

To Whom it May Concern:

CC: Irene J. Vargas, MIBA (Or respective coordinator)

My name is Helena Dubery and I am writing a letter in support of the Wal-Mart Brighter Future 2.0 Project at the Wolfson Campus of Miami Dade College.

When I didn't have any money this program gave me the opportunity to go to school and obtain a certificate.

It allowed me to come to Miami Dade and participate in a course in life skills training. This course included culinary skills such as cooking and being a restaurant server. Wal-Mart Bright Futures Program opened up doors and opportunities for people of all races and backgrounds, which enable them to have training for life.

If these program has made such made such a resounding impact on the trajectory of my life, imagine what it has done for countless others who came before me. Essentially you are assisting to break the stigma of having to depend on the government for assistance and are relieving the strain off of taxpayers. You are motivating us to seek after brighter futures and to achieve.

Currently, I am at FIU seeking a degree in the culinary arts and am being provided with basic skills training. This is thanks to the Wal-Mart Bright Futures Program, which allows people to take this course at FIU Institute for Hospitality and tourism. It is providing me with basic skills training. This program also provides opportunities for students in education and research sponsored by DIAGEO Learning For Life. The bus passes that this program provides are essential in helping us to achieve our goals by removing a transportation barrier, allowing us to be independent. It is my personal belief that this program is so valuable that it should not end. It should continue to occur for generations to come because we appreciate all that it does.

To qualify for this program, one must be below the poverty level. Sometimes I don't have any money or any food. But the one thing I have continued to have is my bus pass to go to school to study. I am an unemployed single parent with three sons in college. This program has allowed supplemental assistance for many people in the past, including myself. It would be in the best interest to continue this program to help others that come after me to have a better future and a better life. There are many people such as I, Helena Dubery, who get about \$140 dollars a month from food stamps for the family. This is my monthly income and does not allow me the ability to afford a bus pass. This program is essentially helping me to lift myself out of poverty and rise from the slum of disparity. This bus pass is more than a second chance at life. It is giving me the opportunity to reach for a good education.

We are very thankful and words cannot express our extreme gratitude for this life-changing program. The coordinator, Irene J. Vargas, is doing an excellent job to assist us with our needs. She goes beyond the call of duty and meets us at our point

of need to try to create solutions. She is very encouraging and is never too busy to listen to us. I am sure that you don't hear often about what a positive effect your program is having, but I wanted to take the time to at least inform you of the immense impact this program has had on me. I am positive that many of my peers and other students/program participants would echo my sentiments and have also gained much from the assistance that this program provides.

Attached is my resume. I was able to achieve many of these accomplishments because of this program.

Thanks to the Wal-Mart Program for making such a positive impact in our lives and directing us towards a brighter future. It is important to keep this door open for the posterity of this program. Please keep the program running, it is an excellent opportunity that Wal-Mart Bright Future 2.0 Project is providing. If you stop this program you close the doors to the futures of many students. Please do not stop this program.

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