



A SILENT SHAME

It was his secret, his silent shame. He held himself apart from others for fear they would find out. Others grew up learning reading, writing and arithmetic. Christopher didn't. Now Christopher is 55 years old – and he still can't read.

A Durham City employee, Christopher couldn't wait any longer. So one day he walked into the Durham Literacy Center and asked for help. What a motivated student!



As an Adult Literacy student, Christopher received the individualized instruction he never received in his special educational classes as a youngster. The program provided testing, tutoring, and lots of one-on-one instruction to help Christopher achieve his reading goal.

Today he loves to read and write. His new mission is to reach out to others who are unable to read and assist them in getting the help they need to learn. Christopher also speaks publicly about his plight and has addressed students and staff at Duke University, been written about in The Herald Sun newspaper and has appeared as a guest on ABC 11 Eyewitness News' "Heart of Carolina Perspectives" television show.

Christopher's latest goal is to teach others to read – to be their tutor and teacher. He believes that when people genuinely want to make a difference, they can create a better world. He hopes to help out others who walk through the doors of the Durham Literacy Center like he was helped last year.

Thank you for making all the difference in Christopher's life by helping fund programs at the Durham Literacy Center and other programs at all 82 United Way partner agencies throughout the Triangle!