

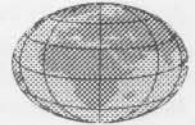


# RCMA HOY



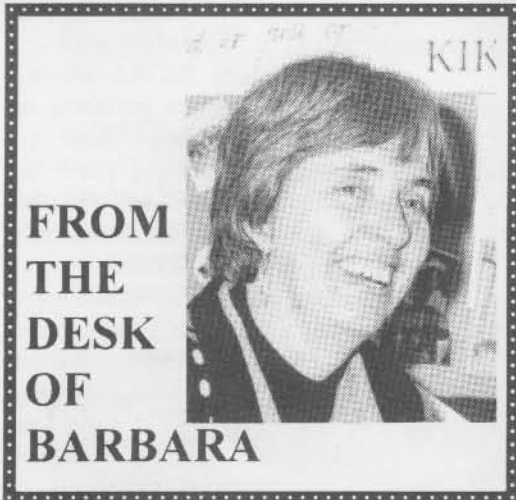
We Can Make  
A World of  
Difference

## Helping Our Youth



DECEMBER 1995 Issue 33

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



*One of the parents present borrows a different story book each evening when he picks up his child. He reads it to her and returns it when he brings his child back to the center the next morning. What a terrific example he is setting for his child and for other parents.*

### RCMA celebrated 30th anniversary Accomplishments of former migrants highlighted

**W**e recently celebrated RCMA's 30th Anniversary. It reminded me of how far we have come, how much we have accomplished, and how much more there is to do.

The speaker, Cip Garza, who was a migrant worker, is now a government official in Washington, in charge of helping improve housing for farmworker families. His wife, Maria, was part of RCMA's youth program and was also a farmworker. She is now working at the White House!

Around the room there was over a

hundred RCMA staff who once worked in the fields picking tomatoes or in the groves picking oranges.

Now they have GEDs, CDAs and are Area Coordinators, Center Coordinators, Education Coordinators, Teachers, Outreach Workers, Secretaries, and Family Support Assistants. How wonderful!

Parents were there too.

PLEASE SEE  
30th Anniversary,  
PAGE 2



**CHILDREN'S HOUSE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER:** Congratulations to Blanca Solis, the new Center Coordinator at this Vero Beach center. Blanca formerly had her child in Indian River Migrant Head Start and was recently working in a packing house. She was previously a pre-K teacher. Blanca has her CDA.

Photo By GERARD LAMBERT

#### INSIDE:

- Immokalee outreach worker starts civic association. (p.3)
- New center opens in LaBelle. (p.4)
- Center NAEYC accredited (p. 4)
- Plant City Family Support Assistant wins Ford Escort Wagon (p.4)

## 30th anniversary celebration

*It reminded me of how far we have come and how much more there is to do*

30th ANNIVERSARY, FROM PAGE 1

These are parents who now sit on our Board of Directors, Council and Committee. They make decisions about how the money is spent and evaluate our programs each year. As part of their experiences, they have become strong advocates for their own children, whether it be with health providers or the schools.

One of the parents present borrows a different story book each evening when he picks up his child. He reads it to her and returns it when he brings his child back to the center the next morning. What a terrific example he is setting for his child and for other parents.

As they say -- "We've come a long way, baby!"

Now what more does RCMA want? We want all staff to reach their full potential. We want all parents to become strong supporters of their children as they move on into public school.

We want more children served so waiting lists become empty. We want all centers NAEYC accredited so everyone in the community recognizes that RCMA means top quality. We want all the school aged children to get after school tutoring and support.

Look where we came from and look where we are now. Anything is possible.

Thank you for being the best.

## DEL ESCRITORIO DE BARBARA

### RCMA celebra su 30 aniversario Se destacaron los logros de personas que fueron migrantes

**R**ecientemente celebramos el 30 aniversario de RCMA. Este me recordó hasta donde hemos llegado, lo mucho que hemos logrado y cuanto falta por hacer.

El discursante, Cip Garza, quien fue un trabajador migrante, es ahora un oficial del gobierno en Washington, a cargo de ayudar a mejorar las viviendas para las familias migrantes. Su esposa, Maria, quien fue también una trabajadora en el campo y perteneció al programa de jóvenes de RCMA, ahora está trabajando en la Casa Blanca.

Alrededor del salon había mas de cien personas de RCMA que antes trabajaron en los campos pizcando tomates o naranjas. Ahora ellos tienen el GED y CDA y son coordinadores de area, coordinadores del centro, coordinadores de educacion, maestras, trabajadores sociales, secretarias y ayudantes de apoyo a la familia. Qué maravilloso!

Los padres estaban allí también. Estos son padres que ahora son parte de nuestra Junta de Directores, el Concilio y el Comité. Ellos toman decisiones acerca de como se usa el dinero y evalúan el programa cada año.

Como parte de sus experiencias, ellos se han convertidos en fuertes defensores de sus propios niños ya sea con las proveedoras de salud o con las escuelas.

Uno de nuestros padres presente en la celebración toma prestado un libro de cuentos diferentes todas las tardes cuando levanta a su niño. El le lee el libro y lo devuelve cuando lleva al niño al centro en la mañana. Que gran ejemplo está poniendo para su hijo y para otros padres.

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Como dicen: "Hemos logrado bastante!"

Qué más desea RCMA ahora? Deseamos que todo el personal se desarrolle y alcance todo su potencial. Deseamos que todos los padres se conviertan en grandes apoyadores de sus niños cuando cambian a la escuela pública.

Deseamos servir a más niños para que nuestras listas de espera estén vacías. Deseamos que todos nuestros centros estén acreditados por NAEYC para que todo el mundo en la comunidad reconozca que RCMA significa gran calidad.

Deseamos que todos los niños de edad escolar reciban ayuda y apoyo después de la escuela.

Miren de donde venimos y a donde estamos ahora. Todo es posible.

Gracia por ser lo mejor.

*Traducido por JOSIE GRACIA*

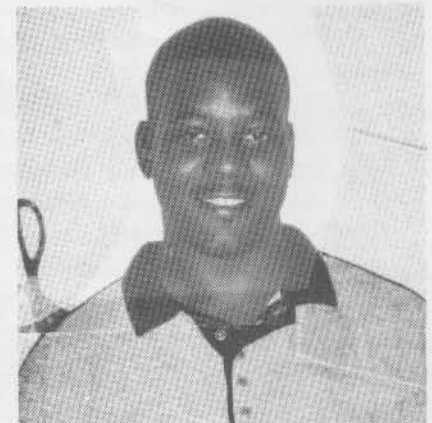


Photo By GERARD LAMBERT

**FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER**  
Corey Wilkerson. Corey has high hopes about improving male parent involvement in the Belle Glade and New Hope (Pahokee) Centers.



**EVERGLADES I TEACHERS:** Front (left to right): Blanca Garcia, Belinda Escorcia, Emma Moreno, Maria De Leon, and Estela Peña. Back (left to right): Rosa Lopez, Nery Belette, Gilma Dana, Angelica Quijano, and Juanita Salazar. These teachers provide a nurturing and loving environment for children in this Florida City center. Photo By GERARD LAMBERT.

## APPLAUSE

### Ruskin/Wimauma/Palmetto Area

Individuals who work in community-based organizations were honored for their contribution and volunteering at centers in this area. Local sheriff's deputies were among those receiving plaques at a luncheon attended by about 40 people, along with staff and children.

### N. Hillsborough/Polk Area

Plant City Migrant Head Start, Dover Migrant Head Start, Dover Infant Migrant Head Start, and Westside Village held dances on December 17 to raise money for the Wendell Rollason Scholarship Fund. The proceeds provide scholarships for graduating seniors in the area to continue their education.

\*\*

Mary McClain, a teacher in the infant room at Wahneta Migrant Head Start volunteered her time without pay for the month of December. What a wonderful Christmas gift! Mary has been working with RCMA for about 17 years.

\*\*

Nilda Martinez, outreach worker at Wahneta, teamed up with a friend who

helped her and other community professionals organize the group, "Reaching Out to the Community."

The group of volunteers, which includes Nilda, doctors, nurses, and social workers, holds a night clinic once a month.

The hours are from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and the team remains until 10 p.m. or 11 p.m.

Services provided include physicals, HIV testing, and Tuberculosis testing. Several churches give money for supplies and help pay a \$300 monthly prescription bill for those who cannot afford medication.

This is a great example of committed staff coming together with the community to make a difference.

### Highlands/Hardee Area

Congratulations to Geneva Hayes, area secretary, who is having a house built through "Habitat for Humanity." Geneva worked hard all year to achieve the number of volunteer community hours to qualify.

### State Office

Velma Adame, food program supervisor, is a proud grandmother. Her daughter Amy gave birth on November 19 to Starcey Victoria.

Dee Dee Bermudez, payroll specialist, is also a proud grandmother. Her daughter, Ana, gave birth to Briana Nicole.



Congratulations to their families.

### Immokalee Area

Lucy Rodriguez, Outreach Worker, in Immokalee Child Development Center Pre is taking on a leadership role in Immokalee. She started the Immokalee Civic Association, which works for community improvements by working with County Commissioners, school officials, and other community leaders.



Photo By GERARD LAMBERT

**IMMOKALEE SPECIAL EFFORT:** Front: Dominga Medina (left) and Teresa Salazar. Back (left to right): Norma Ramirez, Rosa Martinez, and Marianne Haven. They are deeply committed and caring staff serving both home- and center-based special needs children and their families.

Lucy serves on the Cinco de Mayo committee which organizes a festival honoring the Mexican culture. She was selected by a school principal or the board of education to be an observer in the process of choosing a Teacher of the Year Apple Award Winner for Collier County. She will be observing six teachers in elementary schools and the high school. Lucy also sold over 500 tickets for the RCMA statewide drawing.

# HAPPENINGS

## Homestead/Florida City Area

Welcome to new staff at Everglades I. They are teacher trainees Maricela Alejandro, Leda Picado, Maria Banuelos, Celia Muniz; transferring teachers Maria Farfan (from South Dade) and Maria Rodriguez (from Andrew). Education Coordinator Martita Huertas and Outreach Worker Leonel Pedraza are also new.

Wendy Lee Persad, who has been a committed education coordinator at Redlands Child Development Center, is leaving RCMA and moving to Idaho. She plans to pursue a Masters in Early Childhood Education. We wish her the best!

## Putnam Area

Three cheers to Dot Crowley, the new Center Coordinator at Crescent City Child Development Center.

## Lee/Hendry/Glades/DeSoto Area

There is a new center in LaBelle. Lynn Russ, acting center coordinator, and Mary Feacher, lead teacher, sanitized every inch of the center for several evenings in order to prevent the spread of hepatitis. Their concern for the safety of children is appreciated.

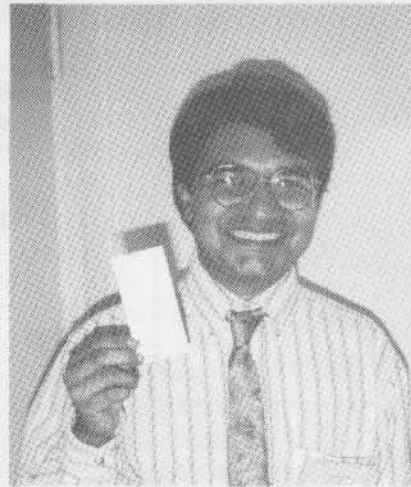
## Highlands/Hardee Area

Congratulations to Bowling Green Child Development Center which recently achieved NAEYC accreditation. This represents great commitment and hard work by all the staff, and a high quality center.

## Palm Beach Area

Congratulations to the following

## The winner is . . .



### **CESAR BARRERA, holding the winning ticket.**

When Cesar, Family Support Assistant of Plant City Migrant Head Start, returned home from the 30th Anniversary Celebration, he broke the news to his wife and two-year-old son—he had won the Ford Escort Wagon, the grand prize in the statewide drawing. They thought he was joking. Eventually he had witnesses to convince them. Instead of taking a trip to shop for a car, which they really had planned for the next day, they went to pick up their new car.

The car will enable Cesar to make frequent trips to the University to pursue his Bachelors degree in Computer Science with an emphasis in programming.

teachers at Farmworker Child Development Center in Delray Beach who got their CDA credential: Sandra Brown, Enequina Gallegos, Marisol Roman, Monica Riviera, and Silvia Chamul.

## Statewide

Welcome to Kelly Meador, the director of community relations.

## Words of Support . . .

Our prayers are with Teresa Salazar in Immokalee, whose mother, Guadalupe Soto, recently passed away. Guadalupe once worked with RCMA as a teacher.

Our prayers are also with Tracey Powell of Crescent City, whose husband awaits a liver transplant.

## Safety News

When employees drink or use drugs, they are in trouble. It affects their work performance, family relations and health.

- Alcohol is a drug.
- Performance may be impaired or reduced for up to 14 hours after a drinking bout.
- One out of 10 Americans who drink is a problem drinker.
- Drugs are widely used in our society either through prescription or over the counter.
- Combining alcohol and drugs multiplies their effects and greatly increases the risk of injury and even death.
- One out of four (spouses, children, friends, co-workers, employers) are affected by substance abusers.
- Ninety-five percent of substance abusers are employed.
- Alcohol addiction (alcoholism) and other drug addictions (chemical dependency) are treatable.

Keep your holiday safe and happy for you and your family by limiting the amount you consume, if you consume at all. The children will be eager to see you Tuesday, January 2 and we need you there rested and ready to receive them.

If you or a family member need help with substance abuse, remember you can call the EAR at 1-800-328-1952. It's free.

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