

**American Dream Excerpt: Mani**

“Many people think that moving to America or being American automatically grants you success, but that is not the case. It requires hard work and perseverance. When I heard the news that I was moving to America, I was overjoyed. I thought it would be like the movies where everyone was rich and happy or rose up from poverty easily. People around me in Jamaica also had the same idea.

When I came here I was shocked to see that my parents weren't swimming in money and didn't have a big house. In fact they were struggling to get back on their feet after bringing four children here. Over the years, they have worked hard to get us to where we are now, and that has taught me what it is like to strive for the American Dream.”

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