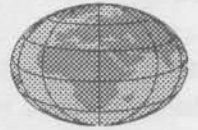




RCMA HOY

We Can Make
A World of
Difference

Helping Our Youth



October 1994

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

FROM THE DESK OF BARBARA

It's almost November 8 - Election Day. I hope those of you who can vote, are registered and will do so. The polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Many people like to complain about what is wrong, but don't do anything about it. As critical as we may be of our government, it does pretty well when we compare it to others in the world.

What is said about so many other things--"use it or lose it"--is also true about exercising our right to vote.

Basing who you will vote for on a 30 second commercial is not enough. Watch debates, read newspapers, and make an informed choice.

You may not realize it, but most of the politicians get reports of voter



Photo By GERARD LAMBERT

From left to right: Cindy McClendon, the Center Coordinator, Edna Andrews, Senior Teacher, Brenda Bouie, Teacher Trainee, and Shirley Walters, Senior Teacher, all of New Hope Foundation Child Development Center in Pahokee.

Cindy, Edna and Shirley have their Child Development Associate credential, while Brenda is currently working toward that proud accomplishment. Looking to improve the overall quality of its program, the center is striving for NAEYC accreditation.

turnout by neighborhoods. Those neighborhoods with high voter turnout are the ones which get the attention later. Encourage everyone in your neighborhood, the parents from your center, and your family to vote. It really can make a difference!

DEL ESCRITORIO DE BARBARA

Se aproxima noviembre 8--Día de las Elecciones. Deseo que si ustedes pueden votar ya se hayan registrado y que voten. Las

urnas de votación abrirán de 7 a.m. a 7 p.m.

Hay muchas personas que continuamente se quejan de todo lo que esta mal en nuestra sociedad pero no hacen nada al respecto. Podemos criticar nuestro gobierno todo lo que queramos, pero no es tan malo cuando lo comparamos con otros gobiernos en el mundo. Lo que se dice acerca de muchas otras cosas--"úselo o piérdalo"--tambien aplica en el caso de usar o perder nuestro derecho a votar.

Para elegir un candidato por quien votar, no es suficiente con ver cortos comerciales en la televisión. Mira los

(continua en la pagina siguiente)

debates, lee los periódicos y toma una inteligente decisión.

Tal vez ustedes no saben esto, pero la mayoría de políticos consiguen los reportes del numero de votantes en cada barrio de las elecciones anteriores. Los barrios con numeros altos de votantes son los barrios que luego reciben mayor atención.

Aníma a todos en tu barrio, a los padres de tu centro y a tu familia para que voten. ¡De verdad, puede marcar la diferencia!

Traducido por STELLA LAMBERT

HAPPENINGS

SOUTH REGION

Immokalee Area

Duane Zimmerman, a maintenance worker at Immokalee Child Development Centers Pre, Infant and Annex, recently finished two years of service through the Mennonite Volunteers. He was a tremendous help to the three centers and will be missed. He moved back to his home state of Pennsylvania and plans to resume college-level studies. We wish him the best with his plans.

**

Welcome back to Maria Teresa Turner, the new Education Coordinator for Immokalee Child Development Center Annex and Farmworker Village A, who returns after working in the Bonita Migrant Head Start Center two seasons ago.

**

Congratulations to Linda Maldonado in her new position as Outreach Worker at Immokalee Child Development Center Annex. Linda, who was a Teacher at Farmworker Village C the last three years, began with RCMA as a substitute Teacher in 1985.

Highlands/Hardee Area

Congratulations to Tonda Armstrong, Education Coordinator at Bowling Green and Fred Dennis Child Development Centers, who had a baby boy, Corben Lee on September 24.

Congratulations go to Violet Hernandez, a Cook at Bowling Green, who also gave birth. Her daughter, Julie Christie, was born October 3.

**

Three cheers for Rebecca Milan, the new Education Coordinator at Fred Dennis Child Development Center. Rebecca began working with RCMA last season as a Teacher at Avon Park Head Start Center.

**

Congratulations to Rosa Ramos in her new position as a Health/Disability Coordinator II at Lake Placid Child Development Center. Rosa was previously an Outreach Worker for four years and before that she was a Teacher Trainee for two years.

Homestead Area

The South Dade Ounce of Prevention program won second place, out of 60 entries, in a float competition as part of the Mexican Independence Day parade on September 17. The parents worked tirelessly to create the float and the children, under the direction of the program's Teacher, Adela Lopez, performed typical Mexican dances and songs during the parade. They were awarded the first place prize (due to a conflict of interest of the winner) of one

round-trip airfare to Mexico City and \$100. This is a proud accomplishment for all those involved in the Ounce of Prevention program.

Florida City Area

The Andrew Center celebrated its first anniversary in October. Teachers Edelmira Valle and Blanca Gorena were recognized for their hard work since the center opened.

NORTH REGION

Ruskin/Wimauma/Palmetto Area

Daniel Stowe is back in a new position as the Hillsborough County Dropout Prevention Program Director. Daniel was previously an Education Coordinator and Program Coordinator. Welcome back and congratulations go out to Daniel.

**

Congratulations to Joe Zuniga, the new Family Support Assistant at Wimauma Infant Migrant
(continued on next page)



Photo By GERARD LAMBERT

Maria Cruz, the new Outreach Worker at Everglades Child Development Center I in Florida City, at a recent training at Ft. Myers Beach.

SHOWING GREAT STRENGTH AND DETERMINATION...

We are pleased to hear that Everlena Richardson is out of the hospital and is home recovering.

We look forward to her return as Center Coordinator of Smith Brown Child Development Center.

Bertha Hooks has been and continues being a real team player in her leadership role in that position during Everlena's absence.

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Head Start Center. Joe worked for a few months last season in the Ruskin Dropout Prevention Program.

**

Maricela Serrano, the Assistant Center Coordinator at Ruskin Migrant Head Start, is taking on additional responsibility as the Family Support Assistant. We wish her the best of luck in this added challenge.

N.Hillsborough/Polk Area

Best of luck to Anselma Fernandez in her new challenge as an Outreach Worker at Westside Village Child Development Center in Plant City. Previously Anselma was the Site Director of the Dropout Prevention Program in Dover.

**

Cesar Barrera has become the Family Support Assistant at Plant City Migrant Head Start Center. Cesar was previously the Outreach Worker at this center.

Kathy Vega is the new Outreach Worker at the Plant City center. She was previously the Outreach Worker at the Dover centers for six years.

Congratulations go to Cesar in his new position and good luck goes to Kathy as she gets to know the families in her new center.

Congratulations to Meg Flood, the new Education Coordinator for Plant City Migrant Head Start Center. Meg was previously a Parent Counselor for the RCMA Resource and Referral Program for Pasco County.

Indian River Area

Maria Rivera is the new Center Coordinator for Indian River Migrant Head Start. Maria was a Senior Teacher at Fellsmere Child Development Center the previous four seasons. Congratulations to Maria in this exciting challenge.

**

As an important role model of parent involvement and empowerment, Elida Gomez, the Area Coordinator, has been chosen to serve on the Indian River District School Improvement Team. As a parent Elida will be helping the school system on a district level to respond better to the needs of families and she will also give parents a greater say in improving our schools.

In addition, Elida serves on the local School Improvement Team for Fellsmere Elementary Schools. Other role models are Regina Sousa, the Eligibility Specialist, and Nancy Patterson, a Senior Teacher at Fellsmere Child Development Center, who serve on the local School Improvement Team as well.



Photo By GERARD LAMBERT

Rosie Arevalo (left), the Center Coordinator of Immokalee Child Development Center Annex, and Awilda Llopiz, the Outreach Worker for Farmworker Village B and C, during a recent training at Fort Myers Beach.

New Staff, Who Bring More Ideas And Energy To RCMA, Deserve A Big Welcome

South Region

Immokalee Area

Pete Cade, Family Support Assistant, Farmworker Village A and Immokalee Child Development Center Annex; Alex Mirales, Family Support Assistant; Maria Avalos, Outreach Worker, Farmworker Village A; Norma Ramirez, Education Coordinator, Special Effort; and Minnie Fernandez, Area Secretary.

Florida City Area

Rosa Maldonado, Family Support Assistant, Everglades Child Development Center I.

Highlands/Hardee Area

Lakay Edmondson, Health/Disability Coordinator, South Highlands Child Development Center in Lake Placid.

North Region

Ruskin/Wimauma/Palmetto Area

Jo Neil, Health/Disability Coordinator, Ruskin Head Start; Paula Vela, Family Support Assistant, Palmetto Migrant Head Start Center.

Indian River Area

Nidia Guzman, Health/Disability Coordinator, Indian River Migrant Head Start; Graciela Spivey, Indian River Migrant Head Start.

N. Hillsborough/Polk Area

Maureen Nieves, Health/Disability Coordinator, Plant City Migrant Head Start and Dover Infant Migrant Head Start; Don Dino, Education Coordinator, Dover Migrant Head Start; Ruth Burgos, Health/Disability Coordinator; Bill Watson, Education Coordinator, Wahneta Migrant Head Start; and June Brownell, Health/Disability Coordinator, Wahneta Migrant Head Start.



Day is coming!!

BE ON THE LOOKOUT . . .

COMING EVENTS

Nov. 1 & 2 - North Region Late
Openings Migrant Head Start
Center Teams Perservice,
Cedar Kirk, Lithia.

November 22 - Regular Head Start
Parent Policy Council Meeting.

November 28 - Board of Directors
Meeting, Orlando Airport.

November 30 - Migrant Head Start
Parent Policy Council Meeting.

Safety News

Congratulations to the following
accident-free centers in September
(not a complete list):

North Region

Palatka Child Development
Center, Ruskin Infant Center, and
Dade City (title XX).

South Region

Glades County Child
Development Center, Lake Placid
Child Development Center, New
Hope Child Development Center,
Andrew Center and Immokalee
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
September and are back at work:
Lucia Garcia and Martha C.
Rodriguez.



Photo By GERARD LAMBERT

Peter Millard (left), Education Coordinator, and San Juanita Galan, Center
Coordinator, both of Ruskin Migrant Education Center, at a recent training.



Photo By ARACELI CORONA

Guadalupe Razo, the Center Coordinator of Mascotte Migrant Head Start Center,
makes a bubble around a child while entertaining children as a clown at Dade City
Migrant Head Start Center as part of Reading Is Fundamental program activities.

Lupe not only can be a clown, but she also makes piñatas of all kinds for any festive
occasion. Lupe has been making piñatas from scratch since her son was in sixth grade.
He had to make a papier-mache ball for a school project and later turn it into a piñata.
Lupe helped her son and enjoyed it enough to start making piñatas herself.

Lupe can certainly liven up any birthday party with her many talents. Call her if you
are interested. She will bring along her clown suit and her box of games and tricks.

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Please send suggestions, comments, and Letters to the Editor to the following address:
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