

## Graham Henry's Success Story



On January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010, a 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti, creating devastation for an estimated three million people. Graham Henry was badly injured in the earthquake and had to be transported to the Dominican Republic for treatment and recovery. It was this incident that inspired Graham to later change career pathways from business to nursing. Although he had a college degree in business, Graham wanted to make a difference in others' lives, in the same way the emergency care workers made a difference in his life after the earthquake.

After immigrating to the United States, Graham found Collier County Adult Education, hoping to improve his English. Although Graham had only been in the United States for two months, he tested out of the regular English programs immediately. As Graham indicated his long-term goal was to have a bachelor's degree in nursing, he was advised to enter Collier's Adult Education Intro to Health Care Program. This program is the first step along the pathway for students interested in the healthcare field.

Graham was an excellent student and quickly progressed to the next phase of the Nursing Assistant program. Graham was a natural leader, helping classmates with their clinical skills and preparing himself and them for the Florida Board of Nursing CNA exam. In April, Graham and his classmates all passed their CNA exam. Immediately after completing his classes in May 2024, Graham applied to be a clinical technician at the Naples Community Hospital. He will transition to the Practical Nursing program at Lorenzo Walker Technical College in October, while still working for Naples Community Hospital.

In his few spare hours of time, Graham has been helping students in the Nursing Assistant class with their clinical skills. He has also been a spokesperson for the program, advocating for Collier Adult Education and its students. Graham expects to continue his career path working toward a bachelor's in nursing.

Graham's teacher says, "people naturally look to Graham as a leader. He has stayed in touch with his classmates from the Nursing Assistant class, encouraging and supporting them along their own journeys." The Collier Adult Education staff fully expect to see him becoming a community leader and cannot wait to see what is next for him.