



Scott Zagorski



Greg Zagorski



Daniel Zagorski

Three Brothers, One Dream

This is the story of what inspired me to obtain my GED® diploma:

I, Scott Zagorski, was motivated to go back to school because my son was making good grades and he and my daughter challenged me to complete my education. Mrs. Heath had informed me that Mount Rogers was going to offer a welding class and I knew that a certificate in welding would give me a chance to provide a better life for me and my children. I wanted to be a good role model to them.

I also wanted my brother, Greg Zagorski, to join me in attending Mrs. Heath's class and getting our GED®. I guess I became his support system. He had wanted to further his education so that he would feel better about himself. Greg had thought about attending a culinary school but none was available in Bristol. So he and I started working on our GED® together. At that time we had to write an essay. Greg could not eat the morning of the test but he was hungry. So he wrote his essay on how to make a hamburger. He obviously wrote a good one because he passed. We have laughed over his essay.

We both earned our GED® and I joined the welding class. Greg had a health problem and decided to work on his weight and succeeded in doing so. Graduation was held at Virginia High School and it was a great moment in our life. My children were so proud of their dad and Uncle Greg.

The next year, our young brother, Daniel Zagorski, had a life-changing experience with a near fatal health issue. He lost everything he had - his wife, stepchildren and his home. He moved to Bristol to start his life over.

With Greg and my help we got him home with family. In order to regain his life, he lost fifty pounds, went into therapy, and, with encouragement from his family, he entered the Mount Rogers Regional Adult Education Program.

Then he met Mrs. Heath who realized what he was going through and offered him an understanding ear. She inspired him to stay with the program. She told him that he had what it takes to succeed and to be able to meet his goals. Daniel had dropped out of school to take care of his grandmother who was dying of cancer. He made a promise to her that he would return to school and complete his education. Since that time he had held down jobs but always knew that something was missing. Daniel is a smart person and someone once told him that he was not uneducated, he was just unschooled. When he began to attend GED® classes, he began to feel empowered.

When he earned his GED® on May 18, 2015, he became the last of us brothers to do so. We, all three, earned our GED® with Mrs. Heath at her little house at 1723 Euclid Ave. It became our second home. I completed the welding program and plan to continue my education; Greg is enrolled in the Diesel Mechanic Program at VHCC and Daniel has been accepted in the new welding program next year. I guess the lesson behind this story is that you can be your own worst enemy when it comes to bettering your life. You will find excuses why you are not good enough, strong enough, afraid of failure or just plain scared. You have to find it within yourself to reach your goal. If we three brothers can do it after 21+ years, you can do it also.

Sincerely,
Scott Zagorski

Mount Rogers Regional Adult Education Program offers free classes for the following:

GED®® Preparation for NEW Computer Based Test
College Placement Test Preparation
Improving Reading and Math Skills
Career Readiness Certificate Preparation
English as a Second Language
PlugGED®®In VA
Career Coaching Available

If you would like to learn more about free adult education classes in a location near you, please call Mount Rogers Regional Adult Education Program at (800) 322-7748 or visit our website at www.mrraep.org.