



2021 Outstanding Adult Learner of the Year Charlotte Knox

Charlotte Knox, a student at Wisconsin Literacy, has been named Outstanding Adult Learner of the Year.

Charlotte endured unimaginable sexual and physical abuse before she even entered middle school. Although she loved to read and enjoyed learning, she dropped out of school in eighth grade because the trauma made it difficult to learn and decreased her motivation to do well in school.

While she was working at a group home for teenage girls, Charlotte decided it was time to complete her own education. She was expected to wake the girls up for school and tell them about the importance of education, yet she was missing a vital credential herself. In 2014, she earned her high school diploma and entered Springfield College Massachusetts, because of the flexibility the program offered. However, Charlotte struggled with college-level academic requirements. She worked with Wisconsin Literacy to gain the skills she needed. With this support, Charlotte earned her college degree in Human Services/Addiction.

While at Wisconsin Literacy, Charlotte showed leadership in many ways. She helped the organization set up a new learning center, asked for donations for office equipment, and spent hours setting up the space for other students to learn. Charlotte spoke at events and provided testimonials, personally recruiting more than ten students.

Because of her own experience with substance abuse, Charlotte's passion is to find a way to incorporate many resources under one roof. She knows that when someone seeks help for drug abuse, there is not a unified way to address other vital needs such as food, shelter, and employment, often leaving clients to find assistance on their own.

"Charlotte has persevered through many situations to pursue her education," said Cathy Kozlowicz, Executive Director of Wisconsin Literacy. "These experiences have made her very cognizant of the other issues of adult students. For example, in groupwork, she always supported the schedules and advocated for other adult learners. She has even brought lunch for one learner, who never had any because Charlotte suspected she did not have enough money."