



SAVES



Four STARS SAVES Success Stories



L to R Donald Jean, Rebecca Chery, Ermana Larose, Darline Pierre, Karen Crider, and John Hazelton

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

MDCPS

“The SAVES Program is great for students now and in the future,” said Rebecca Chery. “Most students could achieve their goals if they had the type of SAVES program, staff, teachers, counselor, and principal that Miami Lakes Technical Education Center has,” stated Darline Pierre. “I hope that this program can help more refugees that are in need,” declared Ermana Larose. “SAVES has given me back my life. I want SAVES to know that they have saved me,” announced Donald Jean. They are all enrolled in the Practical Nursing Program at Miami Lakes Tech and would like to express their appreciation to their instructor, Ms. Karen Crider, and to Mr. John Hazelton, Miami Lakes’ counselor, who has provided excellent guidance and has been outstanding in helping them secure all the financial assistance they needed to complete this rigorous field of study.

All are Haitian and heard about the program through nursing student friends. They all want to work in a hospital. Each has a uniquely compelling story. Rebecca states she was stressed about taking the entrance exam because she knew that her future depended upon her scores. When she learned she had passed, she was so happy because she knew this was the beginning of her new career. Ermana reached the United States after spending one year in the Bahamas. She said she was pleasantly surprised when she found out about SAVES, a program that helps refugees.

Traveling in a small, overcrowded boat with dozens of people, Darline Pierre arrived in the U.S. after a

dangerous and difficult voyage. A single mother who has always dreamed of being a nurse, Darline thought it would be impossible because of financial constraints. That is why her entrance into the SAVES Program Nursing School was the “most thrilling, and most exciting” day in her life. Today she is a nursing student. “Because of the opportunity provided by the SAVES Program, and the hard work done by Mr. Hazelton, in a few months, I will become a nurse.” She gives kudos to all those who assisted her, but speaks with special reverence when it comes to the efforts Mr. Hazelton exerted so that she could receive a scholarship allowing her to complete the Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) Program.

Donald Jean is equally effusive over the efforts of Mr. Hazelton, and all the assistance provided by the staff at Miami Lakes Technical Education Center. After qualifying for the SAVES Program because of his political status, Donald was able to have the school fees and supplies provided to him so that he could reach his goal of one day becoming a Nursing Instructor.

All four of these SAVES Success Stories have a strong admiration for the SAVES Program, the way it offers an opportunity for refugees, the staff at Miami Lakes Technical Education Center, and especially their instructor, Ms. Karen Crider. However, it is through the dedication to his students that Mr. John Hazelton garners the highest praise of all!

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If you know anyone else who would like to receive future newsletters, please send your request to Jtravieso1@dadeschools.net.