



ALPHABÉTISATION SANS LIMITES
LITERACY UNLIMITED

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Write On!

Student Literature

Expressing our thoughts and opinions



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Love

What, where, how and who has love?

Love is a feeling that lives inside people, and is expressed by actions. Love does not keep a record, but is happy with the truth.

No human on earth can live without faith, hope and love. Love is an appreciation and respect for well being. I am very grateful that I found Literacy Unlimited, my teacher, Angela and everyone who works here. They are all full of love.

Eleni



A Happy Dad

I was so sad inside, because I couldn't read or write to my beautiful daughter. My life today is full of happiness, joy and smiles. I love waking up to have my lovely daughter giving me warm hugs and kisses. We like to laugh a lot and enjoy going to the movies and eating popcorn. We have a wonderful father and daughter relationship.

I play two roles for Kayla, both mother and father because her mother wasn't there for her. It wasn't always like this. I was very embarrassed since I was illiterate. I wanted to be like other dads and read to my daughter at night. I needed help to be able to read and write. Fortunately Literacy Unlimited came to my rescue. Slowly I began to read and write with help from my tutors. Now with the grace of God, I am able to read to Kayla. It fills me with great joy. I laugh loudly with her when she corrects my mistakes. It gives me great hope for the future for the both of us. I have never been so content in my life.

Thank you Kayla.

James



Introduction

Welcome to the 2010 issue of Write On! All the submissions in this booklet were written by *Literacy Unlimited* adult students.

We are very proud to showcase the achievements of these students. Their dedication and commitment to improving their literacy skills is truly inspirational.

Thank you to all the students who submitted their work and to all the tutors who encouraged them to do so.

Enjoy!



Success 2009

How does challenge bring you success? I'm going to tell a little story. In January 2009 I accepted a challenge. I signed up for a workshop "Speaking Up and Speaking Out" for two weekends. I learned a lot about how to give speeches, how to present yourself and lots more stuff. That gave me the motivation to share my literacy experience with high school students. I also got the opportunity to talk a bit on the radio CJAD about my story.

In 2009 I also submitted stories to organizations that have contests. I won a couple of them: Canada Post Award and LVQ Award. I had a little celebration for my Canada Post award. My mom, tutor and some of the LU staff came to the presentation. I was very happy about the work I put in because writing is a big challenge and by me winning these awards, it encourages me to write more.

That gave me the courage to put my story into the newspaper to let the word out. I also had a phone interview for another newspaper.

I was very happy that I got my class one license. It allows me to drive any kind of vehicle except motorcycles. I did a lot of studying for the test. I failed a couple of times but I didn't give up. By having this license I switched to a better job.

I deeply thought I was the only one with a problem with reading and writing. When I started the Speaking Up workshop it hit me. I'm not the only one. I just wanted to tell people do not be afraid to get help because it's not fun living in the dark, not knowing how to read or write.

Treldon



Memories of St. Vincent

I lived in a house of pitch pine painted chocolate brown on the outside and pink on the inside. We had two rooms and a living room. The kitchen was downstairs.

When I woke up in the morning, I could hear the cock crow. It was six o'clock, sunrise. I would go to the farm with my mom to get milk from my uncle's cows. We would sing while we were walking.

I loved to go fishing with my brothers and my dad. We would go in the morning or the evening when it wasn't too hot. I caught snapper, some big and some small. We would bring them home and my mom would fry them. My father would push me and my brothers off the side of the wooden dinghy to teach us how to swim. "Grab the rope and come to me," he'd shout.

I loved to climb the coconut tree, the mango tree and the breadfruit tree. The national bird of St. Vincent is a parrot. My cousin used to put cages in the trees and catch them.

June & July were carnival time. Everybody dressed up in costumes and danced. There was roasted breadfruit, cotton candy, Ju-C Cola and Hairoun beer.

I love the blue water, the sand that is grey from the volcanoes and the stars in the sky at night. At night if the moon was bright, we'd play games like hide and seek. We would climb the trees or hide in the bushes.

In St. Vincent when the sun sets over the sea, it's so beautiful.

Gwen

My Daughter's Wedding

My daughter is getting married on Saturday, July 2, 2011. People are coming from all over. We are expecting four hundred people.

She has to reserve the church and the reception hall, one year and a half before the date.

The reception hall is where people come to congratulate the bride and groom.

After, we sit down and eat a six place menu.

Following dinner, Melissa and Andy open the dance floor and everyone dances until two or three in the morning.

I will miss my baby but I am getting a son-in-law.

Maria

My Story

My name is Anthony. Most people call me Tony. I came from Barbados July 5, 1975. My sister sponsored me. I worked as a mason and a pipefitter. At 39 years old I had a severe stroke. I could not see, remember, talk or walk. I was in rehabilitation for 15 years. It took me 7 months to talk. My sight and walking came back to normal in about 8 months. My memory is still up and down. I am no longer in the work force.

My wife's name is Marlo. I have 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

My passion is cooking, square dancing and going to the casino once a week.

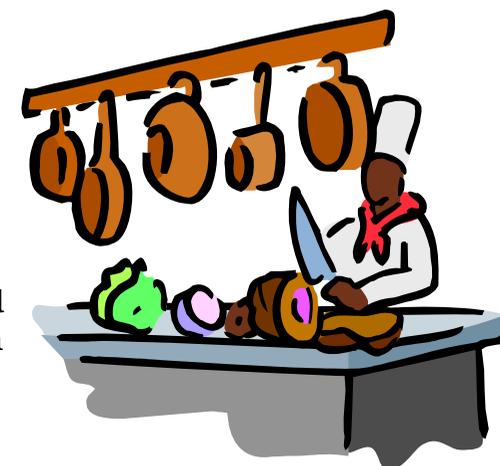


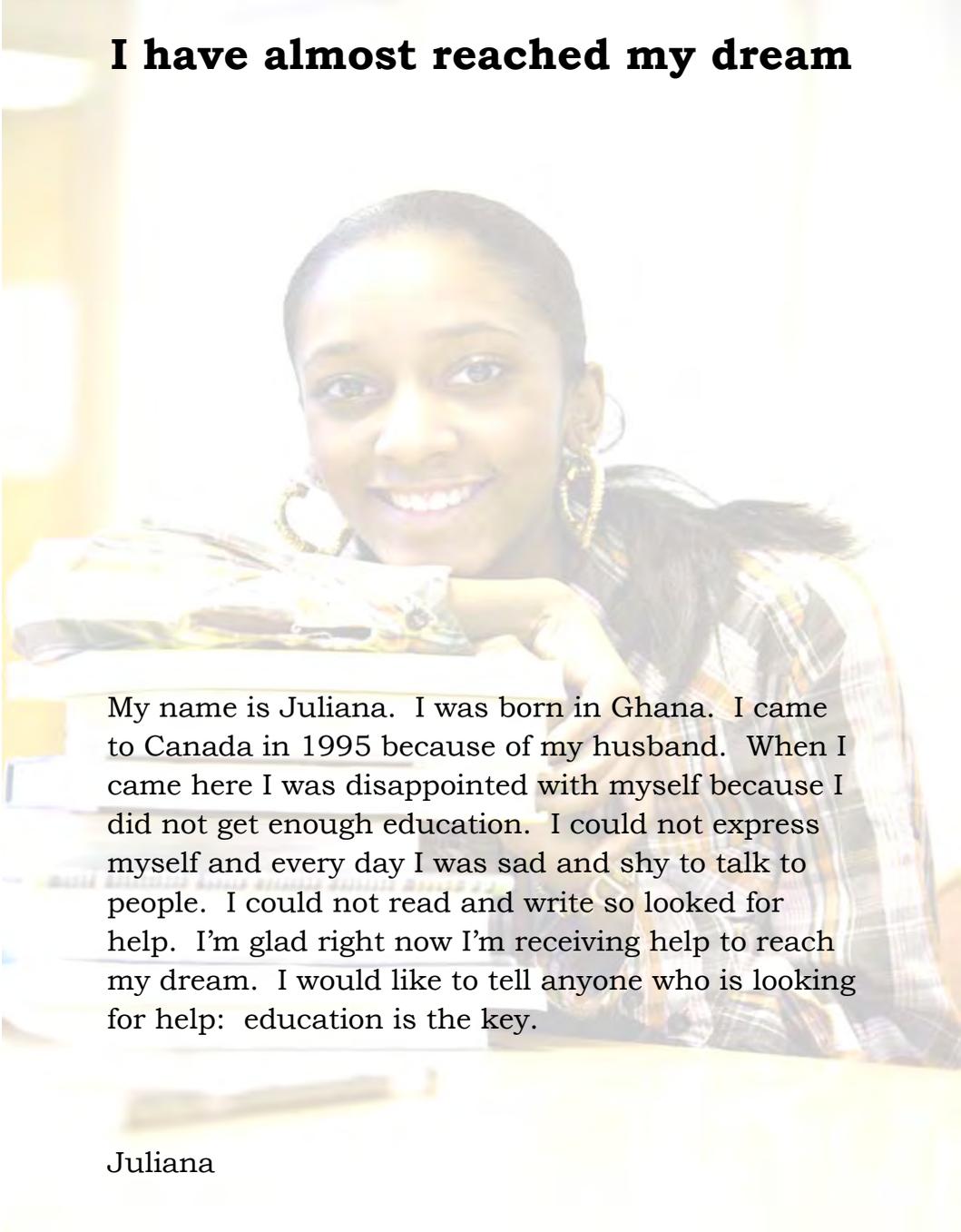
I am a member of the Swingingstars square dancing group. I am the membership director. We have 115 members. We dance 3 times a week.

There were 60 people at my house New Years Day. I did all the cooking.

Thank you to Literacy Unlimited for helping me get to where I am today.

Anthony

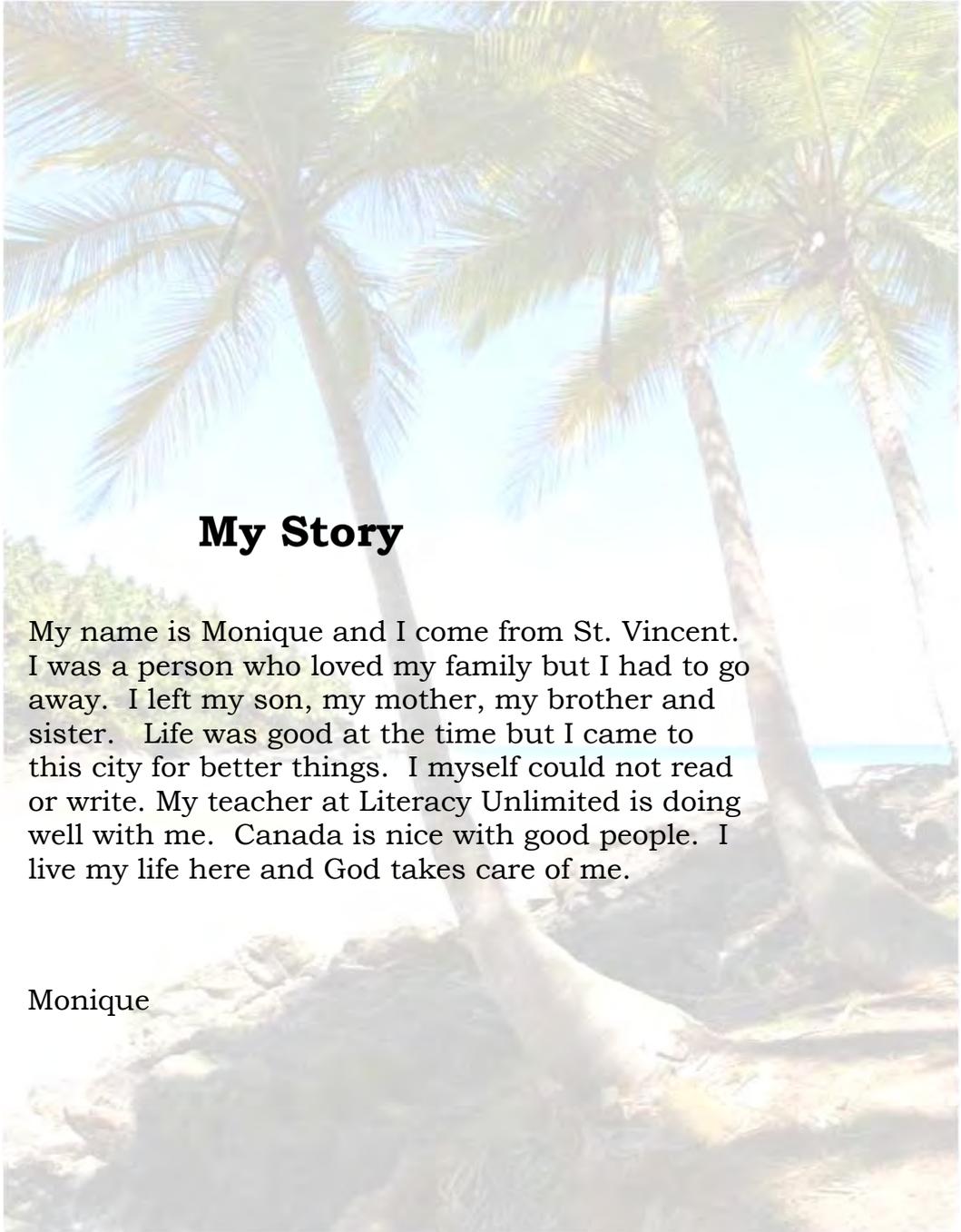




I have almost reached my dream

My name is Juliana. I was born in Ghana. I came to Canada in 1995 because of my husband. When I came here I was disappointed with myself because I did not get enough education. I could not express myself and every day I was sad and shy to talk to people. I could not read and write so looked for help. I'm glad right now I'm receiving help to reach my dream. I would like to tell anyone who is looking for help: education is the key.

Juliana



My Story

My name is Monique and I come from St. Vincent. I was a person who loved my family but I had to go away. I left my son, my mother, my brother and sister. Life was good at the time but I came to this city for better things. I myself could not read or write. My teacher at Literacy Unlimited is doing well with me. Canada is nice with good people. I live my life here and God takes care of me.

Monique

Dreams and Wishes

I sometimes sit and think that one day I will finally achieve my goal which is to be able to read and write.

Without hesitation, and, thanks to Literacy Unlimited I have been given that chance.

On Tuesdays I meet with my tutor at the library in LaSalle.

Maybe one day I will be able to help someone else.

Laverne



Mercy's Story --- Part Two

(Part one of Mercy's Story can be found in Issue 4 of Write On!)

There were about two hundred people in the church. Everybody who knew me and my husband came to the church. After gifts we had a big party with a lot of food and drink. We danced and everybody had a very nice time.

Me and my husband lived in an apartment in the city of Kumasi. I started a business trying different things like shoes and towels and palmtree cream and tomatoes in the market. And my husband gave me good advice to open an account at the bank.



The tomatoes worked the best. I was working very hard. I had two people working for me.

My husband resigned from his job after fifteen years. The new government started arresting people. My husband escaped to Nigeria where his old friend helped him to come to Canada. I stayed in Ghana for five years and then my husband sponsored me to join him in Canada in 1993.

... to be continued in the next issue ...

Mercy

99 Cabinets

Today started like every other day, so I thought. No, today was very different indeed. It was all the same at home this morning, shower, brush teeth, get dressed. You know how the story goes. So now I'm off to my weekly Literacy Unlimited sessions with my elegant, well spoken, always on time tutor. So here we go, it all starts now. From the minute I walked into Literacy Unlimited it was all so strange. Let me paint a picture for you. Usually when I walk in I'm welcomed with warm greetings, but today instead I was greeted with strange behavior and heard weird noises. To my attention all the tutors were acting just a little strange. What I mean by strange is they were using their filing cabinets as computers while singing "99 Bottles of Beer On The Wall".



So I continued to walk by not thinking anything of it. Until I walked in and encountered my tutor and it was all so clear to me now. She was acting just as strange as everyone else, singing and typing away on her filing cabinets. I said to myself "What the heck is going on here?" So I stopped for a minute and regained my frame of thought and went to investigate. I saw a guy reading a book strangely in a corner of the room. When he noticed me looking at him, he rolled his eyes and whistled in the wind. I knew something was wrong. I walked towards him and said "What are you reading there?" He doesn't reply. I get right up to the edge of the table, I say while reaching for the book, "What have you got there?"



He says nothing while dodging my hand reaching for the book. He takes one step back and swings the book at me, striking me in the head. As I'm falling to the ground, I reach for the bottom of his leg as he is running away. He falls to the ground, dropping the book. He gets up fast and runs away, leaving the book. I get up, brush myself off and pick up the book. The cover of the book reads "Spells".



"Wow". I started to read it, I came across a title that read 99 Cabinets. When I first started at Literacy Unlimited I would never have been able to read what I'm about to read right now. It said once the spells have been cast, you have up until the end of the song to break the spell. I stop and listen to the tutors. They were at 45 Cabinets on the Wall, so I knew I didn't have much time. I ran to the library, I went to the magic section and found a book that read "Counter Spells" in between "Canadian Politics" and "How to File Your Own Taxes." I know that they will be safe now.

The End

John