



**RISING STARS
NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2011**

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Hope. Believe. Grow. Succeed



59th Graduating Class

59th Class: (1st Row – L to R) Tiffany Whitt, Monica Holland, Natasha Ellis, Curtissa

Frazier, Rolana Davis, Annie Cooper, Cashonna Johnson, Katie Orrel (Instructor) (2nd Row – L to R) Shenequa Wallace, Jasmine Dallas, Wendy DeLoach, Ellen Murphy (Director), Juanita Johnson, Terri Chambliss, Cathy Berrian, Regina Williams, Arschell Lane, Gary Frierson Jr., Necheshia Carter.



60th Graduating Class

60th Class: (1st Row – L to R) Sonjeanette Holmes, Joan Jenkins, Tiffany Jackson. (2nd Row – L to R) Stacy Mathews, Velma Purnell, Tina Armstrong. (3rd Row – L to R) Kristen Hobbs-Parker, Lekia Jones-Alvin, Crystal Faircloth. (4th Row – Left to Right) Angela Drayton, Keita Sams, T'Shayne Frapp, Jesse Adams.

61st Class: (Front Row – L to R) Lakeisha Dyal, Darlene Boggs, Brittney Liphtratt, Valerie Slaughter, Beverly Hudson, Charlotte Brockington, Katie Orrel (Instructor), Shawn Miller.

(list is continued on back page)



61st Graduating Class

How are we doing?



Darlene Boggs



Laura Tyson



Joseph Cobb



Wendy DeLoach

2011 - Darlene:

"When I first decided to enroll in this program, I was thinking that the things I learned here would help me get a better job. Little did I know the teachings would also empower me to become a better person. We were given affirmations to write every day. 'I choose to look for the beauty in the world.' It was such a simple thing, but it started a change in me. See, I haven't experienced the beauty of this world. My life experiences have shown me only the ugliness. Abuse and trauma have been a part of my life for as long as I remember. Even though my personality was to find the humor in any situation, it wasn't until that moment that I embraced my pain and decided that something had to be done."

2009 - Betty:

"On a very real note, I learned love. Give from your heart and it will come back. So if you see a lady in a pink Cadillac speeding down the road, I'll be the one in the red mustang whose wig has just blown off, smiling, turning on to the interstate. It's up to you to change your destiny."

2010 - Laura:

"My self-esteem was so low, but I remember walking in that first day feeling like I was a child on her very first day of kindergarten. I was scared to death of failure because that is what I had always thought of myself as: a failure. We were not only taught about computers, but also how to live in the real world. The STAR Foundation was such a huge blessing in my life but most of all they showed me that I am worth something, I am smart and I can accomplish anything I put my mind to. This gift that you give every one of us truly amazes me. I have never felt so much love and compassion and honestly, never thought I could accept or receive it."

2005 - Rhonda:

"I would fax my resume, mail my resume, hand deliver it and email it. Finally today I was offered a job that not only meets my needs but goes way beyond. And without the confidence that Katie, Peter, and Ellen instilled in me through STAR Foundation, I never would have even applied for this job. So even if two, three, or even six months pass and you still haven't found that job, don't give up. Have confidence in yourself and your abilities. If I can do it, so can you."

2001 - Robin:

"While at Star I have learned that I am not hopeless and I will succeed. STAR Foundation has given me knowledge, self-worth and friends. You have opened my eyes and my mind to a new and wondrous life."

2007 - Deborah:

"When my son got up getting ready for school, he would ask, 'Mommy, are you going to school today?' I would say, 'Yes I am. I'm going to mind my teacher and do my homework.'" So I had to stay committed to what I said. You don't know what you brought into my life. You stirred me up. You didn't make me - you made me want to. The speakers ministered to a need inside of me. They made me get up and look at who I am. It's not a want to: it's a must."

2007 - Mary:

"The combination of everything we did in this class has helped to change my life tremendously. I came here depressed and with very little direction for my life. They have given me so much hope for my future. I now have a great desire to get up and do what's in front of me every day. I had lost that. This has truly been a life-changing experience."

2011 - Joe:

"I had my doubts. Trying to get me to smile was as hard as pulling teeth, but now I can't help but crack a smile when I walk through the front doors. I figured it would be like the rest of the schools - boring! I've learned so much more than what I expected I would. The class has taught me important life skills and to view life in a different perspective, to look for the bright side of every situation and it's never too late for improvement."

2010 - Wendy:

"I used to tell myself that I was too old for change. Since the economy went sour, my career of 26 years has suffered tremendously. I am grateful for having the opportunity to learn, work and laugh with the ladies in my class. I have been dedicated to this program. I am at school a lot more than others, but it takes a lot of studying for me. It doesn't come easy, I have to work hard for it. I have learned that I AM NEVER TOO OLD FOR CHANGE."

Are you ready for a change in your life?

In the workplace: Where are they now?



Marquetta Banks
Target Pharmacy



The Inside Story



Marquetta graduated in March 2003 and has been employed at Target for the last 24 years, where she has worked as a cashier, in HR, in guest services and most recently as a competitive shopper. For the last three months she has worked exclusively in the pharmacy and will take the test to become a Certified Pharmacy Technician in November.

In a recent interview Marquetta answered some questions. **How did STAR help you?** “I learned more about Excel and Word, to look the interviewer in the eye, and especially how to avoid saying ‘Um’ when participating in an interview. These new skills really did help me find a better paying job. I was working at a grocery store when I took the class; I found a better job at Sea Island and then later at Target.”

Go Green; Give a cash contribution.

We will joyfully accept your tax deductible ‘green’ donations to engender and promote life changing growth in members of our local community. Thanks to all of you that help STAR stay in the ‘black’ with your Green Giving.

Recycle your old Pentium IV computer by donating it to STAR, Glynn County’s *premier recycling center*. Graduates can earn a recycled computer during the 8-week program.

Ellen Murphy holds a BS degree in Horticulture from the University of Georgia and a Master’s Degree in Vocational Education (with an emphasis in special education) from Georgia State University.

Ellen’s teaching career spans almost 35 years with experiences ranging from working as a Horticultural Therapist with the multi handicapped to teaching software programs to company employees.

How did STAR begin? “As owner of **Dataline Services**, I realized that there was a need for free computer training offered to people who could not otherwise participate. So, in 1997, my sister,

What do you remember about STAR?

“I remember the people; they are really sweet and genuine. The staff at STAR is family-oriented and made me feel special. They showed us that there are people out there who really care. STAR gave me the confidence to reach higher goals.”

Marquetta was living in public housing when she graduated. She is very happy to report that this is no longer the case.

Marquetta has helped give back to STAR by visiting and speaking to new classes, showing the students that they too can make dramatic changes in their own lives.

Marquetta is a bubbly, enthusiastic, happy woman who is right on “Target” with where she wants to be in her life. She is a shining STAR!

We need functioning computers that have at least 256 K of RAM. The computers you donate will be formatted and loaded with Microsoft Office so our students will have the tools to practice and hone their newly-acquired skills.

Gently used professional clothing for ladies (particularly) and men is needed. Appropriate attire bolsters confidence and enhances self esteem when interviewing for that better job. Please assist our students to succeed.

brother-in-law and I created the STAR Foundation with financial support from the Brunswick Housing Authority. Our vision was to narrow the digital gap between those who were technologically savvy and those who could not afford the training or a computer. As a result of this collaboration **Southern Technological Advocacy Resources (STAR)** was born.

Change – moving out of your comfort zone – is difficult for all people, but I have discovered that people are a lot like plants; both need the right environment and careful nurturing to grow and flourish. At STAR we provide a place for people to **Hope. Believe. Grow. Succeed.”**

STAR FOUNDATION

1907 Gloucester St
Brunswick, GA 31520

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Brunswick, GA

The STAR Foundation is a nonprofit organization that educates and encourages adults in Coastal Georgia to become self-sufficient through a comprehensive program of computer, job and life skills training.

This December will mark the end of our 15th year of dramatically changing the lives of over 1,000 individuals in our community. They are now employed or attending school and creating a more stable and healthier existence for their families. STAR helps so many who would not be reached without your kindness. Please share who we are with your friends.

Ellen Murphy

Director

(61st Class continued from Front Page). Back Row – left to right: Ivory Small, Ahmed Musah, Dianne Nash, Ellen Murphy (Director), Shemeka Canty, Stacey Merrell, Rashica Singleton, Divina Canasa, Joe Cobb, Katey Griffis, Lynn Adams, Bobby Batson, Terresiah Johnson, Peter Boyton (Instructor).

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