



SAVES

Southwest SAVES Sweeps Success

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Eddy Maria Martinez left behind four children and her remaining relatives when she won the Cuban lottery for the chance to immigrate to the United States. A painful decision was dulled by the fact that her granddaughter would be coming, too. With strong encouragement and best wishes from her children, Eddy left her homeland of Regla, Cuba and arrived in Miami on September 9th, 2001. Of course what transpired over the next few days made Eddy feel numb and question her decision even more.



Mari Carmen Vasquez, SW SAVES contact, Eddy Martinez, and Rosa Barrios of SAVES Staff

Juan Reyno was extremely active as an instructor of physical education and a director of sports in Camaguey, Cuba when he and his wife left to come to the United States via Mexico in April of 2005. Through happenstance, Eddy and Juan found themselves as part time employees of Southwest Adult Center, she as a cafeteria worker and he as a custodian.

It was at Southwest where the SAVES Pro-

gram helped to make the transition to the United States easier. Because their asylum status from Cuba qualified them, both Eddy and Juan enrolled in the Environmental Services Program at Southwest, where SAVES provided the tuition and materials needed. After completing the Beginning and Master Custodial Program, they were both hired as full time custodians at Southwest. Juan has also completed ESOL LB and is excited to finish switching his schedule to enroll again, while Eddy wants to start ESOL classes soon, too. Now that Eddy and Juan have a position that provides them with higher pay and benefits, they can begin to appreciate why they came to America.

To complete the Southwest circle, Eddy's granddaughter began the 9th grade there this term, while Juan's wife Naime is starting as a paraprofessional for the Special Education program.

Thanks to SAVES, Southwest Adult has restocked its ranks with grateful SAVES Success Stories.



Juan Reyno and Eddy Martinez proudly show Southwest Eagles colors

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

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