

ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Mike Hatten | Kentucky



Adult education filled Mike with hope after years of getting by without the ability to read well. By the time he was 16-years-old, he kept getting into trouble and his mother went to the school and signed Mike and his twin brother out of school.

Life became a smattering of different jobs. A hard worker, Mike would move up until his supervisors realized he could not read. He states, “I could never advance. Sometimes I would quit a job and find something else before anyone had a chance to find out that I couldn't read.” When COVID-19 shut his workplace down, Mike knew he had to finish his education. He decided to use his extra time to start again. The Kentucky Educational

Development Corporation (KEDC) worked with him to read, write and study for his GED® exam. Even when his job re-opened he decided to continue his education and work around his school schedule because it was so important to him.

Mike's reading and spelling has greatly improved, and his family can see the difference in him. He states, “This year, I picked out a birthday card for my wife that I actually read, and she said it was perfect.” He does not have to rely on others to read for him, and it is completely liberating. Mike has passed his GED® exam with a lot of hard work, dedication and persistence.

Today, Mike is attending a local college to get a journeyman's license in Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC). He dreams of going back to school when he is done to become a certified electrician. He reflects, “Just because I'm old, doesn't mean I have to stop.” ■

Inspiring educators so adults succeed and communities thrive