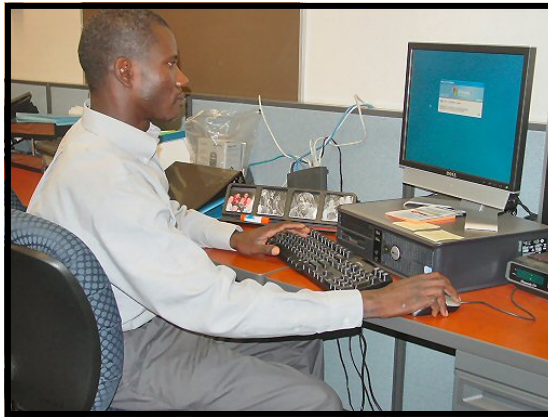




SAVES

SAVES Provides an Electric Connection

Gary Philistin came to the United States four years ago. As a newcomer, he had to face a lot of obstacles. He did not speak English, and he needed a job to support his family. In addition to that, he wanted to work in his field of study, which is Electromechanics. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Electromechanics from one of Haiti's engineering colleges. Despite all his frustrations, such as family separation and the language barrier, he quickly realized that he



Mr. Philistin continues to learn new skills

had to make up his mind and do something positive to survive.

While living in Pompano Beach, he enrolled in one of the Broward County public schools for adult education, and took English classes for more than seven months. While learning English, he remained very determined and optimistic. As a result, he happened to get his first electronic technology job in February, 2003. He worked for eight months for this firm in Broward, and at this time he was also experiencing some difficulty in seeing his wife and children, who were living in Miami-Dade

County. To solve this problem, he moved to Miami, where he obtained a lower paying job in the same field. However, he was happy to join his family and live together with them.

When living in Broward County, Mr. Philistin used to listen to the SAVES radio shows promoting free education for refugees and asylees living in Miami-Dade. He knew that he was a SAVES eligible client who could have all the SAVES benefits like free books, and bus passes in addition to a year of free vocational classes. He went to Miami Lakes Adult Education Center and met with Mr. John Hazelton, the SAVES counselor, who sat with him and provided him with all the appropriate information that helped him make a pertinent choice. Mr. Hazelton enrolled Mr. Philistin in the Electronic Technology program taught by Ms. Laura Gutierrez.

Mr. Philistin continued to show dedication toward his job and his studies. He studied very hard and kept focusing on his goal to complete the program and get his certificate. He graduated in June 2007 with the highest honor. Mr. Philistin said that he is very satisfied to reap the fruits of his efforts and sacrifices and he is very grateful to the SAVES Program. He said that he is also very grateful to his teacher Ms. Laura Gutierrez and to Mr. John Hazelton for their guidance and counseling that led him to where he is now.

The SAVES Program, under the leadership of Dr. Edwina Hoffman, is very proud of Mr. Philistin's accomplishments and wishes him the best in his future.

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

If you know anyone else who would like to receive future newsletters, please send your request to Jtravieso1@aol.com.