



SAVES



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Charly's Story

My name is Charly Philippe and I was born in Haiti. Today, I am going to talk a little about myself and tell you how I came to the United States and how long it took me to complete my high school program.

My dad came to the United States in 1992. He applied for me then, but I stayed in Haiti in a small town for many more years. My dad's application on my behalf finally got approved in March, 2006, and I was able to come to the United States on July 13, 2006, one month before my 18th birthday.



Charly is grateful for all SAVES has done for him

I started school in August 2006 at the South Dade Adult Skills Center, where I enrolled in ESOL classes. It was very difficult at the beginning. Two months later, I started a part-time job at Publix, where I was able to practice speaking English. This helped me a lot. After five months, I transferred to South Dade Adult Center and it took me less than one year to finish my ESOL classes.

In February 2007, I took the TABE test and passed it. A couple of days later, I enrolled in South Dade Adult Center's High School. It was very difficult for me to purchase the books, but I could never give up. Fortunately, I heard on the radio that there was a program called SAVES, which could assist me. I decided to seek their advice and was told that because of my immigration status, I qualified for SAVES. I was so happy. SAVES gave me books and transportation by providing me with a monthly bus pass. Not only did SAVES provide so much, but this showed me that there are people like those working for SAVES who think so much about helping others. This filled my heart with love for the staff and the program that has done so much to help me.

I graduated from high school on December 4th, 2008. It took me a year and a half to receive my diploma. I am enrolling in South Dade Adult's wonderful pharmacy technician program. I am also contemplating joining the Navy. Whatever I decide to do, it was partly because of the assistance I received from SAVES that set me on my course of study.

I am trying to open the door to a better life and I want to advise everybody to do the same. Don't say that you do not have the time to go to school. Create the time for something that you will need for your future. Go to school instead of wasting your time. Finally, thank you, South Dade Adult Center and SAVES!

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

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