



# SAVES

## Miami-Dade County Public Schools

### Desire for Freedom Prompts Risky Flight to the USA

My name is Maria De La Torre, and I am a mother of two children who came to Miami in June of 2007 from Havana, Cuba. For 14 years in Cuba, I studied and practiced a vocational field under a regime in which I felt repressed. After years of suffering, my family and I decided to immigrate to the US, caring little about the risks of exiting Cuba, only desiring our freedom.



Maria De La Torre—A grateful new arrival

Upon arriving here, my best friend stressed the importance of learning English, so I immediately realized the significance of being bilingual. Coincidentally, at that moment I heard the SAVES Program being discussed during its weekly show on Radio Mambí (710 AM en Español), and how SAVES offers English lessons for free to those like me who qualify.

The need to learn English motivated me to go to Sunset Adult Center, where I was registered by SAVES contact Ms. Leyda Osuna. I started classes in ESOL with my instructor, Ms. Maria Diaz, who is also a Sunset SAVES contact. I am very happy to be one of the SAVES clients that receives free benefits such as ESOL classes and textbooks and am now trying to enter into a vocational program, hopefully Pharmacy Tech, also offered for free through SAVES.

I want to thank all of those people from Sunset Adult that encouraged me to be a part of the big SAVES family. Because of SAVES, I have found a way to continue to study and hopefully will continue in the subject that I like, chemistry. Thanks Sunset Adult Center and SAVES!



Maria Diaz, Leyda Osuna, Maria De La Torre and Jackie Cabrera of SAVES Sunset Adult Center

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