

# *B*elieving in *A*chieving



Yearbook  
Graduation 2003-2004



East End Literacy

*Building equity through community-based literacy*

## Believing In Achieving

This is the fourth year we have come together to recognize and celebrate the hard work of all the individuals who participate in our programs at East End Literacy. It is also three years since we revised our mission statement to focus on building individual and community capacity. We think of ourselves as helping to build our community, one person at a time.

As an organization we also believe in achieving. Our staff and board of directors are constantly reflecting on how we can do things better. We believe that if it isn't broken, we should fix it anyway! So yes, guilty as charged! We place high standards on ourselves. That is why we continue to offer the highest quality instruction and training possible within our limited resources.

We have created a culture of achievement at East End Literacy that is both realistic and optimistic. It is learner-centred and rooted in each individual's reality, goals and dreams; and happens within a learning environment that is both respectful and supportive. This is part of the spirit of East End Literacy that you have all helped to keep alive through your hard work and perseverance.

To all of you who are graduating or moving on to another level; and those of you who are being recognized for your participation in our programs, we say a special thank you for giving us an opportunity, once again, to make progress toward the mission we have set for ourselves. Indeed, it does not matter what dreams or ideas we have as an organization, we can only make progress if you believe that there is a place for us in helping you achieve your individual goals and aspirations.

The personal growth and change that you have all experienced over the past year has been nothing short of incredible. And even through periods of personal hardship, some of you continually renewed the commitment to yourselves to being the best that you can be. For that we would like to congratulate all of you. You have demonstrated what it means to believe in achieving!

We would also like to offer special congratulations to those of you moving on to George Brown College and other education and training opportunities. Make us proud! It is also our distinct pleasure to offer the Elizabeth Cooke Education and Training Award to Wanda MacLean and Leisa Warrick for outstanding achievements in literacy and basic skills, good attendance records, exceptional skills in the areas of self-management and self-direction, and your active community involvement. It is our hope that the bursaries will make it easier for you to make the transition to further education and training.



Alfred Jean-Baptiste  
Executive Director



Michael Dewson  
President, Board of Directors

## *Valedictorian Address*

First let me introduce myself. My name is Leisa Warrick. And for those of you who don't know me you can call me Leisa. Today I would like to talk about my first year at East End Literacy and what I have achieved.

First let me start by thanking the teachers and students that supported me and got me where I am. At East End Literacy I learned that you could achieve anything if you put your mind and effort to it. For instance, I never used a computer before so the first time I did I felt great. I learned so much when I got my first email address. I now can write my family and friends back home. I can play games, and do activities on different web sites. These were things I thought I could never learn. Thanks to my effort and my teacher.

During my time at East End Literacy I visited a few places, like the Red Path Sugar Factory and the Princess of Wales Theatre to see Mamma Mia. Let me tell you a little about the Red Path Factory. It's a place everyone should love to go. It teaches you a lot about the sugar we use every day and how it helps in many ways- the good and the waste of the sugar. I enjoyed my visit there. Well the theatre, believe me it's the most beautiful place I had ever seen. The lights, the music, and the acting from everyone was so creative. Mamma Mia teaches you about every day life and at the same time teaches you how to love and believe in each other. I love that show.

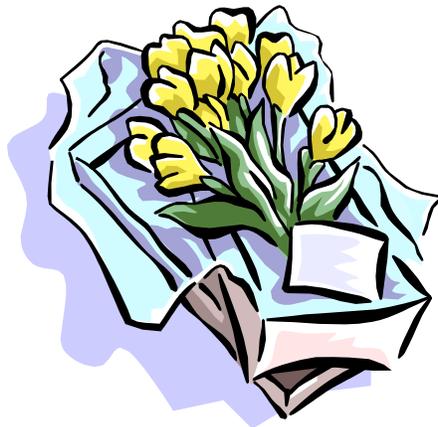
One of my favourite times I spent at East End Literacy was reading novels and writing about the stories. The books I enjoyed the most were Parvana's Journey by Deborah Ellis, and the next was White Lily by Ting- Xing ye. These two books taught me a lot about life and how you make changes, and it doesn't matter what comes on your way. In my early life I would have asked for just for a little confidence that Parvana had. That story taught me so much about achieving, and what it takes to achieve. It helped me. Believe me, it did!

I had less confidence in myself that I can do this until Mrs. Brenda, who is my mentor and Kathy, who is my friend and classmate, convinced me that I could do it. From that point on, I told myself I am going for my dream job,

which is becoming a chef. For me, becoming a chef is a big dream for me and my family. They love when I can cook for them, but love if I can do different dishes, which means Canadian meals sometime. The thing I will love more is when people will ask anyone of my family what does your wife or mother do? They must feel so good just by saying, “She is a chef!” That’s what my dream is to me.

The feeling of everything that I had achieved made me look forward to graduate and move on to George Brown College. But let me say! It wasn’t easy at all. There were times I wanted to give up but I kept reminding myself “George Brown...George Brown”, but I kept going, and I would like to say it was worth every day I spent at East End Literacy.

So to all my fellow students, there will be times in your life when you feel like giving up. Don’t! Think about it. If you give up, what will happen? And if you don’t give up, think what you will achieve at the end of your time at school! Take my advice; keep working hard for what you want and you will be rewarded.



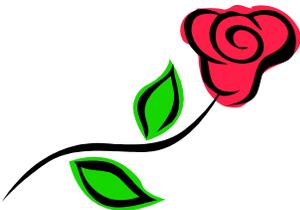
# ***Believing in Achieving***

By Kathy

I believe in achieving. I believe if you have a positive attitude toward your goals and the right motivation, you can start your journey of achieving your goals. When I first came to EEL I was scared. I thought it would be like high school all over again. After a few days I realized that we are all here for the same thing: to achieve our goals. Reading and spelling have been hard for me. Brenda first helps built my confidence, and then she put me to work. At the beginning, spelling was really hard. I was only getting two or three right out of twenty. Now I get eighteen out of twenty right. The way I look at is not how many I got wrong, but how many new words I now know how to spell. I would ask Brenda the same questions over and over until I got the hang of it. I could see myself improving.

After a few months I was able to read my first book, Parvana's Journey. I really enjoyed this book because I was able to understand what I was reading. For the first time in my life I felt a sense of independence. Then I entered two writing contest, "The Strength of the Working Mother" and "Word on the Street." When they told me that I had won both contests, and my writing was going to be published, that was a great feeling.

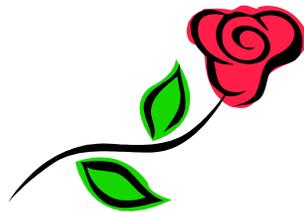
My classmates and I have made a lot of progress. Some are ready to move on to achieve their next goal. Myself, I will be back in September looking forward to another year of learning. I would like to thank Brenda for being a patient and understanding person. I believe that's what makes her a great teacher. With good classmates on one side and a great teacher on the other side, I believe I can achieve anything I set my mind to.



## ***Believing in Achieving***

By Eileen

I believe that in this short period of time, I have learned that with support and hard work I will achieve whatever I want.



## ***Believing in Achieving***

By Albert

When there is something I must achieve, I always believe I can do it. I think about it every day, how I can get there.

Even though I was taught in a different language, English has been strong in my life. My first achievement was to be able to understand and build good communication skills that help me to practice my creativity. In my life I have imagined things and I need to share those ideas.

Since I got into the East End Literacy program, I have known that this is the program that is leading me there. Working on reading and writing, and taking spelling tests has motivated me. My English has been strong. I think little by little it will come. I believe I can touch the sky.

# ***Believing in Achieving***

By Catalina

I believe we can achieve just by going to sleep every night, in the hope that tomorrow will be a better day. Waking up the next day to go to school is already achieving towards having a good day.

It is said that life is like a train ride. There are many stations at which we stop, so many people who get on board to ride with us for a while, and others who come along for the whole journey. And then there are those who ride the train and are just occupying space.

But of course we have to keep on riding, in order to get to our destinations. How productive we make our ride is up to us. We must believe that we will go where we want to go, and believe that we are as good as we want to be (even when the people who get into the wagon with us tell us the opposite.) And stressful people want to make us believe that the ride is not smooth, and that there is no time to dream. It is up to us to prove them wrong, by achieving what we set out to achieve from the beginning of the journey.

Maybe a bumpy ride beats us up a little. Maybe there was a day when you followed someone in whom you believed, and you got stuck at a station where there was no return. Maybe we run out of energy, trying to catch our dreams. But what it all comes down to is that we are all on the same train. Some people accomplish their goals faster than others, not because they are better or more talented, but because they always believed in where they were going.

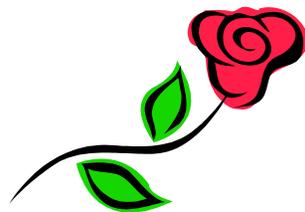
This is how we achieve our dreams. Do not call them dreams; call them goals. I believe that I could survive a thunderstorm just to see the sun. I believe that I could get up after being run over by challenges. I believe in people who love me, even in those who do not. I believe I can achieve what I want, because I believe in myself. And this is just the beginning of the journey. *Believing in achieving* is what sets the journey, the train ride, into motion. *Believing* is the coal of the locomotive.

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One of my inspirations is Pele, one of the most successful soccer players in the world. He comes from shining shoes for pennies, as his dad's soccer career came to a stop because of a fractured leg.

Pele was discovered at the age of eleven by one of Brazil's best players. He went on to play in four world cups for Brazil. One cup he nearly missed because of a knee injury, but stunned the world with six goals, including two in the championship game, which got Brazil its first world cup. By then, he was only 17 years old. An average sized man, he was blessed with speed and great balance. At the age of 26, this man was brutally attacked and emotionally beat up, but the best of him was still to come. And out of this man's long journey, Pele was named second for the "Sportsman of the Century" award in 2000. This man is only one of the examples I can give about what believing in achieving is.

Throughout this course at East End Literacy, I have achieved more than I ever expected. I met great people, it helped me find my way, and it made me believe in teachers again.



## ***Believing in Achieving***

By Brian

I believe in achieving something, you have to work at it. I have enrolled in a literacy class. I am proud of myself for what I have achieved in one month, in this literacy class. I better myself in reading, writing, and spelling.

I have achieved staying sober for the last eight months, and I feel good. I have achieved reading the Twelve Step program with my sponsor, who is helping me stay sober.

It takes will power and believing in myself to accomplish my goals one step at a time, and one day at a time.



## ***Believing In Achieving***

By Shelleke

When growing up as a young boy, I did not get the opportunity to go to a good school. When growing up, I liked to learn to do typing, but I did not have access to a typewriter.

I did not know what to do to get started, however, someone informed me about East End Literacy. I went and enrolled in the class. From there I learned how to type, read and write better. I believe that some day I will be able to accomplish my goal. At present, I accomplished my Basic Award in Technology.

I am now focusing on writing a book about my personal life. I know that I can't do it on my own. I am working hard to achieve this success. With the help of my teacher and my knowledge, I believe I can accomplish my goal.

## ***Believing in Achieving***

By Standing White Wolf (Dennis)

When I was a little boy I had rheumatoid arthritis. The doctor said I would not be able to work when I grew up, and that I would be in a wheel chair. Now look at me. I'm not in a wheel chair. I'm working on my writing and reading. When I was a boy, it was hard for me, but now I am doing well. It is still hard, but I am doing it. So I am saying just do it and do not let anyone tell you that you can't.

I am writing short stories. I did not do that in my past. I have a lot of people to thank for helping me: my sister Diana, Wanda Whitebird, Rosita Bacchus and Brenda Silver who are from East End Literacy. I thank Rosita for showing me to believe in myself and just do it. I am writing all that I know so someone can read the short stories and try to write a story. If I can do it, so can you. This is believing in achieving.



## ***Believing in Achieving***

By Curtis

East End Literacy has helped me with my reading and writing. I learned how to read and write a lot better at East End Literacy than at any other school.

With the school's support, I will be able to fill out a job application well, so that I can get a good job to support all my everyday needs. I will be able to write letters and notes to communicate with others. I will be able to get all the nicest things in life, such as driver's license. In reading, I will be able to read a magazine to find out how to cook, read my CD covers and forms before signing. I will also be able to read my mail, flyers, and pay all my bills. Besides, I will be able to read books to my younger brother and help him learn how to write.

I can see the school is helping me reaching my goals. Sooner or later, I believe I will be able to use my reading and writing for whatever I want.

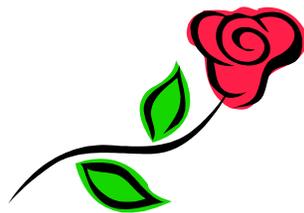
# ***Believing in Achieving***

By Maurice  
Nii Guh Nii (One Goes Ahead)

There are so many people trying to find something to believe in, only some are looking the wrong way. They tell me believe this, believe in that. When most don't even know for sure, what they're doing or where they're going. Blind faith is good enough for them, just as long as it gets them by. We have a goal, a reason to try. Sounds like a lot of science. Knowledge is all we need. We'll prove it through fact.

With all the intent, they miss and cannot see the overview of the nature of a spirit; a wandering spirit, like smoke passing through the air. Some see it, smell it, but cannot feel it. Believing is having faith in something or someone.

The road home is right in front of you. Only you will never touch it with your hands or feet. However, one can only feel it. So take heart, my dearest. It will be the longest road you'll ever know. The road home is twelve inches long. It's from your head to your heart. Sounds easy, but it is not. "FEAR" stands at the door.



# **Believing in Achieving**

By Wanda

I originally began this learning adventure in July 2002, after my sister's suggestion that I give Career Steps a try. I went to an intake session, and thought to myself. "Why not?" So I did. And after completing the four-week course, I met with a career counsellor. We discussed my options, and I decided that I was in need of some upgrading.

She gave me the telephone number to East End Literacy. I called and made an appointment to meet with an assessment counsellor. Brenda tested me and told me that I was working at a level three, but she had no room in her class right now. She then gave me the phone number to another agency. I gave them a call and started school there on Jan.20, 2003.

I was doing well, and learning about nouns, verbs, adverbs, and adjectives. But like grade school, I was not shown how to use what I was learning. I could read and write, but it never made any sense. One day the teacher asked me to write a paragraph about what I was going to do when I finished my upgrading.

I couldn't write the paragraph because I had no idea of how to put my thoughts into print. That's when I began to believe that my grade school teachers were right, and I was never going to achieve anything. I continued to go to school until one day I opened my apartment door, and I couldn't step outside the door.

I locked myself in my apartment for three months, and if I ventured out I was never alone. My doctor called it agoraphobia. He explained that I had it before, but we never noticed because I wasn't going out every day. But now I was hiding from the world, and watching it go by.

I stayed hidden until August 2003 when I received a phone call from East End Literacy. They asked me if I was still interested in attending class there. So once again I met with Brenda and this time there was room. I said yes, but I was still afraid of traveling from point A to point B. Brenda told me that there would be a spot for me, and all I had to do was show up.

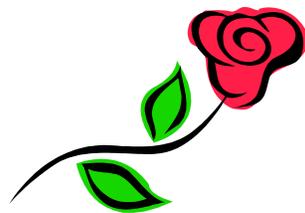
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So on Tuesday September 16, 2003 I walked into class at East End Literacy for the first time, and I'm glad I did. Because if not for all the support and patience from the staff here, I would still be that scared, illiterate, hermit crab hiding in my shell.

When I started at East End Literacy, I couldn't even put two complete sentences together. Brenda taught me to focus on my abilities, and not my disabilities, to learn. Yes, I need to change words and numbers around to understand them, but I do understand. You see, now I know how I learn. I now believe that I can achieve what ever I set my mind to. And now I can write paragraphs, essays, and I have even written a couple of poems.

Now I do believe that I will achieve a higher education. Now I can answer that teacher's question. I want to work with children that learn the way I do. They need to know that they aren't alone. And they should be taught that whatever they believe in, they can achieve it, as long as they focus on their abilities and not their disabilities.

I never believed that I would achieve any of this when I started my learning adventure two years ago. But the best part of achieving is knowing that I did it, and I actually understand how I got here. By "here" I mean in the graduating class of 2004.



# ***Believing in Achieving***

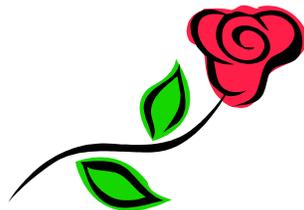
By Fred

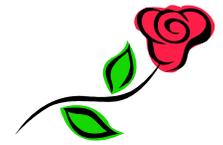
Since I have come to East End Literacy, I have seen that I can learn to read and write. It makes my life a little easier because I can read a letter or a sign on the subway.

My goal is to improve my reading and writing skills. At first, it was a little hard, but now I am getting to the point where I am reading and writing better. I think I am following a better direction. I feel better and more positive about myself. Besides, this year, in class, I think I have achieved more than last year.

Whenever I come to school, I feel a lot better although, some days, it is a little hard for me to come to school. At the end of the day, I always feel happy to be at school. When I am in school, I have more self-esteem about myself.

It is this school that gave me hope to become a better reader because before coming to this school it was harder for me to read. When I finish my studies at East End Literacy, I will be more intelligent and independent in my reading and writing skills. In addition, when I go back to the community, I will be smarter and deal better with the society.





## ***Believing in Achieving*** **By Wayne**

My time at East End literacy has helped me to focus on my direction in my life. At first, it was a long and hard struggle for me, but the help and support from all the teachers, the staff and tutors made it easy for me. It is so rewarding that I can, now, focus on what I want in life and which direction I want to go.

Here at East End Literacy, where I am a student, no one is afraid to express himself or herself in any anyway what so ever. The feeling is warm and comfortable. You also feel a sense of humor around everyone.

East End literacy is the right place to be if you need help in any way. It has opened its doors for me and it is continuing to do so for many others. If it were not East End Literacy, I would not be able to make all the right decisions in my life and walk on the right path on my own.

## ***Believing in Achieving*** **By Shawn**

My few years at East End Literacy were inspiring for me. I know I could not progress without the help of the school. I know I could not learn how to read and write better in order to get a job.

I believe that I made continuous progress from the first day I became a student at East End Literacy. For example, last year I was frustrated but this year I could read, understand and write better. Now I can pick up a newspaper, read it and get the big picture of its stories. I can write a letter. And I know I have a lot more to learn at East End Literacy.

I would like to thank East End literacy for helping me to improve my reading and writing. I believe I will achieve my goal if I continue to do what I am doing now at East End Literacy.

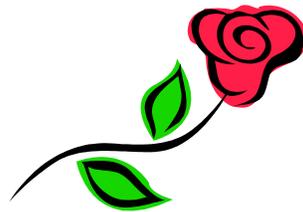
## ***Believing in Achieving***

By Gloria

East End literacy is helping me to focus on my direction. I believe the things I have learned at East End Literacy help me a whole lot in my everyday life needs.

Now I can read my Bible, telephone bills, street signs, symbols, and my letters. When I am in the subway, I can read the signs on the walls. The school also helps me to learn how to write my notes, letters and short stories, and fill out application forms.

I thank the Lord and the school for helping me to become a better reader and writer.

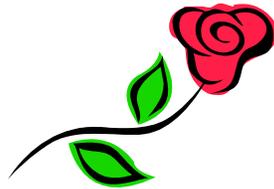


## **Believing in Achieving**

By Peter

I believe I can achieve my goal in reading, writing and numeracy with the help of East End Literacy.

The school makes me focused on my goal. It gives me good education. It helps me to read and write better. I am doing better because I get a lot of help from my teacher in my reading, reading and numeracy. I also get from him encouragement and help to stay on track. Besides, I feel comfortable in the class. This helped me to get along well with all my classmates. We all help each other. It is love and fun



## **Believing and Achieving**

By Joan

There was a time I believed that I could not do things. Somehow I thought I never rated. But believing in myself has brought me to great heights. Something happened to me in my life that made me fall. But going back to school and learning to build a better life for myself has given me great hope for the future. This is why I believe in *believing and achieving*.

## ***Believing in Achieving***

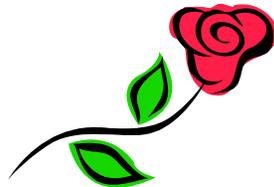
By Rita

My goal is to read and write on my own without help.

I believe in achieving because when I started learning how to write I have seen progress in my spelling and writing. I noticed that progress, which makes me feel happy, in the results of my schoolwork.

A good attitude is important to absorb what you are learning in reading and writing. I am lucky to have a good attitude. Energy is important. It sharpens your mind. So it allows you to focus on your work at school. I get that energy through the help and support of my teacher and tutors.

With focus and direction, you can eventually reach your goal.



# Writing Contest Winners

Me  
By Wanda



Shy...  
The me we all see  
Isn't always the me  
That I  
Used to be.

Bullied...  
Small, petite and a  
Slow learner too  
That old me took  
A lot of ridicule.

Trusting...  
I grew up believing  
That this must be true  
Because my informant was  
A teacher in grade school.

Hurt...  
You're stupid and unteachable  
On this we all agree  
But little did they know  
That this me would succeed.

Pain...  
Emotion filled with pain  
Is coursing through my veins

But no one cared to see

Hope...  
I became an expert  
at hiding that me  
Until opportunity knocked  
And released me.

Optimism...  
I opened the door  
And found you,  
The learner in me  
Just waiting to be free.

Knowledge...  
Today the me we all see  
Is the me that I have longed to be.  
A lean, mean learning machine.

Freedom...  
I now believe that  
I will succeed  
And achieve my goals  
Because I am a Somebody.  
I am  
Me

# My Secret

By Kathy



I've been hiding a secret all my life. I would like to share my feelings and experiences with you. I had a normal childhood. I went to school every day, rain or shine, but it wasn't until grade five when the teachers realized that I had a learning disability. Nothing was ever done about it.

High school was too hard for me. Keeping my secret from my friends was even harder because I did not want them to know that I could not read or spell. High school was frustrating. I could not keep up with the work, so I dropped out. My mom would help me with all reading and spelling. My mom helped me through her life, but when she passed away, there I was: lost and confused. I didn't know where to turn. It was time for me to get help. I was really afraid but I had to do something.

The first step was to get myself back in school. It was the best thing I have done for myself in a long time. Our teacher Brenda gave me confidence in myself. She recognized that I have a learning disability. Brenda worked with me. Sometimes I asked Brenda the same questions over and over until I got the hang of it. With the help of a very patient person, my teacher Brenda, and classmates, I have made a lot of progress. I feel good about myself.

I can read a book and understand what I'm reading. It feels really good. Reading and spelling has given me the feeling of independence, something that was missing from my life. I still have a long road ahead of me. I believe I can do it if I apply myself and study hard. I will reach my goals in life. Sharing my secret with you was really hard but recognizing my problem and getting help was the best thing I could ever do for myself.

# The Strength of the Working Mother

By Kathy

Hi, my name is Kathy. I come from a strong line of independent women. The people I am writing about have inspired me and given me the strength and will to be the person, mother and provider that I am today!

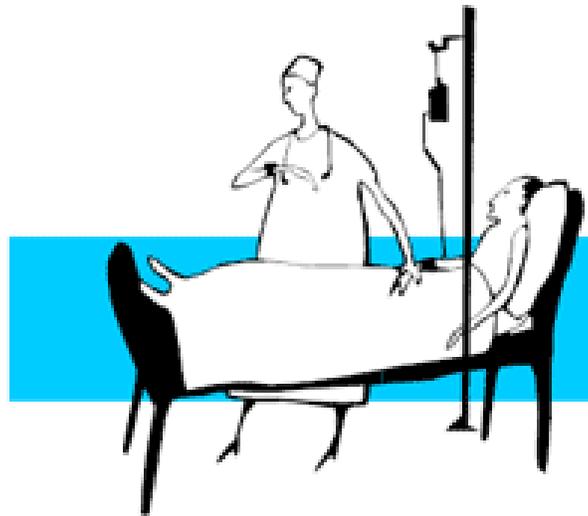
**My mother**, one of the strongest human beings I know, had seven children by the age of 25. She was the one who decided to stay home and take care of all the household duties and care for my brothers and sisters. She was happy doing this because my dad was the financial provider. Things were going very well. One day my dad had a horrible accident. He was never able to work again. That was when my mom decided that she had to take charge; she had to be the provider of the family. Then came the hard part, how was my mother going to work and care for the children and her spouse who was bed ridden? At that point we older children knew it was time to take responsibility and pitch in and help. My mother got a job. She worked five days a week and there was always a home cooked meal on the table every night. Anything around the house that needed to be done she took care of it! She always made time for her seven children. Her spouse had passed away. So now she was all alone with seven children. She kept on working. She would always tell her three daughters that it was very important to be independent and that there was no shame in a woman working in the home and having a career. My mother remarried, keeping her independence, and had one more child. That's one strong human being! I always looked at my mom as Mom, but she was so much more! She passed away at the young age of 54. My mom loved life! She said that she would do it all over again!

Next, I would like to tell you about **my cousin Erma**. She married her high school sweet heart. They both had made plans for their future. They had four children, and things were going well for them, and then all the problems started. My cousin's spouse developed Multiple Sclerosis and Erma decided she had to get a job. It was time for her to be the provider. It was really hard at first because she was a mom and a wife, and a nurse. I wondered if there were enough hours in a day for her. This person is truly a working mother and a great person.

And now I will tell you about another strong working mother! My **Aunt Audrey** became married. Her spouse was the provider. They were not rich

people, but they lived comfortably. She had everything she could want! She had two wonderful children and had the most passionate love from a person who treated her as though she was his princess. My uncle then got sick and developed heart problems; he had a triple bypass and he was off work for quite some time. She went from Princess to Queen of the house. She got a job and enjoyed having a career. It gave great pleasure knowing she could provide for her family while her spouse was recuperating, She had been dealing with all this, and then she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She had one breast removed. That did not get her down. She took it as another challenge that she had to be strong for. Strength and will have a lot to do with getting well and she did it! Audrey is back in the working world. My aunt and uncle are doing well and living life to the fullest once again.

These three women that inspired me have faced many challenges in their lives. But you really don't know what you are capable of doing until you are faced with your worst fears.



# **Work Woman Do Inside And Outside the Home**

By Shawn

Today's women work in and outside the home. They excel in their workplace, like Clara Barton who established the American Red Cross and became its first president. Women are able to work outside the home and can have any career. Besides, at home, they are the backbone of the whole family.

Women manage everyday duties of the house. They do the cleaning, prepare the meals, and take care of the children and husband and do the grocery shopping. Women make sure the toilet, sink and bathtub are free from germs or bacteria. They make breakfast and tidy up the kitchen the living room; dining room and bedrooms are next. They shine all the glass, change the sheets on the beds, vacuum, sweep, mop and dust all the ornaments. They then get the children ready for school, but not before they had breakfast. While the husbands and children are away, they make their lunch, and after everyone comes home they prepare dinner.

Women are mostly the caregivers of the children, and it is one of the most difficult tasks. The tasks are usually different according to the children's ages. If the child is an infant or a baby, it is much more difficult because children at that age need a lot more attention. Moms are up all hours in the night for breast-feeding their babies. Their diapers have to be changed often. When they are that small, moms have to be extremely careful when they bath their babies. Moms must have time to play games with the baby such as peek-a-boo and help enhance their mind by sounding out words and talking to them very often.

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If the children are older, moms have to make sure they are up on time for school. They give them breakfast, prepare lunch for them to take to school, have them snacks when they return from school and have a hot/healthy dinner in the evening. Moms have to make sure they take a shower or bath, brush their teeth, say their prayers (if the parents are religious) at bedtime. Moms also help their children with their homework in math, English, science, etc. Finally moms are like psychologists to their children and husbands by helping them solve their problems.

Women are also there for their husbands to give them morale support, whether it is to listen to what problems they have at work, with their bosses or with co-workers. Finally women balance the checkbook by making sure there are sufficient funds to pay the mortgage or rent, and other bills and to use for the grocery, clothing, outing, and school activities, and the children. Generally that is the work women do inside the home.

In the past century, women were not allowed to work. But, during World War II, men had to go to war and there was desperate need of labor. So women enter the work force for a short period. But some influential women in history such as Belva Lockwood (the first woman to practice law before the u.s. supreme court), Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady-Stanton, fought courageously for the equality in education and work place, first time in history, for women. So women have been able to have a working career since then. They could become lawyers, doctors, office workers, managers, etc.

Women can be lawyers who help the innocent, prosecute the guilty, find evidence and establish their alibis. Women can be judges and have a final say if the person is guilty or innocent. Women can be doctors or nurses, healing those who are sick. They can operate, whether it is transplanting an organ or taking a bullet out of an innocent person. Women can be police officers, going out to dangerous missions, trying to protect the innocent and putting the guilty behind bars. Women can be a firefighter, going into burning buildings, saving those in danger not hewing if they will come out alive or if they will ever see their families again.

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Women do volunteer work, whether it is working at a Red Cross centre, hospital, nursing home or feeding the homeless. Women work outside doing construction work, fixing the roads, building home. Women work as scientists, finding cure for diseases, such as breast cancer, cancer, kidney or heart failure, etc. Women work as directors or producers, making movies so we can enjoy. Women work as models, actresses, and comedians. Women work as a marine biologists or veterinarians, saving animal life. They are also in the army, fighting terrorists to protect us from harm. Women are prime ministers, fighting for our rights.

Women are able to do any job men can do and be successful in their choices of careers. Women can run the household, take care of the children and still hold down a fulltime job. Women are a powerful force not to be reckoned with.



## *Personal Comments*

From **Shelleke**: I enjoyed the tour to Redpath Sugar factory and I am looking forward to go on a trip next year, if all is well. Graduation is approaching us. That means we are looking for our holidays so remember that certain foods, such as too much or too little caffeine can bring on headaches. So have a safe and enjoyable summer!

### From **Joseph**: To East End People

Alfred is the Captain of the Whole Ship.

“The future is here.”

You make that really clear.

“Be careful in life and grip up your goal.”

All of us think that you’re really old.

Rosita, my teacher, is one of the best.

When we’re in class we get no rest.

You make us work hard like we really should,

Later in life it will do us good.

Abukar is nice, and he’s flexible, too.

We’ve learned on computers, thanks to you.

Now all of the classmates know what to do.

Have a beautiful summer and please don’t burn,

Brenda and Maria, you both will learn.

Sally can sing, Satha is smart.

We all know the students in this school have heart.

The school is the best, I must admit

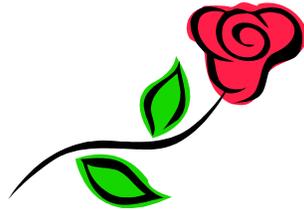
I’ll be back. I will not quit.

East End Literacy is where I go.

Reading, writing, math is what I know.

## From **Albert:**

First of all, I want to thank my teacher and students of East End Literacy for having me. I really had fun with the staff and the students. I also learned a lot of new words. Ever since I've been in East End Literacy I can see that I actually have a new life. I also want to thank all the students who actually helped me to become a successful person.



## Thank you from **Eileen:**

To all the students who are graduating this year who are coming back next year: I hope for the best and have a great summer.

To the ones who will be back next year: We all had a good time with the nice, kind students in the class of the year 2004.

To the staff: Best wishes for the summer and to our teacher, Brenda, at East End Literacy, who has the time to show students and help them. It helped me with reading, writing, some computer, and math. Best of all was meeting new friends, the students who were nice, kind and friendly. I get up everyday to feed my dog and go to school at E.E.L. I focus on my schoolwork and how I do and write. There is nothing that I like to do more than to talk with students and teachers and staff. I like to have friends to talk with or go out and do nothing at all.

## From **Wanda**:

I don't know how to put into words everything that I'm feeling. I'm feeling so many emotions: I feel happy, sad, glad, and mad. I knew that I would be leaving, but I never expected to have these feelings. I have grown fond of this place and everyone involved: students and instructors, one and all. I know the reason we're here is to achieve our goals and move on. I now believe that I'm ready because:

There's confidence where  
There used to be fear.  
There's understanding where  
There used to be confusion.  
There's knowledge where  
There used to be blank stares.  
There's opportunity where  
There used to be none.

Eileen: I have known you the shortest, but we became friends really fast. I know with some guidance from the staff at East End Literacy, you will achieve your goals. Good luck next year, and have a safe summer. Thank you for your friendship, and support during our time at Goodwill.

Albert: Even though you have only been with us for a short time, I know you work hard and will achieve the success that you deserve. Good luck, and have a good summer. Thank you for all of your kind words.

Catalina: I haven't known you for long, but we have had a few good laughs together. I don't know what your goals are, but I'm sure with your determination you will succeed. Good luck next year, and have a safe summer. Thank you for the opportunity to get to know you.

Joan: I really enjoyed the talks we had on the Parliament bus on our way to class. You have a good heart, and you will go far. Keep up with your education and training because you will have your Day Care! Good luck next year, and have a safe summer. Thank you for all those first pots of coffee.

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Leisa: You have grown into a woman with a lot of confidence, and rightfully so. You have worked hard to achieve your goals. Keep up the good work, and enjoy your time at George Brown next year. One day you will have that restaurant. Thank you for keeping the class laughing.

Kathy: Spelled with a K. We became quick and fast allies on that first day. It was a new beginning for me, and as it turns out the same went for you. I enjoyed getting to know you and your family. You have a dynamite personality that attracts people to you. Be positive and have faith in yourself. Your determination radiates from inside, and I know you will continue to strive in your upgrading. I wish you the best of luck in your adventures, and remember the past is the past, but the future has yet to come. Thank you for being my friend, my sounding board, and my confidant.

Maria: We really didn't work much together, but I will always remember your kind words and support. Thank you and have a safe summer.

Satha: You helped each and everyone that came to you, and if you couldn't you always found someone that could. Have a safe summer with your family. Thank you for all the support, and good luck in the future.

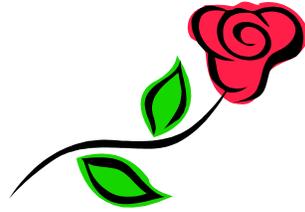
Sally: Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to teach us those Christmas carols.

Rosita: I really enjoyed your class. You taught me how to stand up for myself. You taught me how to stand in front of people, and not to faint!! Even though I had difficulty with this when push came to shove, I did it. Thank you for all the laughs and support. Good luck next year. I hope you get what you want from life.

Brenda: I read last year's graduation book, and every thing I wanted to say has already been said. I feel that you are an exceptional human being, and you are not just my instructor. You believe in people no matter what their story is. You taught me how to understand what I was reading, and how to retain it. You taught me math that I thought I would never be able to do. You taught me about fragmented sentences, and that I wasn't writing backwards. That taught me how to write, and I love how my words can tell a story. But most of all, you taught me to believe in myself. Thank you for everything that you have done for me this year, and have a safe summer.

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To all the students that left this year, but will be returning, I hope that 2004 –2005, will see you onto your way to furthering your education and achieving that goal.



**From Catalina:** This thanks goes for all of those that help the class, my favourite place to be:

-Thanks to Joan and all of those that make the coffee in the morning so we can understand what Brenda was explaining.

-Thanks to Kathy for her every morning jokes that were very missed when she was absent, also thank you for giving me the answers to some of the crosswords.

-Thanks to Wanda for giving the class the sensitive touch with her beautiful poetry.

-Thanks to Eileen for her presence. I hope you the best for next semester.

-Thanks to Albert for the good stories and the little dirty eraser that works great. If I get to move on this semester you can keep my coffee mug, so let's cross our fingers!

-Thanks to Leisa for waking me up "almost" every morning to go school. Wishing you big things to come in college. I feel like not only I have lost a good classmate but also a wonderful alarm clock!

(Continued on next page...)

-Thanks to Rosita for her refreshing laugh and the good arguments in class, your grace is like a little candle light in the dark.

-Thanks to Margie for teaching me one of the most important thing in my life, which is how to divide and multiply, thank you for scaring my phobia away by having patience with me. If you were a portable teacher, I would put you in a little pocket and take you everywhere I have to use math.

-Thanks to all of those working at the office that help run East End Literacy Thank you for having always a wonderful attitude.

-And last of all thank you Brenda for lighting my way, for your sweetness and disposition to help, for your words of strength when I was down, for the coffee breaks, for your mellow attitude, thank you for every step of the way you took with me, thank you for guiding me when I was confused. Thank you for not pulling things out of me in the moments you knew I couldn't give them, but thank you for believing in me and having your hands open in the moments I gave them to you. I just wanted you to know that you had made a difference in my life.



Comments: from **Curtis**

My classmates and I were comfortable with each other. I think Abukar was a good help to me in learning how to read and write. He was also patient with me.

I would like to thank all the staff at East End Literacy for their help. I hope you all have a good holiday and see you in September.

## Thank you from **Joan:**

To East End Literacy: Thank you for letting me find out who I am.

To Alfred: It has been a wonderful year and a half. I have learned a lot. It was a wonderful idea to open the school and I hope there are many learners willing to learn the way that I wanted to, and did learn.

To Satha: Thank you for being there when I needed someone to talk to.

To Maria: It was nice to know you though you are so quiet.

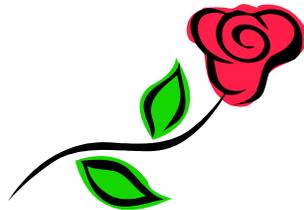
To Brenda: It has been a real learning experience being in your class

To Wanda: Goodbye. Do not stop working to achieve your goals

To Leisa: Goodbye. You are a nice person

To Kathy: The meaning in believing and achieving is you.

To Luisa: Good wishes. You should always look at what life has to offer you, and that's a lot. Do not give up. Keep pushing forwards.



## Comments from **Fred:**

I want to thank my teacher, staff and tutor for their help. My classmates were very supportive and encouraging.

One of the workshops I enjoyed most was the Internet Basics workshop that was held at North York Centre Public Library.

I hope everyone have a happy holiday!

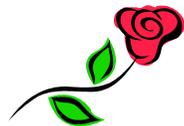


## To all my classmates at East End Literacy from **Shawn:**

The end of the school year has come where some of us have to go forward into another level. I have had a lot of fun with you. When I had a problem and came to school, you always helped me to talk about it. I thank you for inspiring me in ways that helped me learn so much.

To all the staff at East End Literacy, I would like to say you have done good job for us.

I hope you have good summer holiday.



## Comments from **Wayne:**

I would like to thank all the teachers and staff for their support, hard work and energy that they have given us. To all graduating students, I wish you all the best in whatever you are about to achieve in your life. Finally, I wish each and everyone all the best for the summer vacation and hope to see everyone back at school safe in September.

## Comments from **Gloria:**

I would like to thank my teacher and tutor for helping me to read and write better. I would also like to thank them for being patient with me. God bless them and their family. As we will be getting into our summer break, I wish all the teachers, tutors, staff, and students a good time. Have a safe and happy summer holiday and see you in September.



## Comments from **Peter:**

I thank all the staff and my teacher for helping me. I also thank my classmates for their friendliness and support. I hope you all have a great summer holiday. I will see you in September.



## Comments from **Rita:**

This world is changing and it has affected all of us. But when I come to school, my teacher Abukar and the staff make the world seem a lot better. The only way this can be done is by true love and mankind.

I would like to thank my teacher and the staff for their support. I also want to thank them for being patient with me.

To all the teachers, tutors, staff, and students, I wish you have a happy summer and hope to see you in September.

# *End of Term Comments from Staff*



From: **Maria Navarro**  
Administrative And Communications Coordinator

Dear EEL Graduates, returning participants, IWIP Graduates and trainees:

At East End Literacy, we try our best to provide you with the climate and environment where you can be nurtured and your skills and talents enhanced. Everyday, we continue to improve the quality of our work delivery and strive for excellence. Your passion and will power to succeed drive and inspire your fellow classmates and us that surrounds you. You make us all so proud!

I wish to congratulate all of you making the decision of joining East End Literacy. With that decision came your determination to accomplish your goals. May you continue to thrive in pursuit of your dreams. But always keep in mind that success is also a matter of personal responsibility and discipline.

To our Graduates who are moving on... you will be missed but you will always be remembered and East End Literacy is with you every step of the way.

To our returning participants and trainees... we look forward to more hard and serious work, activities, laughter and sharing of experiences with you.

Have a wonderful summer!

From **Satha Vivekananthan:**  
Program Coordinator

Congratulations to our Graduates.

It was another challenging, excellent and vibrant year for East End Literacy. Student and trainees, you, believed in yourselves, in the EEL staff and more than anything in what you wanted to achieve. Today, you are celebrating your achievements. Every day you achieved something and you did one at a time. The collection of achievements is in your hands today.

Wishing you all the best for many more achievements.

From: **Brenda Silver**  
Instructor, Level 3  
Assessment Counsellor

It has been another successful year at East End Literacy. Thanks to all the students, instructors and staff for their support and efforts toward our common goal. We collectively believe in achievement. We believe that with focus, a clear direction, and a lot of hard work, we will reach our goals.

Congratulations to all the students who worked hard all term. We have enjoyed all your successes along the way. A special mention goes to those students who are moving on to the next step in their journey. Although we will miss your presence, we are very proud of your achievements. Your focus, strength and courage are an example to us all. Remember to keep in touch with us as time goes by. Visit when you have time. You will always be part of the East End family.

To our returning students, have a good rest this summer. We look forward to a new term next September, with all of us refreshed and eager to continue to move forward toward our goals.

From: **Rosita Bacchus**

Instructor, Level Two

Speaking and Listening Instructor, Level Three

My year at East End Literacy has been an exciting journey of teaching and learning partnerships. I would like to thank the staff Alfred, Maria, Satha, Brenda, Abukar, and Sally for their warm welcome and support. We worked hard and had many laughs along the way. It was a pleasure for me to be a part of a dynamic team committed to the cause of community literacy and development.

To my level two students – Dennis, Maurice, Shelleke, Rohan, Joseph, Rodcliffe, Jennifer, and Brian, congratulations on your achievements. It was a privilege to work with all of you. I enjoyed our discussions in class about different topics and in addition I also learned from you. Thank you for your participation and Good Luck to all of you in your future endeavours!

The Speaking and Listening class with Level 3 was dynamic! Wanda, Leisa, Joan, Monica, Percy, Catalina, and Kathy –Congratulations on your accomplishments. We had excellent presentations and discussions that allowed us to explore our talents and gave us an opportunity to work as a team. We also had the privilege of having the ladies from the Immigrant Women’s Integration Program join us in this class. These ladies brought their diverse experiences, which added to the richness of our class. I extend Congratulations to these ladies for their accomplishments and for their contributions to our Speaking and Listening Class. Good Luck to all of you in your learning journey.

I would also like to congratulate the Level 1 students whom I had the opportunity to meet and work with during the December Holiday Celebrations.

“Education is a main, curved road with many other roads intersecting. The intersections are the landmarks for reflection and interpretation of the learning experience.

After the learning experience has been reflected upon, another adventure begins. The road never ends.”

## Best Wishes from **Abukar Hagi**

Instructor, Level 1  
Computer Instructor

It has been an exciting experience this year. My level one students have shown great enthusiasm and commitment for their goals in reading and writing. I am proud of their success in actively participating in all regular learning activities, projects and writing contests.

In our in-house writing contest on the article, “What Women Do at Home and Outside”, Shawn became the winner and Sylvia got her article selected for the story of the week to be published in NALD’s website. I both congratulate them on their success..

We would not have come such a long way without our dedicated team’s support. They made it possible to nurture our students with the skills and attitudes they need for their future and the desire to engage themselves in life long learning.

To all those who are graduating and to those who are moving on to a higher level or making progress in the same level, I congratulate you on your success. I would like you to keep opening yourself to different ideas, stretching your minds, and staying informed.

Best wishes for a pleasant school year and a great summer.

