

When a dream begins, it helps to have others join with you to turn it into reality. Madalyn, a 10 year-old young lady, needed to find a way to see her dreams come true. She looked to her father, Tom Simon, the principal of Scio Central School. Tom found her a mentor, Mrs. Dunham, the home economics teacher.

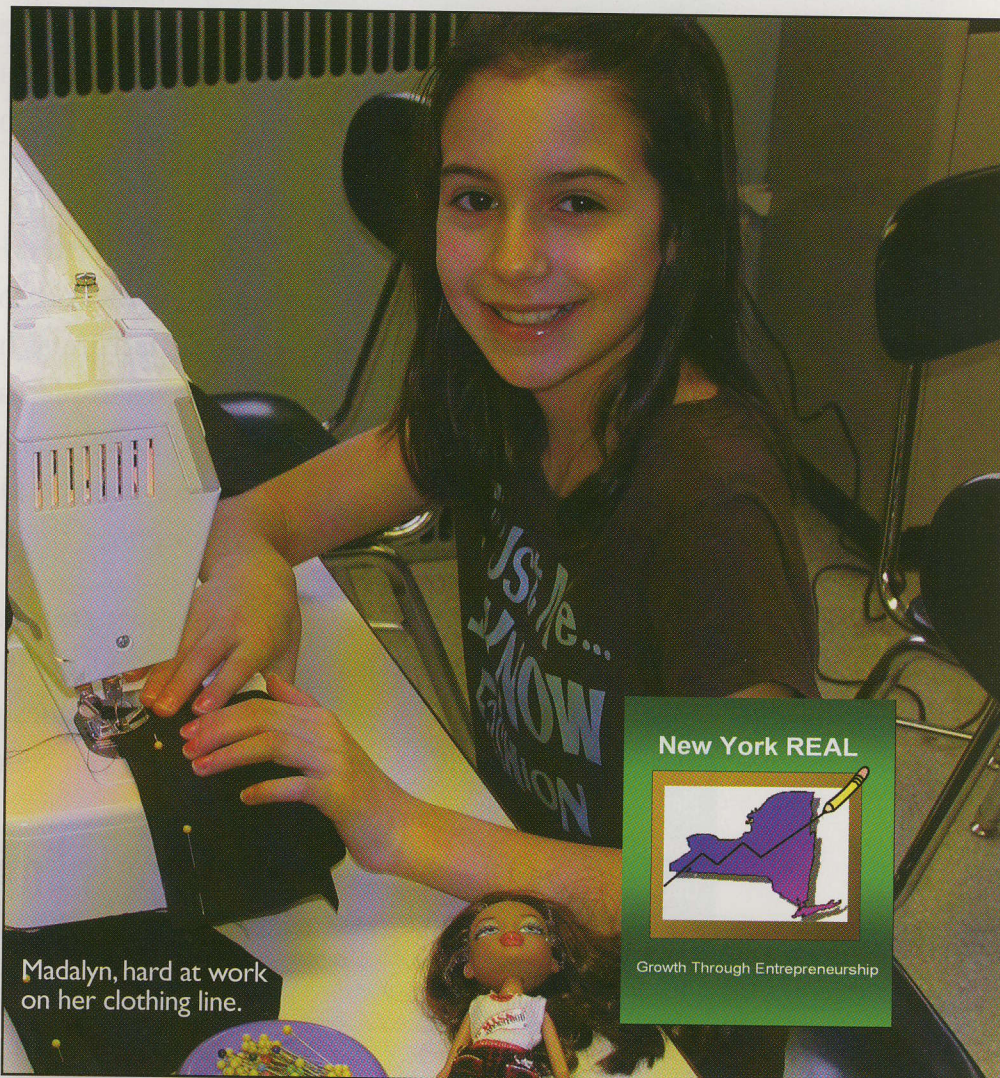
Madalyn's dream to become a chic fashion designer and to make a huge contribution to that field is lofty for a young girl living in a rural western New York community. There are few models and few opportunities to help in the pursuit of that vision. Her greatest help and inspiration came from a doll...a BRATZ doll®. Madalyn loves Bratz dolls® and admires the clothing they wear. When looking around stores to find clothing that she could wear similar to that of the dolls, she found very little.

With her love of fashion and her entrepreneurial spirit she discovered that she could design and create the clothing line she was seeking for herself and her friends. Her mentor, Mrs. Dunham, taught her how to sew and reproduce her ideas on patterns and on paper. She makes changes to some of the clothes and adds touches that allow her to express who she is. Madalyn says that her clothing tells the world about her personality and character in a way that words cannot express. She feels this is true of everyone.

There are few hours in a day that Madalyn is not thinking about her dream. She spends time learning and studying the vocabulary associated with sewing and design. She is constantly thinking about where she will go for an education. (Currently she is partial to the idea of Los Angeles. She feels she could make the biggest impact, although New York City is also a thought.) But above all else she wants to make a business and spend her life designing and selling an aspect of herself through the clothes that she creates. □

Designing Her Own Future

BY BARBARA VAN WICKLIN



Madalyn, hard at work on her clothing line.

