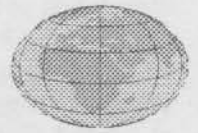


RCMA HOY

We Can Make
A World of
Difference

Helping Our Youth



AUGUST 1994

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

FROM THE DESK OF BARBARA

RCMA's roots lie in the farmworker communities where "season" has real meaning. For the summer marks the end of one season and the beginning of a new one.

We start our new year with big thanks and enormous pleasure in the centers which became NAEYC accredited recently. Getting accredited is proof of excellent teamwork and hard work. It also means the staff can share with pride that theirs is a nationally accredited program where children get the best care possible and parents are treated with respect. The staff deserve congratulations from all of us.

New NAEYC accredited centers include Avon Park Head Start Center, Indian River Migrant Head Start Center, LaBelle Child Development Center, Lake Placid Child Development Center, Palmetto Migrant Head Start Center, Ruskin Infant Center, Ruskin Migrant Head Start Center, Smith Brown Child Development Center, and Wimauma Child Development Center.

Centers previously accredited include Fellsmere, Wimauma



Photo By GERARD LAMBERT

Jenneyfa Rich, a Teacher at Glades County Child Development Center, at a recent preservice demonstrates how to take off latex gloves once blood has gotten on them. Vicki Willard (left), a Health Specialist, uses ketchup to serve as blood on the gloves. The new Staff Orientation was used in the preservice that also included LaBelle Child Development Center.

Infant and Glades. This brings our total to twelve centers which have achieved accreditation, or 26 percent of all our early childhood centers. At this rate, we will be at 100 percent in three more years!

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!!!

DEL ESCRITORIO DE BARBARA

Las raíces de RCMA están en las comunidades de agricultores para las cuales las estaciones tienen un

significado real. El verano es la marca de el final de una temporada y el comienzo de otra.

Empezamos el nuevo año con un gran agradecimiento y enorme placer en los centros que recientemente fueron acreditados con el NAEYC (Asociación Nacional para la Educación de Niños Pequeños).

El haber conseguido éste crédito es la prueba de un excelente y duro trabajo en equipo. También significa que el personal puede compartir con orgullo que el programa de su centro ha sido acreditado nacionalmente, donde los niños reciben el mejor cuidado posible y los padres son tratados con respeto.

El personal merece felicitaciones de todos nosotros.

(continúa en la página siguiente)

Nuevos centros acreditados con NAEYC incluyen: Avon Park Head Start Center, Indian River Migrant Head Start Center, LaBelle Child Development Center, Lake Placid Child Development Center, Palmetto Migrant Head Start Center, Ruskin Infant Center, Ruskin Migrant Head Start Center, Smith Brown Child Development Center, and Wimauma Child Development Center.

Centros previamente acreditados incluyen: Fellsmere Child Development Center, Wimauma Infant Migrant Head Start Center, y Glades County Child Development Center.

Así completamos un total de doce centros que han sido acreditados, o 26 por ciento de todos nuestros centros. ¡A éste paso alcanzaremos un 100 por ciento en tres años más!

¡¡¡Gracias, gracias, gracias!!!

Traducido por STELLA LAMBERT

"Nothing lasts forever--not even your troubles."

—Arnold H. Glasow in Graham, Texas, *Rotary "Scandal Sheet"*

COMING EVENTS

Sept. 9 - Career Development Council meeting, South Florida Community College

Sept. 13 - South Region Cooks Meeting, Ft. Myers

Sept. 15 - South Region Voluntary Training, Interviewing and Hiring The Right People, Immokalee Community Park

Sept. 16 - North Region Voluntary Training, Interviewing and Hiring The Right People

Sept. 20-21 - South Region Training, all Center Coordinators, Assistant Center Coordinators, Outreach Workers, Health/Disabilities Coordinators, Family Support Workers

Sept. 28-29 - South Region Training, all Center Coordinators, Assistant Center Coordinators and Education Coordinators

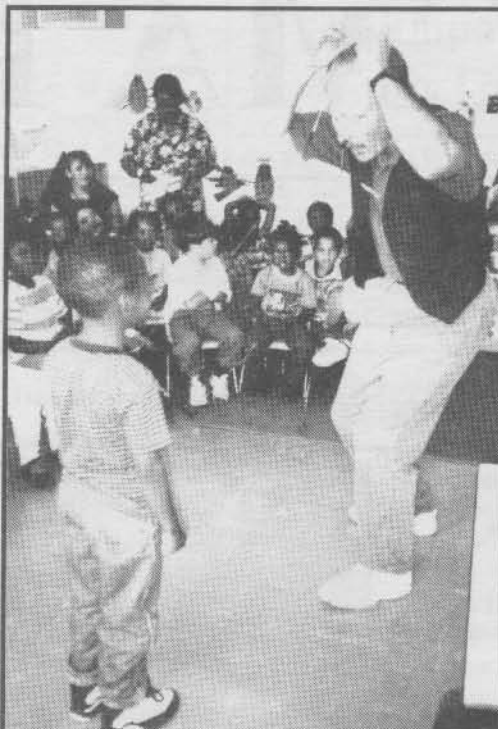


Photo By GERARD LAMBERT

Tom Moonan, during a Magic Show as "Mason the Magnificent," tells the future of a child at South Highlands Child Development Center in Lake Placid by taking a picture with a mini-camera and using electrodes on his forehead attached by wires to the boy's shirt while other children curiously look on.

Tom is back as part of RCMA's effort in stepping up our parent involvement. He will be working around the state with Mr. Rollason in RCMA's Division of Family, School, and Community Collaboration.

Tom was missed while he was gone and we are certainly glad to have him back as part of this important parent involvement effort. When you see Tom in your area, be sure to give him a big "welcome back" hello.

HAPPENINGS

SOUTH REGION

Florida City Area

Margarita Hinajosa becomes the newest Area Coordinator on September 1st, in charge of providing support and leadership to the Florida City area of Dade County for the Andrew Center and Everglades Child Development Centers I and II.

Margarita, who has been with RCMA since 1983 when she began as a Teacher, has been Resource

Coordinator for Redlands Child Development Center. Previously she was Center Director as well. Congratulations to Margarita on this new opportunity and exciting challenge.

Maria Coronado and Tere Jimenez will continue to be a team supporting the Homestead Areas of Redlands and South Dade.

**

Roxanna Besu, who transferred from Redlands Child Development Center, is the Lead Teacher at the Andrew Center which is serving 20 Pre-Kindergarten children through Dade County Public Schools.

We wish Roxanna the best in her new position.

**

Highlands/Hardee Area

Welcome goes out to Vernon Allen, the new Health/Disabilities Coordinator for Fred Dennis Child Development Center in Wauchula. Vernon joins us after spending two years with the Peace Corps in Ecuador, South America.

Vernon has experience as a Respiratory Therapist and is also a dancer and singer. We look forward to his sharing his many talents with the children and staff of Fred Dennis.

**

If you think that men don't stay at home and take care of children while their wives work, talk with Mike Clark, our new Family Support Worker for Hardee County.

Mike comes to us after spending the last four years in the home caring for his children. He was a foster parent for two years and for the last two years and five months took care of his daughter, Kayla, while his wife, Chris, worked outside the home.

(Continued on next page)



Photo By GERARD LAMBERT

Alberta Roebuck, the Center Director of Lake Placid Child Development Center, at an RCMA workshop.

Mike, who has a Master of Arts degree in English As A Second Language and Adult Education, also is a returned Peace Corps Volunteer. Mike was in Guatemala for six years during the 1980s and helped build fish farms and grow fish as a cheap and high quality protein for the local community to eat or sell to their neighbors.

Congratulations go out to Mike on his new position and we hope he enjoys this new challenge.

**

Congratulations are sent to Lucy Garcia, the new Center Director of Fred Dennis Child Development Center in Wauchula. Lucy has been with RCMA for nine years and brings much experience to her new position.

Lucy was most recently the Program Director of the Bowling Green and Zolfo Springs After School Programs for three years. Before that Lucy was a Teacher for several years in Bowling Green and Fred Dennis.

Lucy is excited about her new job and looks forward to the new season working with the whole team at Fred Dennis.

**

DeSoto/Glades/Hendry/Lee Area

We welcome Anna Ruth, the new Health/Disabilities Coordinator, to the area. Anna, who was helping the Palm Beach Area earlier in the summer, works at Smith Brown Child Development Center and will also be working at Nocatee Migrant Head Start Center when it opens.

Anna is a returned Peace Corps Volunteer who served in Camaroon, Africa. If you get a chance, ask Anna about her experiences in Camaroon. Congratulations to Anna in her new and exciting challenge. We are fortunate to have her join us in this area.

**

Latarsha Lewis deserves a warm welcome as a new Outreach Worker at Glades County Child Development Center. Latarsha is a former RCMA parent and Teacher.

Welcome also goes out to new Glades Teachers Debra Pardo and Michael Ellis.

**

Immokalee Area

Patty LaCross is the new Director of the Dropout Prevention Program. She comes to us with a deep commitment to the Immokalee community, having recently finished two years of service to the community through her work at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Immokalee. She previously worked for several years in education in Chicago.

Patty's husband Jim takes care of their three children. Congratulations and welcome go out to Patty who was off and running from the start, involved with the school-aged summer program which finished up in late August.

NORTH REGION

Gadsden Area

Three cheers for Hazel Pride, a Teacher at Gadsden County Migrant Head Start Center, who was recently awarded a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential in recognition of her outstanding work with young

(continued on next page)

Safety News

Congratulations to the following accident-free centers in July:

North Region

Gadsden County Migrant Head Start, Palatka Child Development Center, Crescent City Child Development Center, Long Child Development Center, Dade City Migrant Head Start, and Parkview Village Child Development Center.

South Region

South Highlands Child Development Center, Smith Brown Child Development Center, Immokalee Child Development Center, Pre, Farmworker Village C, Redlands Child Development Center, Andrew Center, Everglades Child Development Center II, New Hope Child Development Center, Farmworker Child Development Center, and Belle Glade Child Development Center.

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

**

A special concern for our staff who got hurt on the job in June or July:

Maria S. Diaz, Maria C. Soto, and Maria Ruiz.

A big HURRAY for:
All those mentioned above are at work.

children. Hazel is the first Teacher in the area to receive her CDA. May Hazel be a role model for others in her center.

Ruskin/Wimauma/Palmetto Area

The Ruskin Infant Center held an all day "day of caring" August 31 in which 20 United Way volunteers from a local hospital had a circus for the kids at the center that included face painting, clowns and other fun activities. The Volunteer Center of Hillsborough County helped organize the event.

**

REGIONAL STAFF

In the area of health and disabilities the state has been divided into three regions --north, central and south. The new Health Specialist for the North region is Jayne Pace, a registered nurse and a message therapist.

The South region, covering Collier, Palm Beach and Dade Counties, has Marilyn Marrow as the new Health Specialist. Vicki Willard continues as the Health Specialist for the rest of the South region as well as Indian River County.

Congratulations and welcome to Jayne and Marilyn. We are fortunate to have their skills and experience to draw upon for health and disabilities services.

**

STATE OFFICE

Congratulations to Susan Lamb who was promoted to Contracts Manager in June from Eligibility Analyst. Among other duties Susan is responsible for processing In Kind for Regular and Migrant Head Start Centers and subcontracts for all areas except Pasco County.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Hoy,

I am the Center Coordinator of Belle Glade Child Development Center. Four months ago I started motherhood over again. My husband and I adopted a 20-month-old boy, Preston.

When we adopted Preston, there was the possibility that he had a terminal disease, but nothing was certain. Thank God follow-up tests later came back negative.

This challenge was inspired by working with the children at the center, seeing their development unfold before my eyes and enjoying their accomplishment at various levels.

The staff have been very supportive in helping me cope with the different stages of his development. They are often giving encouraging words, sharing smiles during difficult times and relating my present experience to their past parenting years.

Most of all, I thank God for Preston coming into our life and for God giving me the courage to accept the challenge!

Signed,
Betty C. Nelson

An Important Message To The Teachers

By PEGGY LAWSON

Program Coordinator,

DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, Lee Area

I know this newsletter (*Area H Newsletter, December 1993*) is late; I had a much more important job to do. I was a classroom teacher for a week. And I do mean a MUCH more important job. I was a preschool teacher once, for five years--but that was a very long time ago--too long.

Now-a-days, I pass through classrooms, rock a baby, read a book, or join in circle time - but it's just not the same as really getting to know a group of children.

In my brief week, I was reminded that:

⇒ The hyper kid loves to be a helper and is willing to do anything for you.

⇒ The one that goes around acting bossy loves to write with pencil and paper and has many stories to write.

⇒ The little girl that never spoke and was one of the "invisible kids" - can talk and smile. All she needed to know was that she was important and that a big person had time to play a game - with just her!

In other words, I got to know each child as an individual, something I usually don't get a chance to do. I was reminded of how very important all our teachers really are!

You really can make a big difference in each child's life. I can't think of a more important job that anyone could do. You literally hold their future in your hands.

Many, many thanks for all your hard work, long hours, and love that you give each day.

Reprinted from the December 1993 issue of RCMA Area H Newsletter.

Work On State Office Building Begins

Work has begun on the \$960,000 addition to the RCMA State Headquarters in Immokalee. The 10,400-square-foot addition, expected to be completed in April 1995, will result in greater efficiency by joining staff of the two State buildings under one roof.

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,

Redlands Christian Migrant Association,

219 N. First St., Immokalee, FL 33934