



SAVES



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

MDCPS

Venezuelan Student Shines With Courage and Determination

Vince Lombardi, a legendary American football coach, once said, "It is time for us to stand and cheer for the doer, the achiever, the one who recognizes the challenge and does something about it."

This SAVES Success Story focuses on the achievements of Maria Ramos, an extraordinary woman who knows no limits, and whose motto is "One may walk over the highest mountain one step at a time."



Maria Ramos—A story of Courage

Maria was born in Venezuela to an affluent family involved in politics. When the political climate changed, Maria was forced out of her homeland. Along with her husband, Maria moved to Miami and was granted asylum in the U.S. As asylees, Maria and her husband rented a small room in an acquaintance's home.

Maria was working as a seamstress during the week, while her husband was accepting any construction job offered. At night, Maria would design and create children's clothes. The couple would sell Maria's creations at a local flea market. The couple was working seven days a week.

With the help of the SAVES staff at The English Center, Maria enrolled in the ESOL program. While she attended her SAVES' Targeted ESOL and regular ESOL classes, she benefited from the Day Care Center at the school site. Upon completing the ESOL program, Maria enrolled in ABE classes. Eventually she was able to pass her GED exam. Maria's next move was to enroll in a vocational program.

Maria enrolled in the Accounting Assistance program. Through this program, Maria was able to participate in VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance), which instructed her on how to prepare income tax forms for low income people. Ms. Ramos completed the Accounting Assistance program and is currently using her newly acquired skills in English and Accounting to land a good job.

Maria claims that this country teaches you to be brave in order to persevere. Maria claims that she will be grateful forever to the SAVES staff, the teachers and her fellow students at The English Center.

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