



**Statement from the Executive Director**

The effects of racism and inequity weigh heavily on my heart always- and drive my passion for and commitment to education – from birth to high school and beyond. The organization I have the privilege to lead was started by a man whose family home was part of the Underground Railroad. I want to reassure the Black American community and in a very special way, our Black American families that RCMA continues to stand with them in our ongoing struggle against racism and injustice.

Horrifying assaults on life and dignity have magnified many issues- unfortunately, politics and violence continue to stagnate progress. This is not acceptable. The statistics around the development and educational achievement of children of color living in poverty are unacceptable- they have been unacceptable for far too long.

Here at RCMA, we prove that statistics can be changed. Our children’s shot at success begins even before they are born- with women receiving prenatal care and parents being ready with tools and resources to be their babies’ first teachers, and life long advocates.

Over the 55 years of RCMA’s existence, we have witnessed thousands of success stories - thousands of children overcoming the odds and pulling themselves and their families out of poverty. All of this, the effects of quality care and education given and received at critical points in a child’s life.

This is what we do- and what we remain committed to doing- ensuring that at the earliest moments of a child’s life, they are welcomed with the dignity and respect that they deserve. And that they develop and grow to be successful, strong, empowered individuals with the words and tools necessary to powerfully speak out against racism and injustice wherever they exist and replace them with systems of equity and justice.

As a proud woman of color, I commit to continue the legacy of RCMA’s founder and speak out for justice for all.



*Isabel Garcia*

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