



# SAVES

## Miami-Dade County Public Schools

MDCPS

### A Pizzeria Manager Today, A Doctor Tomorrow

My name is Maribel Alonso, and I was born in Havana, Cuba. I came to the United States on March 21, 2007, leaving my family behind when I won the Cuban Lottery. It was an opportunity to immigrate to the United States, but it was a difficult decision for me to leave because of my family.

Once I arrived in this country, I started receiving financial assistance through Youth Co-Op, and they told me about the SAVES Program. They also mentioned that there was a school close to my home where I could enroll and begin improving my chances of successfully resettling in South Florida. Many friends and family would emphasize on how important it was to learn English.



Maribel Alonso, a proud SAVES student at Hialeah Adult Center

In April of 2007, I registered at Hialeah Adult Education Center and started learning English. Later on, I became interested and registered in the Patient Care Technician Program. I attend my Patient Care Technician classes Monday through Thursday and on Saturdays, and at the same time, I'm taking English classes. Needless to say, I am really working hard. I am currently enrolled in my last course of the Patient Care Technician Program, and I have worked my way up from the Literacy level to High Beginning in ESOL.

My future plans are to become a registered nurse, and ultimately, I would like to become a doctor. I have witnessed first hand the needs of the people in my community, and I have realized that I can make a difference in people's lives.

When I enrolled in the ESOL Program at Hialeah Adult, I was working as a cook at a Pizza Hut, but thanks to my interest in wanting to learn English, I was able to work my way up to become a manager.

The SAVES Program has helped me greatly. I have had the opportunity of improving my life with the assistance of the benefits that are offered through SAVES. SAVES has offered me tuition and the books that were needed for my courses. I believe that I would have not been able to reach such goals without the assistance and help of the SAVES staff and program. I would like to thank everyone in the SAVES Program for all the support and help they have given me.

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For more success stories, go to <http://saves.dadeschools.net>

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