

Reading as a Path to Voting

Pat Evina

One of my learning goals when I came into the Literacy Program was to exercise my right to vote under the 19th Amendment. This was one of my dreams. But to realize it, I needed help!

God sends angels. You can't see the wings, but you can see the work they do. A new friend who saw my despair sent missionaries from her church to talk to me. It was a low point in my life and it was time to tell someone about my disability. They put me in touch with the Adult Literacy Program. I thought my learning would be a *sprint*, but it has been a *marathon* — a lifetime of learning.

I can now vote. I can also talk to others about the importance a vote can make in a lifetime. I

Vocabulary

Sprint: to run or go at top speed for a short distance.

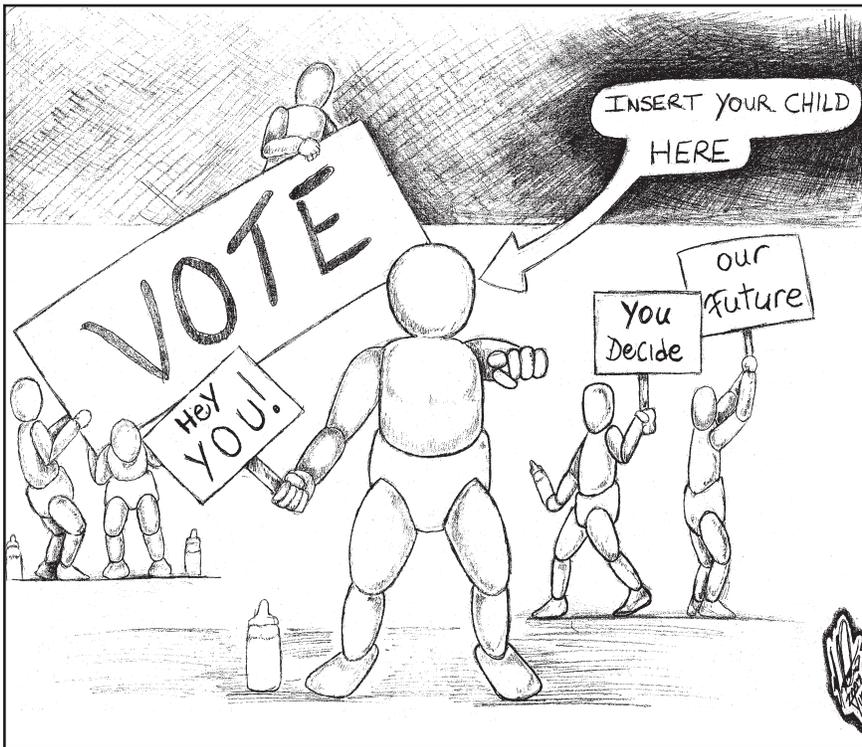
Marathon: a long distance race, an endurance contest.

am a second generation immigrant from a Communist country. My grandparents, who had seven children, came to this country to worship freely and take part in our democratic way of life. The price they paid was to leave all their earthly possessions in the Ukraine.

I tell people never to be afraid to dream. Look what happened to me and my family. My four children are registered to vote. I'm not only a student, but I'm also a tutor, and I have been a guest speaker at major functions of the Literacy Program. I have also taken students from the Literacy Program to the Court House where they too have registered to vote. Some of these people have never been in the Court House. What an experience!

Remember, Rosa Parks was one person and she made a real difference. With your vote you can also make a DIFFERENCE!

Pat Evina of Berwick, PA, was at the end of her rope and nearly her life when she discovered help through the Adult Literacy Program. She now is a reading and voting citizen.



Yusuf Stroud, who is currently working on his GED in St. Louis, MO, was born in Newark, NJ, in 1978. He likes to draw, cut hair, and play music. He loves his son, Shamel, age 6. His parents, Joseph Lee Stroud and Renee Janet Williamson Stroud are deceased. Someday, he hopes to be able to make a living by drawing portraits.