

LITERACY CENTER

PROMOTING RESEARCH & STUDY OF LITERACY & LANGUAGE

THE EDWARD STEVENS CENTER
FOR THE STUDY AND
DEVELOPMENT OF LITERACY
AND LANGUAGE



Betty Sheets

Mid-East Career & Technology Centers—ABLE

Betty Sheets, a very spry 69 year-old woman, is now spending her days as Director of the Marion Health House Drop-In Center in Wheeling, WV. She works with clients who have mental health problems and hopes to instill in some of them the desire to continue their education.

On June 12, 2009, Betty received her associate degree in Mental Health from Belmont Technical College. She shared that "this day was the culmination of a dream that I have had for 53 years." That dream had been put on hold for many years while she dropped out of high school to help her family financially, married and lost her husband to brain cancer, and raised and supported five children. When she moved back to the Ohio Valley several years ago, she decided to pursue her education. She saw an ad in the paper about an ABLE class offered in St. Clairsville to prepare for the GED, and she began her journey to complete her education.

It only took a few months for Betty to attend ABLE classes before she was ready to take (and pass) her GED. Then, she wondered what would be next. "I began to think about my certificate and realized it was only a paper unless I used it. I decided I wanted that college education that I dreamed of when I was in high school." She feels her "thirst to learn" and her personal desire to achieve her goals helped her in her education studies. She did get a great deal of encouragement from her ABLE instructor, the students in her college classes and the Dean of the Success Center at Belmont.

Now Betty wants to help the folks who drop in at the mental health clinic and continue to encourage her own children and grandchildren to continue their education. (Two of her grandchildren have entered college after seeing her success.) And as far as life-long learning, Betty really believes in that. She will be taking piano lessons for the first time this fall!

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