

### **When did you decide to start working towards the GED?**

I dropped out of school in 9th grade when my dad got cancer, and life kind of got in the way of school for awhile. When I went back to studying it was really hard. I tried and tried to get the GED, but there was a lot of stuff I needed to learn that I didn't get in school because I left so early. I was really struggling with the writing, science and math. I finally called the Literacy Council in the fall of 2009 to see if I could get someone to help teach me.

### **Why is education important to you?**

How could I tell my kids to go to school if I didn't do it myself? And without a diploma or GED, all you can get is minimum wage jobs. I wanted something better for myself and my family.

### **Who has been your biggest support and inspiration?**

My dad passed away from cancer not real long after I dropped out of school. He really wanted me to get my GED. So, in a way, I did this for him as much as I did it for myself.

Also, my husband and my kids have been big supporters. My 10-year-old, CJ, actually helped me study the math concepts. He knew all about shapes, finding the area of a square, and even some of the algebra!

And I couldn't have done this without Mignon's help. She was a great tutor and was really patient with me. The Literacy Council tutors don't know what they do for people! They really change people's lives.

### **What has been the hardest part of this process?**

Having to be a parent AND do schoolwork. It's a struggle. There just isn't enough time in the day. I can tell you, there have been a lot of sleepless nights!

### **What's next for you? Do you have new goals on the horizon?**

I want to go to college. I really want to do cosmetology, but I don't know for sure what I'll do yet. I am just happy to get the GED out of the way!

### **What can you share with other students who are working towards similar goals?**

You can do it! You can do whatever you set your mind to, as long as you work hard.