



CENTRE FOR NEURO SKILLS®

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Time's A Charm for New U.S. Citizen: *Former Immigrant and Local Business Woman Casts Ballot and Volunteers at the Polls on Election Day*



Mischell Fuller celebrates her U.S. Citizenship at Centre for Neuroskills® in Irving, TX

November 4, 2008 (Irving, TX) – For one local Belize native, this Election Day holds more value than most. After working on obtaining her citizenship for seven years, she proudly not only used her right to vote today, but also took time away from work to volunteer at a local polling station.

When Mischell Fuller's mother brought her to America in 1982, it was to provide her 9-year-old daughter a better life. When Fuller learned of a law passed in 1996 which would not provide Social Security benefits to children of non-citizens, she knew it was time to do what her own mother did: take action to better their future.

"I wanted to assure that if I died before my children were grown, they would be able to collect my social security," said Mischell Fuller about the moment she began her quest to citizenship. "I also desired to vote and work on Election Day and, when I tried to work on Election Day, I was told I had to become a citizen."

(MORE)

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In 1999, Fuller hired an immigration attorney to file papers. She contacted Eddie Bernice Johnson's office which helped her with what had become a quite complicated process. Through a meticulous and sometimes frustrating seven year struggle towards obtaining her U.S. Citizenship in 2006, it was finally time to start studying and take her test.

"I was able to pass my test due to the help of my co-workers at Centre for Neuro Skills® (CNS)," said Fuller. "One co-worker came up with a funny saying to help me remember the thirteen colonies of America and another helped me research what the white color of the flag actually meant."

In June 2006, Fuller passed the test and was sworn in during June of 2006, which was followed by a surprise party at CNS.

"It was one of the most exiting days of my life...like a graduation day to become a true American citizen. This has opened up so many opportunities for me," said Fuller. "I have already cast my vote during early voting and will work at a polling station in my area tomorrow."

Founded in 1980, Centre for Neuro Skills® is an experienced and trusted source of rehabilitation programs for acquired brain injury (ABI). With facilities in Bakersfield and Los Angeles, California, and Dallas, Texas, CNS offers intensive, cost-effective and outcome-driven residential, outpatient, and in-home rehabilitation programs for individuals recovering from all types of acquired brain injury. The purpose of all rehabilitation programs at CNS is to reduce disabilities while obtaining the maximum independence and best quality of life in the least restrictive setting for our clients within the realities of the funding support available.

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