



# RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make  
A World of  
Difference

## Helping Our Youth



January 2000

Issue 81

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

## Plant City group rescued through the kindness of a stranger

The children of Plant City Migrant Head Start had just finished visiting Santa Claus at the Brandon Mall and were getting ready for the return trip. Something unexpected happened, the van wouldn't start! Luckily a mall security guard was approaching.

No, he would not help – "I can't help you – it's the policy of the mall," he said. "We understand," replied Adelita Treviño, lead teacher, Plant City Migrant Head Start. Adelita stood in the parking lot for fifteen minutes with jumper cables in her hands until someone finally stopped. "Everyone seemed to be in such a hurry," Adelita said.

Her name was Ruth Dean. She had seen the security guard approach earlier. She asked, "Why didn't the security guard help?" Adelita explained what the guard had said. After listening Ms. Dean replied, "I'm going to talk with his supervisor. In the mean time how can I help you and the children?" "We need a jump," Adelita explained. "You need a job?" "No a jump." Show me what to do and I'll help." Ms. Dean drove her vehicle around so the jumper cables could be connected. The purr of the engine was a welcome sound. "Thank you so much," said Adelita. "Wait!" Ms. Dean interrupted. "Before you go take this," Ms. Dean had taken twenty dollars from her purse and



**UNCOMMON BEHAVIOR:** Ms. Ruth Dean seen here in her front yard following her good deed. Ms. Dean was not just in the holiday spirit, she can be found volunteering at Kingswood Elementary School in Brandon, helping children through tutoring.

placed it in Adelita's hand. Buy something for the children. "Are you sure," questioned Adelita. "Do I look like I'm sure," Ms. Dean replied with a stern look on her face.

**Oh, one more thing. Before Ms. Dean left she turned to Adelita and said, "Teach the children to be kind!"**

**Special Note:** HOY went to visit Ms. Dean to find out the rest of the story. She is an active spirit approaching 80 years of age who spent 37 years as a teacher. As you can see by her actions her teaching continues. When not helping stranded children, Ms. Dean can be found at Kingswood's Elementary School in Brandon where she is a volunteer tutor.

Ms. Dean did speak with the head of Mall security. She was told that help was not given because of the fear of causing damage and being sued. "Well I want to talk with the Manager," she said. Ms. Dean was told that the manager was not in and was informed of where she could make a formal complaint. Ms. Dean went to make the complaint. However, the chief of security followed her. (Maybe he was feeling a bit guilty about not helping a van full of children.) He told Ms. Dean that mall policy was not to help directly but to get help for anyone in need. Ms. Dean was told that training would be given to the security staff so a situation like this would not happen again.

I asked Ms. Dean the reason why she stopped to help.

**KINDNESS, continued on page 3**

FROM  
THE  
DESK  
OF  
BARBARA



"Thank God for our centers, our dedicated outreach workers and for this Saturday reminder of how much work we still have to do."

DEL ESCRITORIO DE  
BARBARA

"Gracias a Dios por nuestros centros, nuestros trabajadoras de alcance que son dedicadas y por este sabado que nos recuerdo que aun hay mucho trabajo que hacer."

## Senator's Visit as Reminder

Recently, Senator Bob Graham called and asked if we could arrange for him to visit some families who lived in Immokalee. He wanted to talk to them about their housing. Senator Graham is a good man and we were happy to help. Our outreach worker, Lolita Rios and AIM school-age program director, Josh Rincon had no problem finding families who were willing to have the Senator visit.

As always, RCMA took the opportunity to show the bad housing and the good. As I waited in the courtyard while the senator was visiting the family of five who lived in a one bedroom trailer, I talked to another one of the families we serve who lives in the same camp.

The mother told me our outreach worker would be taking her to an appointment because her son failed his hearing test. She explained she had a chance to move to better housing two miles outside of town, but their car died and they had no transportation to get back and forth. In town is easier.

After thirty-four years, RCMA is helping families with some of the same problems. It is true, the clinics are better now, there is more child care available and there is some good housing. But two miles and no car kept this family in pitiful housing.

Thank God for our centers, our dedicated outreach workers and for this Saturday reminder of how much work we still have to do.

*Barbara Mainster*, Executive Director

## La visita del Senador nos sirve de un recordatorio

Recientemente, el Senador Bob Graham llamó y preguntó si podríamos hacer arreglos para visitar algunas familias que viven en Immokalee. Quería hablar con ellos acerca de su vivienda. El Senador Graham es un hombre bueno y nosotros estábamos contento en poder ayudarlo. Nuestro trabajador de outreach, Lolita rios y director de programas de despues de escuela, Josh Rincon no tuvieron problemas en encontrar familias que estaba dispuestas a tener la vista del Senador.

Como siempre, RCMA tomó la oportunidad y mostro vivienda buenas y malas. Cuando espere en el patio mientras el Senador visitaba la familia de cinco que vivía en un apartamento de un dormitorio, yo hablaba con otro de las familias nosotros a quien servimos que vive en el mismo campo.

La madre me dijo que nuestro trabajador de outreach la estaría llevando a una cita porque su hijo fallo su prueba de oír. Ella explicó que ella tuvo una oportunidad mueve a un mejor lugar para vivir pero que estaba a dos millas del pueblo y que su coche no trabajaba y ellos no tuvieron transporte para moverse. Vivir en el pueblo es más fácil.

Despues de treinta y cuatro años, RCMA aun sigue ayudando a las familias con los mismos problemas. Es verdad, los servicios en las clinicas de salud son mejores ahora, hay más centros disponibles para cuidar a niños y hay mejores casas para vivir. Pero aun así, dos millas y el no tener un carro ha mantenido a esta familia en una casa que da lastima. Gracias a Dios por nuestros centros, nuestros trabajadoras de alcance que son dedicadas y por este sabado que nos recuerdo que aun hay mucho trabajo que hacer.

*Barbara Mainster*, Directora Ejecutiva



# Plant City staff have soul

By Tom Moonan  
Staff Writer

Soul. You hear that word a lot, but what does it mean? I decided to find out so I looked up soul in the dictionary. Here's what I found: **soul** – The essence, the real part, the spiritual or moral force, in a person, or in an organization. That's it, if our motives and actions are coming from our soul: we will grow as an organization and as individuals!

**"We sit on the circle and suppose while the wisdom lies within us and knows."**  
- Robert Frost

What is a growing person like? HOY decided to ask this question to members of the Plant City core team. Here are some of the things they said. A growing person shows love, patience, understanding, creativity, energy, dedication and the right disposition.

**"Let us become the change we seek in the world!"** - M. Gandhi

To get a clearer picture I asked about real people examples. Every center has its stories, here are some of Plant City's.

## Dedication and Right Disposition

"There's something about Lilia. She knows how to listen to and talk to people with such honesty and sincerity. People like her. She has the easiest time getting parents to volunteer. Maybe her influence is so strong because of that beautiful smile of hers or maybe its because people know that she really cares. Oh by



the way Lilia was stopped the other day by one of the children and asked." "Why aren't you in the classroom anymore."

## Patience and Understanding

"It was 7:30 AM and I was worried, a teacher called in sick and Lulu was alone with all the kids so I hurried to her classroom... and there she was, calm and relaxed with both classes quietly doing an art activity with the children.



## Creativity and Energy

"She is so full of energy and compassion for the children. It's fantastic the way she works with them. Where does she get all that energy." Mental Health consultant's comment after visiting Jacoba's classroom. "When you love what you are doing the energy comes naturally..."



## Love and Patience

"It was amazing watching her class. The children were having lunch and they knew exactly what to do, setting the table and serving... and they did it so naturally. Maria Luisa is a wonderful teacher and a very kind person."

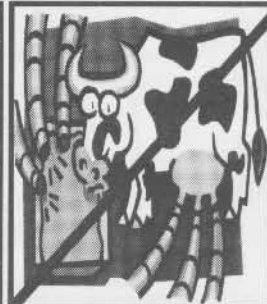


**Walk into any RCMA center and watch and you will see people big and small – growing.**

A special thanks to the Plant City Migrant Child Development Center for sharing their wisdom.

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**New USDA Regulation:**  
Cow's Milk is not to be served in our centers to children under one year of age.