



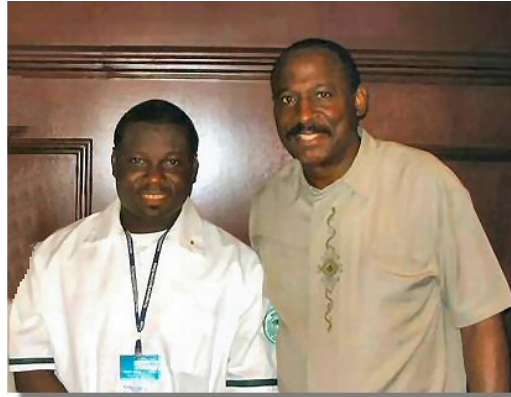
SAVES



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

MDCPS

SAVES Serves As Path to the American Dream



Mr. Donald Jean, and SAVES coordinator Mr. John Hazelton

My name is Donald Jean. I was a police officer in Haiti who came close to being executed by rival factions due to my political beliefs.

After being granted asylum in Miami, I was in a deep depression without money wondering what would become of me. I wanted so much to attend school so that I could begin rebuilding my life, but financial constraints and a lack of a support system such as family or friends frustrated me. It was at this low point when I heard about the Licensed Practical Nursing Program being offered at Miami Lakes Educational Center through a fellow student. This helped to turn my life around. Now I can smile knowing that I have a future with a career. Thanks to the fantastic efforts of SAVES and Mr. John Hazelton in helping me secure a scholarship through the SAVES Program, I have had free access to classes, textbooks, and materials that the LPN program requires.

I have recently been selected to serve on the ESAC Committee, made up of students, teachers, and parents, to help decide how principals spend their school funds. At my first meeting, we voted on allowing the VICA Club to borrow money from the

school to attend their State Competition, and then repay it through fund-raises, such as school sales, car washes, and bake sales. Hopefully, this committee will expand my knowledge on the workings of organizations, so that when I go out into the nursing field, I can begin to represent them. I just volunteered at the Youth Fair as a First Aide Assistant. I am also proud to announce that my wife, Roselaine Jean, was granted asylum through my petition and arrived on March 8th. Another possible SAVES client in the LPN Program.

Again, I credit Mr. Hazelton with going above and beyond in helping me complete the program. I also want to thank my teacher, Ms. Karen Crider, for all of her instructions and kind assistance, and Miami Lakes' principal, Mr. James Parker, for his support to the scholarship program.

Through the SAVES Program, I am on my way towards achieving the American Dream. I would like to conclude by saying that life is like a school, where you must always continue to learn.

Thank you, SAVES.

Prepared with funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the Florida Department of Children and Families, Office of Refugee Services.

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