

Visions is dedicated to  
the students and staff of Basic Education

Thank you to those students who contributed  
stories, poetry and art to this anthology.

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## Alone

There is a lady in Saskatoon  
She is Alone without a boyfriend  
She says, "Alone is O.K. You do things that you want to do with yourself  
You have your family, neighbours, cousins, aunts, uncles and your  
friends"  
She is happy about this  
"But if you have a boyfriend this O.K. too  
They are sweet, friendly, kind and good friendship  
This why I want a boyfriend  
I was popular at Holy Cross high school with guys that I knew  
I didn't have very many lady friends at Holy Cross high school  
But there are some lady friends that I know  
Alone, Alone, Alone  
It's OK to be Alone"

Charlotte Topping

## Falling In Love

On a summer's day  
In a deep way  
I found out someone loves me.  
I am like a flower  
On freshly fallen, silent rain.  
I'm a rainbow.  
I'm a blooming flower.

I realized I'm alone,  
My spirits became a castle.  
Then I finally found someone.  
There is a need for friendship; friendship creates happiness.  
It's a lovely feeling to have inside.  
I'm a rainbow.  
I'm a blooming flower.

Now I talk of love.  
I'm in love with a man who cares.  
I have reasons for living.  
If I never loved, I wouldn't have known the feeling.  
I'm a rainbow.  
I'm a blooming flower.

I have my mind  
And a man beside me to protect me.  
He is my shield against making a mistake.  
I am safe in his arms.  
Nobody can harm me then, so I'm glad I'm with him.  
I'm a rainbow.  
I'm a blooming flower.

Clarissa Shetterly

I work for a counselling Agency called Harder & Associates in Saskatoon. I am a receptionist there, and I greet the clients as they come in to see the counsellors. I do the faxing, photocopying, typing up of letters etc. I also make the coffee. I enjoy working with them; they are fun people.

I've always wanted to be a daycare worker, but that career goal sort of changed since I started working here on a work placement through the Way to Work program at SIAST, Kelsey Campus. I started the Way to Work program in July and my goal then was to be a daycare worker, but now it is to be a receptionist. It is a change. I enjoy working with kids as well, but I can always do that later in life. I live life to the fullest doing the jobs I can do with a modified grade 12 level of high school. With that as a grade level it doesn't get you too far in the career you want. That is why I am not taking the Early Childhood Development Program. Because of this, I went another route. I might still become a daycare worker later on after a few years of work as a receptionist. I might take my GED and enter The Early Childhood Development Program and become what I always dreamed of doing.

Clarissa Shetterly

## **My School Days**

My school days started when I was five years old. First, I went to kindergarten at Victoria School. Then I went to St. Francis from grades 1-6. Next, I went to Father Vachon School to take grade 6 again. St. Francis had passed me because of my age, so when we moved from the East side to the West side I had to do grade 6 again, because I was having math problems. Then, I went to Holy Family School for grade 7. Then went to Sion High School from grades 8-11. Later, for my grade 12 (first semester) I went to E. D. Feehan High School. At last I went back to Sion High School for the second semester of grade 12. I never graduated from High School because I got kicked out for not being able to make it to talk to the principal. Also, it took me basically 4 years to come back to school. Specifically, that's what brings me here to Kelsey Campus to finish my High School so I can find a career and get the education I need for it, then start working. In conclusion, the reason why I have transferred to all different schools is because when I was younger I had epilepsy, and the doctors mixed up on my medication; that's what leads me to do some things slowly now. Thank God I stopped having seizures when I was 7 years old, so that's all about my school days and there are some details of my life.

## **Why I Came Back to School**

There are several reasons why I came back to school. First, I want to finish high school and I want to get my grade 12. Second, I need something to do during the day. Third, I like to stay out of trouble, not that I get into trouble. Also, I can feel good about myself when I finally finish my grade 12. Finally, I think it is nice to meet new people. In conclusion, that is why I came back to school.

Colleen Rosset

Household  
Loud confusing  
Busy times together  
Happy, calm, sad, pushy and mad  
Children

Marriage  
Together forever  
Trust, faith, love  
Patience, hope, better life  
Commitment

There once was a man named McGoo  
Who dreamed he was eating some glue  
He woke with a fright  
In the middle of the night  
And found he had eaten his shoe

Debbie Senger

I remember the summer time  
children playing in the park, going for  
rides at the exhibition, walking along the  
river with my toes in the sand. Sounds of  
birds singing and dogs barking. After a good  
rain there is a colourful rainbow in the sky and  
with the night time rain there's thunder, lightening,  
and that's when I enjoy telling ghost stories.  
Smells of the barbeque blasting with food smells  
such as hotdogs and burgers. Yummy summertime.

Debbie Senger

Maturing is a tough thing to go through  
most childish things must be put away  
we now have to support ourselves  
nothing is handed to us on a silver palter  
we pay bills, rent, mortgages, raise kids  
we get older and the greys start to appear  
the only thing about maturing that even makes  
sense is the fact that by now everything we have  
gone through we can pass on to our children.  
But in all this maturing it is important that we  
never loose our sense of humour; maturing is a  
tough thing to go though. Believe me.

Debbie Senger

## Debbie's Life

I was born in Saskatoon City Hospital on December 20, 1961 at 7:07 A.M. weighing in at 5 lb 11 oz. I was 16 inches long. I was born with a cleft pallet as well as a harelip. In our family history it's every fifth generation that has a cleft pellet and /or a harelip. When I was two years old, I fell off a steel bunk bed and hit my head on two corners of the bunk bed. I started having a seizure on the floor, and that is when all my health problems first began.

When I started grade one, we moved to Martinsville. I had long hair down to my buttocks, and the day before school started my mom cut my hair as short as a boy's. I got teased because the other kids thought I was a boy even though I told them that I was a girl. However I enjoyed grade one until I failed it twice. My mom knew that there was something wrong so she went to the school and talked to the principal about my school work. He looked at the papers my mom brought in and said that there was no reason why I should not have passed the first year. As a result, they put me in the second grade, and I continued to enjoy grade three and four. About this time I started writing poetry and short stories. I was also in plays and started singing on a show called Talent Time that was on television during the weekend. Everyone who saw me told my mom and me that I did a real good job.

When I was in grade five, I had an awesome teacher whose name was Miss Climchuck. She had long hair and was supportive and nice to me. In grade six, I noticed that I had the most problems in math where I needed things explained to me more than once. My grade six teacher's name was Mrs. Fuller and no one liked her because she was harsh with her students. No one wanted to cross her including me. Needless to say I failed grade six. In grade seven and eight, I had male teachers; I got along with them better than the female teachers I had. When it came to going to highschool, I went to three different schools. I ended up going to Radius which is a school for teens who have a learning disability or are slow learners. I went to Radius for grade nine and grade ten. I quit school because I started having some problems.

My real problems began as soon as I started hanging around with the wrong people. I became a prostitute, and I got pregnant twice from a man I wasn't even in love with. I gave both babies up for adoption because I felt that I couldn't give them what they needed. By the time I was seventeen, I was so confused that I didn't know what I was doing or what was happening in my life. I felt completely out of control. I had been using drugs and had been in gangs and everyone seemed to bother me including my parents. I was going to parties and was not a very nice person to be around.

One evening when I was at a party, we were all getting high, drinking and fighting. Something happened that night that I will never forget. I was arguing with some guy and he fell down the stairs. I don't know if I pushed him or if he just fell on his own. He almost died. There was blood all over the place. I got scared and called 911, and even went to the hospital with him. After that I got to thinking about my life and how I had wasted my teen years away. That's when I decided I was going to do something meaningful with my life.

When I was eighteen years old, I went to Cypress Community College in Swift Current, Sask. I got my grade ten certificate, and then I took some training in hairdressing as well as training as a nurse's aide. Much to my disappointment I never finished either of them, but instead I fell into a deep depression. Soon after I moved back to Saskatoon where I stayed with my mom and dad. When I was about twenty years old, I met a man named Andrew Senger, and I started going out with him, but we broke up six months later. That's when I decided I should give my life to the Lord and let Him lead me because I had been doing such a horrible job at it up to now. That same year I married a man named Carl Swidzinski and ten months later my daughter Dawn was born. When Dawn was around one and a half years old, I separated from Carl because he had not only hit me but had also hit Dawn. I decided then that I was not going to put up with any type of violence aimed at my kids or me again.

After two or three years I lived with another man that I knew loved me, but he turned out to be a mama's boy. As a result of that relationship; I got pregnant. At this time Dawn was three and a half years old. I gave birth to a baby boy; I named him Christopher James Andrew Swidzinski (Senger). When he was ten and a half months he died, but that's another story. In 1990 I gave birth to another girl, whom I named Sari. She was my final baby.

To make a long story short I have moved into my mom and dad's house, and they have moved into an apartment. Shortly after I started Kelsey, my best friend of twenty-five years, Sherri Kissel, died. I became depressed and didn't know whether I wanted to continue school or not. If it hadn't been for my friends and family, I probably wouldn't be here right now. Those friends are Jesse and Cheryl and my sister-in-law, Robin. My future plans are to get into a cooking course and one day run my own restaurant. The future looks positive for our family and I'm trying to enjoy every minute of it.

Debbie Senger



Kim Epp



Kim Epp



Kim Epp



Kim Epp

## Life Experience

Once my life was in danger, and also I needed to solve many difficulties in my childhood and teenage life. My childhood was wonderful and then awful. Because my parents, grandparents and relatives were around me to care, encourage, and console me, I thrived. Also, I was the oldest child and the oldest grandchild. I mentioned this because according to the Burmese culture, the oldest child or the oldest grandchild were always priorities. Nevertheless, my life was changed suddenly when my parents divorced. My father moved to another city, but I stayed with my mother in my hometown. Consequently I became an unhappy child because I missed my father very much. Finally I passed most of my childhood and my teenage years without my father. Though my father left us, I still loved him as I loved my mother. In brief, there were a lot of fortunate and misfortunate days in my childhood.

In 1988, there was a political movement in Burma. Burmese people were struggling for democracy which was opposed by the military. The military was controlling the Socialist Party. The Socialist party ignored the people and gave authority to the military to crack down on the people. At the beginning of demonstrations, many university students were killed and sent to jail by the military. Afterward many people from every city town, and village participated in the demonstrations. After a short time, the government stepped down and the military took power. Since I was involved in the demonstrations, the military was looking for me. During this time, many of my friends and colleagues were tortured, sent to jail, and killed. There were awful and terrible things done to almost everybody. Indeed, I became more and more involved in the demonstrations instead of being afraid of the military.

My parents and relatives tried to tell me not to participate in this movement because they did not want to lose me or see me tortured. Nevertheless, nobody could stop me from participating in the demonstrations. I would have liked to listen to my parents but not at this point because I could not stand the military's actions anymore. Finally, I decided to go to the jungle for the revolution to improve the country. In sum, the evil military government had stolen my teenage years and changed my life forever.

The jungle was deep and covered with numerous trees, mountains and valleys. Along the way to the rebel area many people died of the malaria because this was a mosquito-infested area. In fact, people did not have enough medicine when they were sick. I was sick often on my way to the safe area; I walked about eighteen days to get there. Moreover, climbing mountains and crossing streams became a part of my daily job. Also, I was homesick. Naturally, the jungle was beautiful and peaceful because it had a lot of natural resources. At night everybody slept under the trees and beside a big circular fire which protected us against dangerous animals. Another danger was from the resident Burmese who inhabited the mountain tops and who often defended themselves from outsiders. I saw many Burmese tribes who lived on the very top of mountains. They seemed to have no difficulties living there, but each tribe did have their own language. They have been fighting the Burmese military since 1948 after Burma obtained independence from Great Britain. Finally, I arrived in the rebel territory which was located on the Thailand and Burma border. On October 1, 1988, the Burmese students formally organized a group named the All Burmese Students Democratic Front (ABSDF). To summarize, my journey to jungle was very tough for me and dangerous.

I was about seven years in the jungle as a rebel. The first year, our student rebels didn't have enough ammunition, and we just had a temporary hut to live in. We had over 15,000 people in our students' rebel group, so we divided into many groups as regiments, and we went to many areas. We got military training for six months from resident rebels. My regiment had about 400 student rebels; it was located beside a river which was the country between Thailand and Burma. Every night I listened to BBC radio (British Broadcasting Corporation) because, I wanted to know what was going on inside the country and a little bit about the world. One major problem was that I was sick with malaria every two months. But I was getting used to living and eating in the jungle. The second year, I went to the front line for eight months and fought many battles. I saw many people die on both sides. Sometimes when people got shot, and they didn't die right away but suffered and moaned for several hours to several days before they died. Sometimes blood was all over my body when I carried some of my friends who got shot. Fortunately, I never did get shot; this not only happened to me but half of the people in battle were spared injury. The third year and fourth years were extremely terrible because the enemy attacked our rebel area with a big campaign. At this time I lost some comrades and we lost much of our rebel area. Afterwards we received much support from all around the world. It made our group so strong that we got hospitals, medicine, clothes, food, vehicles, ammunition, and broadcasting. In fact, the Burmese military was amazed at our improving conditions because in previous revolutions not much support came through. The military was so afraid of student rebels that they decided to destroy all of our rebel strongholds 1994.

The military used many troops and spent a lot of money to destroy this area. On December 14, 1994, we lost most of our safe area so I could not stay there anymore, and I went to Thailand. All in all, I spent my life to help gain freedom for the people of Burma. I arrived in Bangkok, the capital city of Thailand, on January 1, 1995. I had some friends who lived in Bangkok for a few years. At first, I had to stay with them, and I applied to get some help from United Nation High Commission for Refugee (UNHCR) but I did not get the help because at that time Burmese student refugee budgets were getting cut. Also, the Thai government and the Burmese military government were cooperating on business deals so that the Thai government pressured the Burmese student refugees as much as they could. Further, the Thai police were looking for some Burmese student refugees who did not have proper ID from UNHCR. As an example, I was caught by Thai police six times for living in Thailand without ID from UNHCR. Fortunately, some of my friends who had jobs and who had married Thais, used bribes to get me out of jail. I went to UNHCR office for a second time to explain what was happening to me. Finally, UNHCR gave me some help and sent me to the Burmese Student Refugee Camp which was located out of the city. After two months in refugee camp I decided to go to another country which was Canada. Because I read a book which had a lot of information about Canada, I decided that was the country that I wanted to go to. Some of my friends went to USA and Australia. Finally, I went to the Canadian embassy in Thailand and applied to go to Canada. Afterward I went back to the refugee camp and waited for an interview.

A month later I got a letter for an interview from the Canadian embassy, so I went to Bangkok for interview, and I passed the interview to go to Canada. Also, I had a medical exam, and I passed it too. This made me really happy. Then about four months later, I left Thailand and came to Canada. I arrived in Saskatoon on January 25, 1996. It was the first time I ever saw snow in my life. I had come to Canada as a cold weather country, but people were warm-hearted. My life of danger in Burma and Thailand was over.

Kyaw Lwin



Trevor Dreaver



Blaine Kay



Marlene Whitefish

## Spring Poem

Spring comes once a year.  
Everything comes alive.  
The grass grows.  
Flowers bloom everywhere.  
Garden birds hum their beautiful songs.  
Hear them whistle like the wind.

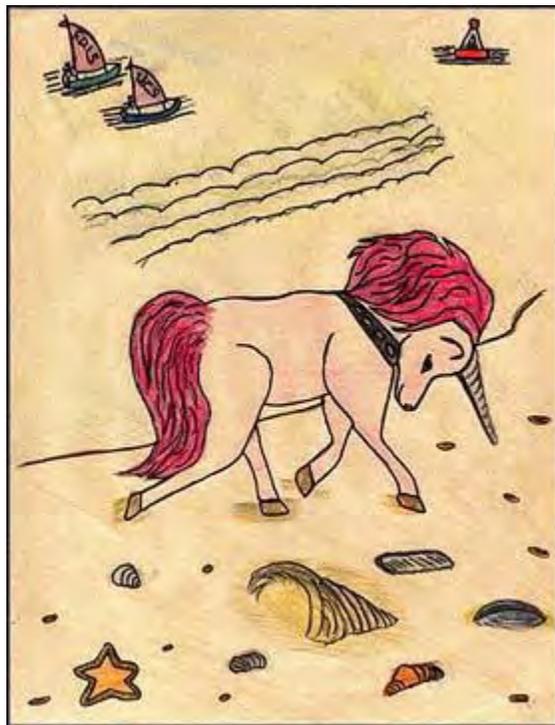
Mary Gordon



## Ginger

Ginger searched  
for seashells on the silent shore.  
The ocean was calm and quite.  
The air was cool and fresh  
The sky was clear and blue  
The playful gulls flew in the air  
Ginger was happy.  
She liked being by the ocean shore.

Mary Ann Adam





## **Rock**

The rock is something extraordinary.  
It makes beautiful sparking diamonds  
for a beautiful princess who lives in a  
castle made of rock.

Mary Ann Adam



Rachael  
Jeffrey  
2000

Rachael Jeffrey



John M. Monias



John M. Monias

## Graduation

My most memorable day was the day I graduated from Kelvington High School on June 25, 1999. That day, in the afternoon, I had my graduation pictures with my family. It was really cold, but we managed. After pictures we went home and relaxed for a couple hours. Later on that afternoon we took our group pictures for the Class of 1999. Some of us got pictures with escorts and friends that we went to school with the past twelve years. After pictures, we all went to the Legion Hall and had our banquet. During this banquet, the 31 of us got introduced, so did our parents. Then later on, we went back to the school and waited to go into the gym. The time came to go into the gym, and onto the stage where we got introduced. After the introductions the awards were handed out. I got the Achievement Award. I was so surprised when I got this award that I was really happy. After the awards, the Class Will and Testament, Valedictorian speech and the Address to the Grads were read. The last thing that was done was the Grand March. This means we all came in single file then we linked up at the far end of the gym-the song we had was "Iris" by the Goo Goo Dolls.

Lindsay Ziola

## **Life Experience Living in Saskatoon**

My life experience living in Saskatoon has been very different than living out on a farm. I moved into Saskatoon in July because I got into the Way to Work Program at Kelsey. When I graduated from Kelvington High School, I wanted to move.

Learning how to live on my own was a big step for me. Moving away from my farm this past summer and coming up to the city was a major difference. I learned many things when I came to Saskatoon. I learned the different bus routes (which I caught onto pretty fast).

I have met a lot people since I moved away from home, and I have gained a lot of friends to hang out with on weekends, go shopping, go out for coffee, and going to movies. We all had a lot fun this year!!!!

I hope you enjoyed my story about my experience living in the city. I had a lot of fun living here. It was a blast!!!! Enjoy!!!!

Lindsay Ziola



Gambling,  
spending money,  
awesomely winning high,  
depressed, that losing low,  
addicted!

Hunting  
Hunting  
in the darkness.  
Waiting for the prize deer.  
The cross hairs fixed on the neck.  
Ka-boom!

### **The Hole**

I used to sit on a throne,  
now I sit all alone.  
Trapped behind these darkend walls,  
where only my loneliness calls.  
The echoes of thought  
and the heart distraught.  
What must you do,  
when all your fears come true.  
Today, I will sit and wait,  
until my release date.

Haiku  
Rainbows in the sky  
a colourful glistening  
a natural high.

Michael Linklater

## **I figured**

I figured it was her long neck,  
why I fell for my beauty.  
When I stroked her once and twice,  
I knew she was my duty.  
I knew there were strings attached,  
and I knew there were keys.  
When I tuned her up,  
all she screamed was, "please, please!"  
When I heard, "Hoochie Coochie man,"  
I figured that was the plan!  
A stroke later became a strum,  
and the feel of her neck was so awesome.  
To this day she still sings of glee,  
and I figured we'll be for eternity.

Michael Linklater

A wall surrounds me  
So no one can  
See my thoughts  
Or hear my feelings  
Dream my wishes  
Wish my dreams  
See my cries  
Or hear my pain  
Now,  
The wall is breaking  
Each and everyday  
Like a million little puzzles  
And now,  
To choose the right way.

### **I Love You**

How could these three little words,  
Mean so much,  
Yet  
Mean so little?

They can make you feel good inside.  
And at times hurt so bad.  
Make you want to laugh,  
Make you want to cry.  
Make you stop and wonder;  
Why ?  
These three little words can mean so much.

Nora Cheeknew

## **Familiar Stranger**

The moment I laid eyes on him,  
I knew I had seen him before.  
As he walked around,  
I could not help but stare.

A very handsome man,  
Nothing threatening about him.  
He starts towards me,  
I'm getting butterflies!

What do I do?  
What do I say?  
He's not coming to talk to me?  
I say to myself, as I turn away.

Feeling his warm touch on my shoulder,  
Sends shivers down my spine.  
Jokingly I say,  
"Hello stranger, where have you been all my life?"  
Calm and cool he replies,  
"Why, looking for you!"  
As he takes my hand in his and leads me to the door.

Nora Cheekinev

Thousands of miles apart.  
I feel you,  
I see you,  
I hear you,  
With every beat of my heart.  
Endless days,  
Sleepless nights,  
Wishing you were holding me tight.  
I miss you,  
I need you,  
I love you,  
Knowing someday soon,  
My emptiness will be full of you.

Friends  
Unselfish, courteous.  
Talking, laughing, sharing,  
Always helping each other  
Family.

Nora Cheeknew

## My Story; Life Back on Track

On August 6, 1965 in Lloydminster, Saskatchewan, I was born to a single mother, and I was raised by two elderly grandparents. Life was very good and I was very spoiled; I never wanted for anything. All I knew was that I got anything I wanted, when I wanted it. That sure changed when I lost my mother at age 16. No one in my family wanted me. My godparents who were my uncle and aunt didn't want me, nor did any of my other relatives including uncle that is my mother's sister's husband or my mother's brother and his wife. I ended up in a foster home where the foster father abused his own children, and when he hit me once, I was out of there. From there, I made the foolish mistake of living with my then boyfriend's family where I was abused.

As I grew up, I went through some tough times; I didn't know if I was going to survive. When I was all of 21 years old, I started my family. I had Joshua in March of 1987, Andrew in March of 1988, and the twins, Heather and Thomas in March of 1989. I tried to raise my kids by myself, but found out that I should not handle the responsibility, alone so I made the tough choice to give them a better life with someone else. The children are now with a couple who can better provide for them. I write to them often, and I receive letters from them also.

Since then I have become a godmother of four. I have two godsons, and two goddaughters; they are my best friend's children.

I have been in the same relationship for almost 14 years. We had a break up for five years, but four years ago, we decided to get back together. Now we are getting married on October 7, 2000.

Robbin Glove

## My Life as a Mother

My life as a mother began the day I got pregnant with my first child. When I was pregnant for the first time, I felt blessed from up above, and I was in high spirits. At the beginning of the pregnancy, I had severe morning sickness, and I became tired all the time. I started losing weight rather than gaining weight. Soon, when I was about two months into the pregnancy, I started having pain on the left side of my abdomen. The next day, I went to my doctor's office. Immediately after I had seen my doctor, I was sent to get an ultrasound. I was told that everything was going to be fine. Then about five months into the pregnancy I went for another ultrasound, but this time I knew something was wrong. I usually got to pick any picture to take home with me, but not this time. I had a choice between only two pictures. By this time I was very concerned and afraid. Later that evening, while I was at home the phone rang. When I answered it, my heart stopped because I heard my doctor on the other end. I was told to come to the doctor's office in the morning. In the morning, I went to my doctor's office, and she sent me to the Genetics Unit. There I was told that my unborn baby had an inherited kidney disease. I started crying while the geneticist was trying to explain that my baby had,

"... severe abnormalities in the development of the kidneys. The absence of fluid in the sac surrounding the baby was the result of the non-functioning kidney. The water that the baby floats in is mostly the baby's urine, and obviously, if the kidneys don't work properly, very little fluid is produced. The survival rate was zero." Two and one half weeks later, I ended up at the University hospital.

I gave birth to a little baby boy in a private room all by myself. Immediately after I gave birth, the room was filled with the Genetics unit and doctors and nurses and a gynecologist. At that instant, I felt all alone and empty. Fortunately, I got to hold and kiss my baby, but unfortunately it was the last and only time before he was buried. I felt like I was being punished: as if someone had come and ripped my heart out and left me there to suffer a long and painful death of life itself.

I suffered a great deal for a long time, but several years later, after my long depression was over, I found out I was pregnant with my second baby. I was very happy, yet I was extremely afraid. At the beginning of this pregnancy, I occasionally had morning sickness and I would cry over the silliest things. In the middle of the pregnancy, I went for an ultrasound at the U of S. Right after the ultrasound, I went to the Department of Medical Genetics where I was seated in a room. Then, when three specialists walked in the room I burst out crying in fear that I was going to lose this one too. At that instant I was told my baby's kidneys were functioning and I should wipe my tears away. At the same time, I had tears pouring down my face because I was going to be a mommy who could love and nurture her child. Four months later, I was used to my baby's constant movements except one day I felt no movement. Immediately I went to the hospital where I was told that my baby had dropped, and I could go into labour at anytime. Then I was also told that I had a really high blood sugar level. Because I was in my last trimester, I was told not to worry about it. Two and one half weeks later, in the morning, I started having sharp pains, but I thought nothing of it. In the evening, I started having consistent pain that was getting severe. By this time I knew I was in labour, and I decided to go to the hospital. When I arrived at the hospital, I was dilated 4 centimetres.

I remained at 4 centimetres dilated throughout most of the night. Hours later, I had a beautiful baby boy who was named Dmitri Brandon Desjarlais. Naturally I was overly protective of my newborn baby due to my past experience. Even though I gave birth to my baby, I felt like it was just a dream that was too good to be true.

After a while, reality finally settled in and several years later, I found out I was pregnant with my third baby. At the beginning of this pregnancy I did not have an appetite. Instead I was always thirsty and tired. A couple of months later, I found out I had gestational diabetes. After a short time I was sent to the Royal University hospital to see a specialist. Because I had gestational diabetes, I needed to prick my finger five to six times a day to watch my sugar level. Soon after, I had my sugar level under control. Two and a half months later, I had an appointment to get an ultrasound. Right after the ultrasound I went to the Department of Medical Genetics where I was told that my unborn baby had functioning kidneys. I was not as afraid as the first two times, but I still had that fear in me that it might happen again. Three days before the due date, in the morning, I woke up with some discomfort. Two hours later I started having contractions that were a minute apart. I went to the hospital, but I was told to go home because I was only 2 centimetres dilated. Five hours later, I needed to go back because I could not stand the pain. At the hospital I found out that I was 4 centimetres dilated. By this time the pain kept getting stronger and stronger. I ended up getting a shot of Demerol, and I lay down in a whirlpool bath. At that instant, the pain stopped. I went back to my room and went to sleep. About four hours later, I woke up with a sharp pain. A few minutes later, I had another beautiful baby boy who was named Laureano Jordon Desjarlais.

After all that, I had a hard time adjusting to the new changes from having another baby, and so did my son Dmitri. Eventually my sons and I adapted quite well to the new changes in our lives. Finally, as a mother, I have had times where I suffered and moments that were heart touching. The pain that I endured from the loss of my baby helped me to be a loving mother, and the touching moments helped me love being a mother.

Sandra Laplante

## **Cleaning a Room**

Cleaning a living room doesn't take as long as long when you follow these steps. To get started, you dust everything that collects dust such as ornaments, plants, the TV, wall unit, coffee and end tables and window shelves. Next, you pick up any flyers or magazines laying around and any dishes you may have forgotten to put away. Make sure you don't allow eating in the living room; this causes spills and stains. For your third step, you get out the vacuum cleaner and clean under any furniture that can be moved. Fourth, put the vacuum cleaner away after you put in a new bag. You're now ready for the next step. Wipe down the walls that can be seen, removing finger prints and any other marks that your kids may have left. Finally, close the drapes or blinds. This lets people know this room is out of use for a while. In summary, you can enjoy a peaceful evening in a clean living room alone.

Veronica Charles

## **My Daughter Krystal**

My name is Vickie Burns; I'm from James Smith Cree Nation Reserve. I have a beautiful seven-year-old daughter, and her name is Krystal. She has light brown hair with blue eyes and, in her right eye is a spot of brown; it is a birth mark. She goes to Pleasant Hill school, and she enjoys playing piano. Her second language is Cree, and she also likes doing Pow-Wow as she would like to be a jingle dancer when she grows up. She is a straight-A student, and Mr. Cassie, her grade-two teacher said she is a role model in school. She helps the special-needs children at school, so for a reward at school her teacher and three other children are going to see Elmo in Grouch Land at the theatre. Another hobby that she has is collecting Pokemon cards which is an "in" hobby with today's youth. She spends a lot of time with my mom, who she calls Granny. Krystal and Granny are very close. Krystal enjoys it when her uncle, Trevor, takes her to her reading book club at school on Fridays. The book club is where the children eat toast and drink juice, while the adults get tea or coffee with their toast. After they eat, they read their books. My family does a lot for Krystal; for example, her uncles and grandpa take her to hockey games while my sister Jody takes her for the weekend every once in awhile. Krystal is very loved by everybody in my family. She is a very special little girl and she means the world to me. I'm very proud that she is my daughter.

Vickie Burns

## Meet the Authors and Artists

**Blaine Kay.** I am 27 years old. I was born in Lestock, Saskatchewan, on October 9, 1972. I have four sisters and three brothers. I am the youngest in my family. I moved to Saskatoon in 1999. I enjoy horseback riding and drawing Native art. I also like to take part in Native ceremonies.

**Charlotte Topping:** Charlotte is 25 years old and was born in Calgary on April 28, 1975. She is Ukrainian and French. Charlotte is single, and her family includes her parents, one brother and one sister-in-law. Charlotte likes swimming, dancing, singing, bowling, movies, musical plays, ballet, figure skating, reading and music. She enjoys doing crafts, writing in her journal, writing letters and colouring. She likes stuffed animals, flowers, chocolates and going on trips. She is in the *Way to Work* Program and really likes it. She hopes you enjoy her poem.

**Clarissa Shetterly:** I was born in Dinsmore Saskatchewan on January 20, 1980. I am now twenty years old. I am living in Saskatoon Saskatchewan.

**Rosset, Colleen:** I took BE 10 in 1996 and am now taking Adult 12 at SIAST, Kelsey Campus. I have lived in Saskatoon most of my life. I am a mother of two and have been married for five years. I have two sisters and one brother. I am the oldest in my family.

**Debbie Senger:** I was born in Saskatoon, SK. I enjoy singing, roller skating, dancing, crafts and cooking. I will be graduating from BE 10 in the year 2000, so I'm pretty excited. Before coming here I had no particular goal in life, but now I do. I want to pass Grade Twelve then I would like to go into a management position in a hotel or restaurant. Then when I am done with all my training, I hope to have a good job.

**Jerry Cote:** (BE 10) I came out into this world on September 29, 1972. I am from Cote First Nation. I moved to Saskatoon from Regina in April, 1999. Before I came back to Regina, I lived in British Columbia for two years and in Seattle, Washington for about two years. This is where I got into drawing dot art. From then on, I really enjoyed what I drew. I also have a drawing that has been put on t-shirts around British Columbia. I was happy for that one, as well as for this one. I hope you like it too.

**John Monias:** I am 22 years of age. I was born in Brandon Manitoba. I lived in Brandon until I was 8 years old, then we moved to my reserve, Waywayseecappo Manitoba. From my reserve we moved to Saskatoon Saskatchewan where I have lived for 16 years off and on. I like living here in Saskatoon because I think it is so beautiful. There are a lot of nice people in Saskatoon and here at SIAST Kelsey Campus. When I moved here I knew there would be a lot for me to do and a lot of people to meet.

**Kim Epp:** I was born in North Battleford Saskatchewan in 1956, the first son of Betty and Bill Epp of Glenbush. After my older sister Gwendolyn was born in 1954, I appeared and was followed by a sister Jean and a younger brother, Jeoffery, in 1957 and 1964 respectively. My father was a school teacher and an artist. My mother survives and is doing well. She is a portrait painter and amateur writer. I started sculpting in 1985 after meeting some Native Indian stone carvers in New Mexico and have had various exhibitions of stone carvings and bronze casts. I was able to restart my formal education last November 1, and am presently enjoying the experience in spite of having been out school for almost thirty years.

**Kyaw San Lwin:** I am a student at SIAST BE 10. I was born the 14th of August 1972 in Burma which is also called Myanmar. I have been in Canada since January 1996. I am married, and I have two kids. My hobbies are reading, playing the guitar and playing soccer.

**Lindsay Ziola:** I graduated from Kelvington High School, June, 1999. My hobbies are listening to music, reading, skiing, talking on the phone, and going shopping. I came to Saskatoon to attend the Way to Work Program at Kelsey. I really like it in Saskatoon.

**Marlene Whitefish:** I am from Big River First Nation, Saskatchewan. I was born at Big River Hospital, on February 4, 1969. It is great opportunity for me to be going to school at SIAST Kelsey Campus. My goal is to finish my grade 12 level. Then I want to go to University to get a 4 year education degree.

**Mary Gordon:** I am back in school for a few reasons. First, I know that education is very important for me. I know that I need to learn more in order to have a successful future. Secondly, I need to build up my math skills because, I need improvement. Thirdly I also need to improve on my communications skills. It will help me to realize my career choice. In order to have a successful career choice I need to finish my high school.

**Maryann Adam:** I was born in Uranium City, Saskatchewan on May 18, 1968 and I was raised on the reserve by my parents and my brothers and sisters. I was only teenage when I moved to the city. It was a strange place because I had never been in the city before. I tried to understand city life. It was hard for me for the first time in city. Now I'm in school at Kelsey Campus taking the B.E. program. I'm going to keep on going to complete my upgrading. My goal is to become a plumber.

**Michael Lee Linklater.** I am a student at SIAST Kelsey Campus in Saskatoon SK. I also was born in North Battleford SK on January 24, 1969 and I am from the Thunderchild First Nations Reserve. I have three lovely children whom I love with all my heart. I originally grew up in Thunder Bay, Ontario and loved every minute of it. I moved permanently to Saskatoon in 1993 for personal reasons and still love every minute of it.

**Nora Cheekinev:** I am 25 years young and the oldest of three girls. I was born in Saskatoon and I have lived here for a good part of my life. I have no children, but my two sisters' children are special to me like they were my own. I am going to Wisconsin at the end of May 2000 to work at a summer gymnastics camp for kids seven to seventeen, so I hope to be done the BE 10 program before I leave. After I graduate, I would like to take the Special Care Aide program. I would like to dedicate these poems to my dear friend in Montana, Jason Clos.

**Rachael Jeffrey:** Rachael is a student in the Way to Work program. She was born in Meadow Lake and grew up all over the place. She likes computer games, music and drawing. She loves babysitting her niece and nephew.

**Robbin Glover:** Submission is biography.

**Sandra Laplante:** I am attending the BE 10 Program at SIAST, Kelsey Campus. I was born in Saskatoon, Sask. I am twenty-eight years old and a mother of two boys; Dmitri is 5 years old and Laureano is 19 months. I am a very busy person.

**Trevor Dreaver:** I am 25 years old. I was born and raised in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. I have one handsome, beautiful child and his name is Frederick Douglas Sinclair. I am currently in the Basic Education 10 program at Kelsey Campus, and I will be graduating this June. I have been drawing since I was a small baby, so I was born with this talent. My career goal is to get a degree in Social Work. The picture took me about 40 hours to draw and is a gift to my mother.

**Veronica Charles:** I was born the nineteenth day of March 1972. I'm a single mother of five. My children are my life and mean the world to me. I started BE 10 in 1998. I want to show my kids that getting an education is very important. While I was waiting to start school here at Kelsey, I received a phone call from my reserve; I was informed that they had a new house for me and my kids. It was a very hard decision, but I chose school, and if I were to give up school now; I'd feel like my kids had lost out on a lot also. When I'm done BE 10, I will go for my 12.

**Vickie Burns:** I was born in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and I'm a student at SIAST, Kelsey Campus, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. I am currently finishing my BE 10 program. I'm a mother of a seven-year-old daughter, Krystals