

RCMA HOY

We Can Make A World Of
Difference

Helping Our Youth



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

FROM THE DESK OF BARBARA

This month each RCMA employee who works 30 hours or more per week will be signing up for the benefits she or he chooses. We are very lucky to have Dana Reeves taking care of us at RCMA!

The cafeteria plan offers a buffet of services from which you may select. Please think hard about both the cost and the benefits to you and your family. The new HMO option (where available) will help people who did not sign up for health insurance when first hired, and then were turned down when they tried to sign up later on.

If you have questions, call Dana or Lorena (Spanish-speaking) and keep asking until you are satisfied. The number is 1-800-457-7319.

**If you're not modeling what
you teach, you're teaching
something else!**

DE EL ESCRITORIO DE BARBARA

En éste mes cada trabajador de RCMA que trabaja 30 horas ó mas por semana sera suscrito a los beneficios que ella o el desee. Somos muy afortunados al tener a Dana Reeves cuidandonos en RCMA!

El plan estilo cafetería ofrece un bufet de servicios del cual puedes seleccionar. Por favor piensa cuidadosamente de acuerda al costo y los beneficios para ti y para tu familia.

La nueva opción de HMO (donde desponible) ayudara a personas que no se inscribieron para beneficios de salud cuando empesaron a trabajar, y se les fue negada la oportunidad cuando trataron luego de subscribirse. Si tienes alguna pregunta, llama a Dana ó Lorena (Español) y continua preguntando hasta estar satisfecha(o). El numero es 1-800-457-7319.



Hummingbirds on vacation

COMING EVENTS

April 26 - Regular Head Start Parent Policy Council Meeting, Lake Placid, South Florida Community College.

April 27 - Migrant Head Start Parent Policy Committee. Ruskin.

May 4-5 - AC/PC Leadership Retreat, Cedarkirk.

May 11 - Second Annual Parent/Staff Celebration, Holiday Inn. Sebring

APPLAUSE

South Region

Desoto/Glades/Hendry/Lee Area
Congratulations to Melinda Russ, Outreach Worker at LaBelle Child Development Center, who birthed a son, Aarian Markis Gunsby, on February 6.

Immokalee Area

Congratulations to Duane Zimmerman on the birth of his daughter, Elizabeth, March 11. Duane and his wife, Lonna, are Mennonite Volunteers.

Duane divides his time among all of RCMA's Immokalee centers and Immokalee Child Care Center doing maintenance as well as doing weekly pick-ups from the food bank. Duane's wife volunteers at Friendship House, a homeless shelter in Immokalee.

We thank both of them for their commitment to the community.

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Connie Fox, also a Mennonite Volunteer, works as a teacher at Immokalee Child Development Center, Annex. Her fellow staff at the center admire Connie's dedication and love for the children and staff. The staff say that Connie, who has been with RCMA since last September, always contributes to keeping the morale high.

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Best wishes are extended to Senior Teacher Esperanza Hernandez, who has accepted a general aide position at Lake

Trafford Elementary after six years of dedication to the children in Immokalee Child Development Center, Pre.

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Congratulations go out to Dora Zurita's son, Miguel, a part-time Teacher Trainee, in his decision to apply to college for the fall. Both Dora, a Senior Teacher, and Miguel work at Immokalee Child Development Center, Pre.

North Region

Palatka Area

Congratulations to Sandra Matthews' daughter, Tasha, who is an English honor student at St. Augustine High School. Sandra is the Center Director at Ragsdale Child Development Center.

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Congratulations to Sheann Williamson, the granddaughter of Margaret Murray, Center Director of Crescent City Child Development Center. Sheann has been an honor student for the entire year at Hasting Elementary school.

HAPPENINGS

State Office

It's here - It's here. Good News!! A Weight Watcher's Food Program has begun in Immokalee, and several staff are taking advantage of this important opportunity.

This is an eight week, one hour per week program, that can help you establish a healthy eating

plan. The cost varies, but could range approximately from \$71/person to \$85/person.

If you would like more information on starting such a group in your area or would just like more information on this food program, you can contact Weight Watcher's at 1-800-282-3324 or call Judy Brill in the State Program Office at 1-800-282-6540.

Thanks to north region Staff Development Specialist Irene Brammertz, who took the initiative to start this program in Immokalee.

North Region

Ruskin/Wimauma/Palmetto Area
Teamwork applause goes out to Andrea Najaras, Ninfa Martinez, Evelyn Soto, Laura Haese and Myrta Rivera on finding, referring and following up on two 10-year-old boys from two families in Wimauma.

The boys have severe cerebral palsy and have gone without needed services. With your help the lives of these two families will be greatly improved.

**

Career and personal development hit an all-time high at Wimauma Child Development Center this year. Congratulations to Center Director Celia Post, and Teachers Sylvia Blanco, Micaela Perez, Maria Juarez, Matilde Ojeda and Cindy Villareal, who are all studying two evenings weekly for their GED. Gloria Rochas, a teacher, and Ninfa Martinez, Outreach Worker, are taking English classes.

They are all role models for others that are thinking about doing it too. If you see any of them be sure to ask how their studying is going. Some words of encouragement and interest are always nice to hear!

Orange Area

Three cheers to the staff of Zellwood Child Development Center who showed patience and extra effort in dealing with a chicken pox outbreak in their center. We are sure that the families are grateful too!

South Region

Highlands/Hardee Area

Lake Placid Child Development Center is ready for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) validation visit. The center has submitted all the necessary paperwork. All that is left is for the NAEYC representative to observe and assess the center. Best of luck!

DeSoto/Glades/Hendry/Lee Area

Nocatee Migrant Head Start Center recently held a Spring Festival, planned and organized by the parents, in which it raised \$960. Part of the money will be used at the center and part will go towards the Wendell N. Rollason Scholarship Fund to be established in DeSoto county.

Palm Beach Area

English classes are successfully being held twice weekly at Farmworker Child Development Center in Delray Beach with some 25 to 30 participants.

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The Delray center, New Hope Child Development Center in Pahokee and Belle Glade Child Development Center will all receive help toward NAEYC accreditation. Their applications were accepted as collaborative partners in Project ACCEPT.

This project will pay for substitute teachers as the teachers attend various trainings. Each Director prepared their own application proposal. Congratulations to them on this initial step!

WORDS OF SUPPORT . . .

Margaret Murray, the Center Director of Crescent City Child Development Center, receives our condolences. Her sister recently passed away.

Dora Zurita, a Senior Teacher at Immokalee Child Development Center, Pre, receives our support as she recovers from recent surgery.

We also wish Barbara Mainster our support as her daughter, Sarah, prepares for and recovers from surgery.

Safety News

Congratulations to the following accident-free centers in March:

Dropout Prevention Programs of Hillsborough County, Wimauma Child Development Center, Wimauma Infant Migrant Head Start Center.

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 March:

Filiva Estrada, Maria G. Ramos, Eria Silva, Janice Solis, Concepcion Alanis, and Laura Pendleton.

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A big HURRAY for:

All those mentioned above are at work, as is Marie Delphin.

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

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

With the March issue of the **RCMA HOY** staff newsletter, we completed one year of publication.

In order to know what you thought about the first twelve issues of this monthly newsletter for all RCMA staff, we need your feedback.

We ask that you take a few minutes to complete the following questionnaire, giving us your honest responses.

Please clip out and return the completed **RCMA HOY QUESTIONNAIRE** by **April 29** to: **RCMA HOY** Editor
219 N. First Street
Immokalee, FL 33934

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Hoy,

When I was growing up we were a migrant family. I hated the idea of going from place to place. So I finished school.

I was scared of going out there (to look for a job), but I did. I got an interview with a program called CEDA, which helps young adult migrants under 21 to learn on the job.

I wish to thank my father and mother for all their support. My mother, Ninfa Martinez, has received her GED and is working as an Outreach Worker at Wimauma Child Development Center.

After working out in the fields for over 40 years, my mother is proof that you can better yourself at any age. Do not let anyone tell you that you can not.

Also, thank you RCMA. On April 19 I will complete ten years working with RCMA and they have been good ones.

Signed,

Alicia Martinez,
Eligibility Clerk
Ruskin Area

RCMA HOY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. How often do you read the HOY? (Circle your response) Always
Usually Sometimes Rarely

2. What part(s) of the HOY do you find most interesting? (Circle those that apply)

a. From The Desk of Barbara or Olga b. Coming Events c. Applause
d. Happenings e. Safety News f. Personal Profile g. Family Profile
h. Center Profile i. Big Idea Space j. Letters To The Editor

3. What part(s) of the HOY do you find least interesting? (Circle those that apply)

a. From The Desk of Barbara or Olga b. Coming Events c. Applause
d. Happenings e. Safety News f. Personal Profile g. Family Profile
h. Center Profile i. Big Idea Space j. Letters To The Editor

4. If you were to suggest any changes or add something to the HOY, what would those changes or additions be?

5. On a scale from 1 to 10 (10 being the best), as a staff newsletter how would you rate the HOY overall? (Circle your response)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10