

ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Maria Grace Schmid | Tennessee



Adult education allowed Maria to pursue a career that would give back to her community. A single mother from Tennessee, Maria had always been interested in helping others battling mental illnesses and hoped to pursue a career as a psychologist. Due to health issues, she had to drop out of high school in 2017.

Later that year, Maria was hospitalized. Diagnosed with Crohn's disease and depression, she was unable to graduate high school. Soon after, she became pregnant and chose to focus on raising and providing the best life for her child. After many recommendations from friends and mentors, she decided to obtain her high school equivalency. She knew having this credential would help her move toward her goal of becoming a psychologist.

After studying in the adult education program, Maria passed her high school equivalency exam. She is currently seeking to enroll in a university to begin her journey of helping others in through psychology.

She stated, "My goal is to study psychology and become a therapist for those in need. I would prefer to work with those dealing with medical issues and diseases, like me. I understand how difficult those times were and how I was surrounded with support from people who helped me in times of need. I want to give back to the world the same way others helped me." ■

Inspiring educators so adults succeed and communities thrive