



# SAVES

## Miami-Dade County Public Schools

MDCPS

### SAVES Client Learns English One Level at A Time

My name is Juan Carlos Machado, and I was born in Santiago de Cuba. I served as an assistant to a pastor in an Evangelical Church, until God summoned me to serve as pastor in one of the refugee camps at the Guantanamo Naval Base in Cuba.

I arrived in The United States on December 25, 1995; brought over by World Relief, an organization that helps resettle refugees in the US. They relocated me to Columbia, South Carolina. There, I continued my membership in a Hispanic Ministry at the Army's Fort Jackson military base.

When I moved to Miami in 2001, I knew that the decision and the effort to learn the English language would provide me with a wealth of employment opportunities. Later that year, I registered at American Adult Center. It was here where I learned about the SAVES Program, which helps refugees/asylees resettle in this country by providing them with free ESOL, Adult General Education and Post Secondary Adult Vocational courses.

I started at the lowest ESOL level, Foundations, and today I'm enrolled in the final level, ESOL Academic Skills. Soon, I'll begin preparing to take the GED exam so that one day I may register at a university to study psychology.

I want to thank the SAVES Program for their services and for their unending support. Through the program, I was able to get all the books for my classes at no cost, and it even provided me with bus passes when my car broke down. This type of support kept me focused on my goal of learning English.

I would also like to extend my deepest gratitude to the SAVES staff at American Adult, and to all the teachers, administrators and employees that make this adult center such a wonderful place for learning. Their love and dedication helped me overcome many obstacles in my path to fulfill my goals.



SAVES staff members Ms. Eliana Luque and Ms. Katherine Friz were always happy to help Mr. Juan Carlos Machado at American Adult Center

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