

PROFILES. . .

Students of the Wake Forest University Journalism Class have spent the past semester with students of The Enrichment Center - talking, getting to know them, and above all listening. The Center would like to share their stories. Thank you to Ms. Mary Niepold's Journalism Class!!



Michelle by Samantha Cernuto

Two women, one elderly and one middle age, smile and hug tightly in the picture. The photo caption reads, "Grandma loves Michelle." The charming photo captures the essence of Michelle.

Michelle is 38 years old and has been at The Enrichment Center for five years. As Michelle explains her life at The Center, she speaks with a quiet confidence.

She crinkles her light brown eyes behind her favorite maroon glasses and purses her lips. Her sweet, round face is surrounded by short, wispy dark hair that betrays only a few silver streaks. Her bright pink nails are a reflection of her bright personality as well as her favorite color.

Funny movies and television shows are her favorite, especially *America's Funniest Home Videos* and the movie, *Big Momma's House*.

Michelle works in the kitchen as well as takes classes five days a week. While explaining her job, she shows her delight at working for a salary. As an employee of The Center, Michelle receives a pay check for cleaning the kitchen and the bathrooms.

Michelle takes a variety of classes which include drama, scrapbooking, yoga, and women's health. Her favorite class is scrapbooking and the photo album she is currently working on is about her family. It is clear that she is treasured by staff as she is described by her teachers as friendly, compassionate, helpful, and outgoing.

Michelle is a sweet lady who clearly benefits from The Enrichment Center. . . "I like it here. I'm happy here at The Enrichment Center. I like it here!" Michelle smiles widely and two dimples appear on her cheek. She repeats, "I've been happy; happy and good. I like it here a lot."

Walker by Calais Zagarow

Walker has never been one for superlatives. Most people can name a favorite song or greatest memory from childhood. Yet, no matter what you ask Walker, his answer will be some variation of : "Just about everything."

Walker partakes in a wide variety of activities at The Center including digital photography and drama. His ability to read music allows him to play both the piano and the drums, which is why he plays the marimba and snare drum for The Center's traveling percussion group. Not only does he love the arts, but Walker also enjoys doing old fashioned manual work, which is why he enjoys helping out with the dishes at The Center. With a working mother and a veteran father who balanced two to three jobs at a time, Walker grew up knowing that in order to succeed in anything, he must try his hardest.

"If there's anything you want me to do, I'll try to do it," says Walker, "but there are some things I'd like to be able to do, but know I can't."

This sentiment recently inspired Walker to write an anthem for The Center. According to Walker, the anthem is meant to be a way for all disabled people to help others understand: "We want to do what you do, but some of us just aren't able to."

Walker will admit that he prefers drag racing over NASCAR, but not without laughing to himself first, almost like he is sharing a secret. He'll also politely profess to you his four mantras including the Golden Rule, "what goes around come around," "don't put off tomorrow what can be done today," and lastly, "give and you shall receive." Perhaps these words are what inspire Walker to be so motivated and hardworking. Regardless of their origin, Walker's heart-warming manners and laundry list of talents are assets to The Enrichment Center and the surrounding community.