

# Rebuilding Lives

## Partnering for Success

### ***GED is an “ABC” to recovery***

“It’s fundamental to her recovery,” Lindsey Donaghy said of Nanette’s quest to obtain her General Educational Development (GED) certificate.

Nanette has been enthusiastic in her pursuit of a GED. “She’s been phenomenal,” said Lindsey, who is a counselor at Community Healthlink’s Maranda’s House recovery program for women. “Not once have I heard her say I don’t want to go to class. She’s even helping other women in the house with their studies,” Lindsey noted.



Nanette is one of eight women in Community Healthlink’s recovery continuum who have been attending classes since October to prepare them for GED testing. The program, which is administered by **Quinsigamond Community College’s Department of Adult Basic and Occupational Education**, is presented in two and one-half hour sessions twice each week. Grants from the **Greater Worcester Community Foundation** and **TJX Foundation** make it possible for the instructor to come to the students. In recent years Community Healthlink realized more women who entered the recovery continuum lacked a high school diploma, or even a GED. Though classes and testing are available in the city, the waiting lists to attend classes had become so long many women were departing their recovery program before they could access a slot in the GED class. The foundation grants have enabled Community Healthlink to circumvent these delays by bringing the class directly to the women.

Recently, the **George & Sybil Fuller Foundation** and **Verizon Foundation** awarded grants to Community Healthlink for the purchase of computers and educational software. These resources will make it possible for women to do homework, enhance their knowledge and better prepare for the ultimate GED test. They’ll also be able to link to Quinsigamond Community College’s website, where they can peruse the curriculum and options to continue their education. Ultimately they hope to emerge as better-qualified candidates who will vie for jobs in a competitive workforce.