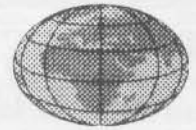




RCMA HOY

We Can Make
A World of
Difference

Helping Our Youth



MAY 1996 Issue 38

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

FROM
THE
DESK
OF
OLGA



Immigrant treatment: Is silence the answer?

I receive letters and literature from different places and agencies every day that speak about racism and hate that exist here in the United States.

It makes me sad and I ask how it is possible that people can be so hateful.

They're blind and at the same time they justify their hate. They present their hate and racism in an intelligent and reasonable manner, using the law to defend their position.

The sad fact is that other people believe what they say. They wear a mask to cover their true feelings.

For example, they want to change the immigration laws so that neither undocumented immigrants nor their

I ask myself, undocumented immigrants are affected today, but who will be affected tomorrow? Me?

children receive benefits even if the children are U.S. citizens.

How ridiculous! Undocumented immigrants can't receive help from the government. They come to work, doing jobs that the majority of us would not do and are not interested in doing.

In my heart I think that there are more good, honorable, noble and generous people.

But they allow themselves to be led by ignorance or perhaps because such a position towards undocumented immigrants and their families does not affect them nor their own families.

I ask myself, today undocumented immigrants are affected, but who will be affected tomorrow? Me? Should I keep my mouth shut and let them do in this country what Hitler did to the Jews? Is it not the same?

Plant City preschool teacher honored as "Hillsborough Teacher of the Year"

There must be hundreds of preschool teachers who work in Hillsborough County. And the one chosen "Hillsborough County's Pre-K Teacher of the Year" works in Plant City Migrant Head Start.

Adelita Trevino, an RCMA teacher for 18 years, was selected from over 30 nominees for this honor awarded by the Hillsborough County Association for Early Childhood Education.

Adelita was chosen following a process in



The children listen intently alongside their teacher Adelita Treviño.

Photo by Cesar Barrera.

which she was nominated by her education coordinator, Meg Flood. Later, a committee of early childhood experts came to the center and

PLEASE SEE TEACHER OF THE YEAR,
PAGE 3

Trato de inmigrantes: ¿Es el silencio la respuesta correcta?

DEL ESCRITORIO DE OLGA

Diarmente recibo cartas y literatura de diferentes lugares y agencias. Hablan acerca del racismo y el odio que existe aquí en los Estados Unidos.

Me da una tristeza y me pregunto cómo es posible que la gente pueda tener tanto odio. Se ciegan y al mismo tiempo justifican su odio.

Presentan su odio y racismo aparentemente de una manera inteligente y razonable, usando la misma ley para defender su posición. Y lo triste es que la gente cree de lo que ellos dicen.

Se ponen una máscara para cubrir sus verdaderos sentimientos.

Por ejemplo: quieren cambiar las

leyes de inmigración para que los indocumentados y sus hijos no reciban beneficios aunque los hijos sean ciudadanos de éste país.

Que ridículo, los indocumentados no pueden recibir ayuda del gobierno. Ellos vienen a trabajar, haciendo trabajos que la mayoría de nosotros no haríamos y que no tenemos interés en hacer.

En mi corazón pienso que hay mucha gente buena, honorable, noble y generosa. Pero que al mismo tiempo hay gente que se deja llevar por la ignorancia o quizás porque el racismo no afecta a ellos ni a sus familiares.

Yo me pregunto: ¿hoy son ellos pero el día de mañana a quien le tocará? A mí? ¿Será que me quedo con la boca callada y permito que aquí en este país hagan lo que Hitler hizo con los Judíos? ¿No es lo mismo?

Safety News

Summer Travel Safety Tips

Protect yourself and your family. Keep safety in mind with each activity you do.

As many RCMA centers close for the season, our employees and their families will be migrating out of Florida or taking that long awaited vacation trip. This is a time for accidents to happen. It is a good reason not to leave safety behind.

Please keep in mind a few basics:

- Get a safety check of the vehicle you plan to travel in which includes checking tires, brakes, belts, hoses. Be sure the brake lights, headlights, turn signals and emergency lights work.
 - Have a good spare tire, a jack, a few basic tools, oil and extra water stored in the trunk.
 - Discuss the importance of safety with your family. Does each person understand safety rules related to the activity that he or she will be doing?
 - Stop the mail, newspapers, etc. Lots of mail or newspapers in the driveway provide a signal for burglars that you're away.
 - Get a good night's rest before driving.
 - Stop every two hours for a short break, rest stop, snack or meal, etc. This gets the blood flowing and allows muscles to relax.
 - Drive defensively. Always expect the unexpected from other drivers.
 - Always wear your seat belt.
 - If possible, do not drive in the dark -- it is the most dangerous time to be on the road.
- Protect yourself and your family. Keep safety in mind with each activity you do. All of you are priceless to your families. You are valuable employees to RCMA. We wish you a safe and healthy summer.

RUSKIN MIGRANT HEAD START CENTER TEAM: Front row - Jorge Velasquez, education coordinator. Middle row (left to right) Irma Chappa, center coordinator and Teresa Julian, outreach worker. Back row (left to right) - Nydia Sanchez, outreach worker, Maricela Serrano, assistant center coordinator, and Jo Ann Neil, health/disabilities coordinator.

Teresa Julian has reason to celebrate! Teresa received her Associate of Arts (A.A.) Degree from Hillsborough Community College. As a single mother of two children with a full-time job, this was no easy task, but Teresa never gave up. In fact, she plans to continue her education to pursue a career in physical therapy.

Receiving his A.A. alongside Teresa was Jacob Serrano, the son of Maricela Serrano.

Congratulations to both on this important accomplishment!

This center team exemplifies the meaning of a TEAM - Together Everyone Achieves More.

TEAM - work



Teacher of the year

continued from page 1

observed her in the classroom working with the children.

In the nominating letter, Meg wrote of Adelita: "Her dedication to the children, and to the goals of RCMA is evident in her spirit of cooperation and willingness to help in any way. . . . Adelita exemplifies all that a teacher should be: dedicated, compassionate, motivated, and hardworking."

Adelita was honored at a banquet attended by over 200 guests on April 23, including several RCMA staff.

She received a cash award, a plaque, and a cruise for two.

RCMA is proud of Adelita and is fortunate to have her working with children.

Cesar Barrera, Plant City Migrant Head Start family support assistant, and Barbara Mainster, executive director, contributed to this story.

APPLAUSE

North Regional Office

Congratulations to Irene Brammertz, the north staff development specialist who received a phone call from her son Jose, living in Rome, letting her know she had become a grandmother. Clementina weighed 6.9 lbs.

Immokalee Area

Congratulations to Olga Alvarado, teacher at ICDC Infant on moving in to her new home.

Highlands/Hardee Area

In the movie "Dead Poet's Society" Robin Williams was a teacher. With his class huddled around him he whispered the words "Carpe Diem," (seize the day).

That's exactly what Magaly Torres, an outreach worker at Lake Placid CDC did recently. At an inservice training several staff expressed the desire to learn to speak Spanish. Magaly seized this opportunity to meet her coworkers' needs.

Drawing upon her previous experience at a battered women's shelter in Puerto Rico that entailed teaching women and children how to read and write Spanish proved to be helpful.

She is now teaching Spanish to sixteen staff from four Highlands County centers.

Magaly feels RCMA has opened a lot of doors for her and likewise she returns the favor with a gift of knowledge which will certainly open doors for others.

HAPPENINGS

Highlands/Hardee Area

Congratulations to Vera Treviño and Ninfa Gomez, teachers at Fred Dennis CDC on receiving their CDA's.

Immokalee Area

Congratulations to Awilda Torres, teacher at FWV - C, and Shirley Sloan, Family Support Worker, for receiving their CDA. Shirley is the first RCMA person to earn the Home Visitor CDA.

State Office

Congratulations to Barbara Mainster, executive director, and George Sorn, RCMA Board president, who were recently selected to attend a week-long Head Start - Johnson & Johnson Management Fellows Program at the University of California, Los Angeles in June.

Barbara was recently spotted for the first time working on a computer. She was preparing for the high-tech requirements of this wonderful opportunity. This effort shows that career development can happen at any stage in one's personal or professional development.

**

Congratulations to Melissa Mancha who is a new accounts payable specialist. Melissa was the receptionist whose friendly voice you heard when calling the state office for the last year and a half. She is excited about this new challenge and is "appreciative for being given the opportunity to learn something new." Melissa says she's had great teachers in accounts payable and Kim Guinn to learn from. And Melissa's a quick learner.

Donna Levy is now working as a personnel assistant. Imagine such responsibilities in an organization with over 1,000 employees. Donna, who previously worked in Accounts Payable, is equal to the challenge. She brings many talents to the position.

What does career development mean? It means different things to different people. In Rafaela Aleman's case, she started as a teacher trainee, moved over as receptionist in the state office, and later was an office assistant in several departments. Now she works full-time as a payroll specialist. It's also a lesson in flexibility and fast learning.

We wish Melissa, Donna and Rafaela the best in their new responsibilities.



GED RECIPIENT:

Beverly Munnings, a teacher trainee for two year olds at South Highlands center in Lake Placid, received her high school diploma in March, which she proudly shows in this picture.

Beverly, who graduated from high school in the Bahamas, took and passed the GED exam so that she could take early childhood education classes through a local community college.

Photo by Gerard Lambert.

Moguil discovers challenges, rewards and firsts in Italy

By **LESLIE MOGUIL**
RCMA HOY Staff Writer

Where are you cheered on in pursuing and obtaining a goal you set for yourself?

Where are you provided the flexibility and assistance to pursue your goal?

Where is there a shower of welcome, a sincere interest, and the encouragement to share? Only at RCMA.

I thank all of you for sharing in my enthusiasm.

The day was cool and sunny, people of all ages began to gather in the square. Men and men, or women and women strolled arm and arm slowly back and forth. They stopped to greet friends or family.

Two young men approached each other and embraced gently, kissing cheek to cheek.

A warm display of affection--smiles, conversation, laughter or amazement, all in plain view.

Italians refer to this social tradition as the "pasagato."

The average American would have difficulty interpreting this behavior, but to Italian men and women this physical warmth is a way of life. Before I knew it I too was able to take part in the tradition of the pasagato.

This adventure began when I was selected as one of four Southwest Florida professionals to be part of a Rotary Group Study Exchange to southern Italy for five weeks.

The challenges were many -- learning survival Italian, making sixteen presentations in Italian to

Rotary Clubs about my personal and professional life, giving up decision-making for five weeks and spending most of my waking moments as part of a team.

As is often true, the challenges were minimal compared to the rewards. I will only name a few of these opportunities: to live with four Italian families, to explore the history, culture and traditions of Italian people, to interact with Italian children and teachers, to create lasting friendships, and to be treated with the utmost kindness.

There were lots of firsts too: eating a raw sea urchin, communicating Italian style, zooming in a car at 120 mph, attending Palm Sunday mass at Vatican Square in Rome.

Some experiences were scary, some exciting, some difficult, and some just plain gross, but all were memorable and when I think back they make me smile!

Words of Support...

Our thoughts and prayers are with center coordinators Linda Coleman of Sebring CDC, and Guillermina Estrada of Farmworker Village CDC (Immokalee) as they cope with life's challenges.

We wish Lucy Garcia, Fred Dennis CDC (Wauchula) a speedy and positive recovery after recent surgery.



SPRING NUPTUAL: Samantha Austin of South Highlands just got married and she already has 10 children. No, not her own. She is a lead teacher in a classroom of four and five year olds. She wed Randy Smith on April 20 at her mother's home.

Board member receives volunteer service award

A member of the RCMA board of directors, Jackie Slatkow, received recognition for outstanding volunteer service in Palm Beach County.

Jackie's hard work resulted in the birth of Farmworker Child Development Center in Delray Beach.

In the RCMA letter nominating Jackie for the JC Penney Golden Rule Award, she was described as "a blond, blue eyed, chic, young Junior Leaguer with color coordinated outfits, a wonderful spirit and the soul of Mother Teresa."

Jackie now becomes one of the Florida finalists for the nationwide Golden Rule Award.

Jackie received \$1,000 for RCMA as part of her recognition.

RCMA appreciates the ongoing efforts of all board members on behalf of migrant and rural poor children and their families.

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PARENT NEWS

MAY 1996 Issue 2

A Bi-Monthly Parent Involvement Supplement of RCMA HOY

Chinese Parents provide cross-cultural experience

North Region

Plant City Migrant Head Start:

Food experiences are not only for children.

At their April parent meeting two families from Canton, China, volunteered to prepare the food.

Mrs. Su Su and Mrs. Yen Tin Chen, who both have children at the center, prepared shrimp fried rice, broccoli with chicken and soy sauce. Parent president Micaela

They had Cantonese shrimp fried rice, broccoli with chicken and soy sauce.

Monalvo helped out and learned about chinese cooking first hand.

This was a totally new experience for the Hispanic parents, the majority of whom had never eaten non-Mexican food.

The parents enjoyed the food and were happy to have shared this cultural experience.

The Cantonese parents have previously enjoyed Mexican food that is usually served at the parent meetings. They have tasted many different dishes ranging from mole to tostadas.

Community Agencies/Schools collaborate

Hillsborough County Public Schools, RCMA, Family Preservation Network and Tampa Hand-in-Hand Coalition have joined efforts to offer a series of workshops and events to promote parent involvement at the public schools.

The first training was May 7. The topics were "Getting ready for School" and "Summer learning activities."

To make this workshop a possibility, all participating agencies contributed: The Public

Schools provided the facilitators and materials for the training and a performance by the children. Hand-in-Hand Coalition paid for the food ingredients, RCMA staff prepared and cooked the food, Family Preservation Network paid RCMA staff to provide child care during the event and St. Anne Catholic Church in Ruskin donated meeting space. This is an excellent example of community collaboration to achieve a common goal: Getting parents involved in their children's education!

South Region

Farmworker Village B CDC

(Immokalee):

A recent transition to Kindergarten training for PreK students and parents saw excellent participation.

It is unusual for both parents to attend all sessions in this six week course, but Mr. Geraldo Estrella and his wife Cecilia Caliz did just that.

We congratulate the couple on their achievement. The interest they actively show in their child's development and education will surely pay off in the years to come!



photo by Awilda Llopiz

Mr. Estrella and Mrs. Caliz proudly show their recognition certificate while Mrs. Marie Duprey (instructor) looks on. Son Julio is in the foreground

Take charge of your attitude. Don't let someone else choose it for you.

From: Life's Little Instruction Book by H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Editor: Irene G. Brammertz

Please send parent involvement news from your center, ideas and suggestions to:

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NOTICIAS DE PADRES

MAYO 1996 Núm. 2 Suplemento Bimensual de RCMA HOY en Envolvimiento de Padres

Padres Chinos proveen una experiencia cultural

Región Norte

Plant City Migrant Head Start:

Las experiencias de comida no son solo para los niños.

En la junta de padres de abril dos familias de Cantón, China se ofrecieron de voluntarios para preparar la comida

La Sra. Su Su y la Sra. Yen Tin Chen, las cuales tienen sus niños en el centro, prepararon arroz frito con camarones, brócoli con pollo y salsa de soya. La presidenta de los padres, Micaela Monalvo ayudó y aprendió a cocinar comida china.

Ellos comieron arroz frito con camarones cantoneses y brócoli con pollo y salsa de soya.

Esta fue una experiencia completamente nueva para los padres hispanos, la mayoría de los cuales nunca han comido comida que no sea mexicana.

Los padres disfrutaron la comida y estaban muy contentos de haber compartido esta experiencia cultural.

Los padres cantoneses han disfrutado la comida mexicana que regularmente se sirve en las juntas de los padres. Ellos han probado diferentes platos desde mole hasta tostadas.

Colaboran agencias de la comunidad y escuelas

Las escuelas públicas del Condado de Hillsborough, RCMA, el Programa de Preservación de la Familia y la Coalición de Mano con Mano de Tampa se han unido en un esfuerzo para ofrecer una serie de entrenamientos y eventos para promover el involucramiento de los padres en las escuelas públicas.

El primer entrenamiento fue el 7 de mayo. Los temas fueron "Preparándose para la Escuela" y "Actividades para Aprender Durante el Verano."

Para lograr este taller todas

las agencias contribuyeron: las escuelas públicas proveyeron los presentadores y materiales para el entrenamiento y los estudiantes hicieron una presentación artística. La Coalición Mano con Mano pagó por los ingredientes para la comida, RCMA preparó la cena, el Programa de Preservación de la Familia pagó a las maestras de RCMA para proveer cuidado de niños y la Iglesia Católica Santa Ana ofreció el lugar para el evento. Este es un ejemplo excelente de colaboración para alcanzar una meta común: Envolver a los padres en la educación de sus hijos.

Región Sur

Farmworker Village B CDC

(Immokalee):

Un reciente entrenamiento de transición de Kindergarten para los niños de PreK y sus padres vieron una excelente participación.

Es raro que a esta clase de 6 semanas asistan los dos padres a todas las sesiones pero eso fue lo que hicieron el Sr. Geraldo Estrella y su esposa Cecilia Caliz.

Felicitemos a esta pareja por su logro. El interés que muestran en el desarrollo y la educación de sus hijos de seguro tendrá resultados en el futuro.



Foto: Awilda Llopiz

El Sr. Estrella y la Sra. Caliz muestran orgullosamente su certificado de reconocimiento. Aparecen también su hijo Julio y la maestra Marie Duprey.

*Escoja su actitud. No deje que nadie la escoja por usted.
De: Libro pequeño de instrucciones de la vida por H. Jackson Brown, Jr.*

Editor: Irene G. Brammertz

Favor de enviar noticias, ideas o sugerencias sobre involucramiento de padres en su centro a:

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