There are many things in my life I have had to fight to get. My current fight is to improve my spelling and reading. This is a fight I must win to achieve my life goals.

I have so much to say, but the ideas get jumbled up when I try to write them down.

I spent most of my school years in special education in Long Island, New York. There were so many students who needed help that I did not get the help I needed, especially with spelling. Over the years, I have struggled with spelling. I felt that it was something I could never learn.

My struggle with reading and spelling were embarrassing to me. The struggle to express my ideas made me feel badly. I have so much to say, but the ideas get jumbled up when I try to write them down. My goal is to get better at spelling and not have to ask others for help.

About nine years ago, I started coming to Trenton Area Soup Kitchen or TASK. I found out I could take classes to improve reading and writing. Having a one-on-one tutor makes it easier for me to learn. My struggle with spelling was getting in the way of expressing my ideas. I learned to dictate my stories, and now I can write at least a paragraph on my own. I may go slowly, but I am winning the fight.

My fight to improve spelling and reading is a struggle within myself. Coming to TASK can be challenging because I know I will be working on things that are hard for me. However, I come to do battle with myself and the things I need to learn to be successful in my life.

David Symons is a student at the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen in Trenton, NJ. He is originally from Ronkonkoma on Long Island, NY. When he is not at TASK, he likes to go for walks and listen to music of all types. He also goes grocery shopping and cooks hot meals for himself.

One kind of struggle that we all have is internal struggle – ways that we fight with our own selves about something we feel badly about.

READ David Symons’ piece and the one by Tameca Chandler on p. 39. What internal struggles are the authors dealing with? What does each one see as the way to overcome the bad feelings?