



## Literacy & Basic Skills Upgrading Learner Testimonial



### Krystle's Story

#### Literacy creates confidence for Cornwall woman

Lois Ann Baker, Cornwall Standard-Freeholder

Most of us take reading and writing for granted.

It's something we all learn in school and use everyday. But for many, especially those with learning disabilities, it can be a struggle that keeps them from a dream.

Krystle Svendsen is one of those people.

Svendsen said she sees a counsellor at the Cornwall Community Hospital every week and when she explained she wanted to go back to

college to better herself, it was the counsellor who suggested going to Tri-County Literacy Council.

Wanting to better herself and go to college, Krystle Svendsen attends classes at Tri-County Literacy Council. Krystle struggled in school due to a learning disability and is finding the help she gets from TCLC is improving not only her reading and writing skills, but her outlook on life as well.

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"Because I have a learning disability, she said Tri-County Literacy Council would be perfect for me," said Svendsen. "It would help me get better in my skills, my English, my writing, that kind of thing."

Svendsen said she checked it out and signed up for the classes immediately. This was back in November and she has been attending classes ever since.

"It's been helping me quite a bit," she said. "It's helped to improve my reading, my writing and everything."

Svendsen said her learning disability was a real block for her and although she does have a job, it was her dream to go to college and train to be a social worker.

"My goal with school is to continue until September and improve as much as possible. I'd like to start college in September."

Svendsen said she was able to graduate high school and even applied to go to college after graduation, but found the struggle to keep up just too much for her.

"I tried to go to college by taking a few courses. I did a bit of them, but I couldn't complete them. It was too hard to understand a lot of it. My goal with school now is to read everything and learn to better understand and to better myself so when I go back to college I can succeed this time."

The 25-year-old said the teachers at TCLC are very encouraging.

"Every time I get something either right or wrong, I get a positive outcome from it," she said. "It's very beneficial."

The additional training she is receiving at TCLC has not only improved her skills in math, reading and writing, it has also improved her outlook on life in general.

"I've only been in school and working for three months now and I've already been more positive about myself," she said. "I see counsellors for my anxiety and it's not half as bad as it used to be. It's definitely helping me out a lot. Especially going to school, there is a lot of positive feedback."

"I really like it. If I don't understand anything, I don't get yelled at. They sit down and explain it to me and if I still don't understand, they explain it again. They are very patient. They are very kind-hearted, something you don't find everyday. I would definitely recommend going there."