



SAVES

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Rodolphe Desvarieux- Achieving His American Dream!

My name is Rodolphe Desvarieux, and I was born and raised in Haiti. From elementary to high school, I attended one of the best schools in Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital city. I then spent my four years of college studying to become a civil engineer, graduating in 1994.

As you may know, the political turmoil that has prevailed in my country for decades has taken a toll on all that is possible. The infrastructure is practically nonexistent. Haiti has gone from being the "Perle des Antilles" (the Pearl of the Caribbean), to the most devastated and poorest country in the hemisphere. Foreigners have stopped investing in the country despite its cheap labor costs, and the ones who did have packed their bags and left. Tourism is almost history, as is the agricultural industry, where farmers have seen their land devastated by floods or a lack of irrigation. The exodus of Haitians abroad has consistently increased and the ones left behind face a country paralyzed by its problems. Consequently, Haiti is slowly dying. I married my high school sweetheart, Yanick, and landed a job with a relative. I was trying day after day to make ends meet and support my family. We have two children, Rudolphe (now 17) and Gaelle (now 13).

Even with the mass exodus of Haitians being the talk of the day in Haiti, I never dreamed that one day I would be faced with only one alternative: to join the exodus in order to offer a decent life to my family. My sincere belief was that one day, things would get better, and we would turn away from the suffering of this great country. Sadly, I was wrong. Finally, after several trips to Florida to visit close relatives, I left my country in 2005 with the great hope of reaching the American Dream (a dream that is quite impossible to reach in my native land). I was ready to face all the difficulties that could come my way as my main goal was to have an opportunity to

live a better life. I left my family behind and, by the grace of God, I was able to stay in Miami and apply for political asylum. I have petitioned to bring here my wife and children.

After completing a year of English classes, I decided to study electrical wiring. Being an electrician was always of interest to me. I went to Lindsey Hopkins Technical Education Center where I met Ms. Carline Pierre, who explained the SAVES Program, for which I qualified because of my asylum status, to me. This was the first step on my journey towards achieving the American Dream.

Because of the assistance offered by the SAVES Program, and thanks to the instructions of my wonderful teacher in my Electricity program, Mr. Samuel Miller, I have accumulated 300 hours and got my electrical wiring certificate, so I can now work as a helper with a licensed electrician. I highly recommend the SAVES Program to anyone who cherishes a dream but has difficulty turning it into reality. SAVES, in my opinion, is one way of telling people who enter the United States, from every corner of the world, that America will help them. SAVES offers the first step in achieving the American Dream. Regardless of how long the journey was, and how tough it may be, the SAVES Program emphasizes to everyone who has looked for refuge that America welcomes them.



Rodolphe with his teacher Mr. Samuel Miller

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