



SAVES



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

SAVES and M-DCPS Celebrate World Refugee Day 2008

June 20th was designated as World Refugee Day by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000 to recognize and celebrate the contributions of refugees throughout the world, and to salute their courage, resilience and strength. Major celebrations will be held in many nations around the world to commemorate this special day.



SAVES clients proudly display their flags

According to the U.N. Refugee Agency, the number of refugees worldwide continues to grow. At the end of 2007, surveys showed there were 11.4 million refugees and 26 million internally displaced people around the world. The SAVES Program and Miami Dade County Public Schools recognize the tremendous impact refugees have had in South Florida, and in order to establish a tradition of celebrating this important day, SAVES school sites were encouraged to plan, prepare and host activities and events that bring to light the plight of refugees around the world. The theme of this year's World Refugee Day is "Protecting Refugees: Rebuilding Lives in Safety and Dignity".

SAVES school site contacts eagerly prepared bulletin boards in honor of World Refugee Day. Posters and flyers were also displayed throughout various schools to remind students and staff. SAVES Targeted ESOL student essays and World Refugee Day readings were shared during daily school announcements the week of June 20th. Movies such as "Lost Boys of Sudan" and "My Life as a Refugee" were presented, and large scale celebrations were held at some school sites. These celebrations included: Power Point presentations on what benefits are available to refugees; live musical and dance recitals; food; costumes, and achievement awards for our SAVES students. Important local and state politicians, M-DCPS School Board Members and administrators, and members of the Florida Office of Refugee Services were invited.

It is the intent of the SAVES Program to make these celebrations for World Refugee Day a tradition amongst M-DCPS school sites. We hope that these will be part of many more to come.



SAVES Targeted ESOL students practice the international sign for protection

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.

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

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