

# RCMA HOY

We Can Make A World Of  
Difference

## Helping Our Youth



February 1994 OUR MISSION: Helping Parents Restart, Giving Kids a Head Start, Helping Staff Develop

### FROM THE DESK OF BARBARA

We are starting to hear more and more about our staff using the new benefit which encourages you to go to your own children's school. Great!

You are making sure the teachers and principal get to know you and also know that you are very interested in the success of your kids in school. This helps our children do well.

Please use the opportunity RCMA has given you and go to your children's school each month. Do not wait for a problem to come up or someone else to schedule a parent-teacher conference—just go to the school.

In elementary school, parents are allowed to eat lunch with their kids. Introduce yourself to the teacher and tell her or him how smart and how good your child is. It makes a difference.

As the Nike commercial says—"Just do it!"

### DE EL ESCRITORIO DE BARBARA

Me he dado cuenta que ahora ultimo el personal de RCMA ha estado usando el nuevo beneficio para animarles a ustedes a ir a las escuelas de sus hijos. Fantastico.

Te estas asegurando de que los maestros y el director te conozcan y que ustedes esten dandole a saber que estan interesados en el exito de sus hijos en la escuela. Esto es lo que ayuda a nuestros hijos a mejorar.

Por favor usen la oportunidad que RCMA les ha dado, y vayan a la escuela de sus ninos cada mes. No esperes hasta que haya un problema, o a que te manden una cita para hablar con el maestro—solo ve a la escuela.

En la escuela elemental a los padres se les permite comer con sus hijos. Presentate a la maestra y dejale saber que tan buena e inteligente es tu hijo(a). Esto hace

la diferencia.

Como dice el comercial de Nike— "Simplemente hazlo."

## APPLAUSE

### North Region Palatka Area

Congratulations to **Julia Young**, teacher at Ragsdale Child Development Center, for receiving "Parent of the Month" honors for supporting her nine-year-old child, Corey, at his elementary school.

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*(continued on next page)*

## COMING EVENTS

Feb. 22 - Regular Head Start Parent Policy Council Meeting, Lake Placid, South Florida Community College.

Feb. 23 - Migrant Head Start Parent Policy Committee Meeting, Ruskin.

March 16- 17 - AC/PC Leadership Retreat, Cedarkirk

## Employer's "Release Time" Promotes Parent Involvement

By **JUDY BURLESON**  
Program Coordinator, Palm Beach Area

As a working parent, it was sometimes difficult to attend parent-teacher conferences and participate in SAC meetings at my child's school.

Recently my employer, RCMA, made a new policy to allow one hour of release time from work each month to attend conferences and meetings or just to visit my child at school. "Release time" means that my employer allows me to leave the workplace without using sick or vacation leave and it is paid time.

My employer understands the importance of parents being involved in their child's education.

Conferencing with teachers improves a student's chances for success because parents can help the teacher to a better understanding of the child. The parent can also get advice from the teacher on ways to help the child academically at home.

Also, by participating in the annual School Plan, parents can help to make changes at school that improve their children's education.

I am proud to work for an employer that encourages parent participation in education.

*Reprinted from Palm City Elementary PTA Newsletter, January 1994 issue. Judy's son, David, is a 4th grader at Palm City Elementary.*

## WORDS OF SUPPORT . . .

Carmen Edwards, the Family Day Care Homes Coordinator in Immokalee, receives our condolences. Her mother, Lydia Maria Camacho, recently passed away.

## Safety News

Congratulations to the following accident-free centers in January:

**Smith Brown Child Development Center, Arcadia; Glades County Child Development Center, Moore Haven; LaBelle Child Development Center; Immokalee Child Development Center; Everglades Child Development Center I, Everglades Child Development Center II, and Andrew Child Development Center, Florida City.**

Keep up the good work and remember to THINK SAFETY AND ACT SAFELY!

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A special concern for our staff who got hurt on the job in January. Hope you are better soon!

**Zelda Williams, Melissa Barber, Maria DeLeon, Margarita Trevino, Maria Lopez, Juana Martinez, Carmen Gutierrez, and Maria Mata.**

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A big HURRAY for:

All those mentioned above except one are back to work with at least light duty of some sort. That's our goal.

**Editor: Gerard Lambert**  
**Applause Contributor: Leslie Moguil**

*Please send suggestions, comments, and letters to the editor to the following address:*

**RCMA Hoy Editor, 219 N. First St., Immokalee, FL 33934**

## Indian River Area

Five cheers for Stephanie Herrera, Alma Arispe, Sherri Cunningham, Elida Gomez, and Nancy Patterson, teachers at Indian River Migrant Head Start Center, who recently enrolled at Indian River Community College. They are pursuing an A.S. degree in Child Development. We wish them good luck with their studies.

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Congratulations to Alma Arispe, Narce Pitalla, and Rosio Samora on receiving their CDA credential. It is quite an achievement.

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Ruskin/Wimauma/Palmetto Area  
Congratulations to Area Coordinator Myrtelina Rivera's daughter, Elaine, who recently got her GED.

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## South Region Homestead Area

Tere Jimenez, Program Coordinator, was recently honored with the *Champion of Children Award* for her outstanding contributions on behalf of children and families in Dade County.

This is a wonderful tribute to Tere for the inspirational leadership that she has provided in the South Dade community. The award was presented by the Miami-Dade Community College, North Campus Center for Early Care and Education and the Department of Early Childhood Education.

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# HAPPENINGS

## North Region

### Orange Area

After many setbacks and delays and with much hard work by staff, the Zellwood Child Development Center is open. The center will be holding its Grand Opening Celebration February 25.

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Ruskin/Wimauma/Palmetto Area  
Juan Calderon, Site Director of the Dropout Prevention Program, planned, organized and facilitated a two day overnight retreat for nearly 25 high school students which was very successful.

## South Region

### Homestead Area

Everglades Child Development Center I is open again and is serving children. Yeah!

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DeSoto/Glades/Hendry/Lee Area  
Viola Esquivel, Center Director of LaBelle Child Development Center, and Sherry Shupp, Health Coordinator, attended the annual Region IV Head Start Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Both returned full of enthusiasm about what they had learned.

### Naples Area

Yolanda Herrera is the new Program Director of the Naples Family Day Care Home Network. Congratulations to Yolanda on her new position.

### Immokalee Area

Congratulations go to Rafaela Aleman, Dora Zurita, and Angelica Nichols for their accomplishment in receiving their CDA credential.

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Diana Rios is the new Center Director of Farmworker Village Child Development Center B.

Connie Gallegos, Eliazar Valdez, Jr., and Junice Adame are the Acting Dropout Prevention Program Site Directors at Lake Trafford Elementary, Highlands Elementary, and Farmworker Village B Annex, respectively.

Congratulations to them for taking on this new challenge!

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### Highlands/Hardee Area

Congratulations to the following teachers who are recent CDA credential recipients from Lake Placid Child Development Center: Carmen Maldonado, Dorothy McGahee, Voncille Hill, Gladys Rivera, and Joann Hendricks.

Loubertha Shuler, the Center Director at Fred Dennis Child Development Center in Wauchula deserves applause as well for recently receiving her CDA credential.

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## Statewide

The Career Development Council met in January and had an excellent turnout from all areas of the state.

It would like to include more parents on the Council. If you know of a parent that would like to participate, please let your Area Coordinator know.

# Working With Parents On The Dangers Of Pesticides and Protection From Pesticides

By **GYLA WISE**  
State Director of Health

There is a new law that will require all farmworkers to be taught about pesticides, the dangers of pesticides, and how to protect yourself from pesticides. The law takes effect April 16, 1994.

It is for the whole United States, not just Florida. The growers and crewleaders must teach the workers about pesticide safety. They must have safety posters in the fields, emergency information, and soap and water for washing.

The Migrant Head Start Parent Policy Committee members, Area Coordinators, and Health Coordinators attended two days of training about this new Worker Protection Standard (WPS) law. It was discussed how the law will work and that pesticide safety information is needed by farmworker families.

One thing we learned is that when parents must come to the center straight from the fields to pick up their children, they probably have pesticide residue on their clothes and their skin. When they hug, hold hands or carry their children, the children are exposed to the pesticides.

Little children can be harmed by these pesticides!

It would be best if parents had time to go home, shower and change clothes before picking up their children from the center.

But if there is not time for this, encourage the parents to wash their hands with soap at the center! Maybe they could bring a clean shirt to change into at the center if they have a baby.

How can your center teach and encourage pesticide safety?



*The following is a song to teach the children that was written by one of the groups at the training. Sing it with the children. The children will sing it with their parents.*

## **TELL YOUR MOM AND DAD**

*(Sing to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star")*

*Pesticides are very bad.  
Go and tell your mom and dad.  
If you see the big red sign  
Don't go in until it's time.  
Pesticides are very bad.  
Go and tell your mom and dad.*

*Pesticides can make you sick.  
They are on the crops we pick.  
Wash your clothes and wash  
your hands.  
Stay away from poison cans.  
Pesticides are very bad.  
Go and tell your mom and dad.*

**DILE A MAMI Y A PAPI**  
*Los pesticidas son muy malos.  
Si tu ves un aviso rojo  
no entres en ese sitio.  
Los pesticidas son muy malos.  
Ve y dile a mami y a papi.*

*Los pesticidas pueden  
enfermarte  
Estan en la cosecha que  
piscamos.  
Lava tu ropa y tus manos  
no toques botes con veneno.  
Los pesticidas son muy malos.  
Ve y dile a mami y a papi.*