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ADULT EDUCATION
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ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Sarah Boyd | Illinois

Adult education helped Sarah to realize a lifetime dream. She had always wanted her high school diploma, but difficult circumstances in her life kept getting in the way. She finally decided to find an adult education program, and she enrolled at United for Better Living (UBL) in the West Garfield Park community on the West Side of Chicago. It took her a long time, but she refused to lose her motivation to achieve her goal in spite of the many obstacles in her path. She soon connected with Laura Carr, the UBL coordinator and adult literacy and senior computer training specialist. Her academic journey was difficult because most of her coursework was online. She studied with UBL teachers via correspondence to complete her courses, and was able to practice her digital literacy skills on Northstar, soon passing all of her assessments. Sarah also studied using IXL and SoftSchools provided by UBL to help her with her core studies and everyday life digital skills. Although she had so much to learn, Sarah persisted through it all.

Laura made all the difference in Sarah's journey, and in 2022—at 81 years old—Sarah completed all of her high school diploma requirements and was eligible to graduate. Now, Sarah gives back to the UBL community by assisting other learners in the program as a tutor, providing reading and spelling support. Sarah plans to continue to volunteer with UBL, and she also wants to continue to develop her digital literacy skills as she dreams of what comes next. ■