



# RCMA HOY

RCMA  
Statewide  
Conference:  
Special  
Edition

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make  
A World of  
Difference

## Helping Our Youth



OCTOBER 1998 Issue 66 OUR MISSION: Helping Parents Restart, Giving Kids a Head Start, Helping Staff Develop

### Former RCMA preschooler inspires audience at statewide conference with theatrical performance

By **LESLIE MOGUIL**  
Staff Writer

It is opening night at the RCMA Statewide Conference in Orlando. Alberto Burgos, along with his older brother, Gregorio (Moyo) and father, Tito, ready the stage, set, music and lighting.

Alberto, 21, displays the intensity of a true artist as he works to make the set just right on this October 7 evening. He insists that none of the audience see him before he takes his place on the stage, as this would lessen the impact of the complex street characters Alberto has flawlessly created and brings to life.

Alberto's one-man show introduces his audience to a circle of characters through his own written dialog. The characters are intensified through the use of lighting, music, and a few brief costume changes.

The performance opens with "Filo" hawking "Bohemian Musk" on the streets of New York, "\$4.95 in the store, \$5.00 on the floor."

The language and the many messages are real as Filo's circle of friends and enemies become part of a parable on street life. Burgos doesn't pull any punches, and often humor becomes the vehicle for his message.

Burgos is a truly gifted observer, storyteller and performer. The crowd of over 250 was taken along to the Chavez Park street corner, to the inside of a home where a wise cracking father gives his daughter's date the third degree, as well as to other complex scenes and images.

The audience responds with both laughter and silence. As the music plays

*Alberto's advice to kids is "not to settle for what others think you should do, but follow what you love. When I'm on stage, that's me. I love it." —Alberto Burgos*



**ALBERTO BURGOS: From Wimauma to New York—achieving his dreams.**

and the stage goes dark you are left yearning for more.

Myrta Rivera, Ruskin area coordinator remembers Alberto as being an active, alert, and smart child. Alberto grew up with his family in farmwork in Wimauma.

He began acting in high school and performed in many school plays. His big break came when he auditioned for a traveling children's theater group at Ruth

Eckerd Hall.

Eric Bogosian, master of the one-man show whom he saw for the first time in New York City with his brother Greg, inspired him. He began working on some of his own written material and performed his one-man show at the New York Theater Fringe Festival. After months of

*Please see BURGOS, page 2*

# Hernandez's general session address impacts service support assistant

*The following is a letter to Olga Hernandez, deputy director, and is reprinted with permission.*

Dear Olga:

Hi. You probably don't remember me. I know you have seen me before in some trainings.

The reason I am typing you this letter is to let you know that you are a big inspiration in my life right now—when I heard you make the speech at the Orlando Conference about our culture and how we need to make sure that we teach our children the English language. And how you explained that most Hispanic people are not even considered in the environment, made

*I am going to college right now, and sometimes I think of just giving it up. I ask myself is it really going to make a difference? Am I really going to get a good paying job?*

me think about my situation.

I am going to college right now, and sometimes I think of just giving it up. I ask myself is it really going to make a difference? Am I really going to get a good paying job? Can I support myself if something were to happen to my loved one?

But thanks to you, I feel so confident about my schooling and I do believe that it will make a difference.

Every time I feel like giving up I

think of you and how successful you are. So again I would like to thank you from the heart, for your special words that made me change my mind.

Signed,

Maria V. Guerrero

Service Support Assistant

Fred Dennis Child Development Center  
(Wauchula)

***But thanks to you, I feel so confident about my schooling and I do believe that it will make a difference.*** — Maria Guerrero

## Creating solutions to problems in roundtable discussions



Alberto has not always had his feet firmly planted on the ground. He credits his brother Greg with helping him stay away from the wrong crowd in high school.

Alberto's advice to other kids is "not to settle for what others think you should do, but follow what you love." Alberto says, "When I'm on stage, that's me. I love it."

□

## Burgos

***The crowd of over 250 was taken along to the Chavez Park street corner, to the inside of a home where a wise cracking father gives his daughter's date the third degree.***

*(Continued from page 1)*

floating between Wimauma and New York, with the help of Tito (his father, manager and roadie) Alberto is making New York his permanent artistic residence.

Alberto credits his family with a lot of his success, both for their support and help in developing his show.

# RCMA Statewide Conference "On The Threshold Of A Dream" October 7-9, 1998

**Fun**



**Dancing**



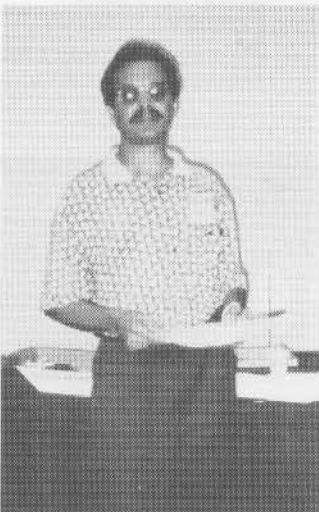
**Laughter**



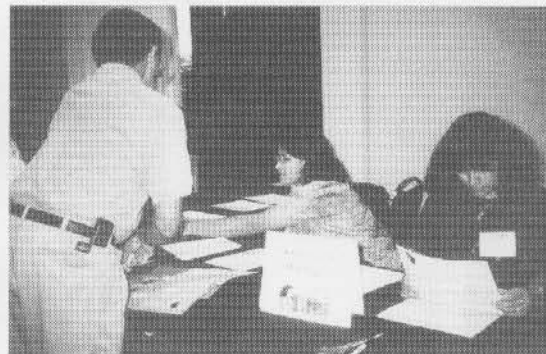
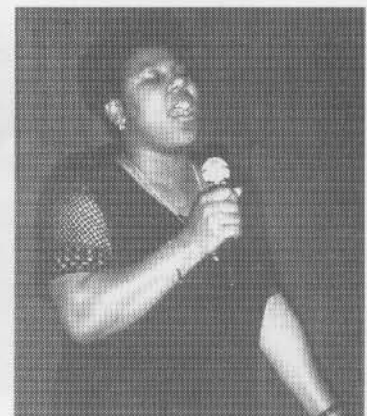
**Friendship**



**Learning**



**Dignity**

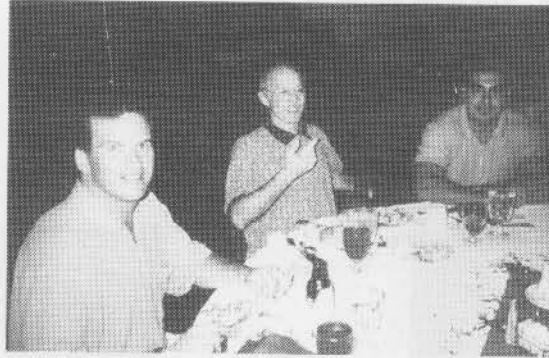
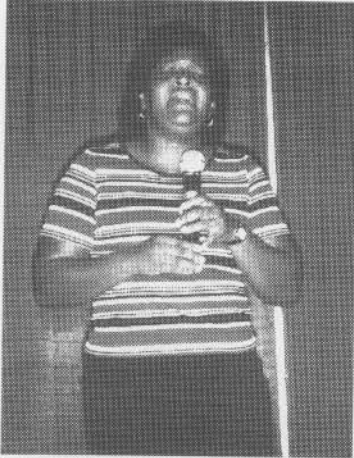


**Teamwork**

# RCMA Statewide Conference 1998

## Growth

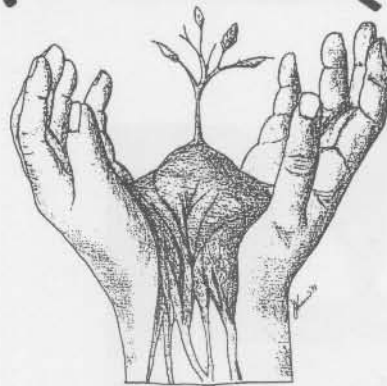
### Passion



### Talent

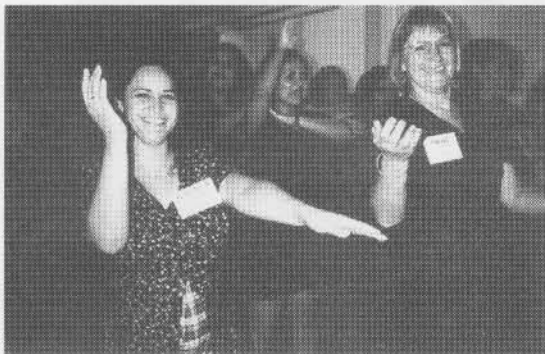


**WE RECYCLE**



**LOVE**

### Smiles



### Unity



Photos by:  
NORMA CRUZ  
TED HOFFMAN  
GERRY LAMBERT  
TERESA TREMELLING

# Centers and programs shine at conference

By MICHAEL TOOPS  
Beyond Barriers Project Director

Centers and programs from across the state defined "What Dreams are Made of." The RCMA Statewide Conference, "On The Threshold of a Dream," showcased for the first time a "Hall of Fame."

Participants built displays that promoted their program, center or area. While I walked among the 28 booths I was struck by the sheer scope of RCMA and its range of talents.

At each booth I began to see the patchwork that makes the RCMA "Dream" so special. We can recognize the strengths of individuals but this organization could not be as it is without the sum of all its parts.

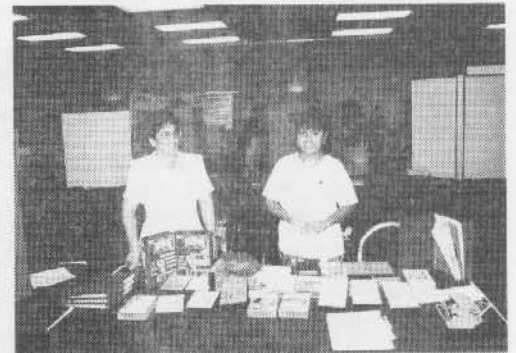
Bright colors, sounds and textures abounded. I saw videographers, photographers, technicians, actors, artists and clowns working in a dreamscape unfamiliar to most, but to an RCMA employee it was home.

This is where the works gets done. I wonder where all of this inspiration came from. Do we all share some special wish? Are we all connected by some invisible lifeline? Where will this all take us?

Where? Frankly, you might as well put all of your trust in our "Service Unit"

*Bright colors, sounds and textures abounded. I saw videographers, photographers, technicians, actors, artists and clowns working in a dreamscape unfamiliar to most, but to an RCMA employee it was home.*

## Talents and creativity exhibited



soothsayers' hands. Where we are going was of less importance than where we were that day.

The friends and colleagues gathered on those three days demonstrated a bond no other organization I know shares. You could see the energy crackle in the "Hall."

People knew they were part of something bigger than themselves. As others passed by me on their way to another booth I caught a

look of recognition in their eyes. They knew exactly where they were and they knew where their counterparts had been.

No appreciation could do justice like that which you shared with other "Hall of Fame" participants. I know it was work. We all know the extra time it took to conceive your ideas. We enjoyed it!

That certainly spells "success" and deserves warm praise. Thank you. □



### Booth Award Winners

(Clockwise right to left)  
Florida City area, Smith Brown center, Farmworker center, Fred Dennis, and Ruskin/Wimauma/Palmetto area.



# Orlando conference imbued with team spirit

Dear RCMA HOY:

I just got back from the statewide conference. I'm exhausted.

I had LOADS of fun. I got to meet a lot of very nice people.

You know what I found amazing? The group was so large and so diverse, yet there was such a feeling of "togetherness" in the air.

Even total strangers who never had any communication through RCMA greeted one another as if they were longtime friends.

It was so refreshing to be in the company of so many positive and shining people. It all kind of put things in perspective; eliminating that tendency to think "I'm the only one."

Sometimes, when I hear companies and businesses and classes speak of



being a "team," it goes through me without impact because everyone says the word but few actually work along the lines of creating an atmosphere for the word "team" to take on meaning.

It was quite an inspiration to see 100% of the people at the conference

focusing on those types of issues and creating a true team atmosphere.

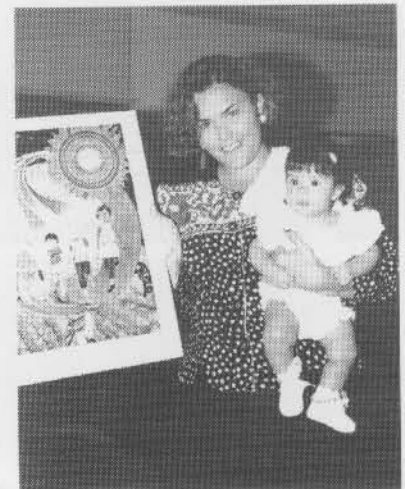
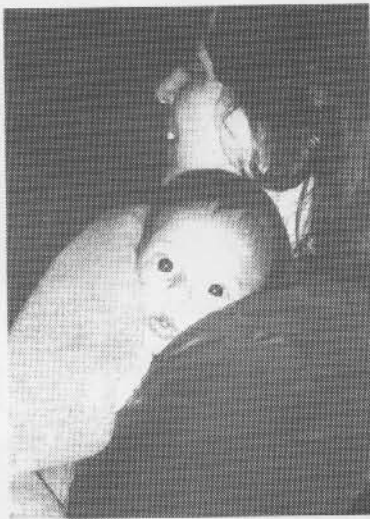
Signed,  
Edie Edgar  
Service Support Assistant  
Indian River Area

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*It was so refreshing to be in the company of so many positive and shining people. It all kind of put things in perspective; eliminating that tendency to think "I'm the only one."* — Edie Edgar

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## RCMA: Present and future—Dreams come true



Editor: Gerard Lambert  
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When you need someone to talk to,  
EAR is there.  
1-800-328-1952

# PARENT NEWS

September/October 1998 Issue 16 A Bi-Monthly Parent Involvement Supplement of RCMA HOY

**New Benefit! Florida KidCare! Apply now!**  
**Call: 1-888-FLA-KIDS**

Recently I met a working family in Ruskin that was bemoaning the fact that they could not afford health insurance. They were especially worried about coverage for their five children. Both parents are working which brings their combined income above the limit to qualify for Medicaid. Since I had just learned of the new Program in the State of Florida called Florida KidCare, I sent Mrs. H. to the local Health Department to see if she could qualify.

Later that day she came back, grinning from ear to ear to tell us that for \$15.00 per month all of her five children were now insured and a big burden was lifted from her shoulders. The plan covers her children through an HMO, a clinic where she has taken her children before.

This story could be repeated again and again all over the State of Florida. Our State Government has decided to spend the Tobacco Settlement in a way that would benefit our most vulnerable citizens - our children.

**Besides Medicaid, there are three additional separate programs:**

#### **CMS:**

A Program for children who have special health care needs.

Ages birth through 18  
Medical and income eligibility required.

Cost: no more than \$15 per household for family of four making less than \$2,742.00 per month.

#### **MediKids:**

A health insurance program similar to Medicaid.

Ages birth through 4.

For those ineligible for Medicaid and CMS.

Price is based on a sliding fee scale from \$10.00 per month to \$82.00 per month, depending on income.

MediKids offers more benefits than Healthy Kids and has no co-pay.

#### **Healthy Kids:**

A public/private partnership that provides comprehensive health insurance for children in participating counties.

Ages 5 through 18.

For those ineligible for Medicaid and CMS.

Price is based on a sliding fee scale from \$10.00 per month to \$82.00 per month, depending on income.

Healthy Kids requires a small co-payment for some of the services.

**How to apply: Go to your nearest County Health Department or call 1-888-FLA-KIDS (1-888-352-5437) toll-free (Spanish or English) or ask your Center Coordinator for help in getting more information.**

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 33570-0207

Phone: 813-671-5270

Spanish Translation: Josie Gracia

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