



SAVES



Dr. Raquel Santana- In Her Own Words

Miami-Dade County Public Schools



Dr. Santana - A lady with an impressive resume

My name is Raquel Santana. In my country, Venezuela, I studied at the University of Zulia where I earned my degree as a medical surgeon in 1983. I then worked as a physician for 21 years at various hospitals. In 1999, I finished my specialty in sports medicine and began to work with high performance athletes. In 2002, I earned a doctorate in the science of medicine and started to work in the Development and Investigation Department at the Regional Institute of Sports. The following year I received a scholarship to continue my post-doctoral studies in Family Medicine. During this time, my husband worked as a mechanical engineer for Pequiven, a petroleum conglomerate.

In 2004, due to mounting political pressures, my husband and I were forced to leave Venezuela, leaving behind our two sons, who were studying computer engineering and electrical engineering. We arrived in April, and two months later we were visiting Southwest Adult

Center, ready to study English. Southwest gave us an opportunity to be in the SAVES Program. In my opinion, this is an excellent program because it allows people who come as refugees and asylees the chance to take English or vocational courses free, even including books and other materials.

My husband studied English and Auto CAD basic and advanced courses simultaneously. Now he is working as a draftsman in a very important company. I started studying English at Southwest. Since then, the school has hired me in the Testing Department, so I have continued my studies at Miami Dade College in the REVEST Program. Due to my husband's success in the SAVES Program, our third and youngest son is now enrolled in SAVES, where he is studying Advanced Auto CAD.

My family is very grateful for all the help given to us by the SAVES Program.

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