



SIENA LITERACY CENTER

No Shame

Marion Carter



Education begins at home. I went to public school and fell through the cracks. There was no one there to see why I wasn't learning. I got tired of being laughed at for learning by the fast learners who made fun of slow learners. If I didn't have any family to help me in everyday life, reading my mail and my statements would be very difficult. I couldn't let anyone see my bank statements or anything personal. It's just my niece and my two sisters that I could trust. If there was an emergency alert I wouldn't know what was happening!

However, I could drive all the way to Atlanta, Georgia, and get there safely and back again!

Coming here is the best thing that has happened to me! I come here four days a week and one of those days I see my tutor. But sometimes I have three or four tutors! I don't have to hide that I couldn't read. I was ashamed of it, and now I am not ashamed.

I appreciate the staff at Siena. I saw they were interested in me. When I came here, it was like they opened up my brain and took the cobwebs out and put knowledge in my head.

I feel comfortable here because everyone is learning – even more people like me! You are never too old to learn! I can read my mail and do my paperwork – like renew my lease. I can fill out most of it now! I helped my step-son learn things like “cat” and “rat” at school! I am feeling good because of what I have accomplished. I will be holding my head high now! Ain't no more shame in my name!