literacy does not discriminate. There are people here from all ages, each has their own inspiring story. We are all the same regardless of our education. We all strive for the same goal. Some may reach their goal sooner than others, but we are all determined.

I am taking my tie and not rushing through this. Math is a struggle sometimes, however my teacher is amazing. She works with me until I am comfortable doing it on my own. She deserves a lot of credit. She works with each student one on one everyday. She is very dedicated, and I find her qualities as a teacher inspiring. This in fact helps me get through class on my hard days.

Without this program, I would still be depressed, and struggling to stay at my job. I have been given the chance at a whole new outlook in my life. I know after completing this program, I will not only have the education I need to succeed, I will also have gained much more confidence in myself, friends, memories, and continued support to which ever path I travel. My goal, when finished, is to take a course to become a personal support care worker. I truly can not wait, as I have been working so hard to achieve this for myself and my family.

Learning Centre:

St. Mary's Community Adult Learning Centre
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Overview-Context

Tanya Murray received an Adult Learner Achievement Awards in April of this year at the Literacy Coalition Peter Gzowski Literacy Awards Dinner and Auction. At this event, Tanya gave a powerful personal account of how her life has been changed for the better because of the good work of the Literacy Coalition of New Brunswick and its partnerships.

The Literacy Dinner and Auction is organized annually by the Literacy Coalition to recognize outstanding achievements and contributions to the cause of literacy. Funds raise go directly to youth adult and family literacy programs across the province.

The Literacy Coalition of New Brunswick provides leadership to advance literacy, lifelong learning and essential skills for all citizens through partnerships and collaboration with government, educational institutions, business, labour, community organizations and individuals.