



Empowering Women Through Literacy

**WE LEARN**

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# Women's Perspectives

*Women's Perspectives*, a theme-based journal published annually in March, showcases writing and artwork by adult literacy learners and basic education students at all levels.

- Issue #1 – 2006 – Women's Health and Wellness
- Issue #2 – 2007 – Women Who Dare
- Issue #3 – 2008 – Women & Money
- Issue #4 – 2009 – Transitions / Transformations
- Issue #5 – 2010 – What Would You Do? Creative Ideas for Difficult Times

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# Women's Perspectives: An Annual Journal of Writings by Adult Learners

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<http://www.litwomen.org/perspectives>

## Reflections from Student & Teacher Participants

I have started my second semester at the Medicine Hat College and I love it....I can't say how excited I was to receive the award from WE LEARN last year. I still am sitting on Cloud #9. It meant a great deal to me to be recognized and have my family honored at the same time. I hope other women will believe in their dreams too. I plan to fit in some more writing when I can, and perhaps look into taking it more seriously in the future.

--*Kathlene Steel, Medicine Hat, AB, Canada*

Kathlene's writing was published in 2007 Women's Perspectives #2, Women Who Dare. Kathlene has since joined the Women's Perspectives selection committee.



I had the opportunity to go to Boston to read my essay at the WE LEARN conference [in 2007]. Now WE LEARN feels like a part of my family. -- *Diana Hunter, San Diego, CA*



Diana has writings published in both 2007 and 2008. In 2008, Diana was elected to be on the WE LEARN Board of Directors.



Going to the conference was a once in a lifetime opportunity for me. It was a big step for me because I had to read my personal story before a large audience. This is something I never would have had the courage to do before. It was a turning point in my life. I'm working hard to change my life and overcome my fears. It was a great experience for me. I got to hear another woman's experience overcoming hardship, which pushed me to say my part. Receiving the honors award for my writing and having the chance to read my story at the conference was a big surprise to me because I struggle with low self-esteem, and I underestimate myself sometimes. My story was very personal, and I felt validated because people were affected by listening to me. Being recognized for my writing made me stronger. -- *Wanda Garcia, So. Boston, MA*

*2008 Honors Award Winner in Issue #3, Women & Money*



[Our program] serves low-income, at-risk mothers and their children....Literacy is a vital component of Julie's holistic approaches to helping members achieve their goals. Over the past 2 years, JFLP has become increasingly involved in various WE LEARN projects. Our students have contributed writing and artwork to "Women's Perspectives," participated in the "Undoing the Silence"

writing workshop... and spoken at the annual conference. The women have reported that their involvement in these projects has boosted their self-esteem and has made them feel more positive about both written and verbal self-expression....These are some of the ways in which WE LEARN has supported JFLP's mission of increasing literacy and self-advocacy. In addition, the activities seem to have given the women a sense of being connected to something larger and alleviated feelings of isolation in their life struggles. -- *Dorrie Nord, Julie's Family Learning Program, South Boston, MA*



I just want you to know how much I appreciate that you sent two copies of the Journal. When the package arrived I called [my student], and she was so excited that she came directly to my home. (She couldn't even wait till the next day when I would've brought it to work.) She arrived with her two year-old [boy] and her boyfriend....[student] and her boyfriend sat silently on the couch paging through the journal and re-reading her essay. It was such a sweet sight. She really cherished the card you sent, and of course she was excited about the [Honors Award] check. Her local newspaper on the reservation did a huge front-page article about her achievement, and so did her college newspaper. I know you hear many stories of how your organization has touched the lives of women, but this event (her getting published) has made a huge impact on the life of this beautiful young Native woman, her family, her college, and her tribe. -- *Tanya M. Spilovoy, Teacher, United Tribes Technical College, Bismarck, ND*



We are so excited here in San Diego. The San Diego Council on Literacy has funded my two students to come to your conference. They would like to read their essays....We are already practicing reading and we are working on what to see in Boston. Thank you and your organization for creating such a wonderful opportunity for students....We are very excited about our trip to Boston....Please let me inform you. It is unbelievable, what this trip has done for my students. Unbelievable. Thank you for this opportunity. - *Marie Doerner, Learning Disability Specialist, San Diego Continuing Education*

