



# RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make  
A World of  
Difference

## Helping Our Youth



February 2000

Issue 82

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

## Zolfo students share their stories and give thoughtful advice

This story comes from the hearts and minds of Gonzalo Saldivar, Reyna Sanchez, Mindy Douglas, and Joel Perez – four talented students at the Zolfo Springs After School Program.

**Special Note:** Miss Alberta -- director, counselor and scholar informed me that Zolfo is the Italian word for sulfur.

HOY recently had the pleasure of sitting down and talking with four members of the Zolfo Springs After School Program about the ups and downs of being a kid.

First some background information about these deep thinkers. Gonzalo, 8 years-old is planning to become a policeman. He knows that policemen need to be good talkers so he frequently practices his talking by reading people their rights. Mr. Phil (works with RCMA's Beyond Barriers Program) is one of Gonzalo's heroes. "He believes in me", said Gonzalo.

Reyna, 9 years-old is an artist and a wordsmith. In fact she is so good at arranging words that she was chosen to be the "Writer of the Month." Her most recent work is on display at the Zolfo Springs Public Library. When not painting and writing Reyna can be found playing baseball.

Joel, 11 years-old is a thinker. In the future Joel would like to chase tornadoes so that he can study



**ZOLFO SPRINGS MEETING OF THE MINDS:** (left to right) Reyna, Gonzalo, Mindy and Joel took time out to share what they believe kids want from adults. We apologize to Joel, who we assume was out chasing tornadoes the day we took this photo.

and observe them. He likes the after school program because Miss Alberta and Mr. Phil help him with his homework. Joel's hero is his Mother.

Mindy Douglas, 12 years-old, loves to draw. One of her drawings was selected to appear on an RCMA Christmas card. Mindy has been selected as the "Artist of the Month." To see her artwork, go to the Zolfo Springs Public Library. Mindy's biggest fans are her parents. "They hug me and tell me they like my drawings." Mindy said with a smile.

After we introduced each other we started to talk about what kids needed from adults. We agreed that sometimes adults can get a little confused and end up doing things that are not in the a kids best interest. With this in mind I asked this panel of experienced kids for advice on how we adults could improve. Below are some of their ideas:

- Remember -- kids are smarter than adults think.
- Try to understand why kids do the things they do.
- Be honest with kids and don't keep secrets from them.
- Don't freak out when hearing about what kids do.
- Have fair rules.
- When we make mistakes talk with us.
- Don't hit us when we get in trouble instead ground us for one or two days.
- Help us with our homework.
- Be a teacher and talk to our teachers.

KIDS, continued on page 3

**FROM  
THE  
DESK  
OF  
OLGA**



**“What would you like to see in your community in the next ten years? Your action or inaction will determine the future”.**

**DEL ESCRITORIO DE  
OLGA**

**“¿Que es lo que gustaria ver su comunidad en los proximos diez años? Su accion o falta de accion determina ese futuro”.**

## **Do you count? Answer the Census Today!**

**O**nce more it is time to be counted! Yes, it is Census time! This opportunity comes only once every ten years. It is a time for everyone living in the United States to be counted. It doesn't matter if you are a citizen or not, or if you are in this country legally. At this time, the government doesn't care. No identifying numbers are required. The main interest here is numbers. The greater the number, the greater the possibility of benefits.

Why is it important? Benefits for who? It is important because the information (persons counted) will determine how much money the State of Florida will receive for services. In turn the state uses these numbers to determine which communities will be served by clinics, roads, schools, parks, etc.

Each one of us needs to participate if we care about our futures, our children's futures, and the futures of our communities. Encourage our parents, your family, friends and neighbors to fill out the forms or participate in a Census interview. What would you like to see in your community in the next ten years? Your action or inaction will determine the future.

If you have questions, please contact your area coordinators.

## **¿Usted Cuenta?**

### **Responda al Censo Hoy!**

**H**a llegado el tiempo de ser contados. Esta oportunidad sucede solamente una vez cada diez años. Esto es un evento muy importante para todo los Estados Unidos. Se cuentan todos las persona que viven en los Estados Unidos. No importa si es un ciudadano o no, o si esta aqui legalmente. El gobierno no esta interesado en ese aspecto (por lo menos no para el Censo). El censo no requiere numeros de seguro social o de identificacion. Entre mas grande sea los numeros, mas grande seran los beneficios.

¿Por que es importante? ¿A quien beneficia? Es importante porque esta informacion (personas contadas) determina cuanto dinero el estado de la Florida recibe del gobierno federal. Este dinero es para proveer servicios. Por lo tanto, el Estado utiliza la informacion del censo para identificar comunidades que necesitan clinicas, parques, calles, escuelas, etc.

Cada uno de nosotros necesita participar para su futuro, el de sus niños y para su comunidad. Motive a los padres, su familia, amistades y vecinos a llenar las formas o a participar en una entrevista de censo. ¿Que es lo que gustaria ver su comunidad en los proximos diez años? Su accion o falta de accion determina ese futuro.

Si tienen pregruntas, comuniquense con su coordinadora del area.

*Olga Hernandez, Directora Deputiva*



#### FLASH THE MONKEY BRINGS SMILES:

Children from the Smith Brown Center, Nocatee Center and other child care programs in Arcadia came together to see a performance by Flash the Monkey. Following the show Flash rubbed elbows with his adoring fans and teacher Maria Telemon-tes. If you would like information on how to contact Flash call Gloria Kendrick, area coordinator.

#### KIDS *continued from page 1*

Take us to fun places.

RCMA is in the development business. We help children, parents and staff develop. If we are serious about our business -- then maybe we should take time each day to sit down and listen to a child. We may learn some important things.

Thanks Mindy, Gonzalo, Reyna and Joel for helping us become better adults.

**"Listening: A skill known by many but practiced by few!"**



**Our thoughts and prayers go out to Nancy McDonald and her family in wishing her a full recovery.**

**We miss you Nancy!**

## Are you banking on your retirement?



**By Irene Brammertz  
RIF Coordinator**

Some of you have received a so-called "oops" letter from our benefits department, informing you how much \$\$\$ you missed receiving in 1999 because you never signed up for RCMA's retirement plan.

I have been going around explaining how the plan, called 403B, works. Sometimes I am met with surprise when people tell me "no, I just take the RCMA retirement" and I have to tell them **"this IS the RCMA retirement"**.

Somehow some staff have gotten the idea that there is a pension available to them besides the 403B. **There isn't!** It is therefore extremely important that you provide for your own retirement by signing up for the plan.

The employer matches your contributions dollar for dollar (up to the percentage stated for your length of service). This is an immediate 100% gain! You double your money right at the start. "Free Money"!

Your contribution, the RCMA match, and the dividends and interest you earn remain tax-deferred until you start making withdrawals at retirement. You benefit from compounding: earning interest on top of the interest year after year.

Compare this to a snowball (those of you who have lived in regions where there is snow know what I am talking about). Think of two snowballs rolling downhill: a bigger ball picks up more snow and grows at a faster rate than a smaller snowball. The longer the distance (time) the bigger the snowball will become.

There are some tax-traps that you need to be aware of:

- ♦ **Do not cash out when changing jobs.** Should you leave RCMA you may be able to transfer your savings to another employers 403B plan, you may leave the money with Mutual of America or transfer (roll) it into an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Ask for help.
- ♦ **Taking early withdrawals.** Remember no matter how bad you need the money, stay away from your 403B account. It is for your retirement and the \$\$\$ penalties are high for withdrawing money before your retirement.

If you have questions, please call Dana or Irene to schedule a presentation at your center. Dana can be reached at 1-800-282-6540, Irene at 813-671-5270.

# RCMA Recognizes Staff, Centers and Board Members

## Child Development Associate Awards

Lucia Pimienta	Zellwood	Elizabeth Corral	Rollason CDC Infant
Lucila Vargas	Zellwood	Guillermina Vicente	South Dade Infant
Aurora Maldonado	Glades Early Childhood	Guadalupe Perez	Centro Villas
San Juana Reyes	Krome CDC	Vanessa Rivas	Everglades #2
Migdalia Medina	Krome	Nery Belette	Everglades #1
Mercedes Pacheco	Krome	Consuelo Gonzalez	Everglades #1
Kina Rene Garcia	Farmworker Child	Hiliaria Cuevas	Fred Dennis
Martha Gail Rudgless	New Hope		

## 25 Years of Service Award

Marta Renteria Everglades 1

## 20 Years of Service Awards

Mary A. Garcia	Ruskin
Maria E. Martinez	South Dade
Diane Judge	South Highlands
Esther R. Garcia	Rollason CDC Infant
Juanita Garcia	Rollason CDC Infant
Teresa Jimenez	Homestead Area
Salma Haidermota	Ruskin
Juana Gaytan	Gadsden

## 15 Years of Service Awards

Bernice Ridley	Smith Brown
Martha Figueredo	South Dade
Angelina Vasquez	Wimauma
Martha Montes	Everglades II
Guadalupe Cervantes	Farmworker Village C
Shannon Tracy Faust	Indian River Area Office
Angelica Lupercio	Dade City
Gregoria Saenz	Dade City
Angelica R. Herrera	Dade City Area

## Board of Directors Service Awards

George Sorn  
Chappy Pro  
Dorothy Cissel

## Executive Director's Support Staff Award

Leslie Moguil Rollason Center

Editor: Leslie Moguil  
Staff Writer: Tom Moonan  
Please send suggestions, comments, and Letters to the Editor to the following address:  
RCMA HOY Editor,  
Redlands Christian Migrant Association  
402 West Main Street, Immokalee, FL 34142  
PHONE: 1-800-282-6540 FAX: 1-941-658-3571

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THANK YOU TO ALL RCMA STAFF FOR THE HEART EACH OF YOU PUT INTO YOUR WORK!