

Adult Education Connection
By Karen Gent



Did you ever consider that getting a speeding ticket could be a good thing? One young man has realized that a speeding ticket was the wake-up call he needed to drive him into action.

Just five days prior to his eighteenth birthday, Matthew Horn of Cedar Bluff, Virginia was traveling when he was pulled over by a policeman and given a speeding ticket. As a result of this frightful experience, Matthew found himself sitting in a courtroom. He says he felt very out of place there and asked himself, "What I am doing here?" He says the whole experience really woke him up. Matthew received a penalty requiring him to complete fifty hours of community service.

Matthew and his parents had opted to home-school for the past several years. A day or two after receiving the ticket, Matthew found out that he wasn't going to be able to complete his senior year of home-schooling as he had planned due to some technicalities.

After receiving the speeding ticket and reflecting on his life, Matthew realized that he was floundering a bit with his educational endeavors. He says, "I felt like I wasn't getting anywhere." He had often debated the issue of whether to pursue his high school diploma or a GED certificate. He had once thought that getting a GED was the easy way out, but came to the realization that he had been taking the easy way out by not completing his high school education.

Matthew says, "The ticket motivated me to do something. I thought, 'you can't do the same thing over and over again and expect different results.'" At that point, Matthew decided to take action. He located the website of the Southwest Regional Adult Education Program and called to find out how he could prepare to take the GED tests.

This young man didn't hesitate to attend a class in which he qualified for the Fast Track GED program. After attending only five class sessions in which he took the official GED practice tests, Matthew discovered that he was ready to take the GED tests. He immediately registered for testing and completed the program by earning his GED credential.

Matthew relates that he enjoyed his experience in the adult education program. He states, "It was very informative; I knew exactly what was going on. It was easy to contact and easy to get started."

Matthew expresses that it feels really great to have accomplished this goal. He is currently attending Southwest Virginia Community College seeking a degree in Information Systems Technology.

Have you found yourself floundering a bit when it comes to your education? Call Southwest Regional Adult Education today at 889-5424 or 1-866-581-9935 to find out how you can earn your GED. Classes are offered free of charge and are held at convenient times and locations.

To register for GED testing in the four-county region, contact Joyce Presley at the Buchanan County School Board Office at 935-4551, Cindy Stanley at the Dickenson County Career Center at 835-9384, Glenda Breeding at the Russell County School Board Office at 889-6507, or Toni Tester at the Tazewell County Career & Technology Center at 988-6037. You must register prior to the testing date.