

Crossroads Connection

January/February

2018

www.crossroadslongmont.org

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A New Hope in the New Year

Abigail's Story... *by Janet Streed*

Abigail Jones is completing her last two quarters of coursework and will graduate from Crossroads this coming May. She has lots of goals, and is excited about "officially becoming an adult and getting a job." Abigail, who also answers to Abby, hopes to someday work as a preschool or kindergarten teacher. She also hopes to marry and have children.

There was a time Abby didn't feel good about herself or her future. She had been home schooled, but her parents, Jennifer and Charles Jones, found home schooling at the high school level difficult; another form of education was in order. It was Charles who realized many of the traits his daughter was exhibiting were similar to those exhibited by Temple Grandin (renowned autism spokeswoman, CSU professor, and animal behaviorist).

Testing confirmed Charles' suspicions. A diagnosis of Asperger Syndrome (one of the types of autism spectrum disorders) put Abby into a tailspin. She lost her self-confidence. She felt she would never amount to anything. She felt she had no future. Abby had lost hope. She brought those feelings with her as a freshman at Crossroads in the fall of 2014.

Abby credits Crossroads, Mrs. Bulthuis and Ms. Nourse in particular, with helping her learn strategies to control her emotions. Jennifer is appreciative of "the educational instruction and a kind, personal touch for all students," for contributing to her daughter's renewed self-esteem.

Abby describes herself as a huge perfectionist and very detailed. Those traits served her well in her first class at Front Range Community College (FRCC), where she will continue this month with early childhood education and art appreciation classes.

She's rightfully proud of the open letter of recommendation she received from her mythology professor, printed on FRCC letterhead. Her instructor praised Abby's commitment as a team player, her ability to think critically, her sharp mind and inquisitive nature, and concluded with "Abby would benefit any team she is a part of with her integrity, performance, and ambition."

Abby credits her experiences at Crossroads with helping her transition to college courses, and with her acceptance for an internship at Rocky Mountain Christian Preschool this spring, in pursuit of her goals. The perfectionist in her wants to continue making good decisions. To that end, she may consider participating in St. Vrain Valley School's Main Street Program.

Given her drive to succeed, and with new-found hope and greater self-confidence, Abby will most assuredly achieve her goals.



Upcoming Events: Join Us!

Monthly Food & Fellowship Events: Ya Gotta Eat, Right?!



Jersey Mike's: Wed, Feb 21, 4-7 pm, 1232 S. Hover:
Come for delicious sandwiches! Make sure you mention Crossroads, and the school will receive 20% of the purchase!



Chipotle: Tue, Mar 20, 4-8 pm, 1100 Ken Pratt Blvd: Enjoy awesome burritos, bowls, and more. Mention Crossroads at the register, and the school will get 50% of your purchase!

Crossroads Luau: Annual Friends Dinner & Auction

SAVE THE DATE
April 20, 2018 is the date
And the theme is all set
We are having a Luau
You won't soon forget!

Crossroads School
Changing the world....one life at a time!

Year-End Celebration & Graduation: Friday, May 18, 7 pm

Help us commemorate another year and launch our graduates into a great future!



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