

Janelle Hewitt

Statement in support of Vermont Adult Learning – February 11, 2015

My name is Janelle, I am sixteen years old and I live in Danby Vermont. I go to Mill River Union High School. Life has not always been easy for me. I am the second youngest in a family of eight. None of my brothers or my sister ever graduated from high school. Last year, in tenth grade I realized I wasn't very social with my peers anymore. I really wanted to be the first person in my family to graduate, but I really didn't like going to school. It got to the point where I seriously thought about dropping out.

Fortunately for me, I happened to run into Lynn who runs Vermont Adult Learning's Three Steps Forward Program in Rutland. Lynn introduced me to Janet Baker at Vermont Adult Learning, and she told me about the High School Completion Program. With help from Lynn, Janet, and my guidance counselor, I wrote a letter to the principal of Mill River asking to go to school and go to Vermont Adult Learning and take two years in one. My thought was that I could tolerate one more year of high school but not two.

By taking classes with Three Steps Forward, and studying at Vermont Adult Learning, I greatly improved my reading and vocabulary skills. I know Vermont Adult Learning made a difference because my teachers started noticing that I was doing better in school. Last semester I made the honor roll, and I'm still planning on graduating in June. Thanks to Vermont Adult Learning I now want to go to college and have a career in the legal field.

If it were not for Vermont Adult Learning, I don't think any of this would have been possible. I probably would have dropped out of high school, found myself stuck with no future and made some poor life choices.