

## Thirsty to Learn

My name is Maria Emma Hamblin. I was born in Tayaltita, Durango, Mexico, a little mining town in the Sierra Madre mountains. I only attended school one year, the first grade. Then, because we were very poor, I dropped out of school to help my mother sell items that she made, such as tamales, and candy so we would have money to live on.

I came to the United States when I was 16 years old, and I obtained my citizenship in 1986. My husband is an American.

I have been coming to Literacy Link since May, 2004. My first tutor was Mrs. McHugh. My next tutor was Tom Gray. Presently, Margarete Malone is my tutor.

I have a passion to learn the English language. I am continually trying to improve my skill in speaking, reading, and writing English. Some day I hope to reach my goal by learning very well. Before I came to Literacy Link, I could not read nor write at all. Sometimes I think something is wrong with my brain because I cannot learn as fast as I would like to! But I am making progress. I study my classwork very hard and now I can sit down and read a book or a newspaper.

Another passion of mine is oil painting. I was featured in Literacy Link News in 2006 when I won first prize in oil painting at the Senior Citizens Center. I was very pleased, of course.

My tutor is a big help to me. I want to keep learning to read and write better in English so that I can write to my Grandchildren. I also hope to get my G.E.D.

someday.

I am very thankful to Literacy Link for helping me to learn to read and write.