



SAVES

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

MDCPS

Darline Pierre's - Success Story

My name is Darline Pierre. I have been in this country for five years. I was attending North Miami Adult Education Center, taking ESOL classes, when I heard about the SAVES program through school announcements.

I sometimes listen to the Haitian-Creole SAVES radio shows that broadcast information about the SAVES program and the benefits this refugee program offers to eligible clients. I quickly realized that I could be eligible and learn something for free. The fact that the shows tell you about all the SAVES school contacts and the programs offered in different schools made it easier for me to find the right school in my area. I selected Miami Lakes Technical Education Center because they offered the nursing program I was interested in.

At Miami Lakes Tech, I met Mr. John Hazelton, a SAVES representative and a very helpful counselor. Mr. Hazelton assisted me and guided me from the very beginning. He helped determine my eligibility; he provided the counseling and the orientation that led me to enroll in the LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) program, and he encouraged me all the way up to my graduation.

The LPN program lasts 15 months



Darline: Soon to be a nurse

and is very intense. I had to burn the midnight oil many nights to accomplish my goal. I often prepared by studying in a group with other students. At the same time, I had to take care of my family by working very hard.

I am very grateful to the SAVES program because the benefits I have received are immense: full tuition, child care, bus passes, and free books. Because of the SAVES program, I have just reached one of my important goals in life: completing the LPN program in the USA. I graduated as an honor student in May 2006. I am very proud of my accomplishments. My next step now is to take the state exam for my professional license. Mr. Hazelton even enrolled me in the state exam review class for free. Wish me luck.

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