



# RCMA HOY

We Can Make  
A World of  
Difference

## Helping Our Youth



JULY 1997

Issue 52

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

### Now is the time to start saving for retirement — RCMA can help



*It really is important to save for the future, since none of us is getting any younger, right?*

coordinator, program coordinator or call The Rollason Center in Immokalee at 1-800-282-6540 if you have questions.

Thank you for being the best staff in the country. You are making a difference.

*Barbara Mainster*

**UPCOMING EVENT**  
**RCMA Statewide Conference**  
**Where:** Orlando, Clarion Plaza Hotel  
**When:** Aug. 20-22  
**Who:** All CCs, ECSs, FSSs, SSAs, ACs, PCs

### Hayes sees hope in present and future

By **LESLIE MOGUIL**  
Staff Writer

The phone rings, someone walks through the door, the program coordinator has something to be typed and the area coordinator needs her to make a few phone calls to gather some information from the centers. All in an hour's work for Sebring area secretary, Geneva Hayes.

Geneva accomplishes all of these requests with a bright smile, and a willingness to help.

Geneva is preparing to set out on a special trip to Tallahassee with her son Leon McRae Jr. Leon is headed to Tallahassee Community College after a year-long

*Please see A PROUD PRESENT, page 4*



**Geneva Hayes**

*Photo by GERRY LAMBERT*

**G**ood news for all staff! Starting July 1 everyone will get a cost-of-living increase in their pay of 2.9 percent. This begins with your July 30 paycheck which covers the period July 1 - July 15.

Now if you want to almost double this increase, think about putting 2 percent of your salary away for the future in RCMA's retirement plan and RCMA will match it another 2 percent.

It really is important to save for the future, since none of us is getting any younger, right?

Look at this retirement plan as a savings account that is very safe and will always be there for you.

Ask your center coordinator, area

# Piense en los ahorros para su jubilación — RCMA puede ayudarle

## DEL ESCRITORIO DE BARBARA

**B**uenas noticias para todo el personal! Al comenzar el mes de julio todos reciben un aumento de 2.9% en su cheque por costo de vida.

Este aumento comienza en el cheque que reciben el 30 de julio, el cual cubre el periodo de julio 1 - 15.

Ahora, si deseas casi duplicar éste aumento, piensa en ahorrar 2% de tu salario para el futuro en el plan de

retiro de RCMA y nosotros te daremos otro 2%. De verdad el ahorrar para el futuro es muy importante, pues lo cierto es que no nos estamos haciendo mas jovenes, verdad?

Piensa en éste plan de retiro como si fuese una cuenta de ahorros la cual es muy segura y siempre estara alli para tí.

Pregunta a la coordinadora de tu centro, coordinadora de area, coordinadora de programa o llama al Centro Rollason en Immokalee en el telefono 1-800-282-6540 si tienes alguna pregunta.

Gracias por ser el mejor personal en el pais. Ustedes estan marcando la diferencia.

*Barbara Mainster*

*"In the early days I managed to get the University of Miami to send us an expert in early childhood. He came down with his class, took a look around, and said to his students 'This is what I'm talking about when I talk about the needs of early childhood development. Watch the love these children get from the staff. This is what I have been trying to teach you.' Well, that warmed me up to him right away."*

— Wendell N. Rollason



**REDLANDS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER (Homestead):** Early childhood specialist Patricia Castillo (left) and center coordinator Enedelia Garcia. Both were promoted this season from teacher.

Photo by GERRY LAMBERT

## Safety News

# Take care of your hands

Hands are probably a person's most outstanding feature. From the moment of birth until the day of death, our hands serve in an infinite number of ways.

Hands build, guide, communicate, create, play, love and learn. Hands have a closer relationship with the brain than almost any other organ in the body, which may account for the fact that the cortical area linked to the hand is longer than any other in the body.

Each hand has 27 bones, 24 muscles, 30 joints and pivotal points. Seven to eight muscles cooperate to move a finger.

Thirty joints and 50 muscles of the hand, wrist, arm, and shoulder are brought into play

**"Hands build, guide, communicate, create, play, love and learn."**

to spoon a bowl of soup. A normal grip exerts 90 pounds of force, but some can exert 150 pounds or more.

Work, play, and curiosity are constantly getting hands into trouble. In this mechanized age, the hands are injured more often than any other body part. Power tools contribute to the ripping apart of tissues, tendons, and nerves. Placing hands into pinch points is another major contributor to injury.

Today, badly mutilated hands can often be restored to full use but only at the cost of valuable lost time and considerable expense by insurance companies if the injury is job-related and by you personally if the injury occurs off the job.

Think for one moment of the thousand separate tasks you use your hands for each day. Now think of how valuable they are, and think of ways to protect them both on and off the job. Think!

## Pahokee, Sebring, Immokalee, and Plant City Centers awarded NAEYC accreditation

Congratulations to New Hope Child Development Center (in Pahokee), Sebring Child Development Center, Farm Worker Village B Child Development Center (in Immokalee), and Plant City Migrant Head Start which recently achieved National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation.

NAEYC accreditation by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs is recognition of having met a national standard of the provision of high quality child care.

The staff at these centers deserve praise for their teamwork and commitment which made this accomplishment not only possible but a reality.

Staff include the following:

At New Hope Child Development Center they are: Cindy McClendon, Edna Andrews, Faith Green, Diane Jenkins, Martha Rudgles, Maria Salinas, Martha Lule, Lula Murvin, Maria Ruiz, Shirley Walters, Annie Lunsford, Dynisha Hill, Carolyn Warren, Kathy Vergara, and Pauline Benjamin. Nicole Charles, a teacher at Belle Glade helped out also.

Sebring Child Development Center staff are: Linda Coleman, Noemi Aponte, Blondeva Grey, Enid Resto, Yadira Guzman, Diane Calderon, James Jones, and Soad Zakhary.

Farm Worker Village B staff include: Olga Gutierrez, Dionette Molina, Thelma Martinez, Gregoria Nieto, Nancy Estrada, Ernestina Cruz, Awilda Llopiz, Elsie Jean-Louis, Myita Ramirez and Nancy Rodriguez.

Plant City Migrant Head Start staff are: Maria Alvarado, Maria Cantu, Blanca Chavez, Margaret Flood, Alicia Garcia, Maria Garcia, Maria Ibarra, Obdulia Lugo, Evangelina Lupercio, Micaela Mendoza-Medina, Griselda Montana, Maureen Nieves, Graciela Reyes, Irais Rivas, Yolanda Sanchez, Adelita Trevino, Elizabeth Vasquez, Kathy Vega, and Guadalupe Zavala.

## Blast from the past



Gloria Padilla, area coordinator for the Immokalee area, shown here as the Easter Bunny in a 1983 photo. She had recently been promoted from teacher to Center Director of this Immokalee center that was located at the local Catholic Church. At least four of the children graduated from high school and two went on to take some college courses. Gloria is working on her Associate of Arts degree and is active in a University of Miami Research Project.

## RCMA receives Head Start funding to reach 470 families in three counties

RCMA is expanding Head Start services to serve families in Putnam, Flagler and Clay counties. RCMA will serve 271 Head Start children in Putnam County in Palatka, Pomona Park, Crescent City and Johnson. RCMA will partner with other agencies to serve 200 children in Flagler and Clay counties.

"We're looking forward to working with Head Start," Edna Blue, the area coordinator said. "We plan to work closely with the public schools."

This is a great opportunity for the Putnam Area to expand services to families in these communities in northeast Florida.

**A speedy recovery . . .** is wished for Belva Bragg (our oldest employee!). She had been hospitalized and is now recuperating.

## Padilla's four-year-old daughter shines as model at talent expo

Area coordinator Gloria Padilla is proud of her four-year-old daughter Priscilla Padilla who recently shined in a model and talent expo in St. Petersburg. She competed with 300 other children in front of an audience of 700.

Priscilla caught the eye of four agents from New York, Dallas, Atlanta and Orlando who want to work with her further. They were impressed with her natural, unprogrammed look and that she was talkative, not shy.

"She walked on stage with her head held up high and smiled to everyone there," Gloria said.

Priscilla won three awards: a trophy for Child Actor in Photography; a medal for Child Actor Commercial; and the People's Choice Award for the Best Costume. Priscilla was dressed as Selena.

Priscilla would pass people in the halls and say, "Hi! What's your name?" or things like "Your shoes are very funny" and to adults, "Why do you smoke?"

# Personnel team takes on new challenges

***"When you have never done something you have a fear. All that you know are the horrible images you see on T.V. of airplane disasters. You focus on these and ask yourself - 'What am I doing?'"***

— Lorena Hernandez, personnel assistant

By **LESLIE MOGUIL**  
Staff Writer

The day was approaching too soon for Lorena Hernandez, personnel assistant, who was told she would have to attend two separate trainings in Roseland, New Jersey for the new human resources computer program.

Her co-worker Donna Jones and supervisor Dana Reeves, personnel manager, would also be attending, but that didn't make the trip any easier. It still meant flying, something that Lorena had never experienced, something that paralyzed her with fear.

She shared with her husband that she didn't want to go - his response was tell them you can't go. Lorena knew this was not a choice; in order to do her job she must learn about the new computer system.

## The Plane Trip

The day arrived. Lorena was scared, nervous, stomach turning out of control as she grabbed Donna's knee for take off. "When you have never done something you have a fear," Lorena said.

"All that you know are the horrible images you see on T.V. of airplane disasters. You focus on these and ask



yourself - What am I doing?"

The flight was a success. And the second trip a couple of weeks later was less frightening.

The rewards came for all three staff from the learning that

took place about the new system and the unexpected side trip to the Big Apple, New York City.

## The Big Apple Experience

Dana, Lorena, and Donna were feeling quite confident as they boarded a New Jersey bus bound for the Manhattan Port Authority, a gigantic bus terminal in the heart of New York City.

All three jaws dropped as they exited the building and took in the skyline, traffic, noise, foreign languages, and multicultural faces.

The open air bus tour was about to begin. Donna and Lorena both had the Statue of Liberty on the top of their list for something they wanted to see, and they did.

Lorena explained that she wanted to see the Statue for everything that it stands for — people coming to this country, opportunities to pursue dreams.



Left to right: Dana Reeves, Lorena Hernandez and Donna Jones

Photo by GERRY LAMBERT

## Training, phase II

When the group returned to New Jersey for the second phase of the training a couple weeks later, they experienced some more positive energy.

Their perception was that they would be behind the rest of the group. As it turned out previous experience put them at the top of their class.

Lorena and her family are discussing flying to Mexico to visit relatives. Lorena's daughter put it this way: "Mommy, daddy, you have been on a plane. Now it's my turn." □



## A proud present

(Continued from page 1)

hiatus following high school graduation.

He hopes to play college ball. Baseball runs through the veins of the McRae side of the family. Leon's uncle Hal McRae played with the Kansas City Royals and Leon's cousin Brian plays for the Chicago Cubs. Leon chose Tallahassee because his father graduated from Florida A&M University.

In addition to Geneva's RCMA responsibilities, she is a single longtime mother of two children, a licensed cosmetologist, and a student pursuing her Associate of Arts degree at South Florida Community College.

Geneva shared her pride about the direction her children are headed.

Leon is off to college and O'Shay, her daughter, is a fifth grader in the gifted program who aspires to be a doctor when she grows up.

What promise the future holds for Geneva and her family. We applaud her! □

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 West Main Street, Immokalee, FL 34142  
PHONE: 1-800-282-6540 FAX: 1-941-658-3606

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

# PARENT NEWS

JULY 1997 Issue 9 A Bi-Monthly Parent Involvement Supplement of RCMA HOY

## Clara spills the beans on home visits...

### South Region

Glades Early Childhood Center,  
Moore Haven

The children of Ms. Wright's and Mrs. Mount's class have a new classroom friend they would like to introduce to you. She is a small rag doll and her name is Clara. Each child gets a turn to take Clara home for an overnight visit.

Together with Clara's visit come a number of things for the child to do. Inside Clara's paper bag suitcase (designed and made by the children) there are markers, crayons, papers and a pencil. The children use these to tell about the visit with Clara at their home. Clara also takes her toothbrush along on her visits.

Recently, Clara had the following experience:

*"Today, Clara came home with Alicia. She played with Clara in her room for hours. Alicia's sister Alexis played with Clara too. We ate dinner together. Clara sat near Alicia. They ate Pork tenderloin, fried potatoes and corn on the cob. After dinner they brushed their teeth and watched some television, then went to bed. Alicia had a lot of fun dressing and mothering Clara. We will be happy when we see Clara again. It gave Alicia a little knowledge on responsibility. There can never be enough learning. This is a great idea and my husband and I appreciate the learning experience you have instilled in Alicia."*

Clara's journal goes along with each visit and returns the next day filled with interesting things Clara saw and did with the child and his or her parents and family. These events can be real or imaginary. They are written by the parents but dictated by Clara's child host. Children may also write in the journal in their own way.

The day after the visit the journal is read at the center as a group activity.

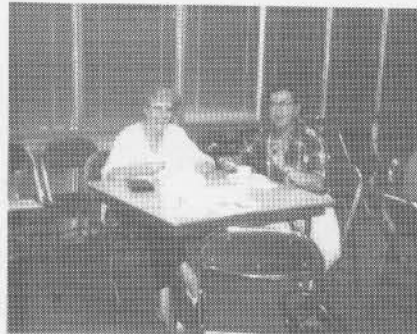
At the end of the year the children will help to make booklets containing pages about Clara's visits at their homes. Parents and children have greatly enjoyed this language building activity.

### North Region

Update on Mexican Consulate's literacy campaign:

Training of trainers has been in progress throughout the State. At the Ruskin TECO building a variety of trainees participated. Among them parent volunteer German Martinez (currently teaches literacy at Bethel Mission) and a senior citizen from Sun City Center (currently an adult school volunteer). Next season parents and staff will benefit from the

excellent training provided to our volunteers.



*Photo by by Josie Gracia*  
Instructors Maria del Pilar Alvarado "Pili" and Victor Martinez having lunch provided by "Tiny Tot's University" Palmetto

Besides the literacy instructors, two teachers from Mexico City were at some of our centers (Ruskin, Dover) during the month of July, teaching Mexican crafts on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, traditional songs and games on Wednesday and Friday afternoons, and folk dances on Tuesday and Friday evenings.

Be on the lookout for some great cultural learning by our children this upcoming season.

**Editor: Irene G. Brammertz**

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

**HOY Parent News Editor, Redlands Christian Migrant Association, P.O. Box 207, Ruskin, FL 33570**

**Phone: 813-671-5270**

**Spanish Translation: Josie Gracia**

**Fax: 813-671-5272**

# NOTICIAS DE PADRES

JULIO 1997 Núm. 9 Suplemento Bimensual de RCMA HOY en Envolvimiento de Padres

## Clara lo dice todo acerca de las visitas en las casas...

### Región Sur

Centro de Infancia Temprana de Glades, Moore Haven

Los niños de la clase de la Sra. Wright y la Sra. Mount tienen un amigo nuevo en el salón que quisieran presentarle a usted. Ella es una muñeca de trapo y su nombre es Clara. Cada niño toma su turno y se llevan a su casa a Clara para pasar la noche.

Junto con la visita de Clara viene un número de cosas para que el niño haga. Dentro de la bolsa de papel de Clara (diseñada y hecha por los niños) hay marcadores, crayones, papel y lápiz. Los niños usan estos para relatar acerca de la visita de Clara a sus casas. Clara también lleva su cepillo de dientes en sus visitas.

Recientemente Clara tuvo la siguiente experiencia:

"Hoy, Clara vino a la casa con

Alicia. Ella jugó con Clara en su cuarto por horas. La hermana de Clara, Alexis, también jugó con Clara. Todos cenamos juntos. Clara se sentó cerca de Alicia. Comimos carne de cerdo, papas fritas y elotes. Después de la cena se cepillaron los dientes y miraron televisión por un rato y se fueron a dormir. Alicia se divirtió mucho vistiendo y cuidando a Clara. Estaremos muy contentos cuando veamos a Clara otra vez. Le dio a Alicia un poco de conocimiento acerca de responsabilidad. Nunca hay demasiado aprendizaje. Esta es una gran idea y mi esposo y yo apreciamos la experiencia que le han ofrecido a Alicia."

El diario de Clara va junto con la visita y regresa al siguiente día lleno de cosas intere-

santes que Clara vio e hizo con el niño y sus padres y familia. Estos eventos pueden ser reales o imaginarios. Son escritos por los padres pero dictados por el niño que hospeda a Clara. Los niños también pueden escribir en el diario en su propia manera.

El día después de la visita se lee el diario en el centro como una actividad de grupo.

Al final del año los niños ayudarán a hacer unos libros con las páginas de las visitas de Clara a sus casas. Los padres y los niños han disfrutado mucho esta actividad para desarrollar el lenguaje.

### Región Norte

Noticias para poner al día acerca de la campaña de alfabetización del Consulado Mexicano.

El entrenamiento de los entrenadores ha estado en marcha a través de todo el Estado. En el edificio de la TECO una variedad de personas participaron del entrenamiento. Entre ellos se encontraba el Sr. German Martínez, padre voluntario que en estos momentos enseña alfabetización en la Misión de Betel y un ciudadano de Sun City Center

que hace trabajo voluntario en la escuela de adultos. Para la próxima



Foto por Josie Gracia  
Profesores María del Pilar Alvarado "Pili" y Víctor Martínez saboreando el almuerzo donado por "Tiny Tots University" en Palmetto.

temporada los padres y el personal se beneficiarán del excelente entrenamiento provisto por nuestros voluntarios. Aparte de los maestros de alfabetización, dos maestras de la ciudad de México fueron a algunos de nuestros centros (Ruskin, Dover) durante el mes de julio enseñando artesanías mexicanas los martes y jueves y juegos y canciones los miércoles y viernes en las tardes y bailes folclóricos los viernes en las noches. Este pendiente a lo que los niños aprendieron y aprenderán de la cultura en la próxima temporada.

Editor: Irene G. Brammertz

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

HOY Parent News Editor, Redlands Christian Migrant Association, P.O. Box 207, Ruskin, FL 33570

Phone: 813-671-5270

Traducción Español: Josie Gracia

Fax: 813-671-5272