

## **ALLI\* Boot Camp**

by Wenman L.

I have been in the Project Second Chance program about three years. I met a woman in PSC annual party. She shared a little bit of her experience from ALLI Boot camp. That's how I found out about ALLI. I went to the PSC office asking Megan for ALLI information, and told her that I wanted to participate in the ALLI program. I got in 2014. I was so happy and eager to know what was going on. The closer it came to camp time the more anxious I got, because I was worried that I couldn't write and speak well. I felt nervous all the time especially when I was around people. This problem has been bothering me for a long time and I couldn't find a way to solve it. When I heard about the ALLI program, I didn't want to wait to join it.

In ALLI Boot camp, we divided into small groups to discuss topics and get to know each other. We shared everyone's stories and gave compliments to each other. That made me feels comfortable. We talked about leadership, communication, self-esteem, and self-confidence...I started changing and opening myself, also I found out that my problems were fear and lack of confidence.

The big help and I've got from ALLI is that I can face my fear and problems. I've changed my attitude and began to build self-confidence. In the past, I was very shy; I always hide my problems even felt embarrassed to ask questions. I blamed myself for not being smart enough then others. Now I don't think this way, and I am much happier. I have to thank those people who helped me standing out during the training. I can imagine ALLI program has helped a lot of people who had same problems as I.

ALLI is very special to me in my life. It was my first time driving long distance by myself. I was very tense. It was my first time being by myself since I moved to America. It was my first time speaking English in front of people. It was my first time joining the special and amazing program.

I am grateful to ALLI for giving me the opportunity to rethink, rebuild and find myself. I am different now compared to last year, lighter, happier, and much stronger. I personally encourage people to take advantage of this wonderful experience.

\* Adult Learner Leadership Institute