



SAVES



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

SAVES' Own Success Story, Miami Senior Adult Center

When the opportunity arose during 2006 to open other SAVES school sites, Miami Senior Adult Center answered the call and secured the only one awarded. Even though the Office of Refugee Services, under the leadership of the Department of Children and Families, had given Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) one term to complete all of the stringent requirements needed to open a SAVES program for the next term, 2007-1, Miami Senior Adult Center, headed by visionary principal Ms. Gilda Santalla, worked hard and met the deadline.



Susana Rodas, Lesly Sanchez, Gilda Santalla, Miriam Perez, and Zoila Ortiz of Miami Senior Adult Center

In order for an adult center to qualify to house a SAVES Program, the school first had to demonstrate a need by ascertaining the eligibility of prospective students to fit the SAVES criteria. After a mad rush in which Miami Senior's sage assistant principal, Ms. Miriam Perez, undertook a crash course on eligibility requirements, the school was able to surpass the number needed for Refugee Services' approval. Now it was time to plan the course offerings. Besides admittance into all the regular academic and vocational course offerings available to the general population, including a very

successful air conditioning program and the only Veterinary Assisting course offered in Miami-Dade County, SAVES students at Miami Senior Adult Center are also offered three targeted ESOL classes that are capped at 15 students. Ms. Santalla had the foresight to instruct her teachers to collect attendance hours for every class, something that will soon be mandated for all M-DCPS adult students.

Miami Senior Adult Center would also like to thank Ms. Susana Rodas for her thoroughness and determination in assisting Ms. Perez in identifying eligible students, designing the program, and starting the student folders. Both ladies have made many visits to the SAVES-sponsored show on Radio Mambi to help build interest in SAVES at their location. Ms. Zoila Ortiz and Ms. Lesly Sanchez are also recognized for their assistance in data entry, designing spreadsheets for data collection, and helping with attendance requirements which dictates future SAVES funding. It is because of the selfless efforts of these women that Miami Senior Adult Center is currently starting its second trimester as a SAVES school. Thank you very much, ladies!



Ms. Magda Orta and Ms. Susana Rodas during the weekly radio show

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

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