



# The Open Door

## SPOTLIGHTS...



### Who Attends Adult Education?

They are mothers working full-time jobs in order to support their families while taking classes in the evening. They are people out of high school a few years who now know the value of education. They are people in their fifties or sixties who have found the courage to go back to school after so many years because they never had the option to do so before. They are people from other countries who want to learn English to become productive citizens or who never had the opportunity to finish school in their native country. They are people who have faced such trauma in their lives that school was no longer a priority. . . until they walked through the doors of the Adult Learning Center and found real support. Whatever their backgrounds, adult learners share in a real desire to grow and succeed.

### Successful GED Student on Her Way to Becoming a Nurse

My name is Damaris Crayton, and I am a student at the Nashua Adult Learning Center. I am so happy to be here. English is my second language, and I was unsure how to complete my GED - but when I walked into this building, I received a warm welcome. I felt like a real somebody. I talked to one of the teachers, and she told me I was in the right place. The teachers here are the best for me and anyone else who is learning English or getting a GED. They are very patient and teach in an easy-going way. I am grateful to all the supportive teachers at the Adult Learning Center from ESOL to GED and computers. I have returned to school because I want to earn my GED and improve my English. After I get my GED, I hope to go to St. Joseph School of Nursing and earn a degree in nursing. I hope the Adult Learning Center continues its good work of helping other people like me succeed.

### Student Gets Ready for College

My name is Virginia O'Mara, and I'm a student in the Get Ready for College Program. The Adult Learning Center's Get Ready for College Program welcomes students of all ages. As a 59-year-old college freshman-wannabe, I have been very impressed with the intensity of the course. Even though I've been "math-phobic" from an early age, I find myself easily changing fractions to decimals and percentages to fractions. Algebra starts next week, and I'm not even hyperventilating. My writing skills are getting an amazing workout as well. I have been grateful for the warm reception I've received from the other (much younger) students. The education counselor for the program, along with aptitude testing, have helped me decide I want to begin the Human Services Certificate Program at Nashua Community College in September.

### Students' Success cont.

he not laughed at - he was understood! A husband and wife announced that they had decided to speak only English to their toddler son so that he would grow up speaking English and not be at a disadvantage when he entered school. A young woman from Mexico who came to Nashua completely alone says she has finally found a new "family" in her classmates. When she arrived, she had no friends and no family in the US. She began working to help support her family in Mexico and had difficulty meeting people. When she came to her first ESOL class, she was lonely and withdrawn; now she has connected with her classmates and her new friends help her stay encouraged about her language and career goals. These adult learners are successful by any measure.

### Hard Work in ESOL Classes Leads to Job Promotion

Alma Gomez has been working at an area fast food restaurant for several months. She was told in the fall that she would be promoted if her language skills improved. During the past semester, Alma attended beginner English classes faithfully. She also met with a tutor weekly to get one-on-one help. In January, Alma was promoted to manager. She continues to attend class and gives her best efforts to the continued improvement of her English language skills.

### A Teacher Measures Students' Success

How is success measured? Two students brought friends and relatives to ESOL classes at the Adult Learning Center. Why? Because suddenly these friends and relatives—who had lived in Nashua for years but never took English classes—noticed improvement in their ability to communicate with English-speakers - in English. Students attribute this improvement to the Adult Learning Center. One student shared with the class that after eight years in California, and being laughed at whenever he tried to communicate in English, he had almost given up trying until he began attending the Adult Learning Center. The ESOL classes gave him confidence to try again. Imagine his delight when he discovered that not only was

Since September 2008, over 1200 students have enrolled in Nashua Adult Learning Center programs:

- English for Speakers of Other Languages
- GED Preparation
- Citizenship
- Get Ready for College
- Office Technology



REMEMBER THE DATE!

Tee-Off for Literacy Golf Tournament  
 July 27, 2009  
 Sky Meadow Country Club  
 Nashua, NH



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Adult Learning Center  
 OPENING DOORS FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN  
 4 Lake Street  
 Nashua, NH 03060



The Director's Chair

Capital Campaign Update

Our kitchen is brand new and ready for the 75,000 meals prepared there every year for our childcare program; the GED testing center is a calm and quiet place to test; the bathrooms are bright and easy to care for; adult learners socialize around the new coffee center. Even the outside of this 1924 building is new and fresh looking after extensive brickwork repair. Phase three of our capital improvement plan was recently completed, and along with the replacement of our boiler system and renovation of the Office Technology training center, we are moving closer to completion of projects that will keep our facility inviting and useful for years to come.

This summer we will renovate the jewel of our building - the gymnasium - making it a valuable resource for our students and the community.

Thank you to the many friends, businesses and corporations that supported the campaign by helping us raise \$680,000. Our success would not have been possible without the City of Nashua, Board of Directors, Campaign Co-Chairs Carol Kreick and Jack Dearborn, and the Capital Campaign Committee. Renovations of this magnitude require skill and dedication from many people. Thank you to LouAnn Fornatoro, Registered Architect, and Charles Hall of J. Lawrence Hall for their unselfish time, commitment, expertise and support of the building projects.

Our students are proud of their school and enjoy showing visitors where they learn. We sincerely invite you to visit!

Mary Jordan  
 Executive Director



LITERACY FACT

- 43% of people with the lowest literacy skills live in poverty.
- 70% of people with the lowest literacy skills have no full or part time job.

Capital Campaign Renovations  
 Kitchen



Office Technology



Student and Staff Kitchen

