



# RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make  
A World of  
Difference

## Helping Our Youth



January 1999

Issue 69

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

## Boeing 737 takes school age children to the 'North Pole'

United Airlines Flight 1225 took off for the North pole on Thursday, December 10th from Miami International Airport with children from the South Dade Child Development Center. This is the fourth year that United Airlines and United Way of Miami-Dade County have entertained the children on such a flight.

The Boeing 737 flew to the "North Pole" with 49 school age children and 11 parents and staff on board! Students were given the instructions by the flight attendants "Although the seat belt signs have been turned off, we do recommend that you listen to your teachers, as well as the flight attendants." Students were given cookies and drinks on board, sang songs and were entertained by a United Airlines clown. The plane flew as far as Key West and circled back so that the children were in the air for about a hour.

While the children were flying, the United Airline's employees were decorating the gate area so that when the students landed they were arriving at the "North Pole". When they arrived, there was Santa and lots of his helpers, a Christmas tree and many bewildered passengers headed for regularly scheduled flights. The children each got to sit on Santa's lap and they each received a gift.

Everything for the program was donated including the employees time and it is one of 50 similar programs run at United Terminals across the world. This was an experience that the children, parents and staff will talk about for a long time to come.



**READY FOR TAKE OFF:** Captians Steve Forte and David Friend host Francisco Melo and Eloisa Perez on the flight to the 'North Pole.'

## Zellwood open house/parent orientation huge success!

*Story by Susan Vega*

The trees were draped in the colors of Mexico, the aroma of flautas and nachos filled the air, and eager participants swarmed the grounds at RCMA on the evening of December 15th, 1998. It was the Zellwood Child Development Center's annual orientation and open house for the families of children enrolled in this RCMA center as well as any interested community members.

A total of 20 agencies participated in this effort to inform families about services available in the community as well as acquaint them with the RCMA program

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## DEL ESCRITORIO DE BARBARA

**Me encantan los tiempos que puedo dar un paso atras, flotar hacia arriba mentalmente, y ver como somos.**

"No puedes ver el bosque por los arboles." Esta expresion para mi quiere decir que cuando estas en medio de algo realmente no puedes ver to que es. Necesitas tomar un paso para atras o volar hacia arriba para verlo. En RCMA eso quiere decir tratar de ver-nos a nosotros mismos - la agencia, los centros, el personal, los padres, la Mesa Directiva, Socios de la comunidad, como otros quizas puedan. Esto es muy dificil de hacer.

Tuve una llamada de un agricultor de frezas de California la semana pasada que leyo sobre RCMA en una de sus revistas de Farm Bureau. Le dio intriga y queria saber como fue que realizamos lo que tenemos. Me di cuenta, otravez de lo diferente que so-

**I love the times I'm able to step back, float above mentally and see us for what we are.**

years with the state agencies, Florida has a "migrant" category in child care with high priority and RCMA has a statewide contract to use for farmworker children where the needs are. We open and close with the agricultural season. We hire from the communities we serve. We operate in buildings closely located to where the people we serve work. We get local match help from agriculture.

All of this apparently doesn't happen anywhere else in the USA. Amazing! And then I look at the other communities where less farmworkers are served, but other low-income rural families fill our Head Start centers. The warmth and love for the children is everywhere. Staff who care. Buildings with the right equipment. Parents volunteering. I love the times I'm able to step back, float above mentally and see us for what we are. I hope all of you can find a way to do the same thing.

**FROM  
THE  
DESK  
OF  
BARBARA**



**"**You can't see the forest for the trees." This expression means to me that when you are in the middle of something you can't really see what that is. You need to step back or fly above it to see it. In RCMA that means trying to see ourselves -- the agency, the centers, the staff, the parents, the Board, the community partnerships -- as others might. Very hard to do.

I had a call from a strawberry grower in California last week who read about RCMA in his Farm Bureau magazine. He was intrigued and wanted to know how we accomplished what we have. I realized again how unique we are. Thanks to our partnership with agriculture and our work over the

## **In Recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. January 15, 1929 - April 4, 1968**

This quote was taken from an address by Martin Luther King, Jr. at the "March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom" on August 28, 1963.

*"And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back. There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, 'When will you be satisfied?' We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality.*

*We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities. We cannot be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote.*

*No, no, we are not satisfied and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.*





**PARENT INVOLVEMENT:**

**Teresa Garcia, teacher trainee, Zellwood Child Development Center prepares the positive discipline booth, while a community representative browses through the materials.**



## Asombroso

*(Sigue de pagina 2)*

mos. Gracias a nuestros socios de agricultura y nuestro trabajo durante los años con las agencias del estado, el estado de la Florida tiene una categoria "migrante" de alta prioridad en el cuidado de niños y RCMA tiene un contrato estatal para dar servicios a niños de trabajadores campesinos donde se necesite ayuda. Nosotros abrimos y cerramos segun la temporada agricola. Empleamos personas de la comunidad que servimos. Nuestros edificios estan cerca de lugares donde trabaja la gente que servimos. Recibimos donaciones de los agricultores para ayudarnos con el requisito de recaudar fondos locales para poder recibir fondos estatales y federales.

Aparentemente todos esto no ocurre en otros partes de los Estados Unidos. Asombros! Y luego mire a las otras comunidades donde se proveen servicios a menos trabajadores campesinos, pero familias de bajo ingresos ocupan los centros de Head Start. El calor y amor para los niños esta por todos lados. Empleados que se preocupan. Edificios con el equipo necesario. Padres dando sus servicios voluntariamente. Me encantan los tiempos que puedo dar un paso atras, flotar hacia arriba mentalmente, y ver como somos. Espero que cada uno de ustedes encuentren tiempo para hacer lo mismo.

### Open house

Continued from page 1

and center. Each agency set up a display table with brochures, which agency representatives distributed, as they shared information with visitors to their booth.

RCMA staff took visitors on a tour of the center. Presenters as well as parents were eager to learn about programs and services in the area and could be seen sharing information with one another.

The yearly 3-hour event is the result of the daily efforts of the Zellwood Team in establishing and maintaining solid relationships with the agencies in their commu-

nity.

Special recognition goes to Velia Muruago, family support specialist and Dina Cedillo, outreach worker, for their hard work in contacting agency representatives, planning, and organizing the event.

Also, a big "thank you" to the many RCMA staff members who represented RCMA in a booth and also to those who worked after dark cleaning up and returning borrowed tables and chairs.

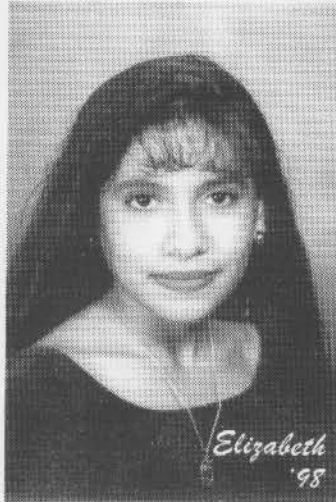
The event was very successful and, based on parents and participant's comments, a worthwhile effort in educating the community.

## Letter to the Editor

*This letter was received by an RCMA staff. Sometimes we are lucky enough to re-connect with someone we may have touched in a way that we didn't recognize.*

*Elizabeth Cardenas is currently a freshman at Edison Community College, she began working with RCMA as a high school student. Enclosed with the letter was her first grade report, three "A"'s and a "B". We applaud her effort and commitment!*

Hello! I am writing to you to inform you of my student status at Edison Community College in Naples. I have enclosed a copy of my grade report and schedule



for your records. I am now in the Spring semester, full time.

I would like to thank you for taking time and writing the letter of recommendation for my last year. You are, indeed, a factor in my future success. Thank you for being so understanding and kind, and also for your emotional support.

I will keep you informed of my status and of any decisions I make regarding my education.

Once again, I thank you very much and may God bless you!

Sincerely,  
*Elizabeth Cardenas*

## Proud Parents

Blanca Garcia, Redlands CDC, is proud of her son, Juan Carlos, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Central Florida.

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Juana Guevara, Ruskin MHS, is proud of her son, Gilberto, who graduated from Tampa Tech High School with honors in Automobile Mechanics.

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Velma Adame, Rollason Center, had this story to share about her eight year old son, Miguel. He said, "Please Lord, let it be me" as the 1998-99 Lake Trafford Elementary king was announced. Miguel's dream came true when he was named king! From the very start, Miguel was eager to do this. He would get on his bike every day and go

house to house collecting money. Sometimes I had to tell him to stop and rest, but he would say, "Mom, I have to work hard to do this, because I want to be king just like Mandito (his big brother)". Mandito was crowned king at his high school homecoming. Miguel and Mandito are eleven years apart, but are very close. Miguel wants to be like his big brother. At the end of the PTO meeting, Miguel said, "Mom, I worked hard and I feel happy and now you have two kings". I told him I was very happy for him, and even if he didn't win, he was still my little king.

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Phyliss Booe, Rollason Center, is proud of her daughter, Tina, a senior. Her art work titled, "Eyes of the Chief are Upon Us", was selected for use as a Lehigh Senior High note card.

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

**Arrive Alive!**  
**Use your seatbelts.**  
**Put Young Children in Safety Seats.**