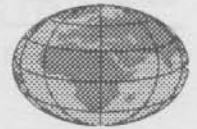




# RCMA HOY

We Can Make  
A World of  
Difference

## Helping Our Youth



JULY 1995

Issue 28

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

### FROM THE DESK OF OLGA



### What are we teaching our children about the Hispanic culture?

I recently had the pleasure of seeing the movie "My Family." If your roots are Hispanic then you would probably identify with this story.

I was filled with different emotions.

*Maybe the new generation does not share the same feelings (about our Hispanic culture) we mature adults do. . . Are we teaching our children our roots? Do we speak Spanish? Do we explain why we do some things differently, about the struggle our forefathers went through? Do we teach them to be proud. . . .*

I got mad, sad and happy. The good and the bad of our culture is shown.

But let us talk about the good: about being noble, proud, having faith and a great fighting spirit, and the grand love we have for our families.

Maybe the new generation does not share the same feelings we mature adults do.

But I ask myself why not? Are we teaching our children

PLEASE SEE HISPANIC ROOTS, PAGE 2



Photo By GERARD LAMBERT

**CENTER COORDINATOR** Teresa Robinson of South Highlands Child Development Center in Lake Placid. Teresa shares her unique gifts in making a difference in the lives of children and families.

**SUMMERTIME DILEMMA:** In the midst of the hot days of summer, we are probably thinking of ways to keep the children cool as well as ourselves. One good way is to get the children wet. If you have taken children to the pool or beach, you probably have thought about whether it is alright for them to go swimming right after eating lunch. In fact, you probably even have an opinion.

Perhaps it's just a myth that you need to allow time for the food to digest. At least we're not fish. What do you think they do if they have to wait?

Rubes® By Leigh Rubin

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"Well, if we can't swim, just what are we supposed to do for an hour after we eat?"

### INSIDE:

- Parent appreciates staff (please see Letters To The Editor).
- State office staff all at one location (please see Happenings section, pages 2 & 3).

## Hispanic culture: what are we teaching our children?

HISPANIC ROOTS, FROM PAGE 1

our past, all about our roots?

Do we share with them our ancestors' story, how we got here and why?

Do we speak Spanish? Do we explain why we do some things differently than other cultures? Do we explain about the struggle our forefathers went through?

Do we teach them to be proud of who they are? And do we tell them they have the same rights as anyone else and to love the United States, our country?

If you haven't done these things, it is not too late to start.

### DEL ESCRITORIO DE OLGA

## Que les enseñamos a nuestros niños acerca de la cultura hispana?

**7**uve el placer de ver la película "Mi Familia" recientemente. Si sus raíces son hispanas creo que usted se podrá identificar con la historia.

Me llené de emociones. De coraje, de tristeza y naturalmente de alegría. Se puede ver mucho de nuestra cultura, lo bueno y también lo malo.

Pero vamos a hablar acerca

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*Quizás la generación nueva no sienta lo mismo que los adultos maduros . . . Les estaremos enseñando a nuestros hijos acerca de nuestras raíces? Les hablamos español? Les explicamos porque hacemos algunas cosas diferentes?*

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de lo bueno: la nobleza, el orgullo, el gran espíritu luchador, la fé, y el gran amor a la familia.

Quizás la generación nueva no sienta lo mismo que los adultos maduros. Pero me pregunto, **PORQUE** no?

Les estaremos enseñando a nuestros hijos acerca de nuestras raíces? Hablamos acerca de nuestra historia, de como llegamos aqui y porque?

Les hablamos español? Les explicamos porque hacemos algunas cosas diferentes?

Hablamos acerca de la lucha que nuestros antepasados tuvieron? Les enseñamos a sentirse orgullosos de quienes son? Y finalmente les enseñamos que ellos tienen el mismo derecho de vivir aqui, y de amar a los Estados Unidos la cual es ahora nuestra patria?

Si aun no lo ha hecho, nunca es tarde para empezar.

## APPLAUSE

### Ruskin/Wimauma/Palmetto Area

Congratulations to Yolanda Guajardo, Center Coordinator at Ruskin Infant, who recently became a grandmother to Alex. Her daughter, Vicky, is the proud mom.



Photo By GERARD LAMBERT

**STATE OFFICE CONNECTION:** Melissa Mancha, Receptionist for the entire building, is usually the friendly voice that you hear answering and directing your call if you try to reach someone in these offices.

Now that all State Office staff are at one location, Melissa has no easy task, with even more calls to handle and messages to take. But Melissa does an excellent job even when several lines ring at the same time.

### Highlands/Hardee Area

Congratulations to Nancy Hawthorne, Teacher Trainee at Lake Placid Child Development Center, on her marriage to Elliot Wyche. They got married on July 8. Best wishes to the newlyweds.

## HAPPENINGS

### Gadsden Area

Congratulations to Juana Gayton, Center Coordinator at Gadsden County Migrant Head Start Center, who was recently recognized at a parent meeting for 15 years of dedicated service to children and families in RCMA.



**FARMWORKER  
VILLAGE B  
CHILD  
DEVELOPMENT  
CENTER STAFF  
(IMMOKALEE):**  
(Front left to right)  
Elina Gustave  
(Teacher), Diana  
Rios (Center  
Coordinator);  
(Back left to right)  
Thelma Martinez  
(Teacher), Dionette  
Molina (Teacher),  
and Ernestina Cruz  
(Cook).

Photo By  
GERARD LAMBERT

#### Homestead/Florida City Area

Lorena Quinones, Education Coordinator at Everglades I, has been a real area team player. She's pitching in to cover during much needed vacations for Center Coordinator, Macrina Vega, and Education Coordinator, Mary Tate at the Andrew Center.

#### Palatka Area

Summer is a time for waterplay, fun and field trips. Ragsdale Child Development Center preschoolers made their way to Marineland in St. Augustine.

Parents donated the admission cost, and three parents participated as chaperones.

Julia Young, Teacher, shared the highpoint: "The dolphin show amazed children and adults too. The sun was hot so the children opted to sit in front to catch some of the spray from the dolphins."

#### Immokalee Area

Best of luck to Connie Fox, who finished her two years as a Mennonite Volunteer at Immokalee Child Development Center Pre on July 27. Connie has been a Teacher for Pre-K children.

Connie was assessed for her

CDA in July and will wait for good news in her home state of Pennsylvania. She hopes to continue working with young children.

#### State Office

Welcome to our new Accounts Payable Clerk, Nidia Concepcion. We wish her the best of luck as she teams up with the other Accounts Payable Clerks: Anita Conde, Donna Levy and Margaret White.

Maryellen Creghan, who has been a committed Accounts Payable Clerk for three years, is moving out of the area as she begins married life. We wish her well with her future plans.



**Maryellen Creghan**

\*\*

The beautiful new addition to the State Office is complete and all State Office Staff are

## Youth Summer Placements helping centers and offices

Many centers mention J.T.P.A. Youth Summer Placements as good news.

The young people are providing lots of extra helping hands to RCMA centers and offices. In turn, they are learning job skills and expectations as well as receiving some help with school work if they need it.

A great partnership for RCMA and the community.

at the same location at 402 West Main Street in Immokalee. Many of the new offices overlook the Immokalee Child Development Center Pre playground in an embracing architectural style. If you're in the area, please stop in and say hello.

\*\*

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

Congratulations to Smith Brown Child Development Center staff who recently achieved a CDA or its equivalency: Jannie Polk, Yvongular Combs, Shirley Bartell, Esther Sandoval, Aida Colunga, Francisca Muniz, Stephanie McClures, and Alfreda Redden.

## Safety News

A special concern for our staff who got hurt on the job in May or June: Diana Zuniga, Gloria Morales, Lidia Cardenas, Oralia Reyna, Patricia Ayala, Santiago Cuellar, Jorge Rivas, Norma Munez, Enedina Gallegos, Guillermina Estrada, and Jacqueline Nelson.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Hoy,

We would like to share with HOY readers a letter written by a parent to our after school program. It reads:

*To whom it may concern,*

*I would like to thank the staff at Long Center and Ragsdale Center for the great job they have done with my children.*

*Especially Rico Lewis (Program Coordinator of Long After School Program) who helped my son make it to the second grade by working with him daily on his math and reading skills.*

*Thank you,  
Toni Eads*

It is so rewarding to know that all our work and long, hot hours are appreciated by at least one of our parents.

Signed,  
Long After School Program Staff  
Palatka

Dear Hoy,

We are excited about the sand and waterplay piece installed on our playground.

The children are using it in very creative ways. There is pouring and measuring of water and sand, and best of all, the children get all wet.

Some of the parents get upset when they pick up their children because they are wet or have sand on them.

We try to explain to parents that it's fun for kids to get wet.

Signed,  
Immokalee Child  
Development Center Pre  
Staff

## OUR CONDOLENCES . . .

To Frances Canty, Center Coordinator/Education Coordinator at Glades Early Childhood Center in Moore Haven, and her family as they cope with the loss of a son and brother, Leopold Sterling.



Photo By GERARD LAMBERT

**LOTS OF HEART:** Gloria Kendrick, Area Coordinator for Lee/Hendry/Glades/DeSoto Area, has been caring deeply for families in RCMA for a long time. So long that if she were to take you to one center she could show you a nearly full grown tree that she remembers planting. Almost 20 years, in fact. As far as heart goes, maybe she could give the Tin Man a heart!



**ELIGIBILITY SPECIALIST:** Alicia Coronado determines eligibility of children for Title XX centers for the Ruskin/Wimauma/Palmetto Area and Westside Village Child Development Center in Plant City. What Alicia likes most about her job is "helping people who really need it and otherwise wouldn't have child care."

Photo By  
IRENE BRAMMERTZ

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