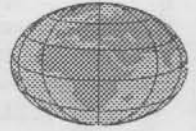




RCMA HOY

We Can Make
A World of
Difference

Helping Our Youth



FEBRUARY 1995

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

FROM THE DESK OF LESLIE

I want to share a story about a tenth grader who received an "F" on her report card.

Being sixteen is hard enough without the pressure of report cards. In this case this sixteen year old received her second "F" in American History. The surprising thing was that in all her other classes she had gotten B's and C's.

What was it about American History? She said, "It's boring and I always do terrible on the tests. But I have to pass this class to graduate." When I asked her if she wanted to improve her grade she said "yes" without hesitation.

Figuring out how to do this was the next step for us. She



Photo By GERARD LAMBERT

SHARED BEGINNINGS: Olga Alvarado, Teacher Trainee at Immokalee Child Development Center Infant, uses the gift of touch with 2-year-old Mindy Martinez.

The day Olga began working for RCMA in November 1992, Mindy was four days old. Today Olga provides the nurturing love that is so important in developing self-esteem in children, even at Mindy's age. As Olga does here, holding children in our lap is part of our mission of giving kids a head start.

Do not think you don't know anything about any subjects because you can learn with your child.

shared with me that the kind of work that her teacher gave were questions from the chapters of the textbook that had the page and paragraph where the answers could be found. So she completed the work without reading the chapter. But when it came

time for the tests, she was completely lost. Reading the chapter would have helped her to better understand American History.

We decided to change the rules for studying. From then on she would read the chapter and so would I, and then I would ask her questions about it.

As we talked about the chapter she took notes. It

took 45 minutes for us to review a chapter. The result was that she proudly got 97 percent on her next test, answering only one question wrong.

We promised to continue doing the same thing once a week.

I share this story only to point out that you can do the same for your child.

Remember the following tips:

- 1) Show interest in your child's work every day.
- 2) Create a quiet place and time for your child to read and do homework.
- 3) Use the time that RCMA gives you to visit your child's teacher and ask how you can help your child do better. They can give you good ideas.
- 4) Do not think that you don't know anything about any subjects because you can learn with your child. You too can read and ask questions.

INSIDE:

- Homestead Area Coordinator Retiring
 - Outreach Worker Celebrates Learning.
- Please see *Letters To The Editor* section for these stories.

DEL ESCRITORIO DE LESLIE

Quisiera compartir un cuento sobre una estudiante del decimo grado que recibió una "F" en sus notas.

Es difícil tener diez y seis años, y con la presión de las notas es aún mas difícil. En éste caso, la estudiante recibió su segunda "F" en Historia Americana. Lo sorprendente es que en todas sus otras clases recibió "B" y "C"s.

Que sería lo que pasaba con la clase de Historia Americana? Dice ella, "es muy aburrida y siempre me va terrible en los exámenes. Pero tengo que pasar ésta clase para poder graduarme." Cuando le pregunté si quería mejorar sus notas en ésta clase, ella respondió "sí" en seguida.

Lo próximo era encontrar como ayudarla. Decidimos cambiar el método y las reglas de estudiar que ella estaba acostumbrada a usar. De ahora en adelante nosotras dos decidimos leer un capítulo y despues de la lectura yo le haría preguntas sobre lo que leyó.

Anteriormente, ella no leía el capítulo. Lo que hacía era que buscaba las respuestas a las preguntas sin haberlo leído. Cuando venía el examen, ella no sabía las respuestas pues nunca había leído el capítulo.

Mientras nosotras discutimos el capítulo que leímos, ella tomó notas. Nos demoró acerca de 45 minutos. El resultado fue que subió su nota a 97 por ciento. Nada mas falló en una pregunta del examen de historia.

Prometimos seguir con ésta forma de estudio semanal.

Comparto ésta historia con ustedes para enseñarles que ustedes pueden hacer lo mismo con sus hijos.

No piensen que ustedes no pueden ayudar a sus hijos - ustedes pueden aprender con sus hijos.

Acuerdense:

- 1) Demuestren interes en el trabajo escolar de su hijo(a) diariamente.
- 2) Creen un lugar tranquilo para su hijo(a) donde el (ella) puede leer y hacer su tarea.
- 3) Tomen el tiempo que RCMA les da para visitar los maestros de su hijo(a) y preguntente como ustedes pueden ayudar mejor a su hijo(a). Los maestros tienen buenas ideas.
- 4) No piensen que ustedes no pueden ayudar a su hijo(a) - ustedes pueden aprender con su hijo(a). Ustedes tambien pueden leer y preguntar.

Traducido por CUBA GIBLIN

APPLAUSE

Florida City Area

Congratulations to Edelmira Valle, Teacher at Andrew Child Development Center, who recently received her G.E.D.

DeSoto/Glades/Hendry/Lee Area

Sylvia Stansley, a LaBelle Child Development Center Teacher, deserves recognition for achieving her G.E.D.

Immokalee Area

Lupe Cervantes, Assistant Center Coordinator of Farmworker Village C Child Development Center became a grandmother on February 7. Her daughter, Alma, is the proud mother of a boy, Rodolfo. Rodolfo would be happy to receive any pampers donated.

Highlands/Hardee Area

Maria Olmos, Senior Teacher at Bowling Green Child Development Center gave birth to a baby girl in January. Congratulations to Maria.

Ruskin/Wimauma/Palmetto Area

We have a new proud

grandmother in Gladys Morrow, the Ruskin Area Secretary. Gladys's daughter Tammy gave new life to Steven on January 24.

Palatka/Crescent City Area

Edna Blue's commitment to the local communities goes beyond her immediate role in RCMA. Edna, the Area Coordinator, is helping to make adequate rural health care more accessible to the needy in a four-county area. She does this by serving on the Board of Directors of the St. Johns River Rural Health Network that is working to get more doctors to contract through the network with local health clinics. We applaud Edna's caring involvement in this important mission.

Gadsden Area

Congratulations goes to Gadsden County Migrant Head Start in Quincy which received NAEYC accreditation in December.

Tremendous credit goes to Center Coordinator Juana Gayton for pulling all the staff together for a total team effort.

Even though this center is up in the panhandle of Florida and might seem to be forgotten, we want all the staff of this center to realize that RCMA is proud of their achievement. NAEYC accreditation is evidence of the high quality child care that the Gadsden center provides.



Photo By GERARD LAMBERT

PROGRAM COORDINATOR Salma Haidermota of the Ruskin/Wimauma/Palmetto Area training staff on safety. Salma began her longtime commitment to RCMA in 1977 as a Teacher. Before her present position she was a Resource Coordinator. When you see Salma, be sure to ask her about her background in India and Bangladesh, and her travels to Pakistan and Singapore - a gift of cultural diversity to be shared.



Photo By GERARD LAMBERT

BOWLING GREEN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER STAFF:
Front row left to right: Teachers Cathy De La Rosa, Maria Belmares, Jacqueline Wilburn (Lead Teacher), Beatrice Juarez. *Back row left to right:* Tina Grice (Teacher Trainee), Isabel Garcia (Center Coordinator), Tonda Armstrong (Education Coordinator), Guillermina Pantojo (After School Teacher).

HAPPENINGS

SOUTH REGION

Highlands/Hardee Area

RCMA does not just provide child care for children from six weeks to five years of age.

We also have school-age programs around the state, including the Zolfo Springs After School Program. Welcome goes out to its new Center Coordinator, Patte Martinez, as well as the new tutors: Rebecca See, Aundrea Whaley, and Teresa Cofield.

Welcome to Anita Johnson, a new Outreach Worker at Avon Park Head Start.

DeSoto/Hendry/Glades/Lee Area

Congratulations to the following recipients of the Child Development Associate credential from LaBelle Child Development Center: Teachers Lisa Colding, Maria Rodriguez, Mary Feacher, and Sylvia Stansley.

Homestead Area

Veira Lopez, a Teacher at South Dade Child Development Center Pre, proudly achieved her CDA.

NORTH REGION

Pasco/Lake/Orange Area

Zellwood Child Development Center was the proud recipient of an Excellence in Child Care award, which required the center to be monitored unannounced several times. We celebrate the Zellwood staff's commitment to children and families that this award represents.

After five years away, welcome back goes to Susan Vega, the Education Coordinator of the Zellwood center. Susan previously worked for RCMA for nine years as a teacher and Center Director.

STATE OFFICE

We thank Pat Booe for her hard work in making the Accounts Payable department as efficient as

possible. She has left RCMA and we wish her the best of luck in her future plans.

In her place, we welcome Donna Levy, a new Accounts Payable Specialist.

Congratulations as well to Gaspar Mugica, the new Director of Accounting.

Safety News

A special concern for our staff who got hurt on the job in January: Shari Caldwell, Victoria Camacho, Eva Edge, Tina Grice, Charlesetta King, Betty Rhodes Odom, Rebecca Valdez, and Retha Woolfolk.

Of the seven injuries, three were more severe injuries. All employees have returned to work.

We still miss Betty Escamilla and wish Juana Martinez, Maria Rodriguez, Zenaida Quesada and Consuelo Vasquez a speedy recovery.

We appreciate the part that everybody plays in keeping our centers as safe as possible. Please remember to **THINK SAFETY AND ACT SAFELY!**

If your center has been accident-free for at least the last six months, please let the HOY know so that we can applaud your accomplishment. And please share with us your secrets of how you achieve this success.



Photo By GERARD LAMBERT

SEEN BY FEW, IMPORTANT TO ALL: Can you imagine cooking for a family of 90? Mary Francis, the Cook at Parkview Village Child Development Center in Haines City, has quite a task doing that very thing. Mary prepares over 180 meals every day, not to mention snacks.

When asked to describe Mary, her Center Coordinator, Lovie Simpson, said that Mary is "one of the sweetest ladies I have ever come in contact with." Mary has been cooking in that center for about five years.

COMING EVENTS

March 27 - Board of Directors Meeting, Orlando Airport.

March 28 - Regular Head Start Parent Policy Council Meeting.

March 29 - Migrant Head Start Parent Policy Committee Meeting.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Hoy,

I want to thank RCMA for giving me the opportunity to grow as a professional in the outreach field.

I am taking a college course in Sebring through Western Carolina University which RCMA is paying for. I would like to share my impressions with HOY readers.

Being in this class is like being in heaven. There is a peaceful and very relaxed atmosphere. The time flies due to the excellent environment.

Since being in this class I feel that I've begun to know myself better and my spiritual belief is growing more.

The professor is a dynamic person and uses excellent teaching techniques. I am able to understand and learn a lot about social service skills.

Since being in this class I feel that I've begun to know myself better and my spiritual belief is growing more. With the knowledge I am receiving, I feel very confident.

I will be serving Head Start families the way they deserve to be served.

I hope RCMA will offer more courses like this one with more staff being able to attend. These courses help us to provide a wonderful future for our children and families.

Signed,
Noemi Aponte
Outreach Worker
Sebring Child Development Center

*Any time, any day, any problem . . .
When you need someone to talk to
EAR is there for you.
Call Toll-free: 1-800-328-1952*

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

Dear Hoy,

This letter is a tribute to Maria Coronado, the Area Coordinator in the Homestead area, who is retiring at the end of March after 20 years of service to RCMA.

As Mrs. Coronado looks back at the 20 years she has spent with us, we would like for her to think about this time as her time of harvest.

She will never leave us; there is a part of her in every family, every child and every staff that has crossed her path.

She sowed seeds with a sure and tender hand. The seeds have taken of her wisdom, her strength, her commitment and her hard work.

Mrs. Coronado has guided us, supported us, and shared our dreams. So when she sits in the cool shade, enjoying peace and serenity, we would like her to "smile" and remember that she will never leave us; there is a part of her in every family, every child and every staff that has crossed her path.

Women like Mrs. Coronado have made the mission of RCMA become a reality. It has been an honor for us to be part of her team. Mrs. Coronado has our admiration, our love and our gratitude.

Signed,
Homestead/Florida City Staff



Photo By GERARD LAMBERT

HARVEST TIME: Maria Coronado, the Area Coordinator for the Homestead area, is retiring at the end of March. She will remain involved on a limited basis, doing some consulting for RCMA.