

# RCMA HOY

We Can Make A World Of  
Difference

## Helping Our Youth



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

### FROM THE DESK OF OLGA

#### A TRIBUTE TO MOTHERS

I read an article recently about mothers, written by Irma Bombeck, and with Mother's Day having just been celebrated, I would like to share some ideas from that article with you.

When the Lord was creating mothers the Lord asked for ideas and this is what the Lord was told. Mothers must: have a kiss that can cure anything, have six pairs of hands, and have three pairs of eyes that can see behind closed doors, behind her head and of course in front of her head. This is so she can see her child when her child goofs up and the mother expresses "I understand and I love you" without so much as uttering a word.

When the Lord was close to being finished with creation, an angel said to the Lord "come to bed. You can finish tomorrow." The Lord said, "I can't. I'm so close to creating something similar to myself.

Already she can heal herself when she is sick. She can feed her family for three days on one pound of hamburger and can get a six-year-old to stand under a shower."

The angel touched her and said, "She's very soft." "But she is very strong," said the Lord excited. "Can she think?," asked the angel. The Lord answered, "Not only can she think, but she can reason and compromise, and do many more things. A mother is phenomenal!"

A special thanks to all our RCMA mothers who provide tender loving care to our children.

### PHOTO CONTEST

Black and white photos are still being accepted as part of the photo contest. These photos are used in annual reports, brochures and other public relations materials.

If you are interested, please refer to the rules in the April edition of *RCMA HOY* and submit your photos this month.

### DE EL ESCRITORIO DE OLGA

#### UN TRIBUTO A LAS MADRECITAS

Recientemente leí un artículo acerca de las madres escrito por Irma Bombeck. Como acabamos de celebrar el día de las madres, quiero compartir parte de éste artículo con ustedes.

Cuando Dios creó a las Madrecitas pidió ideas al mundo y éstas fueron las ideas que recibió: Una madre debe tener besos que todo lo pueden sanar, seis pares de manos, tres pares de ojos que pueden ver a través de puertas cerradas, ojos atrás de su cabeza, y por supuesto en frente para ver cuando su hijo comete errores y la madre expresa "Yo comprendo y te amo" sin tener que decir una sola palabra.

Cuando Dios estaba a punto de terminar su creación se le acercó un ángel y le dijo "Ve y duerme. Mañana la puedes

terminar." Dios le contestó "No puedo, estoy tan cerca de crear algo tan similar a mí."

Ella ya puede curarse a sí misma cuando está enferma. Puede alimentar a su familia por tres días con una libra de carne picada, y puede hacer que un niño de seis años se pare bajo la regadera y se bañe."

El angel la tocó y dijo "está tan sauecita." "Si pero es muy fuerte," dijo Dios muy emocionado.

"¿Puede pensar?," preguntó el angel. Dios le contestó, "no solamente puede pensar, pero tambien puede razonar y llegar a un acuerdo y muchas otras cosas. ¡Una madre es fenomenal!"

Felicidades a todas las madrecitas que dan sus servicios a nuestros niños con tanto amor y ternura.

## COMING EVENTS

May 18 - Migrant Head Start Parent Policy Committee meeting, Ruskin.

May 19 - Career Development Council meeting, Hillsborough Community College, Brandon

May 23 - Board of Directors meeting, Boys and Girls Club, Dover.

May 24 - Regular Head Start Parent Policy Council meeting, Bishop Park, Lake Placid.

## APPLAUSE

### North Region

#### N. Hillsborough/Polk Area

Congratulations to Lourdes Villanueva, the Area Coordinator, who recently graduated from Hillsborough Community College and received her Associate of Arts (A.A.) degree.

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#### Palatka Area

Congratulations to Cindy McKinnon, Assistant Center Director and Lead Teacher of Crescent City Child Development Center, who got married to Charlie Williams on May 2.

### South Region

#### DeSoto/Glades/Hendry/Lee Area

Vicki Martinez, Pre-kindergarten teacher at Nocatee Migrant Head Start Center, is very proud of her husband, Manuel Martinez.

Manuel, a Correctional Officer with the DeSoto County Sheriff's office, is taking classes and will receive a degree in Law Enforcement from South Florida Community College in January 1995. With this degree, he will be promoted to Deputy.

#### State Office

Only four weeks into the Weight Watcher's Food Program, the participants have lost on average more than six pounds each. Keep it up!

# HAPPENINGS

### North Region

#### Ruskin/Wimauma/Palmetto Area

Special congratulations goes to the staff--especially the teachers--of Ruskin Infant Center for a great job as a team in receiving the highest score out of twenty centers that were evaluated.

They are part of the Florida Child Care Study sponsored by the Universtiy of South Florida and were recently visited by a team of professionals that evaluated their program. They were particularly impressed with the child-teacher interaction.

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Gilma Guevarra, the daughter of Juana Guevarra, a teacher at Ruskin Migrant Head Start Center, is graduating from High School. Jacob Serrano, the son of Maricela Serrano, the Assistant Center Director, is also graduating.

Reynaldo Overa, Jr., who has two sisters in the Ruskin Migrant Head Start Center is graduating.

Two part-time staff, Becky Galan and Maria Lirio, of Ruskin Migrant Education I are also graduating from High School.

Congratulations to all of them for their great accomplishment.

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#### Indian River Area

Congratulations to Elida Gomez, who is the Area Coordinator-in-

training. Elida began as a Teacher Trainee at Fellsmere Child Development Center in March 1988 and became Center Director the following season. Elida, who has her C.D.A., is studying for her Associate of Arts degree at Indian River Community College.

We wish her great success in this new challenge.

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The local television station came and filmed the sheriff, Gary Wheeler, reading a story to the children at Children's House Child Development Center to promote the Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) program.

Indian River Migrant Head Start will have its NAEYC validation visit May 26. We wish them the best of luck!

### South Region

#### Highlands/Hardee Area

Samantha Welsh is finishing her one season commitment with the Catholic Volunteers In Florida as an Outreach Worker at Sebring Child Development Center on May 31. This area gives Samantha a BIG thank you for her dedicated service to the Sebring community. She made a wonderful difference. Samantha has plans to pursue a Master of Social Work degree in the near future and relocate somewhere in Florida.

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Congratulations to the Sebring center which has had no staff accidents for the 1993-94 season! To celebrate this achievement and commitment to safety, they held a staff recognition dinner at a local restaurant.

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Arlinthea Evans Pugh and Tamella Moore, Teachers at Lake Placid Child Development Center, received their Child Development Associate credential in April. Way to go!

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A Cinco de Mayo celebration of the

Mexican culture was held at the Lake Placid Center in which a parent taught a Mexican dance to the four- and five-year-old children which they performed at the event. Ten parents volunteered to cook Mexican food and assist in the celebration.

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Bowling Green Child Development Center also celebrated Cinco de Mayo with the children making a piñata and tortillas.

*(Continued on next page)*

## Safety News

Congratulations to the following accident-free centers in April:

Avon Park Head Start Center, Belle Glade Child Development Center, Bowling Green Child Development Center, Ounce of Prevention ( an after school program), Homestead, Plant City Migrant Head Start Center, and Zolfo Springs After School Program.

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 April:

Maria I. Martinez, Julia Mujica, Elva Castro, Faye Sandoval, Rosa Rodriguez, Lidia Reyes, Dionette Molina, Soledad Lopez, Gloria Ramon, and Maria B. Padilla.

A big HURRAY for:

All those mentioned above except Lidia Reyes and Julia Mujica are at work.

Editor: Gerard Lambert

Applause and Happenings 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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DeSoto/Glades/Hendry/Lee Area  
Smith Brown Child Development Center held a read-a-thon in which parents read a total of 318 books to their children during March. Fourteen parents who read over ten books each were recognized with awards at a parent meeting. What a great way to encourage parents to read, read, read to their children!

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LaBelle Child Development Center, Nocatee Child Development Center, and Smith Brown Child Development Center are all receiving NAEYC validation visits in May. We wish these centers the best of luck in this exciting and challenging process!

### State Office

Rafaela Aleman has changed position and is now the Payroll Specialist.

When you call the office in Immokalee, the person answering the telephone and directing your call is Elizabeth De La Rosa, the temporary Receptionist. Elizabeth had been a Teacher Trainee in Immokalee Child Development Center, Infant.

As she pointed out, she is still a teacher at home with her ten-month-old baby girl, Julyzza Danielle, who was born on the fourth of July.

Congratulations to both of them on their new positions!

### READING IS FUNDAMENTAL

Over 3000 preschool and school-aged children in 55 centers and programs will be choosing three books a year to keep through RIF, a nationally recognized literacy initiative. Please share any RIF success stories with us.

Dear Hoy,

Congratulations on the newsletter. I think it is fantastic and you are doing a terrific job! It is an excellent way to keep us informed of what other areas are doing.

Signed,  
Josie Gracia  
Resource Coordinator  
Ruskin Infant Center

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Dear Hoy,

I want to share what a great feeling it was to give blood recently. The Lee Memorial Hospital Blood Mobile came to our office. I had never given blood before and of course I was nervous.

The technicians were thankfully skillful, therefore I hardly felt the prick. They offered me orange juice and delicious cookies to eat while my blood pumped out.

What a weird experience to feel your own blood while it's still warm in a bag ready to be tested. It really is a great feeling to know that I may save someone's life because I took the time (20 minutes) to give blood.

Donating blood is like getting a mini check-up because they take your temperature, blood pressure, pulse rate, and check your red blood cell level.

I also found out that my blood is very rare--only one in 29 have my blood type, and that blood only lasts for 35 days. Blood cannot be created in a laboratory nor manufactured; donors are the only source of blood available.

I am really looking forward to being a regular donor. Only seven more pints to go until I'm a gallon donor.

I want to thank Joshua Rincon and Bill Francisco, Immokalee Dropout Prevention program site director and program director, respectively, for bringing the Blood Mobile to RCMA.

Signed,  
Lisa Quintanar  
Immokalee Dropout  
Prevention Program  
Tutor