



# SAVES

## A SAVES Success Story in the Making

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Like the majority of SAVES clients, Lilian Cairo was born in Cuba. She grew up in the province of Las Villas; a zone known for the cultivation of sugar cane, bananas and plantains. Upon graduating from high school, Lilian earned a degree in Economics. After working for some years at local companies, she decided to apply for the Cuban Visa Lottery. In 2004, six years later and after the birth of her two children, Lilian was selected. She had her doubts about leaving Cuba, but the decision to leave was for the future for her two young children, Melissa and Marcos.



Ms. Cairo—An example of hard work and determination

Ms. Lilian Cairo and her family arrived in Miami in July of 2004. She was received by an old friend of her mother; the only contact she had in the U.S. While life was very difficult in the first couple of months, she knew there was no going back.

The first thing that Lilian realized was that she had to learn English. Ms. Cairo understood that this was the way to find a good job, participate in our society, and be able to help her children.

It was at this point in time when Lilian enrolled in the SAVES Program at Miami Springs Adult Center. This is where she met Ms. Elizabeth Rogers, the SAVES contact at Miami Springs Adult. Ms. Rogers described all the benefits that Lilian would receive from SAVES, including the one that would allow her to study at night, childcare. According to Lilian, the childcare service provided to SAVES clients is the most important service for students like her.

Ms. Rogers describes Lilian Cairo as one of the most dedicated students she has ever met. She has excelled in all her ESOL and Early Childhood Education classes because of her perfect attendance and her dedication and commitment to learning. Ms. Cairo's instructors have also praised her work habits and effort.

Lilian Cairo admits that it has been very difficult to learn a new language, but she is showing no signs of slowing down. For a single mother who works 40 hours a week and attends school twice a week, she is doing everything possible to successfully resettle in this country. This is why she is a SAVES Success Story. She has benefited from the SAVES Program, and from the wonderful staff at Miami Springs Adult Center.



Ms. Rogers—A counselor and a friend

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

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