



RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make
A World of
Difference

Helping Our Youth



December 1999

Issue 80

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

A new millennium approaches

By Leslie Moguil
Editor

There has been much talk about the approaching year 2000. The threat of Y2K, when computers may not be ready for those two zero's and all the possibilities that might accompany it. Oh, and the large number of choices on how to best celebrate the coming of the millennium. And all this e-talk, e-mail, e-trade, e-commerce, and e-bay. This is what is being talked about all over the world.

Within RCMA we are talking about the future too. NAEYC Accreditation for all RCMA Centers, Charter Schools are being developed, new centers, and a new area office in Ruskin are set to open in 2000. Kindergarten Readiness is a priority for our parents and children moving into the public schools. Head Start and Migrant Head Start will require that half of the teachers in a classroom have a two year degree by 2003.

Many people believe things are just moving too fast. All these changes. What will happen to me, to my job. What does the future hold for me? How will I keep up?

A couple months ago at a pre-service training for teachers we talked about change. We took some time to think about the past changes we have already survived. These are a few that we came up with: Mr. Rollason's death, a center fire, the high school/ GED requirement for CDA, yellow school buses, the change in the CDA renewal process - C.E.U requirement instead of just clock hours, center core teams, CDL requirements, a CDA required for every classroom, beepers and cell phones, a CDA required of all



Past Memories Leading to New Tommorrow's:

Edna Carter, center coordinator with that 70's style the afro. Children at Rollason CDC explore the wonder of computers.

infant toddler teachers in Head Start, computers in centers and in classrooms, HSFIS, and these are the most current changes.

If you are reading this article chances are you survived. Chances are you saw the writing on the wall and you responded. You took the necessary steps to adjust to the change.

RCMA has been growing and changing since 1965, and odds are it will continue to. What makes our adjustment to change possible are those beliefs or values which we share that do not change. The shared belief that our purpose together is to open up doors and expand opportunities for the futures of our children and their families. This is the glue that holds us together, that makes it possible for us to support instead of judge, give instead of take, grow instead of standing still.

Their may be some disagreement on exactly what will happen at the stroke of midnight on New Year's eve, but rest assured in the days that follow there will be change. The real question is are each of us prepared to take the first step in meeting the demands of the future. I do believe we are. Happy New Year!

FROM
THE
DESK
OF
OLGA



“Si eres uno de los que ha recibido mucho en esta vida, comparte ese bendicion con otros. No se lleva mucho y las recompensas son incontables.”

DEL ESCRITORIO DE
OLGA

“If you are one of the fortunate few, share your blessing with others. It doesn't take much and the rewards are many.”

Fill your holiday with acts of kindness.



Llene sus dias festivos con actos de bondad



"It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Es una de las mas hermosas compensaciones de esta vida que ningun hombre puede ayudar a otro sin ayudarse asi mismo."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Another Christmas season is upon us. Children are anxiously awaiting the arrival of Christmas. They want to know what gifts they will receive. It is a day in which love has no boundaries.

We are blessed! Not all but many are blessed! If you are one of the fortunate few, share your blessing with others. It doesn't take much and the rewards are many. Start with your own family, in your own home.

And then take it outside. Remember the homeless, the orphaned, the elderly, and the incarcerated.

May you have a blessed holiday!

Nuevamente se acerca otra Navidad. Los niños esperan ansiosamente para que llegue el dia. Quieren saber que regalos van a recibir. Es un dia hermoso donde el amor sobreabunda para muchos.

Somos bendecidos. No todos pero muchos. Si eres uno de los que ha recibido mucho en esta vida, comparte ese bendicion con otros. No se lleva mucho y las recompensas son incontables.

Empieza con tu familia, tu propio hogar. *Recuerda a los que no tienen hogar, a los huerfanos, los ancianos y a los encarcelados.*

Que tengans unas Navidades bendecidas.



Developing Opportunities: Interview with Winifred Mosley



Recently Tom Moonan, Staff Writer for the RCMA HOY sat down with Ms Winifred Mosely, Early Child Specialist at the Sebring CDC. Ms Mosely was asked to share her thoughts on her personal educational development.

HOY: "Winifred please share with our readers your story."

Winifred: "I started teaching full time at the RCMA Bowling Green Center. During that time I was also a part time student at South Florida Community College. After a year of working and going to school I decided to go to school full time. It wasn't easy but I was determined to graduate! I have warm memories of my days at Bowling Green and I was happy when I saw an opening for an early childhood specialist position. I applied for the position and I got it.

HOY: When did you start thinking about going to college?

Winifred: I had been thinking about college since Junior High School. My teachers were supportive and I have a mother that has always stressed to me the importance of education. My family is very close. My brother and sister-in-law are role models for me. I admire and respect the way they are helping each other to get a college education.

HOY: Do you have any advice for someone interested in going to college?

Winifred: First of all, it's worth it! An education can lead to better employment and more opportunities. Yes, it can be difficult due to lack of money and the stresses of balancing family, work and school, but with patience and a determined will, it can be done.

If you're interested in college, call and make an appointment to talk with a counselor. They are there to help. Also find out about the TEACH Scholarship program. Call Shannon Tracey-Faust at (561) 571-9015.

HOY: Winifred, are you finished with your education?

Winifred: No, education is a life-long affair. I read books and newspapers and I plan to start working on a Master's degree in education.

Before leaving the center I asked teachers, Arlene Peterson and Marilyn Rodriquez to share their insights on Winifred as a teammate. The following are their comments: "She's a great help, she's good with kids and she understands where we're coming from." She has a calming affect on the children."

Winifred received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Inter-disciplinary studies. I thanked her for her for sharing and asked her if she could be available if readers had questions. Without hesitation Winifred responded with a hearty "YES!" If you have questions about college call Winifred at 941-386-6131.

When not helping children develop Winifred can frequently be found reading, playing tennis and spending time with her family.

Wise people say that all humans have a need to live, to learn, to love, and to leave a legacy. To do this calls for a life-long commitment to develop. We are lucky at RCMA because we are surrounded by people who have made that commitment—a commitment to grow.

Taking advantage of a teachable moment

By Sherry Shupp
Early Childhood Specialist

Death is one of the most difficult lessons to teach. It is a hard concept for children to begin to understand and even harder for a teacher to explain. At the Glades Early Childhood Center in Moore Haven a tragedy was turned into a learning experience.

One Fall day, Charlene, the classroom's guinea pig became ill. The children watched as Charlene began to lose weight and became sluggish. She would have to make a trip to the veterinarian's office. The next day the children asked questions about Charlene.

The children were told what was wrong with her and what each of them could do to try to make her better. The following week after spending the weekend at the home of a staff, Charlene returned to school. She was greeted with lots of love and care from the children. Unfortunately Charlene did not gain enough strength to recover.

On Wednesday, November 3rd, the children needed to learn the hard lesson of death. At circle time the children were given the sad news. Charlene had died.



A Funeral For Charlene: Children gather around their pet hamster's grave site. As they cast a handful of dirt, they share a good thing about Charlene.

The teachers talked with the children and tried their best to answer the questions they had. They also read the book, "The 10th Good Thing About Barney", by Judith Voirst. Each one of them had to come up with one good thing they had remembered about Charlene. After lunch the children held a funeral where they sang, "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" and as they each threw a handful of dirt into the grave they shared their good thing about Charlene. The teachers took advantage of a sad situation to teach a lesson about death and dying, and it was done with caring and compassion.

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Congratulations to Carmen D. Jimenez, lead teacher and Yolanda Hirsch, teacher at Ruskin Migrant Head Start. They are seen here with the fruits of their labor, their GED diplomas.

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Congratulations to Jo Neil, family support specialist, Ruskin MHS, and her husband Jim proud new parents of their first child, Wren. Best wishes to Frances Canty, program coordinator, Glades & Hendry, who recently took on the new role of grandmother.

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