

In My Own Words

# Graduation 2002 Yearbook

East End Literacy

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### A Message from the Executive Director

To All students who participated in East End Literacy's programs and activities during 2001/02, I wish to say thank you. We are glad that you chose us to help you along the way to your desired goals. By improving, and in many cases, excelling in areas such as reading and writing, speaking and listening, technology and numeracy skills, you have proven once again that community counts. By taking greater control of your learning and becoming better managers of your life and your time, you help to renew our confidence in the work that we do. We relied on you to help us define the focus of our activities, and we came up with the tools that would bring about meaningful impact on the skills, attitudes and experiences you needed. You are an inspiration to each other, to our staff, board members, volunteer tutors, and to future program participants.

In the last year, you have helped to reinforce our confidence in the belief that effective community-based organizations provide opportunities for healthy growth and development. In the case of East End Literacy, that means holding higher expectations of you, while providing opportunities for you to, among other things, demonstrate greater self-confidence and optimism about the future.

And because our activities are deliberately focused on learning, I would like to say to all of you who are moving on, wherever you go, please remember that learning is a reason to get involved. It is a reason to get involved in your community - to volunteer, to get involved with your children, to work, and to listen to one another. Learning is an opportunity to help remake the world, in your own words.

**Alfred Jean-Baptiste**  
Executive Director

## A Message from the President

The end of the year is a particularly gratifying time for those of us in the East End Community who, during the year, get only glimpses and second-hand reports about the work of the learners and staff. This is the time of year when we hear all about your successes and accomplishments. This is when we hear about your excitement about your new skills, and about your plans for new beginnings. It is especially a time to celebrate with all of the East End community members. I know I speak for all the staff, tutors, volunteers, and Board members when I say that we are thrilled to see what you have accomplished working with our fantastic team at East End Literacy.

Congratulations to all the graduates and award winners! You have worked hard, and shown courage and commitment. You should be very proud, and we are proud of you. Good luck in all your future plans!

**Dr. Michael Dewson**  
President of East End Literacy



East End Literacy goes to the Royal Ontario Museum.  
L to R: Glen (tutor), Gloria, Zeporah, Sheila, Rosalind

*Valedictorian  
Address*

**The Time I Spent  
Learning  
By Garvin Kerr**

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, students, teachers and the graduating class of 2002. I would like to thank East End Literacy for giving me the chance to tell all of you how you have influenced my life.

I remember how it feels to interpret your own learning. I felt I knew it all, but I guess I was wrong. I needed reaffirming. I felt my emotions were not ready to accept that. I fought with myself. Then I realized I had to let go of my beliefs around academic studies and let someone point me in the right direction. In doing that, I received self-confidence. I felt I had a voice. For the first time I could judge myself and make objective decisions about my learning. I felt good about that. Looking back, I feel proud of how I progressed. The fear I once had is gone. It has been replaced with the will to learn more.

Now I would like to share my thoughts and feelings about my past teachers and classmates. The things I remember most about Brenda's class is she would not settle for you half trying. She would let you know what you needed to know to do the exercise right. She would let you know what your exercise could be. When you're working with Brenda, and you're paying attention you can understand how the exercise should be done. In addition, when you use the skills you have learned to complete the assignment, that is a good feeling. While working with Brenda, you experience what it is to work hard on an exercise, and feel proud of your work. You learned while you were getting your work corrected. You learned to pace yourself, take changes, and reaffirm yourself. It takes a special person to work with students the way Brenda does. That is why I feel that Brenda has the qualities to be on the cutting edge of teachers.

Another teacher that teaches in a special manner is Caroline Outten. This teacher can get you enthused about doing an exercise. For instance, bringing the room to intensity that gets your adrenalin running, knowing the skills that you're being taught can be used in an actual workplace. Such as reading a newspaper, delivering a broadcast and also reading scripts from a play. As I was participating in these workshops it made me feel like I could plan how deep I wanted to take the skills I was learning. In doing these things I gained direction. I learned to express my views clearly. These exercises helped me mould the way I interpret how to complete a task. This manner of teaching presented me with a variety of options while I was preparing to write a paper. So now I can be fierce, bold, and creative! I feel this developed my creativity and courage. I would like to thank Caroline for supporting me in my right to choose how I accomplish my learning path. This opened my eyes to see where I was coming from and where I could go. In turn I feel proud to have been one of her students.

At this time I would like to thank some of the students that inspire people around them. I would to thank Shelleke for showing support to people around him. He is a real inspirational person, and anybody that gets a change to be introduced to this person will feel influenced to do their best. I feel glad to have known Angela also, because when I needed to talk to someone about how things were going in class, I would get a warm smile and a gesture of kindness. That would make me feel at ease about involving myself in upgrading my academic skills. We talked about everyday issues. In addition, I would find an everyday, confident, relaxed individual, and that made me feel at ease about pulling myself together. When you feel lost and uncertain Rosalind, will help you focus on your goal, wipe away your uncertainties, could have, and what could be about continuing your education. That makes me proud to know her as a friend.

I feel excited about my accomplishments. East End Literacy has helped me in my course work at George Brown. East End Literacy made me feel like somebody. It gave me an uplifting attitude. I greatly appreciate the lessons, classes, and people that supported me. I have gained much. In addition, a path has opened up for me to follow. To the current East End students and the graduating class I would say every time you accomplish something, do not be shy. Get excited about it! Feel comfortable with yourself and you will always make good decisions. Read for leisure to keep your skills sharp. Remember that sharing your words tells others who you are and what you stand for. It enables you to make yourself and the people around you wanting more.

Thank you.



# The Land that I Dream Of

The following compositions are responses to a call from *Metro Toronto Movement for Literacy* and *The Word on The Street* asking for entries to their writing contest.

They asked students to "Tell us about the land you dream of - real or imagined, past, present or future. Tell us what kind of a land you would like to live in. You can write a story, a poem, an essay, a song, a letter."

We are pleased to report that Gloria, Jennifer, Yvonne and Bobeth each won "Honourable Mention."

East End Literacy students answered the call with enthusiasm and great variety!





# Sailing Away

By Jennifer

I would like to live.  
I would like to live on a ship.  
A ship with my kids and my  
friends.  
Sailing around the world.

Feeling good about my life.  
Sailing on blue and clear sea  
water.

Eating fish, shrimp, and drinking champagne.  
With lots of people.  
Swimming, swimming, swimming.

Bananas, grapes, oranges.  
Meeting different people from around the world.

Learning about different cultures.  
Eating different foods.  
Buying a ship was one of the best things I ever did.

It brings joy to me and my family.  
I have no regrets.  
I love sailing around the world.  
It makes me and my kids feel happy.

Happiness allows you to focus  
On the moment.

And that's a good thing.



## The Land I Love



July 2nd, 2002

The land that I've always dreamed of is the Bahamas. Now that I have been there in person my dreams have come true.

I could not believe my eyes. There was wood, water and many trees. Lots of coconut and banana trees. It rained but there was lots of sunshine. It was a land with everything that I dreamed of. It was deep blue seas, swimming dolphins, high rocks and sunset. The people were so wonderful.

It was like the land of my birth. I felt at home. Would you believe that some dreams could be real? I long to go back to the land of my dreams.

Love,  
Zeporah

## I Love My Home



I walked to my home  
It was peaceful  
I love my home

I opened my door  
I felt love  
I felt love from my friends

I love my home

I talk to my friends  
I love seeing my friends  
My friends make me happy

I love my home

Fred

I walked to my home  
It was peaceful  
I love my home

I opened my door  
I felt love  
I felt love from my friends

I love my home

I talk to my friends  
I love seeing my friends  
My friends make me happy

I love my home

Fred



## MY DREAM GARDEN

*I walked through an open gate  
through a park  
sounds of water  
running water  
from the mountain  
I was feeling good*

*I saw flowers in a garden  
Red  
Yellow  
White  
Green*

*I was feeling good*

*The water fed the flowers  
The pretty flowers  
I drank cold water*

*I was feeling good*

*I went through an open gate  
I saw a duck with six little  
ducks*

*I was feeling good*

**By Shelleke**

# A Land of Paradise

By Shelleke Brown



**Jamaica is an Island in the middle of the Caribbean Sea. It is divided into three parts. There is Surrey, Middlesex and Cornwall.**

**In Surrey you will see one of the largest rivers in the Island, Rio Grande, because of its clean and huge size it attracts tourists from all parts of the world who love water sports. They go rafting and deep sea fishing. One of the biggest high schools is in the city. And it has a large hospital, which is located in the capital city Port Antonio. Just a little bit west of the city there are beautiful beaches like San, Blue Hole, Boston, and Long Bay, which have a lot of coconut palm trees blowing in the wind. And if you are thirsty you can drink as much as you like, especially on a warm day. There are nice hotels and guesthouses all over the Island.**

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The Island's resources are cement, bauxite and aluminium. Some areas are flat almost below sea level. You will see a lot of different farming going on. There are plants like banana, sugar cane, sweet potato, yam and rice. There are other areas which are hilly and mountainous. The Blue Mountain has the highest peak. It is almost two hundred and forty-four feet above sea level. You can experience temperatures as low as 8 degrees Celsius and up to 40 degrees Celsius. In this area they grow coffee, apples, grapes and citrus fruits.

Why I love this land is because it is so small. I can go from one part to another in one day and meet nice and friendly people. The weather is good all year round: a little rain, a little sunshine and a little cold. I enjoy going to the beach to have a swim two or three times a day. I can pick fresh fruits right from the tree. I can cut dry wood to make a fire and cook food. I can go to the river and have a swim. I like to hear the birds whistling and crowing in the middle of the night. You can go in the bushes and make a large fire and roast breadfruit, yam, banana and fish. You can cook curry goat and white rice or ackie and salt fish. I enjoy planting and harvesting my own garden. I can plant corn, peas, okra and cabbage. I like to see them grow and mature. This land has a lot of beautiful flowers along the roadways, and the flowers smell so fragrant at night.

At the headquarters of the Government House, you will see flags from all nations from all over the world, flying in the wind like a garden filled with many different beautiful flowers. Jamaica truly represents its name well! "Out of many, one people".

**Jamaica My Home Land  
My Dream Land  
By Sheila**



**Jamaica is an Island of wood and water. It is in the greater Antilles. Before the Europeans arrived, Jamaica was a homeland of the Arawak people. The Arawak people began migrating north into the Caribbean. They established their main settlement on the islands today known as the Bahamas, Cuba, Jamaica and Puerto Rico. They called Jamaica "Xoymaca," meaning land of wood and water.**

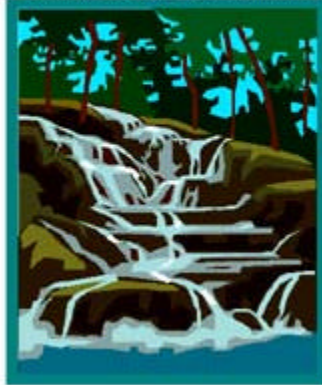
**Then Christopher Columbus landed on the island during his second voyage in 1494, and he claimed the island for Spain. The Spanish forced the Arawaks to work on farms and ranches. The frequent Arawak rebellions, overwork, abuse and disease killed off the entire Arawak population. Then the Spanish turned to Africa. The first African slaves arrived in Jamaica at about 1517. The British takeover led to a huge expansion of slavery in Jamaica. The British colonists set up plantations to supply raw sugar to Britain, each worked by hundreds slaves. But the Africans in Jamaica outnumbered the Europeans by a ratio of ten to one.**

**Jamaica is a very small island with a large population who, at the end of the Second World War, began to seek a better life. Jamaica gained independence from Britain in 1962. Jamaica is a member of the British Commonwealth and of the Caribbean community, CariCom.**

**That was a little about the history of my dreamland Jamaica. When I think of my dreamland my heart leaps. My dreamland, as I said before, is a land of wood and water. The best thing I can say about it is the beaches, the food and the people. My best dish is ackee and saltfish with yellow yam, banana and dumpling. Ackee is a fruit that grows from a pod that opens up when ready. At times the branches will be very heavy with these fruits. The beaches are full of tourists and local people everyday. These white sandy beaches provide a cooling off spot along with shade provided by coconut trees on the beaches. There is always a constant breeze coming in from the sea, so the humidity is never too high. The people in Jamaica are very friendly and warm and will treat you as their own.**

**Even though Jamaica is my dreamland I now live in Canada.**

# **Land Of Promise**



By Gloria

The land I would like to live in  
weather hot  
air cool  
lots of trees  
water  
nice people  
going to church  
feeling good  
going to the park for a walk  
feeling good  
I imagine getting a home  
for myself  
feeling good  
someday  
By God's grace and my life spared  
I will be going to my Country  
Jamaica  
I love that land





July 2, 2002

I would like to tell you about my dreamland. I bought my dreamland in Jamaica already. What I would really like to do is to build myself a dream home.

When I build my house I would like to move home to Jamaica and live a more peaceful life away from the city. From my dreamland you could see mountains, coconut trees, palm trees and all the wonderful scents that nature brings.

I would like to raise some animals and do some farming. I would love to wake up to the singing of the birds, sit in my back yard, enjoy the evening breeze and watch the setting of the sun. I would also love to have my children spend holidays at my dream home in Jamaica.

Bye for now,  
Fred.



### A Land that I Dream Of

A Land that I Dream of is very far from here. The Land that I dream of is a jungle. In this land I am surrounded by water so I can bathe, swim and enjoy the view of the mountains. I can also enjoy the sunset and the water coming off the mountains. From my tree house I can see all of the animals in the jungle. I don't have to worry about the animals hurting me because they love me. I make my own food. I cook with a fire that I have made. I catch my own food, which is fish and other seafood and I sometimes make my own clothes from my hair. Mostly I brought everything with me, including my dogs. They just love the animals. This is the description of the Land that I Dream Of.

*Angella*

# The Land That I Dream Of

By Bobeth

I dream of owning my land in the country  
With my families and friends  
On the land I dream of there are animals and fruit trees  
In the morning I feed the horses in the barn  
And the chickens and the ducks.  
I feed the cows  
I feed the goats  
And the sheep too  
Then I pick the flowers from the garden  
And the cherries from the tree



I walk through the fields  
To get some leaves and berries  
The birds are busy everywhere  
I sit under the green wood tree  
Listen to the black bird singing

(Continued on next page)

And the woodpecker laughing  
In the middle of the wet fields  
I can hear the grasshopper squeaking  
I hear the river running  
I feel the soft breeze blowing  
I smell the blossoms of the red oak tree  
I love to watch the cows eating  
The green grass in the field  
And listen to the bees hum along  
I go up on the hill to stretch  
I see some corn-cutting going on the fields  
The cows and sheep and ponies are all asleep  
I get lost in the view  
Watching the sunset  
Going over the mountain  
Down- Down- Down to rest.



# The Land I Dream Of

By Edlin

Before I became an adult I always thought about everything that I wanted. Now that I am an adult, the land that I dream of and want to live in should be a land of wood and water and with beautiful soil.

First, I would like a big family. Next, I would like lots of fruit trees, beautiful flowers, blue sea, mostly sunshine and high mountains. The land that I always dream of is the Bahamas.

When I went there in person, I could not believe my dreams were so real. I saw the deep blue sea, high mountains, the sunshine and lots of coconut trees, one of my favorites. The people there are so wonderful and loving. It was like living in my homeland. Now I am still dreaming of that land.

Some dreams can be real. Bahamas will always be the land of my dreams.





## A Land That I Dream Of

By Rosalind

I dream about owning my own land out in the country. I would like to have a nice home which is built like an A frame style. I wouldn't have any ceilings, just rafters stained with light colour paint and to have two big bay windows in front of my home so I can get lots of sunshine. I would like all wooden floors and all my furniture made with wood. I would like to have a fireplace right in the middle of my living room. I would like a large storage room where I can keep all my food and have lots of space.

I would like to have a large wreck room down stairs. I would like to have a big back garden and lots of good soil and a fence all around my garden. I will plant lots of beautiful flowers, and set some small trees. I dream of having a lilac tree right in the centre of my front yard. I would like to set some berry plants. in my back garden. My favourite plant is strawberry.

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I would like to be close to an ocean, within walking distance, so I can go to the beach and get tanned. I dream of just lying in the sun and relaxing my mind. Later on in the afternoon I dream of going to the beach and sitting in my lazy boy chair on a beautiful moonlight night and watch the wonderful stars glittering in the sky. I love to be close to the water and the sound of the winds blowing across the ocean. My grandchild could come and visit me for a long weekend and I know she will enjoy getting away from the big city of Brampton.

Close to my home, I would like real high mountains where, in the winter when all the snow is around, I can go skiing. I really enjoy this sport. I want to teach my grandchild how to ski and she will also enjoy winter and snow. We can go sliding down the mountains. I like it because when I was a small girl I would go sliding all the time. These are some of my dreams that I like to be fulfilled in the Land that I Dream Of.



## The Land that I Dream Of

By Percival

My Dream Land would be pollution-free, quiet, without car, and it would be on my farm Land with my house on my Farm. I also would like my family and friends to live around me and my children, and that would make me very happy. Also I would like to plant a lot of seeds, like lots of vegetables, lots of fruit, corn, and different other plants. The only noise I hear on my farm is from the cats, dogs, cows, pigs, horses, and other animals in the daytime. I would like to live the life of my dream.

# A Land that I Dream Of

Poem written by Blessing

A land that I dream of is a land in a forest.  
A land with flowers, and tall trees that almost touch  
the sky with their branches.  
A land with different kinds of rain forest birds.  
A land that has a stream of water that I can drink  
from.  
I would like a land that would be all green and very  
colorful.  
A land that is well fertilized that I can grow my own  
crops.  
For example yam, corn, beans, and plantain.  
A land where clouds bring Mother Nature's fresh  
wind to me.  
A land in a village is a land I dream of, where people walk  
with their bare feet.  
Children playing on the sand without underwear.  
People carrying buckets of water on their head and bag  
of cassava on their bike riding home.  
A land where people visit each other without a phone  
call notice first.  
A land that has no limited time making a phone call, no  
law of too early or too late to call a friend, partner, your  
children.  
I dream of a land surrounded by water.  
Out alone in a sandy beach.  
Away from all the hatred around me.  
I finally feel that I am in a peaceful place, with a breeze that keeps  
blowing at me, and the cool fresh water that is around me.  
I feel cool inside, as one thinks to herself, "Can't the world be a quiet  
place like this sandy beach? Or can it be a more quiet place with the  
cool breeze of water?"  
As I close my eyes I see myself around the water dancing because of  
joy. A land in a village, surrounded by water, in a forest are the lands  
that I dream of.





## The Land that I Dream Of

*By Shara*

A land that I dream of is a place where beauty flows. I will have a beautiful white house close to the beach. I will love to walk bare feet on the luscious white sand. I will go moonlight fishing and scuba diving. My land would be a place of warmth and happiness where you wake up in the morning by the sweet sound of the birds, the coolness of the clean air, the smell of the ocean and the sound of the wave as it splashes against the rocks and rushes the shore. I will go horseback riding on the beach with friends. I will have a beautiful garden with flowers, roses and fruit. My house on that land would have lots of glass windows so that I can look out at the beautiful beach every day. I will lie down on the beach and watch the sun set. That would be a dream come true.



## Canada is a Land of Freedom and Equal Opportunity

By Yvonne

Canada gives us the freedom to go to school, to travel and to work. Besides, women have the same opportunity that men do today. Women do the same job like men. For example, women can become teachers, lawyers, police officers, engineers, etc. Women have the right to walk whenever and where ever they want. Women have the right to make choices in their lives for themselves. Women can enjoy the freedom of liberty in which all children are valued and given equal opportunities whether they are girls or boys; and in which every woman can live in dignity, free from fear and filled with hope. This is a bright future for their boys and especially their girls. Moreover, women are treated as a real resource for raising productivity in the economy to the potential benefit of women themselves, their families and communities. Women can have the power to be on the front lines in the battle for human rights and dignity. Women can enjoy having access to what we call the tool of opportunity. All in all, in Canada, there is a concerted effort to understand and remove the barriers preventing talented women, disabled people and people from minority ethnic communities gaining access to all opportunities.

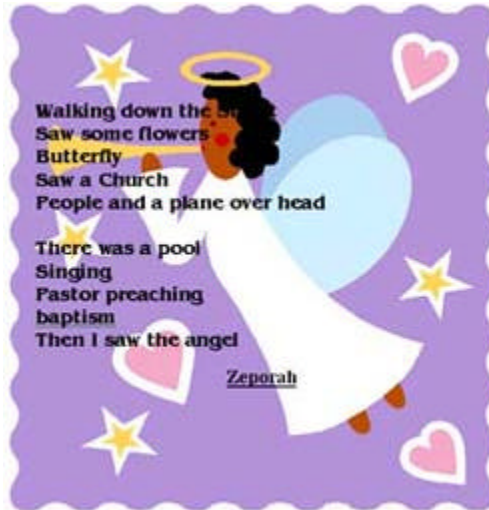
As a matter of fact, Canada is "The Land I Have Dreamed Of," because I could find all the freedom and protection I was looking for. I am free to go to school or to work anywhere in Canada. It gives me a lot of protection. I get protection from forced labour, domestic violence and rape. I get protection from being used as an object in order for others to exercise power. I get protection from any kind of abuse which is being justified in the name of culture and tradition. What's more, women and children get protection from being trapped in endless cycles of poverty in which they don't have the healthcare they need, too many of them still die in childbirth, and they cannot read or take a job for which they will receive equal pay for equal work. We also have the right to plan our own family affairs. We gain greater access to healthcare.

We enjoy all these because we have a government that promotes and protects human rights, enhances human security and supports social development.



# Level 1 Poetry

## My Guardian Angel



Walking down the Street  
Saw some flowers  
Butterfly  
Saw a Church  
People and a plane over head

There was a pool  
Singing  
Pastor preaching  
baptism  
Then I saw the angel

Zeporah

Walking down the Street  
Saw some flowers  
Butterfly  
Saw a Church  
People and a plane over head

There was a pool  
Singing  
Pastor preaching  
baptism  
Then I saw the angel

Zeporah

## Whistling Bird

By Jennifer

I was lying down under a tree  
The tree was so green  
I was so restful

I listened to bird music  
My mind and body was  
In a different world  
It made me feel like I am  
In a different world

When the bird sang to me  
All my troubles were over  
The light was bright in the sky  
My body was no longer heavy



## Down The Park Feeling Good

*By Sheila*



Walking down the street  
Children playing in the park  
Walking in the sunshine  
People talking

I met a friend  
Went to the house  
I got to know them better

I feel good about myself  
Way down inside  
I feel happy

It is good to go on a journey  
Sometime in your life

Walking down the street  
Children playing in the park  
Walking in the sunshine  
People talking

I met a friend  
Went to the house  
I got to know them better

I feel good about myself  
Way down inside  
I feel happy

It is good to go on a journey  
Sometime in your life

## Woke Up This Morning

*By Gloria*



Woke up this morning  
Sky was bright  
I looked toward heaven  
Lord how great you are  
How great you are

To all people  
You love all your children  
Love even those

Vile  
Wicked

You love all your people  
Let's love  
Love each other  
As the days  
Go

Woke up this morning  
Sky was bright  
I looked toward heaven  
Lord how great you are  
How great you are  
To all people  
You love all your children  
Love even those  
Vile  
Wicked  
You love all your people  
Let's love  
Love each other  
As the days  
Go

# What Literacy Means to Me

Articles written by Levels 2 &3

**My name is Kelly. I am 21-year-old mother of 2. I had my first child at 15 and I did not go to school. I tried to go back to school but I had my other child at 16. So I did not get the chance to go back to school. But now I'm trying to go back and this is where I am now.**

**I want to improve my skills to get a high school education (GED). Hopefully the knowledge I learn in this program will help me become successful and be able to be what I would like to be in the future. I'm working to fulfill my dreams and goals. I was referred to the East End Literacy program from a counsellor at Jessie's Center for Teen Mothers. The period of time that I've been in this program I had the chance to learn all different types of skills. The environment at East End Literacy is quiet, calm, helpful and friendly. They don't put too much on your shoulders. It's all one day at a time, step by step, and to try your best. They don't demand too much at one time. My skills have improved in all different categories. My memory has been refreshed. My math and writing have gotten a lot better and more accurate. My confidence and punctuality have increased dramatically. It has increased my vocabulary to relate much more fluently with the people in my community. I feel a lot more confident reading the newspaper or reading out loud with my children and family. My ability to become successful would have been very limited if I hadn't returned to school. I would not feel willing to read a book to my children or my niece and nephew or help them with their homework. My self-esteem, confidence, and willpower would not be as high as it is since I have started this program.**

**The most important change in my life has been confidence, self-esteem and the hope for a better successful future. I have a whole new outlook on life and what lies ahead of me.**



Improving ones literacy skills is always helpful; however, achieving this goal is not always easy.

**My commitment to the East End Literary program (EEL) is allowing me to feel better about myself, and to acquire new skills, which in turn I feel will help me in the workplace, and give me self confidence. I was referred to the EEL by the last school I was attending. The teacher felt the EEL program would be better equipped to help me improve my literacy skills.**

**The EEL program I am attending is a great experience. My teacher is patient and understanding; she is also very helpful when she thinks I am struggling in a certain area of work. In addition I enjoy the class environment. My fellow students and I can all relate in our school experiences. It feels like a family environment, considering I have only been attending class for a month. I have noticed that my marks in class have greatly improved. Moreover, it is helping me understand my other subjects more clearly, which allows me to achieve higher grades.**

**I feel that this program has greatly improved my self-confidence. Secondly, it is allowing me to help my younger brothers in their schoolwork. Furthermore, it is allowing me to have a more clear and fluid conversation with my co-workers. Truly, if I was not attending this program, I would be still struggling in my previous school, and my confidence level would be low. Most importantly, by attending and committing myself, I have reached a level of self-gratification, and pride in the work that I now accomplish.**

**Although, the road to self-improvement is long and hard, the rewards greatly out- number the feeling of not accomplishing one's goals.**

**By Angella**





My name is Blessing, I'm 36 years old and a mother of five children. I was born and raised in Nigeria. I finished my high school in 1984. Since then I had not gone back to school. I came to Canada in 1994. I have a full time job, but not well educated as to get a good job.

My motive to this decision of attending literacy program is to improve my reading, writing and maths skills as to enable me to move further to my education. I chose East End Literacy program threw my consultant and the fact is that it is the only one that is close to me.

My experience at this program is so great. I'm getting more than what I expected from this program and I'm glad for the step that I took. The teachers are so friendly, they support with your class work as much as they can to make sure that you achieve what you are there for. My child day care would have been my problem for me to finance, but the management of this program assisted me. The environment is good and conducive to learning. I have been on this program for five months and no one has harassed me or asked me unnecessary questions, so I should say that it is in a good neighbourhood.

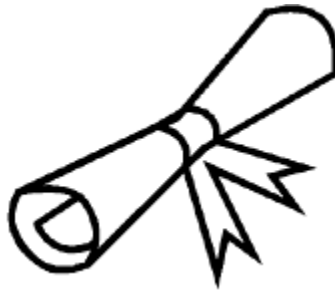
I can say that there is a big change in me. Before I joined this programme both where I come from and since I have lived here, this is the first place I have touched computer. At first I didn't know what a mouse was. When I heard people talk about computers, I thought it was only a monitor. I don't know what e-mail was, but I heard people talk about it. Not until I joined the program on 7th January 2002 did I understand. My teacher, Caroline created an e-mail address for me. Now my life on that aspect is different, in that I have learned how to check my e-mail. I also use Microsoft word and save documents in my file. Another great achievement that I have made is that before I found it hard to speak in a public. Reading out loud in class has helped me to improve the fear and the nervous is all gone. I can now have confidence in myself when I'm saying anything in a meeting or in a group of people.



Hi! My name is Bobeth. I attend the East End Literary School for Adults. The reason why I went back to school is to upgrade my maths and English skills. I went to Wood green Community Centre for job. I met Jasmine. She was my counsellor. She told me I have to go back to school because the job that I want I have to do some upgrading. She sent me to St.Christopher House. There I met Srna a counsellor. I did a C.A.A.T.test but my literacy and basic skills were too poor. I got five out of ten in Maths and seven out ten in English. She told me I have to go an adult upgrading school. She gave me two schools to choose from Regent Park Learning Centre and East End Literacy. I chose East End Literacy because it is closer to home. I'm here for five months. I am doing Maths, Writing, Reading Spelling and grammar. I have been improving on my maths by getting 91%! I'm very proud of myself. I told my counsellor at St.Christopher House how much I have improved. She asked me to volunteer but because of my school schedule I won't be able to volunteer. Without East End Literacy I wouldn't have the courage to go in public and ask questions and look for a job.

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My name is Percy. I go to East End Literacy Basic Skills to improve my skills. I first went to the St. Christopher House and I did a CAAT to see if I can go and get my GED. My CAAT test was not so good. I was told by Miss Srna that Miss Brenda teaches at the East End Literacy. I can improve my skills in math, reading, writing and others at that school. So I would like to go for my GED, or go back to school and get my high school diploma. I am happy to be in Miss Brenda's East End Literacy program. She helps me to improve my reading and writing skills with her teaching. I now do more reading and writing. And I also read for my kids more than I would without Literacy Classes. I would be at the Fred Victor Center Volunteering as a Cook if I weren't in literacy lass. I hope to get my Diploma.



The reasons I wanted to improve my skills at East End Literary are I would be able to get a higher level of education. I would be able to get better employment. I wanted to build confidence in myself. Getting a better education helps to have more contacts in the social and cultural world today. I quit school when I was only sixteen years old and I went to work in a fish plant. I came from a big family and I went to work to help my family with the finances.

I chose East End Literacy because it was close to my home. I went to St. Christopher House to take a C.A.A.T. test to verify what level of education I was in. Few days later Allison phoned me to come in and she gave me the results. She advised me to go to East End Literary. I went there and did an interview with Natalie and I was accepted in the class.

The skills that I have improved in are upgrading my Computer skills. Reading Comprehension, reading novels, doing a short summary, writing, puzzles, I feel more relaxed in an environment where there are students and all are aiming for a better education. Learning in a class setting increases our communication skills. I can concentrate more now.

My experience since I enrolled in this program is we read newspaper clippings and sometimes give our opinion. When our assignments are finished we can work at our own pace. I have been enrolled in this class for almost a year now and it gives me great pride knowing that I have accomplished so much in my education. I see students come to the class and leave because of personal reasons but I kept on so I would complete this year. I had a car accident on Jan.28, of this year and was attending physical therapy for 14 weeks. The first two weeks I missed school because I was having bad headaches and couldn't do my assignments because I was under a lot of stress. It was the first time in my life experiencing an accident but I didn't give up my progress in continuing my education. I had great determination to proceed into the future.

My life has changed since I enrolled in class. I can now stand in front of an audience and read an article. I can do an essay and edit on the computer. I have a new email address and now I can have conversation with my daughter or my sister in Alberta. In Caroline's Speaking and Listening class we have learned to take short notes. When a short story is being read. My family was very supportive when I told them I was going back to school.

(Continued on next page)

My life would be terrible without literacy because I wouldn't know how to read, do my banking, I wouldn't be able to get my driver's licence. It could be a problem trying to read to my grandchildren. I would go to the grocery store and do some shopping and wouldn't be able to add up my bill myself. It would be a problem getting a good paying job.

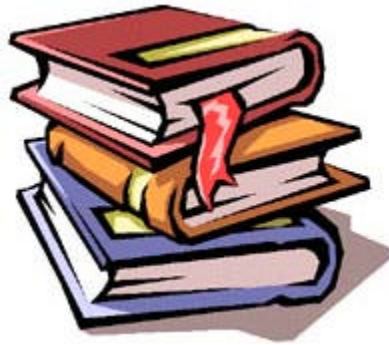
My most important change is when I can move on to George Brown College and do my training as a personal support worker. The staff and my teachers Brenda, and Caroline have being a great inspiration to me in furthering my education. I hate to leave East End Literacy but I have to move on.

By Rosalind

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My name is Shara. I'm a single mother of two children. I've been attending East End Literacy for, four months now. Since then I've learned to read much better without too many mistakes and without being afraid. I've become involved in this program by the help of a friend. She told me about it and I decided to go because I wanted to upgrade my skills so that I can do better in life. Since coming to East End Literacy, I've learned to read and ask questions without being afraid. My skills have improved in computer, spelling, math, grammar, writing, and it goes on from there. I enjoy going there because I'm comfortable and the teachers are very nice. The positive effect it has on me is to push myself ahead, because I know that I can do it

Going to EEL has made a big difference in my life. Now I can read to my children, read for pleasure, enjoy it and understanding what I'm reading. My self-esteem used to be so low. I did not have confidence in myself. I would say if I had not gone to EEL my life would have been the way it was. I can now read to my children and am not afraid that I don't know some of the words. That used to make me so uncomfortable that I never wanted to read to them when they ask me to. Filling out an application used to be so hard for me to do because I did not know how to do the math and understand it. But now I can do it all- and that makes me feel very happy and I'm hoping to get much better.



My name is Edlin. I am a student at East End Literacy. I am going to EEL a long time now. When I first started this program. I was inspired by a friend of mine that is a manager at a plant in Ajax now. When I first start. Writing was very hard to get my thoughts down on paper. Now I have the willpower to write what I can by the help of my teachers. During the length of time that I am here I have learned so much, it is hard to explain. When I first came here I was scared. I felt nobody would believe me. I felt alone. I was afraid of making mistake I would ask myself, was I accepted?

Now I can see the changes in my life and my family. I can communicate with people in my community a lot more. The most important things that my teacher taught me are to respect the privacy of everyone in my class. Take time to listen, take time to speak. Everyone needs to be heard. My teacher helped me get over my fears. If I had not been back to school, maybe I would have to go to bed earlier than I do because I could not help my grand kids do their homework. It helped me to laugh. It is important to learn; you are never too old.

## **The Impact of My Trip to Jamaica**

**By Thaddeus**

**A couple of years ago, I went to Jamaica to visit my elder sister. I told her where I was working and how there were a lot of opportunities. I also mentioned I wanted to take advantage of one the opportunities such as working with computers. So my sister advised me to go back to school in order to get the job I wanted. I had not thought of her advice so seriously until I came back to Toronto, Canada. It started to echo in my ears and knocking on my head all the time. After that, I started to do my own research to find a school. I was in touch with so many schools, but they did not fit into my schedule because I work daytime and the schools run daytime. However, I had not stopped my search until I found a school that is in my neighbourhood. It is called East End Literacy.**

**I did not know what to expect from other students since I have been out of school such a long time. However, when I realized that everyone in the class was sailing in the same boat, I got more comfortable. My classmates me gave energy and motivation. My schoolteachers and staff gave me support and boosted my self-esteem. Besides, the class environment has always been comfortable and friendly. All these things gave me more courage to continue and be committed to reach my goals in reading, writing, numeracy, and basic computer skills.**

**I could see there is a big difference between where I was and where I am at now. For example, I can read newspapers, letters, novels, and directories. I can write stories and letters to friends and business offices. I can use computers independently and I can use the Internet for finding information, sending and receiving e-mails.**

**Thanks to God for everything I have achieved.**

# End of Term Comments

From Caroline Outten  
Instructor, Level One Day Class  
Speaking and Listening Instructor

Firstly, I would like to thank my fellow teachers and the EEL staff for making this year a memorable one. To my Speaking & Listening class thank-you for working so hard. This year's presentations were remarkable. To my Level One class congratulations on all your effort and success. Enjoy your summer and know you are always in my thoughts. To all the graduates, BRAVO! You have accomplished a major goal. Savour this moment and keep striving for more. Rosalind and Blessing I will miss your laughter, determination and warm smiles, that helped me get through many a Friday morning. Thaddeus and Yvonne all the best you next year, keep up the great work! Shara you are simply amazing. Don't ever stop believing in yourself. And finally Sheila and Shelleke, my shining stars. I will miss your energy and your thirst for knowledge. I know Brenda will take good care of you. Congratulations on a stellar year.

When you know how to listen  
From the heart  
Fueled by passion  
Supported by faith  
When you know how to speak  
From what you know  
Sharing  
Reflecting ideas, hopes, understanding  
When you know yourself  
Or are willing to explore yourself  
Through words spoken, unspoken and written  
About you  
For you  
By you  
When you feel the satisfaction of being heard  
That's when you become a vessel  
For your own words

## End of Term Comments- Level 1 Day Class

◆ God bless. I am getting the thing I did not get when I was young. I am glad for my teachers. God bless them all. God bless my teacher and keep her and her family. I love every one of you. Have a wonderful summer.

Gloria

◆ I would like to thank my teachers for having a little patience with me. I want to reflect on Fort York. I learned a lot of things about black history by going there. I also learned about Josiah Henson. I am happy to learn how to use the computer and I want to learn more. I am happy for Mr. Bown and Sheila because they are graduating. I wish everyone a wonderful summer and I want to see you back in the fall.

Fred

◆ I would like to thank my teachers and my tutor for helping me with my education. Now I can use the computer for typing letters. I enjoyed both the trip to Spadina House and the Christmas party. I wish the students in my class good luck with their next level. I hope everyone has a safe holiday and may the Lord bless and keep us.

Z.A.G.

◆ I would like to thank my teacher Caroline for the good work that she taught me over the years. I would also like to thank my tutor Eleanor for the time that she spent working with me on my reading and writing. I learned how to write my own letter, and it makes me feel good about myself. My fondest memory is when I went to the McKenzie House. It was interesting to see how people dressed in the olden days. I wish my classmates the best successes in life. I will miss Sheila and Shelleke. Their graduation to Level Two gives me hope.

Jennifer

◆ Thanks to my Principal Alfred, my Teacher Caroline and Maria the secretary, for the hard work and cooperation. I enjoyed working with my classmates. We worked together as one team and shared the same ideology. I am very thankful for their achievements. And I am wishing the graduates the best of luck and success from my guts. I wish my classmates a great and wonderful summer holiday. God bless you all.

Shelleke

◆ As we come to the close of the year I would like to take this moment to thank my teacher Caroline for inspiring us, making us strong, and building our confidence level to take on the world. I would also like to thank the rest of the staff for their other supporting roles and endless amount of help. For the people who remain in the class and for those going ahead I want to wish you all the best.  
Sheila

End of Term Comments- Level 1 Evening Class
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It has been a wonderful year because of the remarkable team we have at East End Literacy. I am proud of being part of that team because it is a team that always works hard to raise the standards of the classroom and student achievement levels. Moreover, I have enjoyed every single minute that I spent with my students. So I can't think of a better way to have spent my time than as a teacher at East End Literacy.

Have a great summer!

Abukar Hagi  
Level One Evening Class Instructor  
Math Instructor

◆ Being at East End Literacy has been a high point in my life. I enjoy the expertise of my teacher, Abukar. He's been a big help. I hope to continue my studies at East End Literacy. I want to improve even more.  
Sylvia

◆ I, Thomas, would like to say thank you for allowing me to return to E.E.L. and take part in the year 2002 classes after being away for a long time. I would also like to just say thank you again to Abukar, my teacher. I hope to see you all in September.  
Thomas



◆ I want to thank East End Literacy for giving me the opportunity to learn how to read and write. Without this organization, I would not be able to read my letters and my son's storybooks to him. I would also not be able to write my own letters and stories and fill out different kinds of forms. I enjoy coming to class because I get encouragement from my classmates and my teacher, Abukar, and no one puts me down. That is why I appreciate East End Literacy for all the support they gave me over the years. So may God bless all the teachers and staff at East End Literacy.

Yvonne

◆ I first became a student/participant in what has been a good experience at East End Literacy the first Monday in January, 2002. I had heard about the program from a former tutor at EEL. It seemed to fit my needs. I was an expatriate from Saint Lucian with little formal schooling and the price was certainly right.

Since the beginning of the year I have learned a great deal about reading and writing. When I first came here I could only sign my name and that was all. The material I am given to work on is sometimes a little tough but I can usually hold my own. I can now travel freely and read street and subway signs.

I have much appreciated the efforts of East End Literacy and of my teacher Abukar, and my tutors, Heather and Glen. So my plan is to stick with the program.

Mitchel

◆ This year I have made a significant improvement in writing stories. The students in my class have been more patient and willing to learn. They made the class more fun and enjoyable. All this let me keep my focus and continue to achieve my goal with the support from my teacher, Abukar, and the staff at East End Literacy.

Thaddeus

## End of Term Comments- Level 2 & 3

**From Brenda Silver**  
Instructor, Level 2 & 3  
Assessment Counsellor

This academic year has been marked by a lot of hard work and many successes. We have had many laughs with our struggles, as we traveled this learning path together. I already miss the Level 2/3 Class of 2001-2002. You could always be counted on for your enthusiastic participation in whatever we were doing. You made my job as your instructor a complete pleasure. This publication is evidence of some of the fine work that has come out of our classroom efforts. You should all be very proud!

Special congratulations go out to those Level 2/3 students who are "moving on" to the next step in their learning: Rosalind, Blessing, Shara, Garvin and Debra. You have made us all at East End Literacy very proud. Continue to reach for your dreams. I know you can succeed.

And now after all your hard work, you have earned a vacation. I hope you have a good rest during the summer months. For those who are graduating from Level 3, best wishes for your continuing success. Please remember us with the occasional call. For those who are returning to East End, I look forward to seeing you refreshed and eager to begin anew in September.

◆ In life it's not always your family that is special in your life. Special people can come from a group or a community. When I first came to East End Literacy I wished it had only back doors, since I preferred to enter from the back. Now I'm so proud I could enter from its many front doors. I'm so proud of walking through the front doors with my head held high. Thanks to my teachers, Brenda and Abuka, for my achievements, not to forget to mention Alfred who always stands tall at every call. There is an old saying that the grass is always greener on the other side. I give thanks to the students and staff at East End Literacy who always keep the grass greener in winter and summer. Keep up the good work guys!  
Edlin

◆ In my own words, I am going to miss everyone here at East End Literacy. The staff and students are very understanding and helpful towards each other. We are all friendly and easy going. Here at East End Literacy I'm coming a long way from where I was. I would like to thank the staff and students for making me feel welcome here. I'm not sure that when I graduate, I can leave here. I want to stay with the staff. They all help me and Brenda understands me and she tries to help me as much as she can. Brenda makes me feel better about myself when I can't do something. I know she is there for all her students.

Blessing and Rosalind, best wishes to the both of you and enjoy your summer. Come back and visit if you can. If not, I will see you when I graduate. Everyone else, have a safe and happy summer. See you all in September.

Angella

◆ It is with pride that I thank everyone at East End Literacy that has worked very hard to see that every one of us who enrolled in this program achieved our primary goal. This journey that I started here in the fall last year did not come easy, but it took endurance and dedication to see that in the end I have completed the first step and I am now on my way to the next step. I would like to thank the following people who had made it possible for me to complete this program: The Executive Director Mr. Alfred Jean-Baptiste, Ms Brenda, Ms Caroline, Ms Maria and the entire staff of East End Literacy. I know from the bottom of my heart that without you it wouldn't have been possible for me. Today marks the end of the journey that I started in the fall, 2001, and I am leaving here today with a lot of memories: memories of love, support, sharing and compassion.

To my following students I will say that every one of you should believe on yourself. Do not let anything hinder your progress. One can take away something you are holding in your hand, but he cannot take away something that is in your brain. No matter how difficult it might be, do not lose hope. Remember that a patient dog eats the fattest meat. I wish you all the best of luck and a safe summer.

Thank you one more time and God Bless.

Blessing

## More End of Term Comments- Level 2 & 3

◆ I would like to thank everyone at East End. They have been very good to me. First and foremost is my teacher, Brenda. She is a very wonderful teacher. Thank you for taking the time and having the patience that you have with me. Caroline is my other wonderful teacher. Thank you for listening to my questions and answering them for me. Thanks to all the office staff members: Maria, Alfred, Sally and a new member to our office Satha. Congratulation to myself and everyone who is graduating. Best wishes and may God continue to bless you throughout your education and career. Thanks to all the tutors for being there for us. We had lots of fun during our last school break. We had a wonderful dinner and movies. We went to Riverdale Farm. It was fun for me and some of the other classmates because we never went there before. Our teacher was there and she had fun too. We also went to other places with our other teacher, Caroline, and it was fun, too!

R.R.: I would like to give a shout out to you. Please make sure that your slipper is good so that you don't walk bare feet, ok? I will miss you guys all over the summer, but I look forward to seeing you all again next year. Thank you.

Shara



## More End of Term Comments-Level 2 & 3

◆ Good Luck to all the students. I hope to see you next year at George Brown College. I enjoyed being in class with you. Keep up the good work. I know you can do it.

Welcome Satha. I do hope you will enjoy working with the staff. All the staff at EEL are wonderful and very supportive.

A special Thank You to Brenda. You helped me in so many ways this year. I couldn't have made it without your helping hand. I do hope you can help many more students and continue the great support that you have given me. I will sure miss you. I hope God will keep you well in the future and for many years at East End Literacy

Caroline, it has been my most enjoyable year in your class on Fridays. I do hope you can stay on at East End Literacy. I know all your students like you. I don't know how you ever out up with me when I was going through a difficult time in my life. Sometimes my mind was just drifting away. Thank you for being so understanding.

I'd like to congratulate all the students who will be graduating this year. You all worked hard. Now is the time to enjoy yourself. Have a good summer and take care.

Rosalind




## Literacy Means Everything

**"Literacy means everything and it is endless". East End Literacy Project is fulfilling the important need of the people who want to make positive changes in their lives.**

**I am happy to work as a program coordinator at EEL, which has served the community for more than 20 years. I joined EEL a month ago and I am learning all about EEL.**

**I congratulate our graduates for their forward mobility and many thanks to our volunteers. If not your contributions, EEL won't be in the community.**

**Best Wishes  
Satha Vivekananthan  
Program Coordinator**



**There are days when we do not feel like we want to feel. At times we are not able to achieve what we want to achieve. Sometimes life leads us in directions that are beyond our control. It is at these times, most of all that we need to believe in ourselves more. We need to believe that by working, learning and achieving we can reach our goals and be successful. We must believe in our own creativity in expressing ourselves. Let's all believe in appreciating life. Most importantly, believe that we can dream and that our dreams can become a reality.**

**To all our student "A"-chievers at East End Literacy, I pay tribute to all your accomplishments. You make us all so proud! Praises and congratulations to all our Graduates: Garvin, Debra, Rosalind & Blessing, who are on to taking a big leap as they come a step close to realizing their dreams. Shara, Shelleke & Sheila, Thaddeus & Yvonne, your patience and hard work brought you to attain this far. May you continue to be the source of inspiration to many. For the rest, remember to strive for excellence in everything you do. Maintain your self-confidence as you take the road to success.**

**All the best...Maria**

*"All successful people have the habit of doing the things failures don't like to do"*

**-Albert E. Gray-**

## East End Literacy's Vision

### *Building equity through community-based literacy*

#### Our Mission

**We aim to be the most integrated, progressive literacy organization in Toronto, with the highest quality of teaching. Through our work, we build the capacity of the people who live within our area.**

By **integrated**, we mean that each part of the work we do enriches the other parts. By progressive, we mean that we think ahead. We look for new, better ways to reach our goals.

By **capacity building**, we mean that our work both draws upon and strengthens the skills and resources of the people in our area. This means our work should help them to take part in community life, live with independence and security, and get the supports they need.

East End Literacy works to achieve its mission by:

- Giving high quality instruction
- Helping people find and use the services they need
- Helping people get involved in their community
- Telling the public about the need for literacy programs
- Speaking out for Clear Language and Design in public communications.

Our new mission statement reflects our commitment to the idea of building human capacity in our community and it is an idea that is central to our identity and what we do at East End Literacy.

#### Our Vision

**Building equity through community-based literacy.**

#### Our Core Values

We believe all our activities should be viewed through the lens of **Equity**.

We believe in striving for **Excellence** in all that we do.

We believe good **Communication** is essential for us to be effective.

We believe in creating a **positive work environment**.

We believe that **Professional Development** is integral to our ongoing success.