
CALL & POST

CLEVELAND EDITION

THE CALL AND POST\WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2009

Old Stone sees increase in GED grads

By **RHONDA CROWDER**
Staff Reporter

CLEVELAND - Through the GED classes provided by the Old Stone Education Center, mothers without a high school diploma have an opportunity to resurrect their academic careers.

According to Marc Nathanson, executive director of Old Stone Education Center, they recently graduated 18 students, a fifty percent increase compared to a year ago. He attributes the program's greater participation and success on their increased marketing efforts, a struggling economy, and a rising recession.

"Young people realize that, without the GED certificate their career path is bleak," said Nathanson. He went on to explain that years ago people were able to enter the manufacturing industry without a high school diploma or its equivalent, but times have changed.

"It makes getting the GED just that more important," he continued.

Nathanson also explained that Old Stone Education Center is working closely with Tri-C to create ways for students to earn one or two semesters of course credit while working on their GED, to get a jump-start on their academic and career path. Currently, a number of students attend Tri-C.

Subsequently, Old Stone Education Center is celebrating one graduate's acceptance into Kent State University through



Melanie Archuletta

their single mother program called "Life." Melanie Archuletta will enter the pre-pharmacy program in the College of Arts and Science this fall.

Nathanson also mentioned the newly created partnership with Big Brothers/ig Sisters. The program will provide mentors for Old Stone students. "All of the new collaborations will help with our goal of increased graduation rates"