

SAVES Program

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MIAMI DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Grateful for SAVES!

Mrs. Blanca Rita Gort was born and raised in La Havana, Cuba. She left her country in sadness, knowing she was leaving behind the life she created. In Cuba, she earned her high school diploma and studied Accounting. On August 26, 2015, Mrs. Gort came to the United States. She felt depressed taking on the challenge of starting a whole new life. Mrs. Gort began researching programs for Refugees. She met with the Miami Senior Adult staff in the Registration office and learned that the SAVES Program offers benefits for five years. The staff provided her with detailed information about the program and program requirements; she was very happy to have the opportunity to study English at no cost, something so vital in America.

A few months later, August 17, 2016, she walked into Miami Senior Adult Education Center as a new student enrolled in the SAVES Program.

Before enrolling, she could not afford the cost of an apartment and had to live with her son and his family. Now, she lives with her husband in their own place. Mrs. Gort is very thankful for the SAVES Program. She thanked all her teachers, Ms. García, Ms. Villar, Mr. Satryan and Ms. Arenas, for the tenacity and professionalism of their lessons. She especially thanked Ms. Arenas, who not only provided her with regular lessons, but tutoring sessions as well. Both forms of instruction were always administered, with great determination, affection, and

understanding because Mrs. Arenas consistently encouraged Mrs. Gort to continue her education. She was also extremely grateful to the SAVES Team: Ms. Rodas and Ms. Ortiz for their supportive attitude towards her and other SAVES students.

Mrs. Gort thanked the SAVES Program and each representative for giving her the tools to be a productive member of this society. She said the SAVES Program opened the door to the future for refugees like herself. She recommends the SAVES Program to those who have

