



RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make
A World of
Difference

Helping Our Youth



February 1999

Issue 70

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

Seven pass citizenship exam

By SANDY MERCER
Family Support Specialist

Name three rights or freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights? Name the original Colonies/ States (how many?). Who said "Give me liberty or give me death!"? If the President and Vice President die or become incapacitated, who is next in line to run the country?

These questions are among the 100 the Immigration and Naturalization Service selects from to create the United States Citizenship Exam. How many questions are you able to answer without quite a bit of memory jogging, or asking a coworker or friend? The test is given orally by the way!

We are fortunate at New Hope CDC. Our outreach worker, Guadalupe Ruiz, is teaching Citizenship classes to parents and other community members. Seven of the thirteen students passed the citizenship exam in the first four months since classes began.

As a first step for those whose first language is Spanish, Mrs. Ruiz translated the questions into Spanish, and created written practice tests. She also role plays the examiner by asking oral questions, and teaches the Pledge of Allegiance, at the request of her students.

The students have attended these classes faithfully, and really enjoy learning as a group. Snacks are offered while students study, sometimes a pizza for a social treat. A party is being planned to celebrate student success. Mrs. Ruiz's students shared these compliments about her, "She's great!" "She has been a big help to me," and "I would not have passed without her." The project be-

Continued on page 3, CITIZENSHIP



PROUD NEW BUSINESS OWNERS

Jackie Nelson , Terrence Smiley and their daughter prepare to put RCMA experience and learning to use in their own child care business.

Teacher opens family child care home

By MIKE CLARK
Staff Writer

Jackie Nelson has taken a giant step towards a successful future. She has worked for RCMA in the Dade County area for twelve years. After leaving she worked at several other child care centers, Jackie says that none of them gave children the quality of care that they receive at RCMA. She wanted to be able to provide the same loving and developmentally appropriate environment that she had experienced in her time with RCMA.

Jackie has decide to open a family child care home and has applied for a loan to start her own child care

Continued on page 3, BUSINESS

FROM
THE
DESK
OF
OLGA



Call people by name, the sweetest music to anyone's ear is the sound of one's own name.

DEL ESCRITORIO DE
OLGA

Llamale a la gente por su nombre. La musica mas dulce que no uno puede escuchar es el sonido del nombre de uno mismo.

Many things come across my desk on a daily basis. I would like to share these pointers on how to make the most of our relationships with other people. I hope you find this as useful as I have. "Ten Commandments of Human Relations" was written by Brian Cavanaugh of *Apple Seeds*.

Hay muchas cosas que llegan a mi escritorio cada dia. Me gustaria compartir estas ideas en como mejorar las relaciones que tenemos con otra gente. "Los Diez Mandamientos de las Relaciones Humanas", escrito por Brian Cavanaugh de la revista "*Semillas de Manzana*".

Ten Commandments of Human Relations

Los Diez Mandamientos De Las Relaciones Humanas

- ◆ Speak to people. There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.
- ◆ Smile at people. It takes 72 muscles to frown, only 4 to smile.
- ◆ Call people by name. The sweetest music to anyone's ear is the sound of one's own name.
- ◆ Be friendly and helpful. If you would have friends, be friendly.
- ◆ Be genuinely interested in people. You can like almost everybody if you try.
- ◆ Be generous with praise-cautious with criticism.
- ◆ Be considerate with feelings of others. There are usually three sides to a controversy: yours, the other person's and the correct one.
- ◆ Be alert to give advise. What counts most in life is what we do for others.
- ◆ Learn to trust people, for trust builds lasting relationships.
- ◆ Add to this a good sense of humor, a big dose of patience, and a dash of humility, and you will be rewarded many fold.

- ◆ Habla con la gente. No hay nada mejor que un saludo alegre.
- ◆ Sonrie a la gente. Se toma 72 muscolos para cenar y solamente cuatro para sonreir.
- ◆ Llamale a la gente por su nombre. La musica mas dulce que uno puede escuchar es el sonido del nombre de uno mismo.
- ◆ Se amable y util. Si vas a tener amigos, se amigable.
- ◆ Ten interes verdadero en la gente. Casi toda la gente puede gustarte, si tratas.
- ◆ Se generoso con los elojios, y cauteloso con las criticas.

Sigue en pagina 3, RELACIONES

Preschooler takes first trike ride

By SHERRY SHUPP
Early Childhood Specialist



MY FIRST TRICYCLE: Sherry Shupp, Glades early childhood specialist and Jerry Schwarz, member of the Boyertown AMBUCS, assist one happy preschooler on his first tricycle ride.

An RCMA preschooler takes his first bike ride, thanks to a special community partnership between Glades Early Childhood Center and American Business Clubs (AMBUCS) in Boyertown, Pennsylvania. AMBUCS agreed to purchase an Amtryke for a child in need.

An Amtryke is an adaptive tricycle made especially for children with disabilities. The tricycle will be placed in his home permanently. The RCMA child who is benefiting from this gift, is diagnosed with cerebral palsy. The tricycle will help him build his leg muscles to help him walk.

AMBUCS is a national service group that sponsors scholarships for therapists and helps purchase equipment for individuals with disabilities.

A member of RCMA is a lifetime member of the AMBUCS. If you would like more information, call the Glades Early Childhood Center in Moore Haven at 941-946-2545.

BUSINESS continued from page 1

business. She has been busy remodeling her house, doing paperwork and applications, getting insurance, and looking for second hand furniture and toys. Her husband, Terrance has been very supportive and goes with her to look for supplies.

Jackie is very prepared for this new phase of her life. She has good knowledge of child development, encourages parent involvement, and has even learned to speak fluent Spanish at

RELACIONES

(Sigue de pagina 2)

- ♦ Se considerado con los sentimiento de otros. Por costumbre hay tre lados a la controversia: el tuyo, el de la otra persona, y el lado correcto.
- ♦ Estad siempre listo para ayudar. Lo que cuenta mas en la vida es lo que hacemos por otros.
- ♦ Aprende a confiar en la gente, porque el confiar edifica relaciones duraderas.
- ♦ Anade a esto un buen sentido de humor y una gran dosis de paciencia, un poco de humildad y seras premiado muchas veces.

Olga Hernandez, Deputy Director

Citizenship

continued from page 1

gan by accident, when neighbors came to Mrs. Ruiz's home one weekend and offered to pay her to help them. Instead, she contacted Cindy Sears, center coordinator and the family support specialist. The first class began the following Monday.

Mrs. Ruiz is very excited about the project. She is a "born" teacher, planning and working out her lessons and exams, focused on teaching in a very professional manner. Best of all, she uses her good sense of humor to help her students relax and have fun while learning. She asks for feedback on the lessons, and incorporates many of the suggestions her students make. They lovingly call her "La Maestra".

Mrs. Ruiz says, "I wish that by teaching them, they meet their goals of becoming U.S. Citizens, so that their efforts won't be wasted". Now those combined efforts are beginning to pay off. Thank you, Guadalupe Ruiz!



RCMA. Like many of us, Jackie had the desire to own her own child care center.

Now that she has decided to take the risk to go out on her own, she has a smile in her eyes. The motivation and excitement are in the air around her. She recommends that other teachers take the same step. "You can make more money, but just don't think about it," Jackie said. "And make sure you have the proper insurance." If you have been thinking about starting your own family child care home, but don't know where to start call Patti Young at (800) 282-6540.

Look what we've done

Hats off to the following staff for their commitment to RCMA children and families, obtaining their CDA, and for demonstrating true quality care through NAEYC Accreditation. These staff members were presented awards at the Annual RCMA State Board of Director's meeting on January 25, 1999 in Immokalee.

20 Year Recognition

Adelita Trevino, Plant City MHS
Irma Chappa, Ruskin HS
Andrella C. Najera, Wimauma DOP
Gloria Young, Ruskin Migrant Ed.
Juana Nieves, Ruskin MHS
Maria J. Masias, Redlands

15 Year Recognition

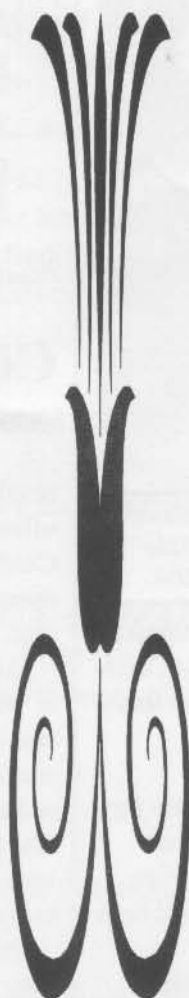
Juanita Gilyard, Pomona Park HS
Norma J. Neeley, Palatka HS
Marisol Rivera, Ruskin Infant
Elodia Lopez, Ruskin
Carmen Figueroa, Wimauma Child
Alberta Roebuck, Zolfo Springs AS
Maria Talamantez, Smith Brown
Deborah Ann Avelar, FWV A
Maria Martinez, FWV A
Teresa Salazar, FWV A
Rosa Martinez, ICDC Annex
Margarita Hinojosa, Florida City

National CDA Recipients

Eunice Wilcox, Glades Early Child
Ker Richardson, Belle Glade
Angelica Granadero, ICDC Infant
Nelva A. Gonzalez, Redlands
Nora Cristina Plata, Redlands
Consolacion Saucedo, Redlands
Mirtha Incicco, Redlands
Julia Garcia, South Dade Infant
Imelda Jaramillo, South Dade Pre
Valerie Mims, Crescent City
Velia Muruaga, Mascotte MHS
Maria Gonzalez, Ruskin Migrant Ed.
Lydia Gutierrez, Fred Dennis
Nora Lorraine Santellano, Fred Dennis
Sonja Renee Judge-Wilson, Lake Placid
Angela Freeman Kerth, Nocatee
Gloria Kendrick, Arcadia Office

NAEYC Accreditation

Bonita Migrant Head Start
Andrew Child Development
Everglades #1 Migrant Head Start



Congratulations to Arnetta Ward from South Highlands CDC on her new Habitat for Humanity Home located in Lake Placid! Arnetta spent many hours working on Habitat homes, and getting her finances in order to qualify!



Congratulations to Joshua Rincon and Beatrice Aviles, AIM site directors for the Immokalee school-age program. They were recently awarded their Associates of Arts degree. Joshua is now attending Florida Gulf Coast University, Beatrice will enroll in the summer semester!

Editor: Leslie Moguil
Staff Writer: Mike Clark
Technical Support: Teresa Tremelling
Please send suggestions, comments, and Letters to the Editor to the following address:
RCMA HOY Editor,
Redlands Christian Migrant Association

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



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PARENT NEWS

January/February 1999 Issue 18 A Bi-Monthly Parent Involvement Supplement of RCMA HOY

Our Work - Our Future

Dover - North Region

Our Work - Our Future

is the name of a video with the stories of three different migrant families.

One of these families are the Melendez' who have earned their living as migrant farm workers in the United States for the last several years. 1992 was the first time they traveled from Texas to Florida. They remember that their car broke down and they ran out of money. They struggled to find work and found it for the first time in the strawberry fields near Plant City. At that time they didn't even know what strawberries were.



The Melendez family: (l. to r.) mom Paula, daughters Jasmine and Jessica, son Efrain, dad Martin and son Ernesto.

The Melendez family still travels each year with their four children between Florida and Michigan.

But some of their circumstances have changed. They feel more secure, not only because they know that a job and housing awaits them upon arrival, but also because of the Head Start Program which they feel is like a second home wherever they travel to. They know Head Start will provide a good place for their youngest child, Ernesto, while they are in the fields working.

It is also a good place for the rest of the family, because Head Start provides other programs for them, like English classes and help with accessing services. For instance, the parents now feel confident to visit with the Public Schools where their three older children are enrolled and to work closely with the teachers. They want their children to have the best education possible and parent involvement is what will help them achieve this goal.

Mrs. Paula Melendez has been such an active and outspoken participant in the Head Start Centers that she was elected not only President of the Dover MHS Center Parent Committee but of the Parent Policy Council as well. Here she receives even more training and support and gets to practice her leadership skills.

This family is on a path to success. They have the knowledge and the confidence that they can achieve anything they set out to do.

LaBelle - South Region

Hooray for Raegina Williams! Raegina is a teen parent of two children at the Krome Child Development Center of LaBelle. We all know how challenging parenthood can be. In spite of the obstacles, Raegina has been exceptional in her endeavors to further her education for a promising future.

In spite of the obstacles, Raegina has been exceptional in her endeavors to further her education for a promising future.

She is the Early Headstart Representative, Vice President of the Parent Committee, and active in center functions.

Raegina recently obtained her GED, and received a scholarship from the LaBelle Chamber of Commerce. She is currently enrolled in LaBelle Adult School for a Substitute Teacher/Teacher's Assistant class. In January she will begin a Psychology class at Edison Community College.

There is no stopping Raegina now! What a great role model for those who think the possible is impossible. Our hats are off to her!

Submitted by Barb Marshall,
(Early Headstart Outreach Worker)

Plant City - North Region

Mrs. Micaela Montalvo is the former Parent President from Plant City Migrant Head Start. We would like to thank her for her support during the last three years that she represented the center at the Migrant Head Start Policy Committee.

At the beginning, she was very shy and would get very nervous when it was time to read her parent report.

At the last meeting she attended in November, she was not shy anymore to talk in front of the group. You could see that she was a much more self-confident person.

One thing she wanted to do most was to learn how to drive. We encouraged her, and after the summer she surprised us when she told us she had begun to drive. A few months later she got her driver's license. We are so proud of her. We knew she could do it!

Congratulations Mrs. Montalvo!

We would also like to welcome Mrs. Maria Ramirez who is our new Parent President.

Submitted by Leticia Gonzalez
(Services Support Assistant, Area Office)

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

Enero/Febrero 1999 Núm. 18 Suplemento Bimensual de RCMA HOY en Envolvimiento de Padres

Nuestro Trabajo - Nuestro Futuro

Dover - Region Norte

Nuestro Trabajo - Nuestro Futuro

Es el nombre del video con las historias de tres familias migrantes.

Una de estas familias son los Meléndez, familia que se ha ganado la vida como trabajadores de la agricultura en los Estados Unidos por muchos años. En 1992 fué el primer año que viajaron de Texas a la Florida. Ellos recuerdan que en esa ocasión, el carro se les descompuso y el dinero se les acabó. Al llegar, batallaron para encontrar trabajo y lo primero que encontraron fué en un campo de fresas, cerca de Plant City, en ese entonces ellos no sabían ni lo que eran las fresas.

La familia Meléndez aún viaja



La familia Meléndez (i. a. d.) Mamá Paula, sus hijas Jasmine y Jessica, su hijo Efraín, Papá Martín e hijo Ernesto

entre los estados de Florida y Michigan, pero algunas de las circunstancias han cambiado.

Ahora ellos se sienten más seguros, no solo porque ellos saben que un trabajo y una vivienda los espera al llegar, sino también por el Programa de Head Start, el cual ellos sienten como su segunda casa, a cualquier lugar que ellos viajan. Ellos también saben que Head Start les proveerá un buen lugar para Ernesto, su hijo más pequeño de 4 años, mientras ellos trabajan en el campo.

También es un buen lugar para el resto de la familia, porque Head Start le

provee otros programas para ellos, como clases de Inglés, y les dan acceso a diferentes servicios. Por ejemplo ellos se sienten más seguros de visitar la Escuela Pública, a la cual asisten los niños mayores y trabajar más de cerca con las maestras. Ellos quieren que sus niños reciban la mejor educación posible y saben que el involucramiento de padres es lo que les ayudará a lograr esta meta.

La Sra. Paula Meléndez ha estado muy activa y dejando escuchar su voz en el Programa de Head Start, del cual ella fué electa como presidenta del Comité de Padres de Dover Migrant Head Start y también así del Concilio de Padres. Ella ahí recibe más entrenamiento y apoyo y toma práctica en sus habilidades de liderazgo.

La familia se encuentra en camino al éxito, ellos tienen el conocimiento y la seguridad de que ellos pueden lograr cualquier cosa que se propongan.

LaBelle - Region Sur

¡Un Viva para Raegina Williams! Raegina es una madre adolescente, con dos niños en el centro Krome Child Development de LaBelle. Todos sabemos lo difícil que es, el ser padre. A pesar de los obstáculos Raegina ha salido adelante en sus esfuerzos por lograr una mejor educación y un prominente futuro.

Ella es la representante de Early Head Start y la Vice Presidenta del Comité

A pesar de los obstáculos Raegina ha salido adelante en sus esfuerzos por lograr una mejor educación y un prominente futuro.

de Padres, además de estar muy activa en las funciones del centro.

Raegina recientemente obtuvo su

GED y recibió también una beca de la Cámara de Comercio de LaBelle. Actualmente se encuentra inscrita en la Escuela para Adultos, tomando clases como Asistente de Maestra ó Suplente de Maestra. En Enero ella empezará clases de Psicología en el Edison Community College.

¡Ahora no existe nada que detenga a Raegina! Es un digno ejemplo para aquellos que piensan que lo posible es imposible. ¡Nos quitamos el sombrero ante ella!

Presentado por Barb Marshall
(Trabajadora Social Early Headstart)

Plant City - Region Norte

La Sra. Micaela Montalvo, Ex-Presidente de Plant City Migrant Head Start, le queremos dar las gracias por su apoyo durante estos últimos tres años que representó al centro en el Comité de Polizas de Migrant Head Start.

Al principio ella era muy tímida, y se ponía muy nerviosa cuando tenía que leer su reporte.

En Noviembre, a la última reunión que asistió, ella ya no estaba nerviosa de hablar frente del grupo. Se ve la confianza y seguridad que adquirió desde entonces.

Una de las cosas que ella deseaba hacer, era aprender a conducir un automóvil. La animamos, y después del verano nos sorprendió cuando nos dijo que había empezado a conducir. Después de unos meses obtuvo su licencia. Estamos orgullosos de ella, sabemos que ella lo podía hacer.

¡Felicidades Sra. Montalvo!

Le damos la bienvenida a la Sra. Maria Ramirez, la nueva presidenta del centro.

Enviado por Leticia Gonzalez
Asistente en el Servicio de Apoyo
Oficina del Area de Plant City

Editor: Irene G. Brammert

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

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Telefono: 813-671-5270

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