



# RCMA HOY

We Can Make  
A World of  
Difference

## Helping Our Youth



MAY 1997

Issue 50

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

### Parent involvement means making your children a priority in your life

*IT IS NOT always easy in this age of two-job households to spend time with your child, but I believe time is a product of one's priorities. If your priority is your child, you will find time.*



**I** don't know anything about golf, and never will. It just is not important to me. But, like almost everyone, I am delighted to get to know Tiger Woods. He is only 21 years old and one of our most famous athletes.

What appeals to me is this young man's personality. And where does that come from? Parent involvement! In Tiger Woods' Dad's words:

*I also talked to him as he lay in his crib while stroking his left cheek with my index finger. I would say, "Daddy loves you. I am here for you. You're my little man. Daddy*

*is so proud of you. I want you to be happy."*

*When he was asleep, I would touch his cheek, and he would smile. He knew it was me. He will know it for the rest of his life.*

*IT IS NOT always easy in this age of two-job households to spend time with your child, but I believe time is a product of one's priorities. If your priority is your child, you will find time.*

*So when Tiger got older, I established an open-door policy. Whenever he wanted to talk to me, everything else—TV, stereo, the works—went off.*

*This is from a pro - a father. Need we say more?*

### Child advocate gains funds for speech services

**N**ydia Guzman, health/disabilities coordinator for four centers in the Fellsmere Area was faced with the possibility that some children needing speech services would not receive them due to lack of funds.

Rather than take no for an answer, she quickly sought community resources. After making many phone calls, Nydia secured funding for speech services through a local Presbyterian Church.

Nydia's consistent initiative and persistence have enabled children in all four centers to receive special services from the school system or other local agencies.

The centers in the Fellsmere area are Children's House Child Development Center, Fellsmere Child Development Center, Indian River Migrant Head Start and Indian River Early Education Center.



Photo by GERRY LAMBERT

Nydia Guzman

# Envolvimiento de padres quiere decir que los niños sean una prioridad en su vida

## DEL ESCRITORIO DE BARBARA

Yo no se nada de golf y nunca sabre. Por que golf no es importante para mí.

Pero, como todos estoy encantada de conocer a Tiger Woods. Tiene 21 años y es uno de los atletas mas famosos.

¿Que me atrae de la personalidad de este joven y de donde viene esta personalidad? Envolvimiento de Padres.

En las palabras del papa de Tiger Woods:

*Tambien hable con el - acostado en la cuna - tocandole la mejia*

*izquierda con mi dedo indice. Le decia, "Tu papi te quiere. Yo estoy aqui para ti. Tu papi esta muy orgulloso de ti. Yo quiero que tu seas feliz.*

*Cuando estaba durmiendo, le tocaba la mejia y el sonreia. El sabia que era yo. El lo sabra para el resto de su vida.*

*No es nada facil en esta época en el hogar donde los dos padres trabajan pasar tiempo con sus niños, pero yo creo que el tiempo es el producto de las prioridades de uno. Si la prioridad es su niño encontraras tiempo.*

*Cuando Tiger empezó a crecer, comencé una poliza de puerta abierta. Cuando el queria hablarme, cualquier cosa que fuera—la television, estereo—todo se apagaba.*

*Esto es de un profesional—un padre. ¿Tenemos que decir mas?*

**"Beyond RCMA, the world our kids will enter can be strange and frightening. It is your job and mine to change this. "If not us? Then, who?"**

— Wendell N. Rollason

## CDA RECIPIENTS



**RUSKIN/WIMAUMA/PALMETTO AREA:** (Left to Right) Maria Charles (CDA), George Sorn, Myrtis Jordan (CDA), Carmen Figueroa (Advisor for 25 candidates), Myrta Rivera, Barbara Mainster, Olga Hernandez, and Salma Haidermota.

## NAEYC Accreditation



**ROLLASON CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER PRE (Immokalee):** Center coordinator Neche Rodriguez.

Photos by GERRY LAMBERT

# HAPPENINGS

## Pasco/Lake/Orange Area

Congratulations to the Dade City center which recently achieved National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation.

## Indian River Area

Welcome to Edith Edgar, the new area secretary.

Congratulations to Regina Sousa, the new statewide contracts specialist. Previously she was the area secretary and eligibility specialist.



Regina Sousa

Photo by IRENE BRAMMERTZ

## Palatka/Crescent City Area

Three cheers for Blanche Douglas, Laura Neeley, Betty Jackson and Cathy McCoy who received the national credential as family home child care providers. They were awarded the National Association for Family Child Care Accreditation credential in recognition of meeting the national standards of professional quality child care.

Recognition goes to Norma Jean Neely, a cook at Crescent City Child Development Center and a teacher at Jenkins and B.J. Young, a bus aide at Jenkins who received their CDA equivalency.

## Palm Beach Area

Congratulations to New Hope Child Development Center in Pahokee which recently was awarded NAEYC accreditation.

(Continued on next page)

## HAPPENINGS

(continued from page 2)

### Immokalee Area

Welcome to Elsie Jean Louis, the new education coordinator at Farm Worker Village B and C Child Development Centers and teacher trainee Nancy Rodriguez at FWV B.

### Lee/Desoto Area

Congratulations to Janet Thomas, the acting center coordinator at Smith Brown Child Development Center in Arcadia. Prior to this, she helped families as an outreach worker.

Congratulations also to Bertha Hooks, formerly center coordinator, who will be focusing her energy and talents on statewide literacy efforts and other adult education programs for parents and staff.

### Homestead/Florida City Area

Welcome to new teacher trainees at Everglades II Child Development Center: Indolina Burgos, Adela Garcia, Celia Mora, Vanessa Rivas, and cook Guadalupe Garcia.

\*\*

Congratulations to Guadalupe Leal, the new center coordinator at South Dade Child Development Center Pre. Many years ago Lupe went to RCMA as a preschooler.

Congratulations to Patricia Castillo, the new education coordinator at Redlands Child Development Center. Previously she was a teacher.

## APPLAUSE

### Pasco/Lake/Orange Area

Congratulations to Maria Gibson of Zellwood Child Development Center who gave birth to her first child, Maria Victoria Gibson, on March 13.

\*\*

Frances De La Rosa, acting center coordinator for the Dade City center, recently received her GED. Furthering her education was the farthest thing from her mind only a few months ago. May Frances inspire others to face their fears and continue their education.

\*\*

Raeann Lusik, project director of the Migrant Health and Outreach Project, is

## NAEYC ACCREDITED CENTERS



**SOUTH DADE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER PRE & INFANT (Homestead):** Petra Castillo (left) and Claudia Solis.



**ROLLASON CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER INFANT (Immokalee):** Juana "Chucha" Garza

Photos by GERRY LAMBERT

proud of her son. He was ordained as a Catholic Priest on March 24.

### The Rollason Center

Melissa Mancha, accounts payable specialist, is the proud mom of Brittany Leann, who was born on March 22.

Phyliss Booe's daughter, April, will be attending Florida Southern College. April received scholarships for academics, athletics and art to help with her tuition and other expenses.

Program development specialist Jean Eklund's son, Erik, will attend the University of Miami this fall. He will be receiving an academic scholarship to cover tuition.

Gyla Wise, state director of health, is very proud of her daughter Lois who received second place in the Three County Middle School Science Fair in the Health/Medicine category and third place in the Lee County Middle School Social Studies Fair.

Her science project compared the shock absorbent qualities of shredded mulch and shredded rubber tires. Shredded rubber tires afforded more protection.

### Florida City Area

Congratulations to Jackie Nelson, a teacher at Everglades II Child Development Center, who gave birth to Dinesha Donzella on March 13.

Congratulations also go to Maria Mata at Everglades II who is the proud mom of Alfredo, born on January 14.

### Immokalee Area

Two teachers at Rollason Child

Development Center Infant/Toddler recently gave birth. Belinda Bernal became the proud mom of Stephanie on February 14 and Rosa Valentin gave life to Francisco on March 6.

\*\*

Six teachers were nominated for the Naples Alliance for Children's 1997 Apple Blossom Award in recognition of their outstanding qualities as early childhood educators in Collier County. They are Laquita Prudent, Norma Hernandez; Finalists: Mary Lou Alvarado, Maria Alicia delaRosa, and Esmeralda Ruiz.

Congratulations to these teachers on this proud recognition.

### Palatka/Crescent City Area

Teresa Gutierrez, a teacher at Crescent City Child Development Center, had been working toward becoming a U.S. citizen for 14 months. On April 25 her husband rushed back from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic where he was visiting, to stand proudly while Teresa took her Oath in Jacksonville.

### Highlands/Hardee Area

Avon Park health/disabilities coordinator Nancy Zachary, was recently inducted into the National Honor Society for community colleges—Phi Theta Kappa. In order to become a member, one must have a 3.5 grade point average and be involved in the community. Nancy is expecting to graduate this summer.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Combating racism

The following is a response to the "From The Desk of Barbara" article titled "What are you doing to combat racism in RCMA" that appeared in the March 1997 issue of RCMA HOY.

Dear HOY,

What are we doing to combat racism in Farmworker Child Development Center in Delray Beach?

At this center we have staff from many varied backgrounds or origins such as from Mexico, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Jamaica, The Netherlands, Ireland, Puerto Rico and Mexican American.

I believe that before we can truly say we "love our neighbor" we must get to know "our neighbor." In so doing we discover how "alike" we are in so many ways that we begin to realize we are not that different after all.

### NAEYC ACCREDITED



FARMWORKER CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER (Delray Beach): Mary Espinoza (left) and Paula Rounsavall.

Photo by GERRY LAMBERT

### May our thoughts and prayers . . .

be with Willie Mae Crawford at this difficult time.

Editor: Gerard Lambert

Applause/Happenings Staff Writer: Leslie Moguil

Spanish Translator: Norma Ramirez

Please send suggestions, comments, and Letters to the Editor to the following address: RCMA HOY Editor, Redlands Christian Migrant Association 402 West Main Street, Immokalee, FL 34142

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When we have celebrations with staff, we give each one the opportunity to share how they celebrate that particular special day in their country.

The best one so far has been the Christmas celebrations! It's amazing how different countries celebrate this holiday in much the same way. Maybe the wording is different, but the meaning is the same.

Mother's Day is another special day that we all celebrate with the same enthusiasm, love, and affections. Of course, talking about how we celebrate occasions opens the door to other conversation of common things we share.

The more we learn about each other, the more we want to learn and the more we share that valuable information with our own family members and friends and thus, it keeps growing and growing.

Signed,  
Mary Espinoza  
Center Coordinator

\*\*

Dear HOY,

The decision to leave RCMA was not an easy one, but the right one at this time.

There are a lot of people here I have come to know very well and I will miss you all very much. My time here at RCMA was a positive learning experience for me, and I will never forget that.

I would like to thank

Barbara Mainster (executive director) for giving me the opportunity to work with such wonderful people, and for such a noble cause. I am grateful for all that I have learned, and also for all that I have been allowed to share.

Also, many thanks to Olga Hernandez (deputy director) for her guidance, suggestions, gentle reprimands and patience; but mainly for showing me that kindness and fairness are just as important as knowledge and education.

A special thanks for Rick Colvin (Computer Systems Analyst) for seeing that my projects were (and stayed) successful, and for keeping everything performing better than it should have. You made the difficult easy and the dull, interesting.

For all my eligibility staff, whom I have already said goodbye to, thank you for everything. Without your flexibility, tolerance, competence and loyalty, nothing could have been accomplished. We have worked together through a devastating hurricane, births, deaths, illness, and have shared our joy and grief equally and undivided.

You are the best and I am honored to have been a part of your team. You will always remain in my thoughts and in my prayers.

Signed,  
Susan Lamb  
(former) Contracts Manager  
The Rollason Center



AVON PARK HEAD START lead teacher Pamela Allen reads to the children.

Photo by MIKE CLARK

# PARENT NEWS

MAY 1997 Issue 8 A Bi-Monthly Parent Involvement Supplement of RCMA HOY

## Consulate To Boost RCMA Literacy Efforts

### North Region

There are times in our lives when like-minded people join together to envision a better world. This is what happened on April 25, 1997, when a group of people with a common purpose got together to share their concerns, their hopes, ideas, energy and commitment.

Mrs. Maricela Estevez, representative of the Mexican Consulate in Orlando and Mr. Benito Samaniego, representative of the National Institute of Education for adults (INEA) of the Mexican State of Hidalgo, graciously visited us in Dade City. They infected us with their boundless enthusiasm.

Mr. Hidalgo has started a campaign to help thousands to learn how to read and write in Spanish and offered to help us do the same.

Asking about our needs, he received the same answer over and over:

- 1) Materials appropriate for teaching literacy to native Spanish speakers.
- 2) Training of trainers to work with persons of different abilities and
- 3) Techniques to keep the adult students motivated to stay in class.

### ***Mr. Hidalgo has started a campaign to help thousands to learn how to read and write in Spanish***

As a result of this exchange, Mr. Hidalgo and Mrs. Estevez will be sending RCMA, free of cost, materials to teach different educational levels.

Additionally, they will send personnel to train the people who will be teaching others to read and write in Spanish. This training will take place this summer and will be accomplished in a two-day seminar.

We are excited about this fantastic opportunity to help our Hispanic families to discover a new world. If you are interested in this program, please contact your local Area Coordinator to sign up for the training or for the literacy classes.

### South Region

Homestead - Everglades I:

Sixty visitors came to learn more about the center and the children's daily activities at Everglades I open house. Parents, aunts and uncles and other family members were treated to a video in one classroom showing what a typical day is like for a child -- from the parent signing the child in at arrival in the morning, through circle time, outdoor play, meals, nap times, arts and crafts -- to signing out before going home.

A true open house is an invitation to inspect everything. So it was at Everglades I. All fifteen classroom teachers were at hand to introduce themselves to the families. The cook, Juanita Treviño, explained her kitchen. Information was given about health related topics. Family members took advantage of the lending library by borrowing books to read at home.



Photo by Marita Huertas  
From left to right: parents Mr. Rojas, Mrs. Rojas, Mrs. Lopez, and daughter, getting a tour of the kitchen facilities.

Activities included arts and crafts for the parents and information and suggestions about activities with the children at home to reinforce what was learned in the classroom.

The evening was concluded with a delicious meal of tostadas, rice, beans, salad and cake.

### From our mailbag:

On behalf of the parents who were given the opportunity to attend the seminar in Ft. Myers on May 1, 1997, I would like to extend a sincere "Thank You."

RCMA does not only provide the best quality of care for our children, but it allows and encourages the parents to be involved in every activity. Like most parents, I'm sure, not any child care will do; in the area I live in there are many selections.

I am thankful to admit that RCMA is the only daycare that has surpassed my expectations. I hope you continue to grow here as well as in other communities and give the children the quality of care you have provided for mine. Most important, you have given me a sense of relief, knowing my son was in loving and nurturing hands.

My son will now enter Kindergarten this summer prepared and unafraid of the challenges he will be faced with.

With fine Remembrance,  
Mary D. Olmos

Editor: Irene G. Brammertz

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

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# NOTICIAS DE PADRES

MAYO 1997 Núm. 8 Suplemento Bimensual de RCMA HOY en Envolvimiento de Padres

## Consulado Estimula los Esfuerzos de Alfabetización de RCMA

### Región Norte

Hay ocasiones en nuestra vida donde parece juntarse toda la esperanza del mundo junto con el idealismo de crear un mejor mundo para vivir. Esto sucedió el 25 de abril cuando un grupo de personas se reunieron para compartir preocupaciones, esperanzas, ideas, energía y compromiso.

La Sra. Maricela Estevez, representante del consulado de México en Orlando y el Sr. Benito Samaniego, representante del Instituto Nacional de Educación para Adultos (INEA) del Estado de Hidalgo, tuvieron la amabilidad de visitarnos para ofrecernos no solo recursos y apoyo técnico pero también para contagiarnos con su entusiasmo.

El Sr. Hidalgo trabaja en una campaña ayudando a miles de personas a aprender a leer y escribir. Cuando este preguntó a los presentes acerca de nuestras necesidades la respuesta se repitió una y otra vez:

- 1) La falta de materiales apropiados para adultos que hablan español como su primer lenguaje.
- 2) La necesidad de entrenamiento adecuado para trabajar con personas de diferentes niveles
- 3) Técnicas para motivar a los estudiantes para que no abandonaran las clases.

*El Sr. Hidalgo trabaja en una campaña ayudando a miles de personas a aprender a leer y escribir.*

Como resultado de este intercambio, el Sr. Hidalgo, por medio de la Sra. Estevez, ofreció enviarnos materiales para diferentes niveles educativos sin costo alguno para RCMA y enviar personal para entrenar a las personas que

estén interesadas en enseñar a otras personas a leer y escribir en español. El entrenamiento será este verano y tendrá 2 días de duración.

Estamos muy entusiasmados por esta fantástica oportunidad para ayudar a nuestras familias hispanas a descubrir un mundo nuevo. Si usted está interesada(o) en participar en este programa favor de comunicarse con su Coordinadora de Área.

### Región Sur

Homestead - Everglades I:

Sesenta visitantes vinieron a conocer el centro y a ver las actividades diarias de los niños en la "Casa Abierta" de Everglades I. Los padres, tías y tíos y otros miembros de la familia fueron recibidos con un video en un salón que enseñaba lo que es un día típico para un niño - desde cuando el padre firma en la mañana, las actividades de grupo grande, juegos afuera, comidas, siesta, actividades de arte - hasta cuando el padre firma en la tarde para levantar al niño.

Una "Casa Abierta" verdadera es una invitación para inspeccionar todo. Y así fue la de Everglades I. Todas las quince maestras estaban presentes para presentarse a las familias. La cocinera, Juanita Trevino, explicó su



Foto: Maritza Huertas  
De izq. a derecha: Los padres: el Sr. Rojas, Sra. Rojas, Sra. Lopez y su hija visitando las facilidades de la cocina.

trabajo en la cocina. Se pasó información relacionada con la salud. Los miembros de las familias se aprovecharon de la biblioteca de préstamo y sacaron libros para leer en la casa. Las actividades incluyeron arte para los padres e información y sugerencias sobre actividades para hacer con el niño en la casa para reenfocar lo que se aprendió en la clase. La noche terminó con una deliciosa cena de arroz, frijoles, tostadas, ensalada y pastel.

### De la Bolsa del Correo:

A nombre de los padres que tuvieron la oportunidad de asistir al seminario en Ft. Myers el 1ro de mayo, quisiera extenderle mis sinceras "Gracias."

RCMA no solo provee el mejor cuidado para nuestros niños, sino que permite y estimula a los padres a involucrarse en cada actividad. Como la mayoría de los padres, estoy segura que cualquier centro de cuidado no es suficiente; en la área que vivo hay muchos para escoger.

Yo estoy muy agradecida de admitir que RCMA es el único centro de cuidado que sobrepasa mis expectativas.

Espero que continúe creciendo así mismo en otras comunidades y que le den a los niños la calidad de cuidado que me han ofrecido al mío. Mas importante, me han dado un sentimiento de alivio al saber que mi hijo está en manos amorosas.

Mi hijo ira a Kindergarten este verano preparado y sin miedo de los retos que encontrará.

Con muchos recuerdos,  
Mary D. Olmos

Editor: Irene G. Brammertz

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

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