



RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make
A World of
Difference

Helping Our Youth



April 1999

Issue 72

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

Cooks team-up to teach Mira Verde staff

By **LESLIE MOGUIL**
Editor

A new RCMA center was preparing to open in LaBelle, and nutrition training was on the agenda. Velma Adame, food program director, summoned her talents for leadership and saw this as a golden opportunity for professional development.

She discussed the possibility with Sylvia Estrada, the cook at Farmworker Village C, who she felt was ready for the challenge. Velma made Sylvia feel she could do it, so she nervously agreed. They talked a little about materials and how she could present them, but the rest was up to Sylvia.

As she prepared and thought about the fact that she would be there, all alone, presenting to a group of staff who she didn't even know she began to feel weak. She thought about how she could make the situation less fearful for herself. An idea popped into her head, Natalia Martinez, her part time teammate could join her and they could present together. She pitched the idea to Natalia, and she was willing to help.

Last but not least, one more hurdle to jump, if both cooks were going to leave the center, who would do the dishes? Well, Guillermina Estrada, center coordinator, being the true leader that she is made the following offer: Sylvia and Natalia would go to do their training, and she would cover for them in the dishwashing area.

The team arrived at the Mira Verde center with butterflies in their stomachs, but after a few minutes, were quite comfortable with their roles as trainers. The group of new staff participated in learning about family style food service,

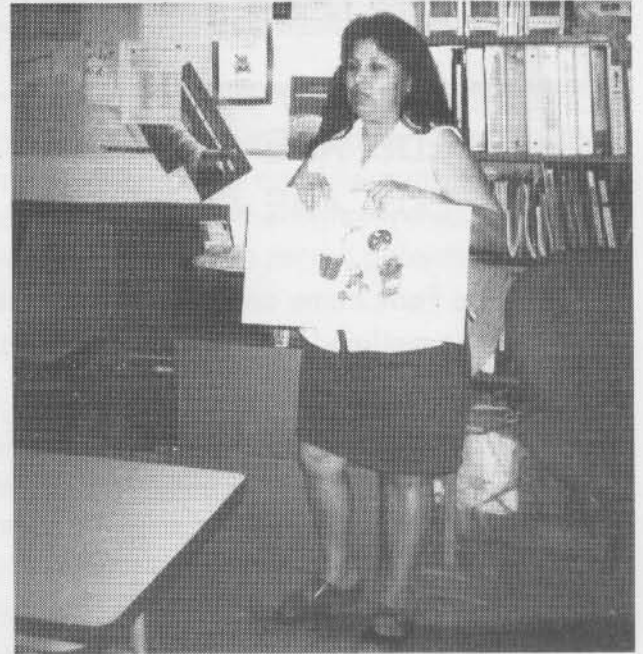
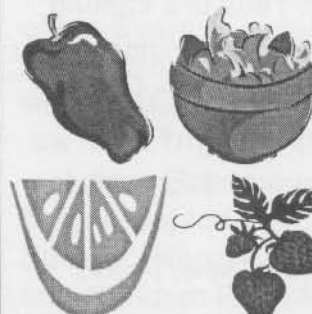


Photo by Awilda Llopez

NUTRITION IS FOR EVERYONE: Sylvia Estrada, cook, Farmworker Village C after just one team training has the confidence to present the RCMA nutrition program at a recent parent meeting.

USDA portion guidelines, and much more.

Evaluations were completed by the trainees, and Sylvia and Natalia got rave reviews as presenters. Have you been toying with the idea of sharing your expertise with other RCMA staff, but haven't got the courage yet? Let these two role models be your guide – you can do it too!



Do you eat enough fresh fruits and vegetables? The magic number is 5 servings per day.

FROM
THE
DESK
OF
OLGA



"You know maintaining high quality each moment, so that when we get notice that the feds are coming, we're ready and say, 'let them come'."

DEL ESCRITORIO DE OLGA

"Usted sabe, trabajar para mantener la alta calidad a todo momento. Para que cuando nos digan los federales viene podemos responder 'pues que vengan'".

THE FEDS ARE COMING! THE FEDS ARE COMING!

The feds came and went!! And they left smiling. But the beautiful part is that we too were left smiling.

Congratulations to all who worked hard to get ready for the feds. It paid off, the results proved it. The Federal Team was made up of fair and beautiful people. Helen Nelson was a great team leader. She set the tone. They were here to check us out by evaluating our centers but they were also here to help. That makes a big difference. We were blessed this time.

But let's talk about our future monitoring or audits. We worked extra hard for a few weeks getting things ready. Maybe, just maybe we need to think about working a little wiser. You know, maintaining high quality each and every moment, so that when we get notice that the feds are coming, we're ready and say "let them come". You know, no weekend work, no worrying, and yes, being able to sleep at night. Can we make that a goal? Why not start now!

Olga Hernandez, Deputy Director

LOS FEDERALES VIENEN! LOS FEDERALES VIENEN!

Los federales vinieron y se fueron!! Se fueron con una sonrisa. Y lo mas bonito es que nosotros tambien nos quedamos con una sonrisa. Felicidades a todos los que trabajaron duro para la llegada de los federales. La evidencia estuvo en los resultados. El equipo Federal estuvo compuesto de personas bellas y justas. Helen Nelson fue un gran lider. Ella puso el ejemplo. Vinieron a chequear y evaluar nuestros centros pero tambien estuvieron aqui para ayudarnos. Eso hizo una diferencia grande. Verdaderamente fuimos bendecidos.

Pero ahora vamos hablar acerca de las evaluaciones y auditorias en el futuro. Trabajamos muy duro por unas semanas preparandonos para la monitoria. Quizas, quizas deberiamos trabajara mas sabiamente. Usted sabe, trabajar para mantener la alta calidad a todo momento. Para que cuando nos digan los federales viene podemos responder "pues que vengan". Sin tener que trabajar los fines de semana, sin preocuparse, y si, poder dormir bien en la noche. Podemos hacer esto una meta? Porque no empezar ahora!

Olga Hernandez, Directora Deputiva

Gadsden children march on Tallahassee

By **BONNIE ROSENMIER**
Director of Community Relations



GRACING THE CAPITOL STEPS: Gadsden children bring the true message of Children's Week to Tallahassee legislators. They were supported by Barbara Mainster, executive director along with numerous RCMA staff.

The week of March 15th was Children's Week in Tallahassee, when issues pertaining to children were highlighted in the legislature. RCMA kids were represented by staff from across the state, who looked for legislators to promote bills benefiting children.

The Capitol building was quite the sight, thanks to the thousands of handprints that decorated its walls and corridors. Many RCMA hands could be seen thanks to the contributions of many of our centers! The highlight of the week was Children's Day, when a festival was held in the park with booths, music, entertainment, speakers and hundreds of children from all over Florida gathered. A parade of children walked from the park to the capitol where all were assembled and listened to leaders in the state speak on child issues.

RCMA Gadsden County Migrant Head Start had a group of eight children and two staff attend this day of festivities, and march in the parade. Thank you RCMA Gadsden for representing RCMA's 5,000 children on this very important day.

Professional Development Corner

Congratulations to Rosa Raya, Teresa Luna, Gloria Boyzo, Maria Quezada, and Dora Darrera from Indian River Migrant Head Start. They have been awarded the RCMA Infant/Toddler CDA Equivalency!

Jayne Pace, unit member, was asked to speak to a University of South Florida Bachelor's Nursing Class on "Alternatives to Hospital Based Care in the Nursing Profession". A great opportunity to recruit potential future employees.

Raeann Lusik, Director of RCMA Migrant Health Outreach Program, was invited to present at the National Farmworker Conference in Denver, Colorado.

Barbara Mainster was one of twenty-two people chosen to serve on a newly formed Governor's task force on education.

Proud Parents

Rosaura Luque, center coordinator at Indian River Early Education Center is very proud of her daughter, Yilly Soto. "Yilly, a fifth grader, recently won the title of Spelling Bee Champion at Fellsmere Elementary School. Yilly moved here from Columbia, and she entered kindergarten without knowing English. Yilly hopes her spelling victory will encourage other Spanish speaking students to persevere in their English classes." (excerpted from a story published in *Florida Today*).

Nancy Patterson's daughter Melinda has been accepted into the National Junior Honor Society. Nancy is a Service Support Assistant at Indian River Migrant Head Start.

Pomona beautification project huge success

By **CLAIRA PUSKAS**
Service Support Specialist

On Tuesday March 16, we had very busy parents at the Pomona Park Center. Parents of our pre-kindergarten children took part in helping to clean-up and rake the area behind our playground where we are eagerly awaiting the building of a new treehouse.

The work did not stop here! Roberto DeLeon, one of our dads who works for Skinner Nurseries helped to get a donation of twenty five azalea plants from his employer. He, along with other parents worked hard all afternoon, taking a break only long enough to eat the fried chicken and rice our center coordinator, Raquel Herrera had supplied for them.

We thank all the caring parents who worked so hard to help beautify the outside of our center. Also we would like to thank all the local businesses and nurseries for the donations of plants and mulch. We are all very proud of our center and most of all are proud to be able to say we love our parents and community members, because our center is really their center!



AZALEAS BRING THE FIRST SIGN OF SPRING: Roberto and Consuelo DeLeon work together to make the outdoor environment at Pomona Park Head Start something to be proud of.



Photo By Ted Hoffman

HURRAY IT'S FELLSMERE DAY!!!: The children of Fellsmere Migrant Head Start took first place in the Fellsmere Day Arts & Crafts Competition. Thanks to Dottie Frank, a second year volunteer at the center who plans and teaches an Art Lesson for three classrooms every Wednesday. She supplies all the materials and generously donates her time while wintering in Florida. Dottie thought the children did a great job with a painted paper bag collage, so she entered them in the contest. All the children received ribbons for their creative efforts. The teachers and center coordinator took this opportunity to pose with some of the award winning artists (from left to right) Angie De La Paz, Cynthia Vargas, Rocio Zamora, Estela Zamarippa and Rosa Raya.

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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.



**Count to ten...
Take a deep breath...
Words hurt children too!**

PARENT NEWS

March/April 1999 Issue 19 A Bi-Monthly Parent Involvement Supplement of RCMA HOY

New Homes Become Reality Thanks To Family Partnership Agreement

*By Mike Clark
T/A Unit Member*

Many RCMA staff and parents tell me that they would like to buy their own home.

Sandra Ladezma put that in her Family Partnership Agreement as a Migrant Head Start parent last year. The Family Support Specialist at Farmworker Village A, Teresa Salazar, arranged to have a real estate broker speak to a parent meeting. The broker discussed ways that low-income families could buy their own homes.

Sandra and her husband went to the meeting. They filled out the paperwork and were surprised when they were approved for a loan to buy a home. Less than three months went by between the meeting and moving into their new home. They could have failed to meet their goal because they almost didn't apply!

Sandra said, "I didn't take over the paperwork very quickly because I didn't believe we would qualify. We would never have gone to a Realtor on our own. Based on past experience, we didn't feel we

would be welcome."

They were welcome. They found the Realtor to be very friendly and helpful. As first time home buyers, they got an FHA loan with very little down payment. Sandra is now an RCMA outreach worker and encourages other parents to follow her example to buy their own home.

"If you can make a truck payment, then you could be buying a house," Sandra says.

If you can make a truck payment, then you could also qualify to buy a house.

"It all depends on who you go with and if they are willing to help you through the steps."

We can all learn two lessons from Sandra.

One, you can reach your goals (if you know what they are).

Two, the Family Partnership Agreements can be a great way for RCMA to know how to better support families reach their goals.

Avon Park Head Start:

Staff would like to extend congratulations to Ms. Angela Baldrige and Family. One of the goals listed in her partnership agreement over two years ago was for the family to own their very own home.

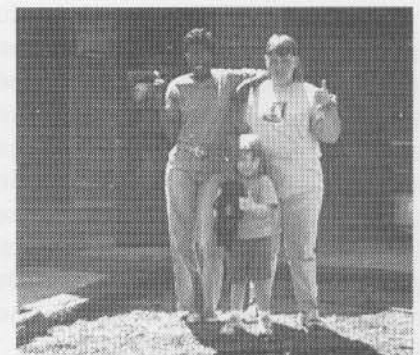
Ms. Baldrige has struggled and overcome many obstacles to fulfill this lifelong desire.

With the assistance of RCMA outreach worker Ms. Lisa Pough the dream became a reality on March 17, 1999, when the family moved into their new home.

Another success won through hard work, dedication and persistence.

Congratulations Ms. Baldrige, we knew you could do it!

Submitted by Lisa Pough,
Outreach Worker



*Photo by Tiffny Contreras
Left to right: Lisa Pough, Shelby Baldrige
with puppy and her mom Angela Baldrige,
in front of their new home.*

Editor: Irene G. Brammertz

Please send parent involvement news from your center, ideas and suggestions to:

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NOTICIAS DE PADRES

Marzo/Abril 1999 Num. 19 Suplemento Bimensual de RCMA HOY en Envolvimiento de Padres

Las Casas Nuevas se Hacen Realidad, Gracias al Contrato de Asociación Familiar

*Por Mike Clark
Miembro de la Unidad de
Asistencia Técnica.*

Son muchos los empleados y padres de familia en RCMA quienes dicen que quisieran comprar su casa propia.

Sandra Ledezma lo mencionó así en su Contrato de Asociación Familiar, el año pasado en el Head Start para Migrantes.

La Especialista de Apoyo Familiar, Teresa Zalazar, del centro de RCMA Farmworker Village "A", invitó una licenciada, quien se encarga de conseguir préstamos para comprar casas, a hablar en la reunión de padres.

La licenciada habló de los diferentes programas que prestan dinero a las familias de bajos ingresos para que compren una casa.

Sandra y su esposo asistieron a la reunión, llenaron la aplicación. Sin embargo, se sorprendieron cuando el banco aprobó el préstamo. Tres meses pasaron entre la reunión y el día en que la familia se trasladó a su nueva casa. Casi pierden su oportunidad de realizar su sueño, porque no iban a entregar la aplicación.

Sandra dijo; "Yo no llevé la aplicación pronto porque no creía que nos fueran a aprobar

el préstamo. Nunca habíamos visitado una Agencia de Bienes y Raíces por nuestra cuenta. Basados en experiencias pasadas, creíamos que no nos recibirían bien.

La licenciada los recibió con una calurosa bienvenida. La familia recibió un préstamo FHA con muy poco enganche por ser su primera casa propia. Este año, Sandra consiguió trabajo con RCMA y ella anima a otras familias a comprar sus casas también.

"Si puedes pagar una camioneta mensualmente,

Si puedes pagar una camioneta mensualmente, también puedes estar comprando una casa.

también puedes estar comprando una casa." dice Sandra. "Todo depende de la persona que te ayuda con la documentación, si él o ella le explica bien los pasos que hay que llevar a cabo."

Aprendimos dos lecciones de Sandra.

Primero: Usted puede lograr sus metas (si sabe bien cuales son.)

Segundo: Por medio del Contrato de Asociación Familiar de RCMA se puede saber como apoyar mejor a las familias a alcanzar sus metas.

Avon Park Head Start: RCMA felicita a la Sra. Angela Baldrige y su familia. Una de sus metas, marcada en su Contrato de Asociación Familiar de hace más de dos años, era tener su casa propia.

La Sra. Baldrige ha luchado y vencido muchos obstáculos, para lograr este sueño que há tenido por todo su vida.

Con el apoyo de la Trabajadora Social de RCMA, Lisa Pough, el sueño se hizo realidad al 17 de Marzo de 1999, cuando la familia se mudó a su casa nueva.

Otro éxito ganado a través de trabajo, dedicación y persistencia.

Felicidades Sra. Baldrige, sabíamos que usted era capaz de lograr su meta!

Enviado por Lisa Pough,
Trabajadora Social



Foto por Tiffny Contreras
Izq. a der.: Lisa Pough, Shelby Baldrige
con su perrito y su mama la Sra. Angela
Baldrige, frente a su casa nueva.

Editor: Irene G. Brammertz

Favor de enviar noticias, ideas o sugerencias sobre envolvimiento de padres en su centro a:

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