



SAVES

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

MDCPS

Haitian Asylee Completes LPN Program; State Boards Next

Fearing for their lives, Marguerite Pilorge and her husband Laurent fled from their homeland of Haiti in the summer of 2000. In 2001, Marguerite began ESOL classes at North Miami Adult Center. In 2005, she heard about the SAVES program through a friend who told Marguerite that because of her political asylum status, she would qualify for all of the benefits that SAVES offers to asylees and refugees.



Instructor Vilma Thomas & Marguerite Pilorge

When Ms. Pilorge arrived at Miami Lakes Educational Center, Mr. John Hazelton explained all that SAVES could offer her. She was very happy when she learned that SAVES would pay for the tuition and books that were required for the Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) program. She knew that it would have been nearly impossible otherwise. Marguerite says that if she

could find a stronger way to say thank you to Mr. Hazelton and SAVES, she would shout it. She also appreciates all the time that Mr. Hazelton, the SAVES site coordinator and counselor at Miami Lakes, has invested in her and all of the other students in not only how to conduct themselves in class, and in life. He has helped to prepare them for what will be awaiting them after they graduate.

Marguerite Pilorge finished the LPN program in October 2006, and plans to pass her State Board exam. After that, she wants to find a job as an LPN, while hopefully continuing her studies to become a registered nurse. She only wishes SAVES would have covered the tuition for her fourth term, instead of just three as per state contract. Luckily, through Mr. Hazelton's help, Marguerite was able to obtain financial aid to pay for the fourth and final term of the LPN program.

Marguerite would also like to thank her LPN instructor, Ms. Vilma Thomas, for all the time and effort that she put into educating Marguerite. Marguerite considers her an excellent teacher.

Finally, Marguerite would like to conclude by stating that SAVES is an excellent program that helps people prepare for their future. Merci beaucoup, SAVES. Thanks a lot!

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