



# SAVES

## SUCCESS STORY—ANA LABAUT

My name is Ana Labaut. I am a native of Cuba who came to live with a family member in this country a year ago to realize the American dream.

At first, I had limited knowledge of what my future would hold, but a month after my arrival, I learned about the SAVES [Skills in Academic, Vocational, and English Studies] program at Hialeah-Miami Lakes Adult and Community Education Center and registered for ESOL classes there. Once at HML Adult, I was offered

The SAVES program facilitated the evaluation and translation of my engineering degree, covered the cost of my books and tuition, and provided passes for transportation. Through much perseverance and tenacity, I was able to find a job, move into my own place, and continue improving my quality of life.

The SAVES program and HML Adult acknowledged my efforts by giving me a Certificate of Perfect Attendance and an Outstanding Student award from Julio Robaina, Mayor of the City of Hialeah. Both of these awards were a great honor to receive.



From left to right, Delia Milian, Center Director, Hialeah Downtown One Stop Center, Dr. Nilda J. Diaz, Principal, Hialeah Miami Lakes Adult, Ana Labaut, SAVES student, Julio Robaina, Mayor City of Hialeah

the new Customer Assistance Technology course at the school's One Stop Center in Hialeah, where I learned the language and computer skills necessary to find employment and further my education.

This year marks a new chapter in my life: I have been fortunate enough to begin a part-time position in the SAVES program at HML Adult. I look forward to being part of this great team and work toward the goal of helping refugees and making a difference in their lives—as SAVES has done for me.

The SAVES program has been an integral part of my successful resettlement in the United States. It has opened many doors and allowed me the opportunity to achieve my goals. I will forever be grateful to the SAVES program and HML Adult for the wonderful assistance and unconditional support they have given me. My special thanks go to Dr. Nilda J. Diaz, principal of HML Adult, for her leadership and wisdom, to Rosanna Calabrese, SAVES Coordinator, and to the SAVES staff for becoming my extended family and giving me the inspiration and resources to succeed.

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