

# SAVES Program

August 2016— First Edition



MIAMI DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## Ms. Amanda Rosa Fernandez – A happy person

Ms. Amanda Fernandez left Cuba with her family when she was seven years old. They went to Spain looking for a better life, stayed there for eleven years, and never thought that the entire family would come to live in United States of America; however, like many Cubans, after a few years, the family decided to resettle in the USA. Upon their arrival to this country, they spent the first two months living in a motorhome in a very isolated area of Hialeah.

Ms. Fernandez applied for her work permit, but a mistake delayed the process so she had to resubmit her work permit application and continued to survive the best she could without a job.

Ms. Fernandez started to look for a school to learn English and ways to be successful in the United States. She was happy to find Miami Senior Adult Education Center and the Skills for Academic, Vocational, and English Studies (SAVES) program. SAVES provides English and vocational classes and other benefits to help newly arrived refugees and asylees transition into the workforce.

Ms. Fernandez started in ESOL level I and progressed to ESOL level III with her wonderful teacher Ms. Longo, who helped her learn and improve her English skills quickly. She also went to school on Saturdays with another great teacher, Mr. Osorio, who was also a great help. Ms. Fernandez is also registered in the GED

in English classes and says that now she is “thinking in English when she studies”. Her plans are to obtain her high school diploma and continue with a vocational class. When she reaches these goals, she wants to continue her studies at the university, step by step. Ms. Fernandez loves her teachers and the SAVES program. According to her, the organization of the program is excellent. She is thankful that she found Miami High Adult Education Center and the SAVES program.

