

Thanks to My Stalker, I Graduated

SOURCE Communities In Schools Miami
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My name is Andony, and I am a senior at North Miami Senior High School. I will be graduating soon, and it's all thanks to the wonderful team of Communities In Schools of Miami.

High school is not as easy as I hoped it would be. It was very difficult for me to concentrate in school due to many obstacles that I encountered during my four years in High School. I am the only child in my family and I grew up to be extremely close to both my parents. In my junior year, my life was turned upside down. My dad had a stroke and for the first time in life my mom had to go to work. The first day that my dad came home with a cane, walked with a limp and unable to do the basic thing that he was accustomed to, I felt devastated, I developed insomnia and as a result my grades started to suffer, I even started to sleep in class.

On one particular day, I got to a breaking point and I asked my teacher for a pass to go see the Site Coordinator for communities in Schools Miss Vanessa. I had found out about CIS through a mutual friend who was already in the program. I came in the office crying and mumbling that life was too hard and I could not take it anymore, that I could not stand seeing my dad in this condition. She listened to me and shared with me that she experienced a similar situation with her dad 15 years ago, but her dad fully recovered because of the treatment that he received. From that moment on Communities in Schools became a source of support for me financially in giving me Christmas gifts, food during the holidays and clothes to wear to school along with snacks when I was hungry. Mentally by having someone to go talk to and express exactly what I was feeling and also psychologically because the site coordinator had experienced what I was experiencing with my father and she gave me hope and allowed me to focus more in school. I was also given school supplies that I needed for the year.

Communities in Schools, made me aware of Miami Beach Health Center which partners with them to provide physical health services and that's where my dad receives his therapy sessions at a low cost. In addition, the site coordinator was on top of my grades as she would monitor my grades every grading period and she would call me down in the office if I had a "C". Once my grade fell below a C she called me down to her office one day and told me she was going to sign me up for tutoring after school every day at 2:30 and since I started she calls the media Center to make sure I was in assistance.



I used to call her a “stalker” behind her back and thanks to the “stalker”, I had an “A” the following grading period. Every day I look at my calendar and today I’m less than 60 days away from graduation and when that day comes that I will stand on that stage, I will owe gratitude to my parents and a huge thanks to Communities In Schools for providing me with the much needed support and resources I needed for graduation. Communities In Schools has been a valuable asset to Miami-Dade County Public Schools and I pray that they continues to be in existence for the next generation.