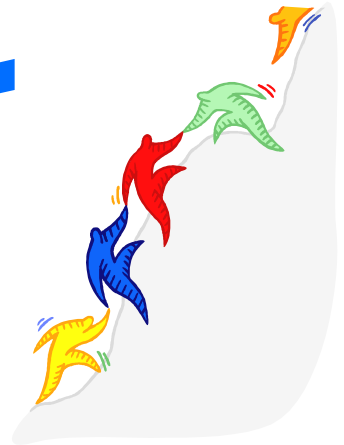


REACHing OUT

Issue 1: May 2005



Meet the *Peer Support Network* Leadership Team

Kelly Gorman

My name is Kelly Gorman. I have been in the Adult Basic Education Program since January 22, 2005. My goals include going to college, and one day having a good job so I don't have to live on Social Security, plus living a life I know I could have if I continue my academic journey.

Since I've been here, I have felt like I wasn't alone. I also felt like I belonged. Everyone is so helpful and supportive. If you have a problem and the teacher is busy, one of the other students will help you out, whether it's just an encouraging word or someone taking time to help you solve your problem.

Because of the entire positiveness around, I just HAD to join the Peer Support Network. I know I'm new compared to the other members, but I feel like if you help one other student at least once a week you will make an impact. I have a couple of examples I can share with you. One is a new student came in and she asked me where she could go to get something to drink. I showed her the water fountain upstairs and she referred a friend to join the classes. Now when I see them, they always have smiles to share with me. A little while ago, they wanted to know about the books we have so they could study and take practice tests. Well, I showed them the books and showed them how to use them. My other story involves another student

that gets so frustrated over the class work. I kept talking to her letting her know it's okay and to take a deep breath and ask for help. So now, in computer class she asks me for some help. If I can, I will, but even I have limits, so if I can't do it I call over a student I know can help.

In conclusion, we may have gotten off to a late start this year, but next year will be different. I can't wait so see what new ideas we come up with. Until then, keep up the good work everyone, and have a good summer. See you next fall.

Ron Krzeminski

My name is Ron Krzeminski. I am a citizen of Northern Berkshire County where I have lived most of my life. I am a student in Carole Blair's Monday and Thursday technology class and Pam Garwood's English class on Wednesday nights. I come to these classes to improve my knowledge of computer and grammar skills. I am trying to improve my self-image and boost my ego by learning these skills. I have anxiety about getting ready for class, especially in winter when transportation can be a problem. Since the weather is unpredictable, I have some problems estimating whether it would be too challenging to come to class. Every class is different and challenging in itself.

Ron Sheldon

I started the GED program about five years ago, so I could get a better job. I took the test three times and on that time, I passed the math test. I got a score of 545 to pass it. I had a good instructor to help me do it.

I was working three jobs, and I still am going to school. I came in all kinds of weather good and bad. In the summer, I did distance learning. I also work with my tutors. It will help me get into college.

Bill Cleveland

Born: Meriden, Connecticut
Career Choice: Show business and part-time ball player for the Boston Red Sox.

Favorite Sports Teams:

Boston Red Sox, New England Patriots, Boston Bruins, Boston Celtics, LA Lakers, Oakland Raiders, NASCAR, and wrestling.

Favorite Music Bands: The Monkees, The Beatles, The Byrds.

Favorite Movies: Ladder 49, A Hard Day's Night, Help, Head.

Favorite TV Shows: Cops, The Monkees.

I do the Special Olympics. I work at Stop & Shop supermarket, and the Auxiliary Police, and I help the Salvation Army. I love going to church, taking long walks, being with my girlfriend, shopping, and I have a pen pal in email that I write to a lot. His name is Roger McQuinn. He sang with the Byrds who sang Mr. Tambourine Man. I'm always looking for volunteer stuff to do. I play with my guitar, and that's my life.

Hester Sheldon

I have been in the ABE program for almost seven years. It wasn't always easy. I have a lot of responsibilities at home and at work. I always make time for school because it is important. For instance, I would like to finish writing my article for the school newspaper. I would like to finish my math book and learn more math. Through hard

work, and with the help from my husband, I know I can reach my goals.

My advice to new students is to keep a good attitude. Come with a smile and keep it light. Above all, don't give up. Better days are coming.

Brian McNeil

My name is Brian McNeil. I am 28 years old. I have Irish, Italian, Holland Dutch, English, and Scottish ancestry. I am a Taurus and a Snake under the American and Chinese Zodiacs. In my spare time, I

like surfing the net and collecting military paraphernalia. I also like reading anything that has to do with history. I have been employed at Goodwill for almost 7 years. I have been a distance learner for approximately 3 years. In that time, I have learned new skills and new computer programs, like PowerPoint and Excel. The reason I joined the program is that I wanted to improve my skills so someday I can go back to college. I was a participant in last year's student leadership project, which we presented last May 20th at Fort Devens, Massachusetts.

*Working
Together
We
Can
All
Succeed!*