



# SAVES

## The Three Sisters

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Hello! We are three sisters: Joane, Sundy, and Nicolencia Jerome. We came to Miami two years ago. When we left Haiti for political issues, we were almost done with high school, so we went to school and graduated here. At school, we have had the opportunity to participate in an essay contest about our goals after high school, and one of us (Nicolencia) won second place. After high school, we did not know what to do to continue with our education because of our immigration status and financial difficulties.



(From L to R) Joane Jerome, Ms. Denise S. Gonzalez, instructor, Sundy Jerome, Nicolencia Jerome, and Marie Philogene, SAVES Contact

We were very worried about our situation until a friend of the family asked us what we were going to do about continuing our education. We told him we did not know what to do because we could not afford to pay. Our friend told us about a program that could assist us by allowing us to take a free vocational course. The program was SAVES. We came to DA Dorsey Adult Center to check it out. When we got there, Ms. Marie Philogene and Ms. Kaprincess Smith gave us a warm welcome. They explained everything about the SAVES Program, and we registered in the Patient Care Technician program.

We want to say thanks to Ms. Philogene for supporting us since the day we came to Dorsey and for being a second mother to us; Ms. Smith, who was always there to answer our questions and to help us whenever we needed something; and to our instructor, Ms. Denise Gonzalez, who has been encouraging us to do our best. She gave us the tools necessary to go out there and work as professionals. Here is what Ms. Gonzalez wrote about us: "It has been a pleasure to teach the Jerome sisters. I found them to be fine young ladies who are committed to succeeding in the Patient Care Technician Program. Over the past six months, they have grown from being inexperienced health care providers to becoming confident professional patient technicians. They have assisted me in various ways, including being mentors to other students. I am very proud of their achievements in this program and know they will do well in whatever they decide to do in the future. Congratulations!"

We cannot forget the administration and the staff at DA Dorsey for their hospitality. Everyone helped us in the process. To the SAVES administration: Thank you for establishing this program. SAVES has changed our lives, and we will always remember that. We hope the program will remain for others to benefit, as well. When we came to the program, we were working on adjusting our status, and now we are glad to announce that we have been granted asylum. Thanks, everyone!



Staff and students share a happy moment

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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