



**FAMILY SUPPORT &
RESOURCE CENTERS**

Happier...Healthier...Stronger!



*Principle of
Family Support:*
**Families are resources
to their own
members, to other
families, to programs
and to communities.**



*The Family Support & Resource Centers are administered by
the Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County, Inc.*

*Managing partners include Bright Beginnings,
Catholic Charities, Child Abuse Council,
Family Community Advisory Councils,
St. Joseph's Children's Advocacy Center
and The Children's Home, Inc.*

SUCCESS STORY

May 2010

Volunteering Leads to Employment...

Though Maria Riveros had been out of work for two years, she remained faithful to volunteerism. She is an active member of the Homeowners Association in her community and she had no idea that her involvement in the Town 'N Country Family Support & Resource Centers' Family Community Advisory Council (FCAC) would lead her to a job.

Maria attended the T'NC FSRC for the first time in July of 2008 as a guest of Rosa Martin, FCAC president. She attended the FCAC meetings and soon became an active member. Not long after Maria was nominated and elected as the Recorder. Maria is bilingual so she also provides translation for the notes she takes which is a great asset since many members only speak Spanish.

Maria has made new friends as a result of being a participant at the center. In December 2009 at one of the FCAC meetings, Gayle Robinson, FCAC member, asked if she could help her with translation for her class, Get Into Fitness Today (GIFT), which she teaches through the Health Department. Maria accepted the invitation and enjoyed the class so much that she joined the group. In February 2010, the opportunity came up to teach the G.I.F.T. class in Spanish and Maria volunteered.

In May, the Health Department posted an opening for a Community Health Family Support Worker which required the candidate to be bi-lingual and to have a high school diploma or a General Equivalency Diploma (GED). Since Maria had just completed the GED program at the center and had already volunteered to teach the class, she was hired. "If I hadn't done my GED, I might still be looking for a job," says Maria.

"I am thankful for the support I received at the center as it was instrumental in getting employed" she adds. She and Gayle may start studies at Hillsborough Community College.

Maria assures us we will still see her volunteering on the FCAC.

www.familysupporthc.org