



SAVES

Asylee Seeks Harmonious Resettlement

Like many of our SAVES clients, Ynharu Ramirez de Williams faces her daily struggles with optimism and perseverance. She is the first to recognize her good fortune in that, along with her husband and her son, she was granted asylum in the United States. This is her story.



Ynharu Ramirez de Williams is thankful to SAVES and to The English Center for all their help.

I was born and raised in Valencia, Venezuela; my country's third largest city. From a young age, I embraced Asian cultures such as Feng Shui, yoga and Buddhism, factors that encouraged me to study interior design at the Brimen Institute. In 2007, my husband and I made the decision to leave our beautiful country because we did not want our child to grow up in a tyrannical system, and because we

feared for our safety and well being.

We decided to migrate to Miami, since I had visited the city previous times. The three of us arrived on October 2, 2007 without any family members or friends to rely on. We checked into an extended suite hotel near the airport. Using the hotel's payment stub, I was able to enroll our child at the local school, and we immediately applied for asylum.

From the beginning, my biggest obstacle was the English language. Although I could understand it and read it, I would have to master it in order to ultimately continue practicing my career in the United States and to be able to help my child with his school work. I also realized I needed new job skills that would make me more marketable for work. This is when I enrolled at The English Center, and it was there where I learned about the SAVES Program.

I am proud to say that I am currently enrolled in an Adult Basic Education reading course and a writing course, as well as the Accounting Operations vocational program. SAVES has been a blessing. The program has provided me with the tuition and books necessary for my classes. I will always be thankful to SAVES and to all those who have helped me at The English Center, especially my wonderful teachers: Ms. Linda Pruitt for her motivation to achieve my goals; Mr. Roberto Dominguez, Mr. Peralta, and Ms. Maria Hernandez, my accounting teacher who always makes me smile.

I would like to end by reminding all the refugees and asylees who just arrived to this country that education translates to power and security in the future. It will open many doors and make the transition more bearable. Thank you SAVES for the wonderful benefits you provide to your clients.

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.