

Grand Erie Learning Alternatives offers a second chance to be role-models

Story by Rob Rombouts

Photo by Blackbird Photography

Sometimes there are second chances in life.

For many of our champions, adult and continuing education programs gave them a second chance to complete their Secondary School diplomas and be better role models for their children. Their experience has set them on the path to more education or better paying jobs.

Diane Walker, of Langton, did it her way.



When she left high school, she only needed four more credits, but she decided she “didn’t want to be there” so dropped out. Following that, she worked picking tobacco and house cleaning.

When she had kids of her own, she wanted them to be proud of her. As soon as they were all school age, Diane decided to finish secondary school, through the [Grand Erie Learning Alternatives](#) home study program. Following that, she completed the PSW program at [Fanshawe College’s Simcoe](#) campus.

Diane said she knew she could succeed if she concentrated. Not wanting to rely on any support programs, she continued to work in the tobacco industry while going to school.

She is now working as a personal support worker and loves her job. She works with, and helps, many people, and her income lets her be in control of herself and her life.

“I feel so much better about myself,” she said. “It’s the best thing a person can do.”

Education Works Alliance is a community group dedicated to building prosperity through training, education and lifelong learning. The group’s mandate is to raise the education, literacy and skill levels of Grand Erie residents, in order to broaden opportunities for employments and economic development. For more information visit www.educationworks.ca