

# Nicole and Taylor

*Taylor Terry and Nicole Villemaire know what it is like to have to advocate for educational rights and job choices. Whenever they can they meet to enjoy a few hours shopping at the University Mall. Shared interests and their growing involvement in Vermont's self advocacy movement continues to bring them together.*



## Nicole

"Taylor and I have been so close. Our friendship is incredibly important to me. I've gone through a lot of troubles and difficult times but I recovered. It is important to learn how to speak up for yourself. What would I tell others? When life gets tough, keep on going. If school gets messed up at times, just try again and you will succeed. I found more of a social life through self- advocacy and the St Albans group meetings."



The young women are exploring careers they hope lead to jobs that will let them help others and change the world. Taylor's passion is early education and Nicole wants to be a disability activist. Both are enrolled in the Think College program at UVM.

## Taylor

"Self-advocacy has changed me. It helps you be yourself, to have friends, to realize you're not alone, that their fight is yours. What would I say to others? Have fun. Be yourself. Learn from new experiences- be everything you can possibly be. Even though we have our challenges, we can work on ourselves, learn from new experiences, just like anyone else.

We've been good friends for a long time!"

