

## "My Career Dreams"

My "career dreams" have changed through the years,  
It pays to be flexible and learn to shift gears!  
When I was young and the options were endless,  
I chose as my path to befriend the friendless.  
Always having the natural inclination to care,  
I was willing to go where others did not dare,  
Yet the love for teens kept me going and growing.  
I first got involved through teaching and showing,  
That life is full of choices to be made...  
And decisions with consequences that must be paid.  
Eventually, a vocational counselor I came to be,  
Hoping to help others their potential to see.  
Whether metal works, business, or building trades,  
(The programs have changed through the decades),  
The point was to guide and to help all that I could...  
Help others to know that if only they would,  
Life might improve and go as it should.  
Then, my "career" as mom (X's 4) took first place,  
For a while, I was moving at a different pace.  
(Speaking of flexibility, daring, and sharing...  
Dying to self, unconditional love and caring!!)  
I will say that the "parenting lessons" learned,  
Were valuable to me...not at all to be spurned!  
When the time was right, once again I returned,  
To "formal" education and my counseling vocation,  
This time in a totally new location!  
I found myself for the first time ever,  
Counseling K and 1st...did I say never?!  
(God has such great wisdom, I thought,  
With teenagers at home, His mercy was wrought!)  
I once was asked by a well-meaning friend,  
What needs have youngsters for a counselor to tend?  
Oh, my, I replied, do you not know?  
They need lots of help in this 'ole world to grow!  
So, here I am, near the end of "career dreams" ...  
With so much still to do it seems!  
But others are being called and are coming each day,  
With new vision and fresh dreams to help show the way,  
And continue the chain of service and hope,  
Showing others a new way to live and to cope!

by Lyn Vallas, Counselor  
Pearl Lower Elementary