



RCMA HOY

We Can Make
A World of
Difference

Helping Our Youth



OCTOBER 1995 Issue 31 OUR MISSION: Helping Parents Restart, Giving Kids a Head Start, Helping Staff Develop



FROM
THE
DESK
OF
BARBARA

**Staff show leadership
in standing up for
staff and families,
and in serving
community agencies**

Of course, we have rules and policies in RCMA. But at times they need to be bent in order to do what is right.

A good leader is one who serves. That is what very educated people on this subject say. I agree and try hard to remember in my work at RCMA. I don't always succeed.

How about you, Center Coordinators, Program Directors, Area Coordinators and Program

My respect for Evan Portee, Area Coordinator for the Highlands and Hardee Area, has grown even stronger because of action she recently took to stand up for her staff about their own needs. She did the right thing—she served her staff.

Coordinators?
Do you serve your staff?
Your families?
Your fellow community workers?

Of course, we have rules and policies in RCMA. But sometimes they need to be bent in order to do what is right. If you are concerned about needs of your staff or families or community coworkers, do you make every effort to advocate for them?

My respect for Evan Portee, Area

PLEASE SEE LEADERS, PAGE 2



Photo By GERARD LAMBERT

SPECIAL EFFORT: Trina Pinzon is a Teacher in the Homestead/Florida City area in this program that serves children with special needs. Trina is making a difference in the lives of many children, including this child from Everglades Child Development Center II.

INSIDE:

- Program Coordinator's 11-year-old son's artwork to be in every home and business in Martin County. (p. 3)
- Three Outreach Workers and Family Support Worker presented at statewide conference. (p.3)
- Family Support Assistant becomes community newspaper staff writer. (p.3)

Leaders stand up for others when it is right thing to do

LEADERS, FROM PAGE 1

Coordinator for the Highlands and Hardee Area, has grown even stronger because of action she recently took to stand up for her staff about their own needs. She did the right thing--she served her staff.

We also have two Area Coordinators, Gloria Kendrick and Myrta Rivera, who make sure

we find a way to serve especially needy children in their areas and don't let up until we do. Thus, my respect for them.



Myrta Rivera

And finally, my last example happened recently when several state office staff in Immokalee shared their sincere excitement and pleasure at how many community groups were making use of our new classroom and board room.

If serving is part of leadership, we have lots of leaders among us in RCMA of whom we can be proud.

I thank you all.

Words of support . . .

Our prayers are with Tonda Armstrong at this difficult time.

Our heartfelt thoughts are with Myrta Rivera and Charlene Edwards who recently experienced the loss of loved ones.

DEL ESCRITORIO DE BARBARA

Empleadas muestran liderazgo al defender a los empleados y a familias, y al servir a las agencias de la comunidad

Por supuesto tenemos reglas y reglamentos en RCMA. Pero a veces éstas tienen que ser alteradas para hacer lo que es correcto.

Un buen líder es aquel que sirve.

Eso es lo que dice la gente educada en esta área. Yo estoy de acuerdo y trato de recordarlo en mi trabajo en RCMA. Pero no siempre tengo éxito.

¿Y que tal ustedes, Coordinadores de Centros, Directores de Programas, Coordinadores de Áreas y Coordinadores de Programas? ¿Sirven ustedes a su personal? ¿A sus familias? ¿A sus compañeros de trabajo en la comunidad?

Por supuesto tenemos reglas y reglamentos en RCMA. Pero a veces éstas tienen que ser alteradas para hacer lo que es correcto.

Si ustedes se preocupan por las necesidades de su personal o sus familias o sus compañeros de trabajo en la comunidad, ¿hacen ustedes todo esfuerzo posible para defenderlos?

Mi respeto por Evan Portee, Coordinadora del Área de Highlands y Hardee, ha crecido más por la acción que recientemente ella tomó para defender las necesidades de sus empleados. Evan hizo lo correcto,

Mi respeto por Evan Portee, Coordinadora de Área de Highlands y Hardee, ha crecido más por la acción que recientemente ella tomó para defender las necesidades de sus empleados. Evan hizo lo correcto, sirviendo a sus empleados.

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También tenemos dos Coordinadoras de Área, Gloria Kendrick y Myrta Rivera, quienes se aseguran de encontrar una manera de servir especialmente a los niños necesitados en sus áreas y no se dan por vencidas. Así, mi respeto por ellas.

Finalmente, mi último ejemplo sucedió recientemente cuando los empleados de la oficina de estado en Immokalee compartieron su sincero placer y gusto al ver cuantos grupos en la comunidad estaban usando nuestro nuevo salón de clases y salón de reuniones.

Si servir es parte de ser un líder, entonces nosotros tenemos muchos líderes en RCMA de los cuales estamos orgullosos.

Les doy las gracias a todos.

Traducido por JOSIE GRACIA



Photo By IRENE BRAMMERTZ

RAGSDALE CENTER Teacher Julia Young. Julia's warm care is very important in the lives of the children she serves.



Photo By GERARD LAMBERT

JUST MARRIED: Teacher Veronica Martinez of Everglades Child Development Center II in Florida City got married October 21. We wish Veronica and her husband lifelong happiness together.

APPLAUSE

Homestead/Florida City Area

Congratulations to Pre-K Secretary Edith Idrogo on becoming a proud mom. She recently had her first child, Priscilla.

Immokalee Area

Pete Cade, Family Support Assistant for Farmworker Village A and Immokalee Child Development Center, Annex, is not only skilled at working with families. He can now also be found with a pad, pen, and camera in hand.

He recently took on the task of staff writer for the Immokalee Bulletin, a weekly newspaper. Usually two articles skillfully written by Pete make the front page of each issue as well as an accompanying photo. Pete has an associate of art degree from Edison Community College.

**

Debbie Avelar, a Site Director of Immokalee's Dropout Prevention program, is very proud of her son. Tavis, who graduated from high

school last spring, has joined the U.S. Marines. His first stop is Paris Island, South Carolina where he will experience the challenge of 13 weeks of boot camp.

Upon completion of that program, he will be given an assignment that could take him to one of many possible corners of the globe. This is a good example of expanding one's horizons and being willing to grow through a totally new experience.

Palm Beach Area

Eleven-year-old David Burleson, the son of Program Coordinator Judy Burleson received an incredible honor for his artistic talent.

Judy said drawing for David had taken a back seat to sports as is typical of boys his age. Nevertheless, David's artwork will be found in every home and business in Martin County. How so?

Southern Bell phone company held an art contest in all the elementary schools in Martin County. Students drew pictures of Florida wildlife. David's drawing of a mother racoon and her baby was the overall winner.

As Grand Prize recipient,

David's artwork appears on the cover of the Martin County phonebook out in October. Additionally, David received a \$500 savings bond for college.

Highlands/Hardee Area

Rosalind Chisolm, Lisa Pough, and Hilaria Cuevas, Outreach Workers from this area, and Family Support Worker Mike Clark, presented a workshop titled "Loosen Up and Learn: Non-Formal Education Techniques For Parent Meetings" at the Florida Children's Forum conference October 27.

This is a great opportunity to develop public speaking confidence. We are proud of their desire to grow and develop professionally. They are important role models.

**

Congratulations to Alma Vargas, infant teacher at Fred Dennis Child Development Center in Wauchula, who recently moved into a new home with her family.

The home was built through a training program

HONEYMOONERS



A WEDDING SCARE: Have you ever been to a wedding where the presiding priest didn't show up? If this were to happen, what would you do?

This is not only a true story. It actually happened to Lynn Bowen, Education Coordinator for Immokalee Child Development Center Infant, and Enrique Gomez.

Luckily there was a priest at the church in Cape Charles, Virginia—who was cleaning a bird cage—who took time out to preside at their wedding ceremony.

The wedding, on July 22, was delayed 30 minutes. Congratulations to the honeymooners.

for seasonal and migrant farmworkers in which students build the home for a farmworker family.

An article and a photo of Alma and her husband, Guillermo Ramirez, (along with the students), highlighting this special occasion appeared in the Tampa Tribune.

HAPPENINGS

Lee/Hendry/Glades/DeSoto Area

Welcome to Gregory Whyte, a new Family Support Worker for the LaBelle area. He will be working with the parents, staff and community in implementing the "Beyond Barriers" program. Gregory comes to us from New York City where he worked with families in Harlem. He is also a martial arts instructor in Tai Kwan Do.

Immokalee Area

Immokalee Child Development Center, Pre is fortunate to have two new full-time volunteers (receiving only a small stipend) through the Mennonite Volunteer Services program. Welcome to Michelle Martin of Ephriata, Pennsylvania and Carolin Landes of Ingolstadt, Germany.

**

Michael Toops, a returned Peace Corps Volunteer in Costa Rica, where he spent two years helping community organizations in small business development, has come on board with the school age Dropout Prevention program. Michael is the Program Director.

Highlands/Hardee Area

Welcome goes to Mary-Ellen Cooke, a new Outreach Worker for Avon Park Head Start. Mary-Ellen, of Chesapeake, Virginia,

comes to RCMA through the Catholic Volunteers in Florida.

Mary-Ellen is a graduate of Longwood College in sociology and anthropology. She is a full-time volunteer that receives a small stipend to cover basic living expenses.

The Catholic Volunteers in Florida, which places volunteers in non-profit agencies throughout the state, is an organization that promotes values of service, community, simplicity of life, active spirituality, social awareness, and personal development.

A big welcome is also sent to Aisha Council, a new teacher at the Avon Park Center.

**

Avon Park Head Start hosted a "sense" sation lapsit in which 35 parents participated. A lapsit is a special time for parents to hold children in their laps and participate in a variety of activities along with their children. Younger siblings are invited too.

The activities included singing songs, movement activities, reading stories, and celebrating children's, staff's and parents' birthdays. Children and parents also participated in learning centers featuring development of the senses.

The Avon Park center plans to hold these lapsits monthly.

**

Sherry Mc'taw, formerly an Assistant Center Coordinator at Fred Dennis Child Development Center, can now be seen juggling two positions, Outreach Worker there and also Site Coordinator of Zolfo Springs After School program.

**

Three cheers for Stacey Wilson, formerly Lead Teacher, who was promoted to Education Coordinator at South Highlands Child

Development Center in Lake Placid.

**

In a unique and challenging role Antonia Santiago is the new Education and Health/Disabilities Coordinator at Sebring Child Development Center.

Palm Beach Area

Congratulations to Eenedina Gallegos of Famworker Child Development Center in Delray Beach. She was awarded the Child Development Associate Credential in October "in recognition of outstanding work with young children." This is a tremendous accomplishment!

This center welcomes Anna Ruth, the new Health/Disabilities Coordinator who transferred from Smith Brown Child Development Center in Arcadia.

**

New Hope (in Pahokee) and Belle Glade Centers are fortunate to have an Education Coordinator who began in October. Kathleen Vregara splits her time between these centers.

Pauline Benjamin was promoted to Health/Disability Coordinator for these two centers. She was previously a teacher in Belle Glade. We wish them lots of luck.

Duties expected of you as a child care worker

There are many simple duties in being a child care worker.

•The simplest one is to love what you do and what you are. People will trust you more.

•Love children and parents as if they were your own.

•Take precautions in the safety of the children and you.

•Be understanding and loving to what the children say or do because it might be the only chance to feel what they are going through.

•Respect all other co-workers.

•Finally, the most important one. Be yourself!

These duties will help you be the best child care worker that you could ever be.

— Ingrid Roebuck

Written at age 12

(Daughter of Alberta Roebuck,

Center Coordinator of

Lake Placid Child Development Center)

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