



# RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make  
A World of  
Difference

## Helping Our Youth



APRIL 1998

Issue 60

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

## When a job becomes something more . . . special things happen

By ANA NEUHAUSER  
Early Childhood Specialist

**What sets the Bonita staff apart . . . is the way they handle difficult situations. They take over each other's responsibilities without asking for anything in return.**

I have been working in child care for over 14 years. Last summer I was ready to switch to another field because I was burned out and sick of it. Somehow my husband found a job opening in RCMA.

Totally clueless of what RCMA was,

from the rest is the way they handle difficult situations. They take over each other's responsibilities without asking for anything in return. They are definitely a big family where they share good times and bad times.

Another thing that prompted me to write this letter was a very special feeling that I got after a parent meeting.

Just an hour ago, I was sitting in a parent meeting. Today was an especially hard day for most of the parents—they put in more working hours than usual.

You could see the exhaustion in their faces as most of them came straight from work.

### Bonita Migrant Head Start



I decided to send an application. After a very scary but enlightening interview, I found myself working for RCMA's Bonita Migrant Head Start.

It was very appealing to me to work with migrants and the Hispanic community even though I was still clueless.

It wasn't until several weeks working with the most united and wonderful staff I have ever come in contact with, several home visits and a parent meeting later, that I finally learned the

meaning of working with and for the community.

I can't help brag about the Bonita staff because they are sincere, caring people. Gossip does not happen in the center.

These teachers defend one another and pull together in time of need. Bonita has had their share of personal family problems, death in the family, and sickness that would put a lot of stress in any center.

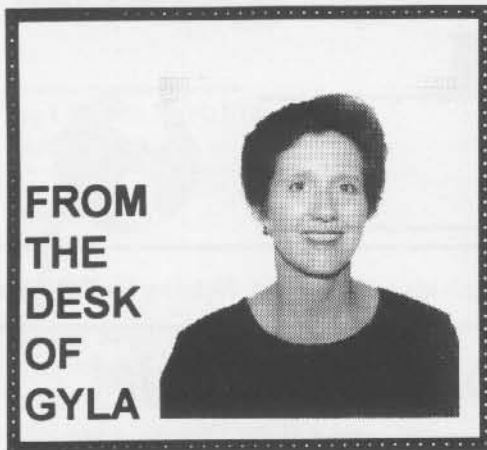
But what sets the Bonita staff apart

Our parent meeting attendance was about 80 percent and the other 20 percent were still working in the packing houses because there were too many tomatoes.

I couldn't help myself wonder why these parents were in the meeting instead of home resting? What has the Bonita Center done so right that motivated these parents to come to the meeting?

I don't know the exact answer, but all I can tell you is that I am very lucky to work with such a wonderful group of people. The Bonita Center truly works with and for their parents. I appreciate the opportunity to be part of this team. □

# A better way than the belt



*These ideas may seem silly, but anything that gives us a few seconds to think and make a smarter choice is better than hitting a child.*

**I** look out my office window to see happy children playing, riding bikes and digging in the sandbox.

Then my phone rings and a center coordinator is calling me about a child with belt marks on his back. His daddy hit him because he spilled his milk. She will call the Abuse Hotline 1-800-96 ABUSE.

This part of my job -- helping staff recog-

nize and report suspected child abuse -- is not fun. We hope services will help the family learn new ways of dealing with parents' stress and positive discipline for children.

But it is so much better to prevent child abuse before it ever happens! April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Let's all look for ways to make this terrible part of childhood stop.

Here are 5 ways we as parents can "cool off" when something happens

to upset us:

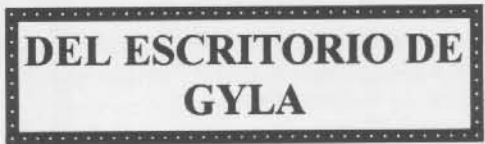
1. Take a deep breath. Then another. Then remember you are the adult.
2. Phone a friend.
3. Drink a glass of cold water.
4. Press your lips together and count to 10.  
Or count to 20.
5. If someone else can watch your child, go outside and take a walk.

These ideas may seem silly, but anything that gives us a few seconds to think and make a smarter choice is better than hitting a child.

*Gyla Wise*

State Director of Health

## Una mejor manera que la correa



**Estas ideas pueden parecer sin importancia pero cualquier cosa que nos de algunos segundos para pensar y tomar una decision correcta, en vez de pegarle a un niño, es mucho mejor.**

**D**esde mi oficina observaba a travez de la ventana a un grupo de niños felices, jugando, montando en bicicleta y escarbando en la caja de arena.

Entonces, mi teléfono repicó. Era una coordinadora de centro quien llamó a contarme acerca de un niño con marcas de correa en su espalda. Su papá le pegó porque regó la leche. Ella llamará a la línea de abuso 1-800-96 ABUSE.

Esta parte de mi trabajo—el ayudar a los empleados a reconocer y reportar abuso

*Sigue en pagina 3, PREVENCIÓN DEL ABUSO DEL NIÑO*



Photo by PETE CADE

**BUNNY FUNDRAISING:** Immokalee Child Development Center Annex staff (left to right) are Alicia DeLaRosa, Elizabeth Corral, Rosa "Bunny" Martinez, Ruby Anzualda, Juana Ramirez and Diana Luna.

Photos with the Easter Bunny were taken at all the Immokalee centers to raise funds for the Wendell N. Rollason Scholarship Fund. This Fund exists to raise money for scholarships for high school graduates.

# Dover Migrant Head Start hosts volunteer effort providing Mexican Consular and citizenship services

By **IRENE BRAMMERTZ**  
*PARENT NEWS* Editor

Dover Migrant Head Start Center was the scene of a busy crowd one recent Saturday for those needing consular services and assistance with completing citizenship applications.

Thanks to the help of many volunteers 352 people received services from the Mexican Mobile Consulate and 64 others completed citizenship applications.

During this event volunteers from Dover Migrant Head Start prepared and sold nachos, tacos, rice and beans. Almost \$400 was raised for the Wendell N. Rollason Scholarship Fund from the sale of plates of food.

Thirty volunteers from RCMA, Lutheran Services Florida, Bay Area

Thanks to the help of many volunteers 352 people received services from the Mexican Mobile Consulate and 64 others completed citizenship applications.

Legal Services, former RCMA staff and community members helped make the event possible. Eight staff from the Mexican Consulate in Orlando were also present.

The tremendous turnout could be attributed, in part at least, to the effort made to get the word out about the upcoming event. The event was advertised in newspapers and announced on the radio and on Univision, a Spanish-language TV station. People seeking services were from Mexico, Venezuela, England, Italy, Argentina and Colombia.

In addition to preparing and serving food for the hundreds receiving services and pulling refreshing drinks from icy coolers, RCMA volunteers could be found helping to

fill out waiting lists and other paperwork, keeping the grounds clean and picking up aluminum cans for recycling.

Serving the community is what RCMA is all about. The \$400 made from selling food and drinks will go right back to the people who helped raise it. It will flow back in the form of scholarships to high school graduates needing a little financial boost to continue their education at the college level. □

## Prevención del abuso infantil

(*Sigue de pagina 2*)

infantil—no es agradable. Esperamos que las familias sean ayudadas con los servicios apropiados para que aprendan nuevas alternativas para controlar su enojo y usen formas positivas para disciplinar a sus hijos.

¡Sin embargo, es mucho mejor prevenir abuso infantil antes de que ocurra! En abril celebramos el mes de Prevención de Abuso Infantil. Busquemos toda manera posible para que ésta terrible parte de la niñez pare.

Aca hay 5 maneras en las que nosotros como padres podemos calmarnos cuando algo pasa que nos hace enojar.

- 1) Respire profundamente. De nuevo. Recuerde que usted es el adulto.
- 2) Hable con un amigo (amiga).
- 3) Tome un vaso de agua.
- 4) Apriete sus labios y cuente hasta 10 o hasta 20.
- 5) Si alguien puede cuidar a su niño,

entonces salga a dar un paseo.

Estas ideas pueden parecer sin importancia pero cualquier cosa que nos de algunos segundos para pensar y tomar una decisión correcta, en vez de pegarle a un niño, es mucho mejor.

*Gyfa Wise, Directora del Estado para Salud*

## Stapleton wins best of show

Linda Stapleton, lead teacher at Glades Early Childhood Center was recognized for her photographic talents at the Glades County Fair.

Linda submitted two photos to be judged. One she had taken on a recent trip to Virginia to visit family. The photo captured the beauty of a flock of wild ducks. The other was a landscape photograph capturing the serenity of water in a water scene.

Both received ribbons, but Linda was most happy about receiving recognition for "Best of Show." These were Linda's first photo entries. In the past she has showcased her other talent of sketching and painting.

## If I had my child to raise over again

If I had my child to raise over again  
If I had my child to raise over again,  
I'd build self-esteem first,  
and the house later.  
I'd finger-paint more,  
and point the finger less.  
I would do less correcting  
and more connecting.  
I'd take my eyes off my watch  
and watch with my eyes.  
I would care to know less  
and know to care more.  
I'd take more hikes and fly more kites.  
I'd stop playing serious,  
and seriously play.  
I would run through more fields  
and gaze at more stars.  
I'd do more hugging and less tugging.  
I'd see the oak tree  
in the acorn more often.  
I would be firm less often,  
and affirm much more.  
I'd model less about the love of power,  
And more about the power of love.

—Diane Loomans, *Full Esteem Ahead*

# Hillsborough school-age programs and GTE promote technology equality

By **LESLIE MOGUIL**  
Staff Writer

**T**oday an RCMA after-school student walks into a fully equipped computer lab—thanks to GTE—and makes the following announcement, “We had a computer test at school today. We did better than anyone. We already knew what we were doing.”

GTE support to the Hillsborough County school age programs started small six years ago, with a donation of used computers that GTE had outgrown. The following year GTE donated a surplus van.

GTE got to know RCMA and RCMA got to know GTE. Soon, Daniel Stowe, director of RCMA school-age programs in Hillsborough County, was invited to submit a grant to GTE. He asked for funds to purchase computers, software, and printers to set up a computer lab at the Ruskin Area Office to become part

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**“We had a computer test at school today. We did better than anyone. We already knew what we were doing.”**

— Hillsborough County student in RCMA’s after-school program

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of the RCMA Junior High Leadership Program. The program was awarded \$19,000.

The second year Daniel wrote a grant for two more computer labs to be located at the Ruskin and Wimauma Elementary Schools for the RCMA after-school programs at those sites. RCMA received \$15,000.

News for this year’s grant was positive too, with RCMA awarded \$12,000 to help establish labs at the RCMA Grove Point and La Estancia centers. A third lab will be established from this latest grant with one of our community partners, the Presbyterian Bethel Mission, a longtime supporter of the

migrant community in Wimauma.

“Computer time is very popular with all of the RCMA kids,” Stowe said. “Their first lesson is how to shut down the computer correctly.

“After that the kids are introduced to the basics and are able to choose from a large variety of CD ROM software that is meant to encourage problem solving and to improve reading and writing skills in new and different ways.”

GTE recently included a flyer in all of the monthly phone bills featuring one of the many RCMA student success stories that came to be as a result of this partnership.

The computer lab has also helped many RCMA after-school tutors. Most are struggling college students whose access to computers when they are not otherwise in use has been a big help in getting quality work to their professors.

Daniel said plans include expanding computer usage to encourage adult literacy during evening hours. □

## Fifth annual Wendell N. Rollason Scholarship 5K Run held to raise funds for high school graduates

The Wendell N. Rollason Scholarship 5K Run and One Mile Fun Run/Walk were held on April 11 in Immokalee as part of the efforts to raise funds for scholarships for high school graduates.

The fifth annual event had more than 105 people from age nine to 72 run the 3.1-mile course through the streets of Immokalee, as volunteers and Collier County deputies halted traffic at busy intersections.

People came from as far away out of state as Minnesota, Indiana, Illinois and Pennsylvania, and from afar in Florida like Miami and Tallahassee to run and help raise money for the Wendell N. Rollason Scholarship Fund.

More than thirty people took part in the one mile event as well.

If you are interested in beginning a fundraiser for scholarships in your community, share your ideas with your center or area coordinator.



Photo by GERRY LAMBERT

**Phylliss Booe, who works in the fiscal department of The Rollason Center in Immokalee, has been Co-Director of the Scholarship 5K Run since its beginning in 1994. Phylliss has been a committed employee for 15 years.**

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