



SAVES

Cuban Artist Seeks to Resettle

My name is Raul Rodriguez, and like many other refugees/asylees, I am in the process of resettling in the South Florida region. It's not easy; especially under the current circumstances. It is difficult to find a job, and many employers want someone who speaks English fluently.

My goal is not only to learn English and find a good job, but to one day



Mr. Raul Rodriguez is thankful to SAVES and to Ms. Reina Canosa

continue with the career I had in my country. I was born in Havana, Cuba in 1973, the youngest of seven broth-

ers. From early on, I felt an inclination towards singing.

I began competing in talent contests and school sponsored festivities. In 1995, I completed my studies at the Alejandro Garcia-Caturla Music Conservatory, and in that same year, I began my professional singing career. I sang with the Cuban National Opera Chorus, and in 1999, I became a member of Catarsis, a vocal octet that performed throughout France in January of 2000.

In 2008, I left Cuba and headed to the United States seeking better opportunities. My first priority was to learn English. I enrolled in the SAVES Program at Miami Beach Adult. Ms. Reina Canosa, the SAVES contact at the school, has helped me tremendously, and thanks to the SAVES Targeted ESOL classes, I have successfully completed three ESOL levels. SAVES is a very efficient program that counts on excellent teachers who are dedicated and who care. Through SAVES, I receive my books for free and monthly bus passes so I can come to school on a daily basis.

I feel a strong need to become a productive member of society in this great nation, and to be able to further develop and share my artistic talent. The SAVES Program is helping me reach my goal.

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.

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