

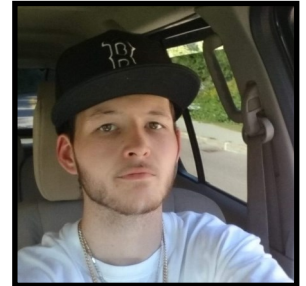


“Every single teacher has helped me in their own way.” ~ Dale

Dale was raised in a New Hampshire mill town straddling the Cochecho River. High school was not easy. His family had limited resources. Dale was bullied by classmates. He moved to Vermont and encountered further troubles, exacerbated by past trauma. He left school during senior year, just shy of earning his diploma.

As a VAL student, Dale is making steady progress to graduate from high school and apply to the automotive mechanics program at a Vermont technical center. Dale is focused, eager and has built positive relationships with his teachers and academic advisor.

“I like how, if I don’t understand something, I can ask the teacher to explain it another way,” Dale said. “Coming to VAL, I’m doing well, asking lots of questions and applying myself.”



Our Work

Vermont Adult Learning (VAL) serves adults ages 16 years and older. Our programs include basic education and literacy, high school completion, GED tutoring and testing, courses for English Language Learners, workforce readiness and development, and transition to post-secondary education. Our services are free.

Visit us at www.vtadultlearning.org.



From our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I remain grateful to my staff for having risen to the challenge of serving students amid a global pandemic. We pivoted, delivering instruction virtually, and raised funds to get technology into

the hands of our students.

As COVID-19 persists, with emerging variants, our previously secure financial footing is threatened. We’ve taken actions to reduce expenses. We’re also working with VT broadcasters to launch a radio campaign via their Public Education Program, to reach those students who most need our services. Thank you for supporting our work!

Be safe and be well,

Hal Cohen

Executive Director

hcohen@vtadultlearning.org

Vermont Adult Learning Centers

Central Office

46 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05676
802-244-0634

Addison County

99 Maple Street, #18
Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-4392

Chittenden County

77 College Street
Burlington, VT 05401
802-846-7245

Franklin & Grand Isle Counties

5 Lemnah Drive, Ste. 5
St. Albans, VT 05478
802-524-9233

Rutland County

16 Evelyn Street
Rutland, VT 05701
802-775-0617

Windham County

999 Putney Road
Brattleboro, VT 05301
802-257-9449

Windsor County

White River Junction Location
225 Maple Street, Ste. 6
White River Jct., VT 05001
802-299-2469

Springfield Location
100 River Street, Ste. 102
Springfield, VT 05156
802-546-0880



"I'm learning English to open my mind and become more intentional."

~ *Udorn*
ELL Student

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Thank you to our recent supporters

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Please contact

kstamper@vtadultlearning.org
for more information.

Thank you to VAL departing Board Members
Lynn Bondurant
and
Kathy Lavoie

Thank you to VAL Development and Marketing Intern,
Sarah Plaut,
who leaves to resume her studies at UVM

Volunteer Spotlight: John Ames

"'English is crazy' is what Ibrahim, a young man who had great commitment and perseverance in learning English, would say," John remembered. "I helped him study for citizenship. He literally MEMORIZED every single question and answer for the test—that really impressed me."

John formed a positive friendship with Ibrahim, an immigrant from the Republic of Guinea, a West African nation plagued by political instability. Ibrahim grew up in poverty and, bereft of a formal education, embraced drumming as a means to support himself in his home country.

Since arriving in the United States, Ibrahim works at a local manufacturer to support his family. He passed the U.S. Citizenship exam with ease. We are grateful to volunteers like John who help our students in their journey to build better lives.



Are you interested in volunteering at VAL?
Contact Katherine at
kstamper@vtadultlearning.org



Allison: VAL helped me learn that I was resilient

Allison works at Lucas Industries, an aerospace company in North Springfield, Vermont. The Springfield area, historically, has been a center for precision industries. Allison supports manufacturing of helicopter blades. She is also intentional in her willingness to work across areas of the company as needs arise. She hopes to work her way up within the company. She recognizes that growing her skills, in varied departments, enhances her value as an employee.

Allison is also a newly-minted high school graduate, having completed her studies at VAL's Learning Center in Springfield, Vermont. Her high school experience was impacted by health challenges; she simply felt unwell most of the time. Even with loads of parental support, she felt overwhelmed and decided to leave high school to invest time to get to the bottom of the health issues impeding her ability to study. She experienced a revolving door of medical practitioners before---at age 18---receiving accurate diagnoses that would allow her to address symptoms with appropriate medical care.



"I was trying my hardest at school," Allison said. "I knew something wasn't right."

When Allison was ready to return to school, she opted to pursue her high school studies via VAL when she was 19. She carefully mapped out an educational plan with her academic advisor. She persisted, even though she had to take time off periodically to address health flare-ups.

"VAL was so helpful," Allison said. "I could start right back to work (at VAL) towards my graduation. Ashley (Ashley Dailey, Regional Director-Windsor) was amazing. She was so understanding and she did whatever she could to help me get my education."

Earning her high school credential at VAL allowed Allison to explore academic interests she missed during her traditional high school years.

"I'm very artistic," Allison said. "There was this photography class where we explored different techniques and photographed landscapes and portraits. I really enjoyed this. I didn't really get to 'attend' high school; I didn't get to take these fun classes. I still do photography."

"VAL helped me learn that I was resilient," Allison said. "It took quite a while (to finish) and I just kept going. I'm now using that resilience to manage my medical issues. You have to keep on, keeping on."

Allison's ambition is to build a happy life. She finds great joy in being near family and expressing herself creatively.

"One of the most important things people should know about VAL is that your age doesn't matter," Allison said. "They are happy to help and will set you on the right track. It's very scary to go back to school. VAL was there to help me."

Migrant by Paco M.*

Migrant - that's who I am, because that's how he names me
a society that was commissioned
to create borders, so as not to mix
as if he was afraid, without knowing why.

Yes, the one who has left home
to find a way to reach
his dreams regardless of the distance
that he has to travel to achieve them.

I am standing, without feeling
any fatigue, even when my body
screams inside me to let it take
a breath that I do not get.

I am a migrant because I keep the illusion
and the longing to return home to my people
with their voices telling me

Don't worry anymore, in your heart, you are at home.

****Paco is an ELL student at VAL. He works at a Vermont dairy farm.***



Email kstamper@vtadultlearning.org to receive this newsletter via email. Type GO GREEN in Subject Line.



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46 South Main Street

Waterbury, VT 05676