



My GED Story

--by Cynthia Mabe

I went to school in Clovis my first year at Bel-a-Vista Elementary School. My dad became a janitor in Grady, NM, and I went to school from 2nd grade to the 5th grade. For sixth grade, we moved to Texico, NM.

The kids picked on me and teased me because of my last name of Hatcher. They'd call me "Egg Hatch" or "Hatch an Egg." When my parents put me in the slow classes, the kids called me cruel names. I stopped even wanting to learn how to read. In the tenth grade, I dropped out totally.

Because of health problems, I have been unable to work. Someone else had to fill out all the forms for disability. I could not write out a check until my husband taught me about 4-5 years ago. Reading and understanding any kind of instructions was very difficult.

In 1984, at the Rio Communities Center, I tried taking the GED test, but it was so hard, I gave up. Shortly after that, I met my husband. Until he started teaching me stuff, I didn't think I could learn. I told my husband I was going to get my GED, and he said, "OK."

My husband saw a billboard saying, "For your GED, call this number." I did, and I met Jill and Peggy. First, I took my tests in reading and math at UNM-Valencia. They sent me to the Belen Library to meet with Lily Bravo, the Literacy Coordinator, to match me up with a tutor. Lily set up a meeting with my new tutor, Suzanne.

The first thing I wanted to tell Suzanne was why I had not learned to read very well. She prayed and asked me to forgive those kids that had hurt me so bad. I did, and all the pain just went away. Within the next week, I was reading an adult library book, and that felt fantastic.

Suzanne and I worked together for almost a year. My reading score to begin with was 189, and it has jumped to 235. My math was 195, and it has jumped to 212. I used to be scared of doing fractions, but now they're easy. I am very proud of myself and happy to be doing so good.

Now the most important thing is getting my GED. I want to get my education so that I know how to take care of business without relying on

other people. I know I can get my GED with all the good help I've been getting.