



RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make
A World of
Difference

Helping Our Youth



FEBRUARY 1998 Issue 58 OUR MISSION: Helping Parents Restart, Giving Kids a Head Start, Helping Staff Develop

Action-based dreaming for a better life

FROM THE DESK OF OLGA



The preacher advised his congregation: "If you want to be in the same place at the end of this year then continue doing the same things you do now and you will succeed."

If you want a better life start dreaming and use your imagination to see how it would feel to have your dream become a reality.

Sometimes we are scared to dream because we fear failure. But what if you did the following dream poster activity:

- 1) Take some magazines and cut out lots of pictures that resembled your dream.
- 2) Arrange the pictures according to the steps you see taking place in your dream.
- 3) Paste the pictures on cardboard.

In doing this activity you should get a better idea of what your dream would look like and hopefully help you realize

"If you want to be in the same place at the end of this year then continue doing the same things you do now and you will succeed."
— a Preacher

that with hard work and dedication your dream can become a reality.

Do you want to be happier?

Then why don't you start today. Do it for your personal and professional life.

From the fields to the classroom and beyond

"Through a lot of pushing from staff and parents I became the parent representative. . . I learned how to help my child learn. I learned how to help my child behave the way I wanted him to without hitting him."

By ANGIE HERRERA
Area Coordinator

I am an RCMA success story. My life began in the Rio Grande Valley. I never knew my mother; she died of cancer when I was two. My father remarried, and I had a new mom at the age of eight. We were a large family.

At the age of eighteen times were tough for my family, so I quit school and traveled with my stepmother to Indiana.

This is where I began my life as a migrant farmworker. The work was hard, but at the time I thought it better than school, even though all of the money I



Photo by GERRY LAMBERT

Angie Herrera, area coordinator for Dade City, Mascotte, and Zellwood

Please see ANGIE HERRERA, page 4

Soñando con acciones para una vida mejor

DEL ESCRITORIO DE OLGA

El predicador aconsejó a su congregación: "Si quieres estar en el mismo lugar cuando se termine el año, sigue haciendo lo mismo que haces hoy y lo lograrás."

Si quieres una vida mejor ponte a soñar y usa tu mente para imaginar como sería si lograras tu sueño.

A veces nos da miedo soñar porque tenemos temor al fracaso. Que tal si hacemos la actividad siguiente:

1) Toma unas revistas y busca muchas fotos que representen lo que mas quieres lograr en la vida.

"Si quieres estar en el mismo lugar cuando se termine el año, sigue haciendo lo mismo que haces hoy y lo lograrás."

2) Acomoda las fotos segun los pasos y metas que tu has propuesto.

3) Coloca las fotos en una cartulina para poder ver tu sueño mejor y como trabajando duro y con dedicación tu sueño se puede lograr.

Creo que quizás no nos demos cuenta de que el anhelo de nuestra vida si se puede alcanzar.

¿Quieres ser mas feliz?

Entonces porque no empiezas hoy. Te aconsejo que hagas esto para tu vida profesional y personal.

ANGIE HERRERA

(Continued from page 1)

earned went back to my father and brothers and sisters in Texas.

I met my husband in the tomato fields of Indiana. I remember my father having a hart time accepting my marriage at age 21, and offering to take me back at any time.

My sister and husband drew me to Florida. It was 1982 and my son Esequiel was 1. We were living in a van at the time when we drove through Mascotte, Florida and saw posters stating that RCMA was accepting applications for child care. We applied and my son was accepted to the program.

Through a lot of pushing from the staff and parents I became the parent representative. I learned how to become a decision-maker. I learned how to help my child learn. I learned how to help my child behave the way I wanted him to without hitting him.

I learned how important it was for myself and my husband to be involved with the schools. I brought many suggestions home to my husband. We had many disagreements, but eventually we began to see eye to eye.

In 1984, I was offered a position as part-time teacher trainee. My husband and I were picking oranges at the time. I told him about the job and he said, "Go for it."

I learned and moved quickly to a full-time teacher position, then an outreach worker, health coordinator, and currently I am an area coordinator, overseeing four programs.

These promotions didn't just come to me. I received my high school diploma, took classes at my local community college, and became certified through a 24 credit hour program offered through Western Carolina University as an Advanced Social Service Associate.

My family's future looks bright. Esiquel is a sophomore in high school. My younger daughter Erica is an honor student. And my husband received his high school diploma.

We own our own home and have left our roots in the fields. We still have dreams!

My dream is to receive my A.A. at the same time that my son graduates high school. My husband wants to study a trade.

We both have worked hard to see that our children receive an education so they may have greater opportunities than we did! □

Infant/Toddler teachers attend RCMA CDA equivalency training program

The revised Head Start Performance Standards now require all infant/toddler teachers to have their CDA by the end of this season.

RCMA knew this would be a big challenge for the teachers and the budget. RCMA was able to receive a special grant from East Coast Migrant Head Start to help with the cost.

Jean Eklund, program development specialist, was able to design and submit a training plan to the Department of Children and Families for RCMA's Infant/

Toddler CDA training program to be an approved Florida Equivalency. Lots of RCMA experts agreed to participate as trainers.

The good news is the state has approved the RCMA CDA equivalency.

For a five-month period over 150 teachers will spend some of their Saturdays and in-service time learning



Teachers attend CDA class, Communication with Infants and Toddlers. Jorge Velazquez, early childhood specialist, was the instructor.

how to better meet the needs of infants

Please see CDA program, page 4

Commitment honored at special occasion

By **LESLIE MOGUIL**
Staff Writer

Many staff were recognized for major accomplishments at the January Board of Directors meeting in LaBelle.

Mary Stagers, Centro Villas center coordinator, and Carmen Sanchez, Ruskin Infant/Toddler teacher, were



Photo by GERRY LAMBERT

Mary Stagers

specially recognized for reaching the twenty-year milestone in serving children, families and staff.

When Mary received her award, she told the audience of one of her parents' teachings to her: "They taught me not to wait until people are gone to thank them and pass on kind words."

Mary took the opportunity to thank those who had made her twenty years possible through their guidance, kindness, concern and knowledge.

Carmen shared a special moment from her twenty years as a teacher. "When the father of a child in my care died, I was able to step in as a teacher and friend in order to help mom in the evenings and on weekends during this difficult time."

Carmen felt really good about the trust that this mother had for her.

Eleven staff were recognized for 15 years of service in RCMA. They were: Shirley Bartell, Maria Luisi Gonzalez, Phyliss Booe, Teresa Tremelling, Maria Rodriguez, Gloria Padilla, Dorothy Crowley, Maria Guerra, Mary Vargas, Adela Dubois, and Evan Portee.

Rick Colvin, systems analyst for all of RCMA's computer systems statewide thought he was asked to attend the Board Meeting to answer questions the Board had on RCMA's computer system.

The time had come to recognize The Rollason Center "support staff of the year," and Rick was the proud recipient!

Rick is one of the only RCMA staff who doesn't wince when he has to spend the night at The Rollason Center, or get beeped while on vacation to help keep payroll and personnel computers running.

Last but not least, 15 staff were recognized for successfully receiving their Child Development Associate Credential in 1997. □

(Please see CDA recipients on this page.)



Photo by GERRY LAMBERT

Rick Colvin, statewide computer systems analyst.

Fifteen staff earn CDA Credential in 1997

Congratulations to the following staff for their professional development and accomplishment of receiving their Child Development Associate Credential in 1997: Lucia Esquivel, Mary Dawkins, Norma Jean Neeley, Beatrice Juarez, Maria San Juana Olmos, Takeesha Ford, Betty Graham, Maria Diaz, Sandra Gonzalez, Valerie Thomas, Shayla Clark, Patricia Castillo, Erika Martinez, Maria Gomez, and Ada Aman.



Photo by TED HOFFMAN

Gloria Kendrick, area coordinator, and Mr. William Krome, a longtime RCMA supporter and past Board of Directors president.

New center in LaBelle dedicated to Krome

Three RCMA preschoolers participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony that represented the official naming of the William H. Krome Child Development Center—the first RCMA child development center built from the ground up.

This event was held during the annual staff recognition luncheon and Board of Directors meeting.

Mr. Krome, a second generation South Florida grower and longtime RCMA supporter and former Board President accepted the honor gracefully.

George Sorn, current Board President, presented Mr. Krome with the bronze plaque that will designate the building.

Mr. Krome said to the crowd of fellow board members, staff and parents, "It is not the wonderful building that Ted [Hoffman, architect] built that is such a big honor, but you people here who make me feel like a board member again."

Bowling Green teachers refuse to change

By **MIKE CLARK**
Staff Writer

Sometimes changes happen and we don't notice them. We think that we have not made any progress even though we really have.

I had been feeling like that when I walked into the Bowling Green Child Development Center one day in January.

I stopped just inside the main door. Something was different. I tried to figure out what it was. Gradually, I noticed many things that were different in the large room of the church building that we use.

A parent resource room was set up in one corner. The room arrangement had

been changed. A colorful carpet focused my eyes to the center of the room. Each area had some bright colors or interesting things that made me look around.

I thought, "What a neat place to be a kid!" I went outside where the kids were. Learning areas had been created outside as well. Someone had scrubbed all the playground equipment and made it look new.

I realized that there had been many good changes since I started working for RCMA four years ago.

However, some things had not changed.

Children were laughing, smiling, and playing together. A rainbow of children: different skin colors, hair textures,

Bowling Green staff smiling at Christmas



BOWLING GREEN CDC: (Left to right, back row): Darci Herrin, Nubia Delcon, Fidencia Salazar, Isabel Garcia, Linda Robinson, Maria Medina, Janie Olmos, Beatrice Juarez. (In front): Maria Belmares, Takeesha Ford, Erica Olmos (Santa's elf). Bowling Green staff not in photo are Martha Torres, Vickie Valdez, Janice Cuevas, and Jael Menendez.

I realized that there had been many good changes since I started working for RCMA four years ago. However, some things had not changed.

languages, sizes, and abilities. Just like four years ago.

Senior teachers Maria Belmares and Beatrice Juarez were moving between groups of children, asking questions and smiling. Smiles that brought even more light into the bright eyes of the children. Smiles that comforted the child who tripped and fell. Smiles that

reminded children to put things back in their areas. Smiles that reminded children they are loved.

Teaching children to live and learn together—that is the heart of our program.

So thanks for not changing go to

Maria, Beatrice and all the Bowling Green teachers who share their love with the children. □

Fulfilling a dream

Olga Hernandez, deputy director, recently realized one of her dreams—she moved into a new home. She talks excitedly about moments spent rocking and listening to wind in the oak trees.

CDA program

(Continued from page 2)

and toddlers in their care.

When the training program is completed they will have received a total of 120 clock hours of training toward their CDA equivalency.

An observation by a professional will be the final requirement to receiving a certificate.

And once teachers have earned the CDA equivalency, they will receive a 25-cent per hour raise.

To renew the equivalency teachers will have to continue to participate in training opportunities in their centers and communities. □

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