



# RCMA HOY

We Can Make  
A World of  
Difference

## Helping Our Youth



JANUARY 1996 Issue 34

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

**FROM  
THE  
DESK  
OF  
OLGA**



### Parent involvement one day at a time

**H**ow many children did YOU help TODAY?  
How many children did YOU teach TODAY?  
How many children did YOU hug TODAY?  
How many children were happy to

see YOU TODAY?

How many parents dropped off their children at YOUR center TODAY and left with a smile?

How many parents were encouraged TODAY because YOU told them a kind word?

How many parents heard your enthusiasm TODAY when YOU spoke about the progress of their child?

How many parents did YOU invite to come and have lunch with their child TODAY?

How many parents did YOU invite to your classroom TODAY?

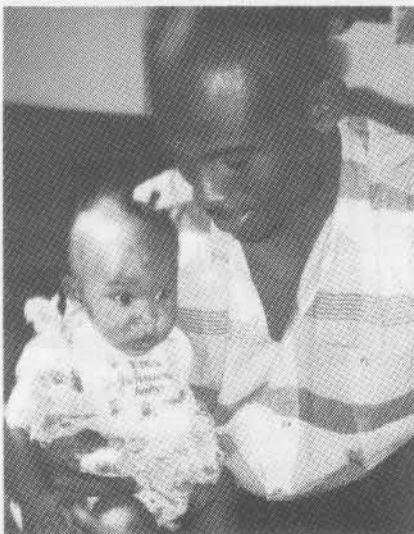
Parent involvement one day at a time! □

### Retirement bound



Photo By LESLIE MOGUIL

Cal Graham, the statewide inventory supervisor, who has been a dedicated RCMA employee for five years, has retired. When not doing inventory or helping take care of our vehicles around the state, Cal could be found making people laugh with a few jokes. He plans to spend more time with his grandchildren and his wife. (Please see related Letter To The Editor on last page).



**TEACHER  
TRAINEE**  
Charles  
Inman of  
Belle Glade  
Child  
Development  
Center. He is  
an important  
male role  
model for  
children.  
Photo by  
GERARD  
LAMBERT

### INSIDE

- Envolvimiento de padres un dia a la vez
- 118 angels receive Christmas gift
- Smith Brown center begins school age program
- 34 Palm Beach area staff contribute to United Way
- Statewide inventory supervisor retires (please see Letter to the Editor)

## DEL ESCRITORIO DE OLGA

### Envolvimiento de padres un dia a la vez

**A** que tantos niños ayudaste  
TU HOY?

¿A que tantos niños  
enseñaste TU HOY?

¿A que tantos niños le diste tu un  
abrazo HOY?

¿A que tantos niños les dio gusto  
verte (a TI) HOY?

¿Que tantos padres dejaron a sus  
niños en TU centro HOY y se fueron  
con una sonrisa?

¿Que tantos padres fueron  
animados HOY porque TU le dijiste  
una palabra bondadosa?

¿Que tantos padres escucharon  
HOY cuando TU hablabas muy  
entusiasmado sobre el progreso de  
sus hijos?

¿A que tantos padres invitaste TU  
HOY a venir y comer con sus niños?

¿A que tantos padres invitaste TU  
HOY a venir a visitar tu salon?

¡Envolvimiento de padres un dia a  
la vez!



Photo By IRENE BRAMMERTZ

**HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA  
RECIPIENT** Mirna Barrios. Mirna,  
helping a child into a swing, worked  
hard until she accomplished this  
important career development step.

## APPLAUSE

### Homestead/Florida City Area

Congratulations to Blanca  
Gorena, teacher, and Maria Mata,  
senior teacher of the Andrew  
Center, who recently received  
their high school diploma. They  
are also awaiting news on their  
CDA for which they were  
preparing at the same time.

### N. Hillsborough/Polk Area

Congratulations to Esther  
Machado, teacher at Westside  
Village, who gave birth to her first  
child, Damaris Perez.

### Immokalee Area

Guillermina Estrada, center  
coordinator at Farmworker  
Village C Child Development  
Center, recently earned her high  
school diploma. Kudos to Guille  
for this achievement.

\*\*

Joshua Rincon and Deborah  
Avelar have counted on each other  
through good times and tough  
times.

Both are site directors with the  
AIM school age program in  
Immokalee. Joshua began  
working with the DOP program as  
a high school student in 1985.

Debbie made the switch from  
senior teacher to DOP in  
1989.

They both agree that  
hearing from a parent "my  
kid would never be making  
good grades without the  
program" is what keeps their  
level of commitment so high.

Josh recalls a student who  
the police pulled out of the  
program because he was in a  
lot of trouble. The tides  
turned and he graduated last  
year with honors and a  
scholarship. His personal  
thank you to Josh was  
heartfelt.

Debbie relates that some  
of her former students are  
now working as tutors to  
make a difference with this  
generation. We appreciate  
their commitment.

# HAPPENINGS

### Homestead/Florida City Area

Welcome to Joseph Infante, a  
new Education Coordinator at  
Redlands Child Development  
Center. Joseph was recently  
admired for his paint-splashed  
jeans. A good sign.

\*\*

Leonel Angel Pedraza is a new  
outreach worker at Everglades I in  
Florida City. He is appreciative of  
RCMA and his center support  
team for "giving me the chance to  
show all the things that I can  
perform." Leonel thanks them  
"for having patience, and not  
forgetting that we all make  
mistakes. Remember, we learn  
from mistakes."

Leonel's appreciative reminder  
could guide us all at times. In fact,  
that is a good way to see it: We  
don't make mistakes, we make  
learnings.



Leonel Pedraza and Martita Huertas

Photo By GERARD LAMBERT

Welcome to Carla Clayton,  
Education Coordinator at the  
Andrew Center in Florida City and  
Martita Huertas, Education  
Coordinator at Everglades I, a  
neighbor center.

### Pasco/Lake Area

Welcome to Mary Ann Shultz,  
health coordinator, and Nelly  
Almanza, teacher trainee of  
Mascotte Migrant Head Start.

*continued on next page*

### N. Hillsborough/Polk Area

Congratulations to Carla Blonter, the new education coordinator at Westside Village Child Development Center. Carla loves cats, in particular Garfield. Carla was a big hit with the kids when she brought her two guinea pigs to the center.

Three teachers from this center were accepted into the Nova University CDA preparation program. Jacoba Montana, Griselda Montana and Ruthlyn Rojas will be earning college credit while working toward their CDA.

### Lee/Glades/Hendry/DeSoto Area

Welcome to teacher trainees Shannon Graham and Betty Hollimon, outreach worker Rachel Nuñez, bus drivers Clinton Wiley and Richard Tyler, and bus aide Deborah Harvey. Rachel was previously a teacher at Nocatee Migrant Head Start.

\*\*

Smith Brown has added a new school age program with 25 children. The children arrive from three elementary schools in Arcadia and Nocatee at 2:30. They have homework assistance, games, arts and crafts, reading for pleasure and outdoor activities. Now that the word is out, a waiting list has formed.

### Palm Beach Area

Welcome to Kevin Green, teacher trainee of New Hope Child Development Center in Pahokee. He works in all classrooms, having the delicate job of being a floater.

\*\*

Farmworker Child Development Center in Delray Beach, the Belle Glade center, and New Hope receive funds from United Way which are used for staff development. Being a United Way agency involves staff pledging voluntarily to give through payroll deductions. This year 34 staff gave nearly \$1,500. Staff know the value of the programs in the community that serve our child care families and our very own families.

## Angels unaware

Dana Reeves, Personnel Director, initiated a Christmas project so that as many children in RCMA centers as possible would be remembered with a gift.

A Christmas tree was standing proudly in the lobby of the State Office building in Immokalee decorated with patiently waiting angels. Each angel had



Photo by TERESA TREMELLING

### Dana Reeves

a child's name on it.

Staff were encouraged to take an angel from the tree and buy a gift for a child. Several staff chose a family of angels. In all, there were 118 angels who received gifts in Smith Brown Child Development Center (Arcadia), Bonita Migrant Head Start, Immokalee Child Development Center and Glades County Child Development Center (Moore Haven).

This project would not have been possible without Dana's hard work and thoughtfulness, as well as all those who participated in the project.

## Safety News

### Treat your feet with care

Many of us have to stand on our feet for long stretches of time to do our jobs. Some of us have to stand all day to do our jobs. Continuous standing or walking on a regular basis can cause sore feet, swelling of the legs and other discomforts. By the end of the day, all we want to do is go home and prop our feet up.

Did you know the foot is a complex structure? It has 26 delicate bones, 19 muscles, tendons and 115 ligaments. It must be protected and cared for.

Your feet can only feel as good as the shoes you wear allow. Safety shoes, steel toed shoes or rubber soled shoes may be required because of the type of job you have. This is protection from falling objects, punctures from sharp objects.

Take your time when shopping for shoes. Don't be pushed into any hasty decisions. Remember to consider shoes that: 1) Provide a firm grip for the heel. 2) Offer arch support. 3) Allow you to move your toes. 4) Provide laces that can be tightened for support or loosened as needed. 5) Are not completely flat or with heels over two inches high.

The floor we stand on or walk on is not our choice. But make sure it is clean. If there is a spill wipe it up before you slip on it.

To relax your feet at the end of the day, propping them up is a good idea. Treat yourself to a foot bath or a foot massage with or without a soothing lotion.

Your feet are important. They are very supportive and keep you moving in the right direction. Return the favor by treating them with care.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Cal Graham, impressed by staff compassion and dedication for children, retires

Dear Hoy,

My how time flies!

It reminds me of the fellow who was receiving his diploma. He said, "four years ago I couldn't even spell engineer, now I 'are one.'"

That's the way it is with me and RCMA. Five years ago I had never heard of RCMA, now I "are one."

I would like to say that these past five years have been most interesting. I have learned a great deal and have met some

wonderful people.

The goal of RCMA is excellent and I have been greatly impressed by the compassion and dedication of the staff, especially as it relates to the children.

Thank you all for your friendship and keep up the good work.

May the Lord richly bless each one.

Signed,  
Cal Graham  
Inventory Supervisor



**THE EARLY 1970's:** That's when Edna Carter began working with families in RCMA in Homestead. She is center coordinator of NAEYC-accredited Avon Park Head Start, and is seen here with two of the children from this center. Edna, always open to new experiences, flew in an airplane for the first time last year. It wasn't easy but she was willing to take the risk, a true sign of a leader.

*Photo By GERARD LAMBERT*

Editor: Gerard Lambert  
Applause/Happenings Staff Writer: Leslie Moguil  
*Please send suggestions, comments, and Letters to the Editor to the following address:*  
RCMA HOY Editor,  
Redlands Christian Migrant Association,  
402 W. Main St., Immokalee, FL 33934  
PHONE: 1-800-282-6540 FAX: 1-941-657-7017

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

### Winners of 30th Anniversary Drawing (held Dec. 1, 1995)

1. Cesar Barrera, Plant City, 1995 Ford Escort.
2. Johnny Bridges, Plant City, 2 nite/3 day weekend.
3. Domingo Garcia, Lake Worth, 25" color television.
4. Maria Mata, Dover, AM/FM 5 Disc CD Player.
5. Pyramid School Products, Tampa, Fax Modem.
6. Angie Lupercio, Plant City, Portable CD Player.
7. Diana Caeaves, Florida City, Adult Rocking Chair.
8. Jean Eklund, Naples, Puppet Theater/Puppets.
9. Juan Pesina, Homestead, Photo - Baby Racoons.
10. Sandra Cartney, Bradenton, Pond Banner.
11. Brandon Rose, Ft. Myers, Laundry Play Center.
12. Ana Aragus, Immokalee, Legos Duplo Set.
13. Brenda Moody, Fellsmere, Hispanic Doll & Outfit.
14. Francisco Toscolrio, Homestead, Asian Doll & Outfit.
15. Geneva Hayes, Avon Park, Asian Girl Doll.
16. Allen Ibarra, Dade City, Asian Boy Doll.
17. Maria De La Rosa, Ruskin, Rocking Horse.
18. Leticia Cavarrubias, Dade City, Asian, \$50 Gift Certificate.
19. Ignacio Murillo, Nocatee, Booster Seat.
20. Melissa Mancha, Immokalee, Toaster Oven.
21. Jessica Carrion, Lake Worth, Ocean Sweat Shirt.
22. Rick Colvin, Ft. Myers, Braun Coffee Pot.
23. Abraham Ruiz, Immokalee, Cellular Phone.
24. Santa Morales, Arcadia, \$30 Gift Certificate Winn Dixie.
25. Gabriel Ruiz, Plant City, Coffee Maker.
26. Irma Alaniz, Florida City, Coffee Maker.
27. Minerva Chavez, Nocatee, Ice Chest.
28. Pedro Vargas, Nocatee, Clock Radio.
29. Juan Hernandez, Bonita Springs, Ocean T-Shirt.
30. Juanita Martinez, Immokalee, Calculators.