



RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make
A World of
Difference

Helping Our Youth



December 1998

Issue 68

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

RCMA 2003: A look at our shared vision and goals

As we prepare to bid 1998 farewell, let us take a look at some important work that we did this year. During the spring and early summer months RCMA staff participated in focus group discussions to offer their vision of where they would like to see RCMA in five years.

Teachers, cooks, center coordinators, service support assistants, outreach workers, family support specialists, early childhood specialists, Rollason Center staff, health specialists, area and program coordinators and the RCMA Board of Directors came together in focus groups and were asked for their five year vision for children, for parents, and for staff:

You will not be surprised to learn that all staff and Board members share many of the same hopes and dreams for the future of our children, our parents, and for ourselves.



ENJOYING THE GREAT OUTDOORS: Miriam Aucar, Infant Senior teacher takes advantage of a beautiful Belle Glade day to interact with her kids. The senses are actively involved in the learning taking place here.

goals relate to school readiness. We see staff and parents having a greater awareness of kindergarten readiness skills and we want to see healthier children with good nutrition habits. The fourth goal is to have NO CHILDREN ON WAITING LISTS, of course!

Our Vision for Parents:

“More GED and vocational programs available and many parents enrolled and attending.” This is our vision for the year 2003. We also see many more parents enrolled in ESOL classes and speaking English. We see parents with better job skills that lead to higher wages. We see increased parent workshop attendance that leads to healthy and safe families and improved parenting skills. We see more parents volunteering in our

“You will not be surprised to learn that all staff and Board members share many of the same hopes and dreams for the future of our children, our parents and ourselves.”

Our Vision for Children

Computers topped the list!!! Computers in the classroom were a top priority in 91% of the groups. These were some of your comments:

“Computer programs for kids.”

“Computers in classrooms!”

“Computers for all preschool classrooms. Facilitate children’s

computer literacy.”

The second highest priority is to expand and improve RCMA’s school-age Drop-out Prevention programs. By the year 2003 we would like to see more attention placed on helping kids succeed in school and be able to share in those success stories.

There are four goals that equally share the “third priority” spot for children. Three of the

centers. In our vision for parents we also see more parents advocating for their children in the public schools and in their communities.

Vision for Staff

We see RCMA staff actively

Continued on page 2, Vision

FROM
THE
DESK
OF
OLGA



The year is almost over. Where has the time gone? It seems that the older we get the faster time goes. I remember being sixteen years old and I couldn't wait till I was eighteen. And for what?

Boy I sure wish I was sixteen again. Only this time I would take each day at a time and live it. I sure would not be pushing to get older quicker. But back then we had all the answers! Funny how wisdom creeps up on you. At least it seems that way. (Maybe I'm getting old.) Because now I can see how foolish

After all five years from now will it matter? What will matter is how I treated my fellow man.

I was. Wisdom also brings forth patience. At least it has for me. I try to relax when stressful times appear. After all five years from now, it will not matter. What will matter is how I have treated my fellow man. Have I been kind and caring, have I told and shown people that I care and respect them? It embarrasses me, but I have not done a good job. How about you?

It is Christmas time. A time to give. A time to think of others. Please remember those in need. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays. Wishing everyone a joyful and peaceful holiday filled with love.

Olga Hernandez

El tiempo de pensar en otros.

DEL ESCRITORIO DE
OLGA

Despues de todo en cinco años no va a importar. Lo que si va a importar es como me he comportado con mi hermano/ a o veciño, compañero de trabajo, mi pojimo.

Falta muy poco para que se termine el año. A donde se ha ido el tiempo? Parece que entre mas nos envejecemos mas rapido se va el tiempo. Recuerdo cuando tenia diez y seis años y no podia esperar hasta que los diez y ocho. Y para que?

Como me gustaria tener diez y seis nuevamente. Pero esta vez tomaria una dia a la vez y lo viviera! No estaria ansiosamente esperando los años que pasaran. En esos dias todo lo sabiamos. Es curioso como la sabiduria llega sin que nos demos cuenta. O por lo menos asi parece. (A lo mejor me estoy haciendo vieja.) Porque ahora puedo ver que tonta fui. La abidura tambien nos trae paciencia. Por lo menos conmigo si. Trato de vivir un dia a la vez. No trato de apurar las cosas. Trato de relajarme cuando momentos de precision llegan. Despues de todo en cinco años no va a importar. Lo que si va a importar es como me he comportado con mi hermano o hermana, veciño, compañero de trabajo, mi pojimo. He sido bondadosa, amable, he demostrado a otros que los amo y respeto? Me averguenzo pero creo que no he hecho un buen trabajo en esto. Y tu?

Es tiempo de Navidad. El tiempo de dar. El tiempo de pensar en otros. Por favor piensa en los necesitado. Feliz Navidad, feliz dias festivos. Deseando que todos tengan una Navidad llena de gozoy paz, llena de amor.

Olga Hernandez

Vision

continued from page 1

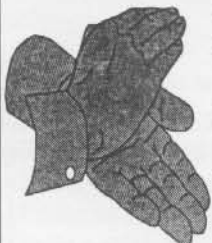
participating in professional development plans. We see staff increasing their literacy skills, computer skills and receiving high school diplomas, CDAs, and college diplomas.

Oh...and yes we see - along with this professional development and growth, better wages, increased benefits and lots and lots of staff

recognition.

Individually, and together as RCMA, we all have the power to achieve what we see and truly desire as part of our vision. As we begin 1999 and approach the new millennium let us remember to support and applaud the visions and goals of the children and families we serve, along with each and every one of our RCMA co-workers whose vision we share. We do make a difference!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



APPLAUSE

Congratulations to the following staff for moving forward on their professional development!

- ◆ Josie Gracia - Appointed to the Hillsborough County Library Advisory Board.
- ◆ Ana Neuhauser - Sworn in as a U.S. Citizen on November 10, 1998 fifteen years after her arrival to the U.S.
- ◆ Bernice Ridley & Marie Villegas - Received their high school diplomas.
- ◆ Valerie Mims - Received her C.D.A. and a promotion to Early Childhood Specialist II.

Four days and three nights at the National Black Child Development Institute in Chicago

By Cedric Russell

Entertainers such as Frank Sinatra and Lou Rawls have sang songs about Chicago. Sports stars such as Michael Jordan and Sammy Sosa have immortalized the windy city as a sports mecca. However, The National Black Child Development Institute provided a conference that could be mentioned among Chicago's other historical events.

It was truly an honor to represent RCMA at the NBCDI. The conference provided a host of stimulating workshops and sessions intent on enhancing the quality of life for African American children and families. I learned some new things about culture; furthermore, I also learned that we at RCMA are implementing a lot of strategies needed to empower minority families for the new millennium. This was the 28th annual conference and the theme was "Miles to Go, Promises to Keep in the New Millennium."

After my arrival and check-in at the fabulous Hyatt-Regency Hotel, I wandered around to get my bearings. The hotel was huge. It took up an entire city block as it bordered the famous Riverwalk area. The only way to find out where I was supposed to go was to be an explorer. Yes, I got lost a few times while still inside the hotel.

I was able to attend one of the last afternoon sessions called "Achieving Family Financial Security in the Next Century." Robert Howard, Ph. D., a professor at North Carolina A & T University, discussed how families are living from paycheck to paycheck and offered practical solutions for family financial management. He discussed a few interesting techniques to lower debt, such as credit cards. Also included in the discussion was the mutual fund explosion, which gives parents an opportunity to invest on a long term basis with small amounts of cash.

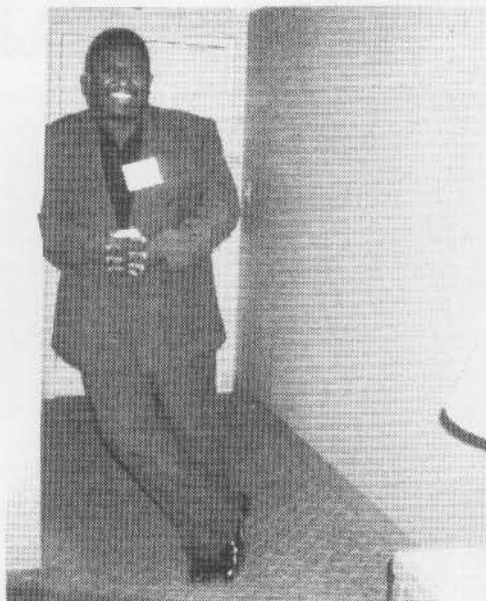
After a welcome reception, we were treated with the



presence of The Honorable Carol Mosley-Braun. She spoke about the changing world and how every child needed a quality education. The bulk of the speech centered on the political issue of maintaining the safety net (welfare, social security). The senator stressed the importance of voting to save the issues she talked so passionately about.

That evening I took a hotel shuttle to the House of Blues with some other conferees. There we enjoyed dancing and a hot local jazz band, which in my opinion, is one of Chi-towns finest.

Monday, morning was filled with a variety of workshops. My favorite session of the day started at 8:30 am. The speaker was Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu, President of African American Images Inc. and an educational consultant. The topic was "Until Parents Take Control." Mr. Kunjufu stressed the fact that parents are the primary educators of their children. The speaker went on to cite certain statistics related to the breakup of the African



Opportunity Knocks: Cedric Russel, family support specialist in the Palm Beach area took advantage of an opportunity to attend the National Black Child Development Institute in Chicago.

American family that had a definite impact on the African American male.

Afterwards, I attended an excellent session called "Family Support is More Than Meets the Eye." Dr. Alvin Poussant was the featured speaker at the group luncheon. He did an excellent job of describing the benefits of early childhood care as it related to child development. I could write much more about "Promoting Responsible Fatherhood" and Male Involvement with a Twist". Perhaps in a future HOY. I would like to thank RCMA and Barbara Mainster for giving me the opportunity to attend this conference. The trip was rewarding!

If you would like more information about the workshops please call Cedric at (561) 992-2060.

A letter from the community

The following is a letter from Mr. Kyle Creedon, Migrant Student Advocate for Indian River County Schools, written to Sharon Tracy-Faust, program coordinator.

Dear Shannon:

I wanted to take this opportunity to put in writing what terrific accomplishments we are seeing in this year's kindergarten group! As usual, the children are bright and energetic. However, this year we are seeing a marked increase in the amount of English the children use and understand as well as a strong knowledge of the concepts of print. In addition, the children's basic skill mastery of colors, shapes and numbers has enabled the children to "hit the ground running" as they enter kindergarten.

We here at Fellsmere Elementary are well aware of all the hard work your teachers put forth to bring about

We here at Fellsmere Elementary are well aware of all the hard work your teachers put forth to bring about these fantastic results. Please convey our congratulations on a job well done!

— Kyle Creedon

these fantastic results. Please convey our congratulations on a job well done! Your success also serves as a motivator to our faculty to reach for the stars each and every day. I know you share in the excitement in our continued efforts to collaborate on behalf of the children, and I look forward to the 1998-1999 school year being the best ever.

Yours sincerely
Kyle Creedon
Migrant Student Advocate



Hard at Work: Shannon Tracy-Faust, program coordinator (right), and Elida Gomez, area coordinator, both from the Indain River area enjoy a workshop activity.

RCMA staff receive Infant/Toddler CDA Equivalency

RCMA awarded its first Infant/Toddler CDA Equivalencies to staff from all parts of the state. This special group has completed the required training and has been observed by an early childhood advisor. Certificates have been mailed, congratulations are in order, and a pay increase will soon be on the way!

RCMA Infant/Toddler CDA Equivalency Recipients

Bonita Migrant Head Start

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Juana Uvalle | Francisca Rodriguez |
| Maria Meraz | Oldemia Rodriguez |
| Gilma Conde | Amalia S. Velasquez |
| Alicia Garcia | San Juana Nuñez |
| Patricia Garcia | |

Lake Placid CDC

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Maria Ramirez | Guadalupe Ochoa |
| Eloisa Titcomb | Carmel Yacaboni |
| Clyde Allen | Telesfora Molina |
| Nydia Marrero | |

Mascotte CDC

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Olga Cruz | Maria Cruz |
| Dolores Castro | Patricia Rizer |
| Maricela Romero | Celia Morales |

Nocatee Migrant Head Start

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Silvia Gamez | Maria R. Gamez |
| Raquel Gamez | Maria Manriquez |
| Ovelia Guerra | Maria G. Gamez |
| M. Isabel Garcia | Simona E. Morales |
| Catalina Cendejas | |

Ruskin Migrant Head Start

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Angelica Garza | San Juana Casas |
| Amelia Morales | Melissa Silva |
| Mayra Medina | Maria Guzman |
| Maria S. Casas | Yolanda Hirsh |
| Maria L. Cortez | |

South Highlands CDC

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Jonnie shuler | Christine Woods |
| Herminia Garcia | Marjorie Williams |
| Sandra Ramirez | Lakeisha Johnson |
| Lorene McCray | Diane Judge |

Fred Dennis CDC

Teresa Cofield

Editor: 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: 1-941-658-3571

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

PARENT NEWS

November/December 1998 Issue 17 A Bi-Monthly Parent Involvement Supplement of RCMA

American Dream Is Alive And Well

Ruskin - North Region:

Many of us, including myself, have come from another country to the United States hoping for unlimited economic opportunity and freedoms unavailable at our place of origin. This has been as true dozens of years ago as it is today.

Escaping from the severe air pollution and looking for a better life here, one such family recently left Mexico City. Hugo and Reyna H. with their two children, Karin, 4 and Francisco, 1, arrived in Florida last June.

While husband Hugo is working packing produce, wife Reyna has become very active at the Migrant Education Center, Grove Point in Ruskin, where her daughter Karin is enrolled in Pre-K.

She made herself noticed by showing her interest in her daughter's education, asking lots of questions and being available to help. She regularly comes in to volunteer and is even interested in becoming an officer in the parent committee.

I asked Reyna what was most important for her for the next six months to which she replied "to learn English and to get a good job".



*Photo by Peter Millard
Mr. & Mrs. H. with their children
Karin and Francisco.*

Reyna really means it. She has already signed up for English classes at Beth-El Farmworker Ministry in Wimauma.

Next she would like for her husband to finish his education. He was training to be an architect in Mexico and only would have needed two more semesters to graduate. Beyond that, if all goes well, is the dream of that little house with the white picket fence that so many immigrants before them have been able to afford through honest, hard work and dedication to their goals.

From Shy to Assertive — — Parent Makes the Leap

Dade City - North Region:

Mr. Margarito Santos has been working the fields in Dade City, Florida, in the winter and Springhope, North Carolina, in the summer. In 1996 he had one daughter, Jennifer, at the RCMA Center. Now there are two: an infant girl, Gisela, in the baby room and the 4-year old in Pre-K.

When in North Carolina, his children attend the East Coast Migrant Head Start Center in Bailey, NC where Mr. Santos was also elected Secretary to the Policy Committee.

Mr. Santos has consistently been active in our center and attends all parent meetings. He is the one that lets us know when one of his children will be absent. He volunteers when we have enrollment screenings. He helps out in the classroom on days when he is not working. He brings lots of creative ideas to help us improve our services. Last season he was elected Vice President to the Dade City MHS Parent Committee.

We have seen Mr. Santos grow from a shy individual two years ago to an assured parent that is now fearlessly speaking up for his children and his people.

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: Jorge Velazquez

Fax: 813-671-5272

NOTICIAS DE PADRES

Noviembre/Diciembre 1998 Núm. 17 Suplemento Bimensual de RCMA HOY en Envolvimiento de Padres

El Sueño Americano Continúa Latente

Ruskin - Región Norte:

Muchos de nosotros, incluyéndome yo, hemos venido de otro país a los Estados Unidos, con la esperanza de oportunidades económicas ilimitadas y libertades que no encontramos en nuestro lugar de origen. Esto ha sido verdad, desde muchos de años atrás, como lo es ahora.

Escapando de la contaminación ambiental y buscando una vida mejor aquí, una familia dejó México, Hugo y Reyna H., con sus dos niños; Karín, de 4 años y Francisco, de 1 año, llegaron a la Florida el pasado mes de Junio. Mientras su esposo empaqueta productos agrícolas, la Sra. Reyna está muy activa en el Centro de Educación Migrante de Grove Point, en Ruskin, donde su hija Karín está inscrita en el programa de Pre-Kinder.

Ella se hizo notar, al mostrar su interés en la educación de su hija, haciendo muchas preguntas y siempre dispuesta a ayudar. Ella es voluntaria con regularidad, incluso, está interesada en formar parte como oficial en el Comité de Padres.

Le pregunté a la Sra. Reyna, qué era lo más importante para ella por los próximos 6 meses, a lo cuál, ella respondió: "Aprender Inglés y conseguir un

buen trabajo".

Reyna realmente hablaba en serio. Ella se ha inscrito para tomar clases de Inglés en Beth-El Farmworker Ministry en Wimauma.

Seguidamente, a ella le gustaría que su esposo terminara su educación. Él estudiaba Arquitectura en la Cd. de México y sólo necesitaría dos semestres para graduarse. Pero más allá de todo esto, si todo va bien, se encuentra el sueño de esa casa con cerca blanca que muchos inmigrantes han podido conseguir a través de duro trabajo, honestidad y una dedicación a sus metas.

De Tímido a Defensor --- --- Un padre realiza ese salto.

Dade City - Región Norte:

El Sr. Margarito Santos ha estado trabajando en los campos de Dade City, Florida, durante el invierno y en Springhope, North Carolina, durante el verano. En 1996, su hija Jennifer, estuvo en un centro de RCMA. Él ahora tiene dos hijas en el centro, Gisela, una pequeña en el salón de infantes y Jennifer de 4 años en Pre-Kinder.

Cuando él estuvo en Norte Carolina, sus niñas asistieron al centro de Bailey, NC, que pertenece a East Coast Migrant Head Start, donde el Sr. Santos fue electo como Secretario del Comité de Polizas.

El Sr. Santos ha estado constantemente activo en nuestro centro y asiste a todas las reuniones de padres. Él es el padre que te deja saber cuando sus hijas no asistirán al centro. Él además es voluntario cuando se eligen a los niños a registrar. Él también ayuda en el salón de clase, cuando no trabaja. También nos trae ideas creativas para mejorar nuestro servicio. La temporada pasada él fue electo como Vice-presidente del Comité de Padres de Dade City Migrant Head Start.

Nosotros hemos visto crecer al Sr. Santos, del individuo tímido de hace dos años, al padre seguro de sí mismo y sin temor de hablar por sus hijos y por su gente.



Foto por Peter Millard
Sra. y Sr. H. con sus hijos
Karín y Francisco.

Editor: Irene G. Brammertz

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

Noticias de Padres Editor, Redlands Christian Migrant Association, P.O. Box 207, Ruskin, FL 33570-0207

Telefono: 813-671-5270

Traducción Español: Jorge Velazquez

Fax: 813-671-5272