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I was 17 years old living in North Carolina with my mom when I dropped out of high school. I made some poor choices that led to me being in trouble a lot. I felt that I might end up in more serious trouble if I didn't drop out of school and find a different path to follow. I was disappointed that I had to make this choice since I was so close to becoming a senior. Once I turned 18, I decided to move to Abingdon, VA with my dad. My plans were to join the military. I checked into enlisting in the Army and was told that I needed to get my GED before enlisting because it would be harder to achieve once I enlisted. This gave me the motivation to check on some classes, so I did an internet search for the nearest class and enrolled the next day with Bobbie Taylor at the Higher Ed Center in Abingdon, VA.

My experience with the GED classes through Mount Rogers has been life-changing. Having the support of teachers like Ms. Bobbie and Martha made all the difference in my academic success. I was extremely nervous about the whole experience but once I realized that the teachers and everyone at Mount Rogers had faith in me; I knew I could get this done! I also built relationships with Brenda and Mary in the office. Brenda became like an adopted mother to me. The atmosphere in the office and classes was very accepting. It was an amazing support system from encouraging me to keep trying to even giving me rides to class.

Receiving my GED was the first step to becoming successful. I was able to get my first job and move out on my own. I now have a job that I enjoy and can do well. I am in the process of completing the requirements to join the Army. I have more self-confidence than I ever have and really feel accomplished in my life.

Earning my GED was not easy, I felt like giving up at times. I even failed one test, but with the help of Joanne one of the instructional specialists at Mount Rogers, I was able to pass it about a week later. My advice to others thinking about taking the important step of earning your GED, is to go for it! It will help you with your future and give you a better outlook on life. It is not easy, but it builds your self-confidence and you can get through it.

