

# Rising STAR

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## MEET SHARON...

Sharon turned 62 in April. She had never operated a computer and had few skills that would qualify her for an above minimum wage salary. We created "Dream Posters" in class, a collage of images describing how you would like your life to be. Sharon said that she wanted a job where she felt she was respected for what she had to offer a company and one that offered her the chance for advancement.

Today Sharon is working as a prep cook in a very popular restaurant on St. Simons Island, Georgia. She is optimistic about her future, both with her job and the anticipation of starting to college in the fall. When I asked her why, at age 62, she going to study toward a degree, she answered,

*"I never had the study habits, motivation or self-esteem to think it would be possible for me to succeed at college. I'm the only person in my entire family that has ever been to college. Maybe I'll make it . . . maybe I won't. But I now have enough confidence to try."*



*"I now know that my hopes and dreams will come to "reality". I know I will have a bright future somewhere, thanks to STAR. I have learned to be strong. I know that I am on my way."*

## MEET CANDI...



Candi has a 2-year-old boy named Peter. She has been his only parent since birth. She quickly discovered how difficult it was to afford daycare and other expenses making \$5.50/hour and no child support payments. Even though she was a conscientious employee, she knew she could never make more money unless she was more skilled.

Participating in the STAR Foundation Employment Training Program was not easy for Candi. She had to change her work schedule so that she could attend classes in the morning; she had to arrange for someone to pick up her child from daycare; and she had to find the time to study the class material.

Candi is now employed as an Administrative Clerk at a hardware store. She is responsible for making price changes on inventory and checking in stock. She received a \$1/hr. raise after only 3 mos.

Candi's words: *"The most important I learned in the STAR program is that armed with the right tools, any life improvement can be made. The thing I enjoyed most was the fun we had learning and the great teaching skills of our wonderful teachers. This class provided a way for me to improve my life for myself and my child."*