



RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make
A World of
Difference

Helping Our Youth



August 2000

Issue 88

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

Volunteers make a difference

By Tom Moonan
Staff Writer

There's something mysterious about the actions of those who have learned to serve. After all, why would anyone want to paint, and dig and clean and plant when the sun is so hot and the beach is so near?

Mysterious people came to the Ruskin and Wimauma areas. They came asking for opportunities to serve. And as any center coordinator knows, there are always things to be done. Rooms and walls needed painting; mulch required a renewal and trees wanted to be planted. And so like fresh winds from the north, these volunteers set about their tasks of renewing and restoring.

The groups came from Oklahoma, Ohio and Jacksonville, Florida. They were taking part in an international youth convention. Part of the convention included the opportunity to serve -- and that's why this group of 82 youth volunteers came to Ruskin and Wimauma -- to serve.

The sun was not friendly to the volunteers. For three days it melted into the Florida sky and caused a sticky blanket of heat to surround and cover the workers. Yet, the holes were still dug, trees were planted and playgrounds were raked.

The volunteers also painted the walls of the classrooms and reorganized the storage sheds.



SUMMER OF SERVICE:
A dedicated group of young people spent time renewing and restoring RCMA centers in the Ruskin area. Caught here proudly displaying tools of the service trade, paint & smiles.

At day's end the volunteers were fed by RCMA staff and then slept on the floors of the centers.

When asked by youth leader Shawn Morgan what the volunteers expected to get out of the experience they responded:

- “To be able to serve, to help”
- “To have a better Faith”
- “To strengthen friendships”

A special thanks to Erin Barker, Brandi Buckner and Kyle Mikson for sharing their insights and wisdom. And for helping the police: In the midst of a crime, members of this intrepid group aided law enforcement by writing down the license plate of a fleeing thief.

*I don't know what your destiny will be,
but one thing I know,
the only ones among you who will be really happy are
those who have sought and found how to serve.*

-Albert Schweitzer

FROM
THE
DESK
OF
OLGA



"Now is the time to begin to educate yourself. Listen to debates, read newspapers, listen to radio and TV news coverage, participate in events in your area that feature candidates running for office."

DEL ESCRITORIO DE OLGA

"Ahora es el tiempo para educarse. Escuche los debates, lea los periodicos, escuche los reportajes por radio y television, participe en eventos en su area que representan a los candidatos."

Are you an informed voter?

Well that time is here once again. It is another election year and we will be listening to men who want to become our president make many promises. Some they can keep, some they can't. As voters it is our responsibility to learn as much as we can about the candidates. Find out what their records are and what they have done in their political careers. It should not be too hard to find out about Al Gore, our current Vice-President and George W. Bush, the Texas Governor. It is important to remember that promises made will not always be kept.

Now is the time to begin to educate yourself. Listen to debates, read newspapers, listen to radio and TV news coverage, participate in events in your area that feature candidates running for office. Contact your local League of Women Voters. They usually have written information on candidates' positions and past voting records. Get as much information as you can about the candidates. Decide what issues are most important to you and cast your vote for the candidate who supports them.

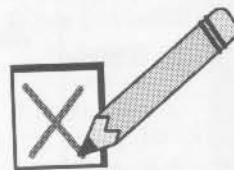
Remember you can't judge a book by its cover. He/she may look good and speak well, but it doesn't mean that he/she will be interested in issues that effect you, your family, community and the nation. Look closely at what George W. Bush has done in Texas on issues that are important to you and look for the same type of information on Al Gore's record as Vice President and Senator. Be informed and then vote in November. Your vote does count.

¿Eres un votante informado?

Ha llegado ese tiempo de nuevo. Es otro año de elecciones y estaremos escuchando los hombres que desean ser presidentes hacer varias promesas. Algunas cumplan y las otras no podran. Como votantes es nuestra responsabilidad aprender lo mas que se pueda sobre los candidatos y lo que han hecho en sus carreras politicas. No es dificil encontrar informacion sobre Al Gore, el presente, vice-presidente y George W. Bush, el gobernador de Texas. Es importante recordar que las promesas no siempre se cumplen.

Ahora es el tiempo para educarse. Escuche los debates, lea los periodicos, escuche los reportajes por radio y television, participe en eventos en su area que representan a los candidatos. Pongase en contacto con la Liga de Mujeres Votantes. Usualmente ellas tienen informacion sobre las posiciones politicas de los candidatos y los archivos post electorales. Decida cuales temas son mas importantes para usted y vote por el candidato que los apoya.

Recuerde un libro no se juzga por su portada. Los candidatos tendran una buena facha y de buen habla pero no quiere decir que ellos se interesan por su bien estar. Revise lo que ha hecho el gobernador George W. Bush en el estado de Texas tocante a los temas de interes para usted y comparelo con lo que ha hecho Al Gore como vice-presidente y senador de los estados unidos. Esté informado y deposite su voto en noviembre. Su voto si cuenta.



Relationship with dad makes big difference

By Phil Anderson
Parent News Editor

Did you know that today, 30 percent of Florida's children are growing up without a responsible father in their lives? Research shows that children who do not have a father in their lives are more likely to drop out of school, commit a criminal act, conceive or father a child as a teen, abuse drugs and alcohol, be depressed and grow up in poverty. This summer the Office of the Governor invited over 300 advocates from all areas in Florida to come together and hammer out real solutions to the challenges that fathers face. A group of RCMA Family Support Specialists participated in this intensive 2-day conference held in Orlando.

Dr. Ken Canfield, a keynote speaker and the president of the National Center for Fathering, told the crowd he strongly believes that one of the main keys to meeting the challenge is to teach simple principles of healthy family life to children early on. Respect, courtesy, restraint, and letting out frustration in ways that are not violent are some of these principles, he said. To contact the National Center for Fathering, call 1-800-593-DADS, or visit their website at www.fathers.com.

The DADS Family Project enlightened the group with a dynamic, interactive session. The unique design of their program can be tailored to a variety of settings, the program help dads understand how their past relationship with their own father impacts their role as a dad. It teaches dads to develop their own effective model of fatherhood and to realize how important play is in nurturing their children. They offer two-hour seminars and twenty hour in-depth training workshops. To contact them, call (850) 681-3639.

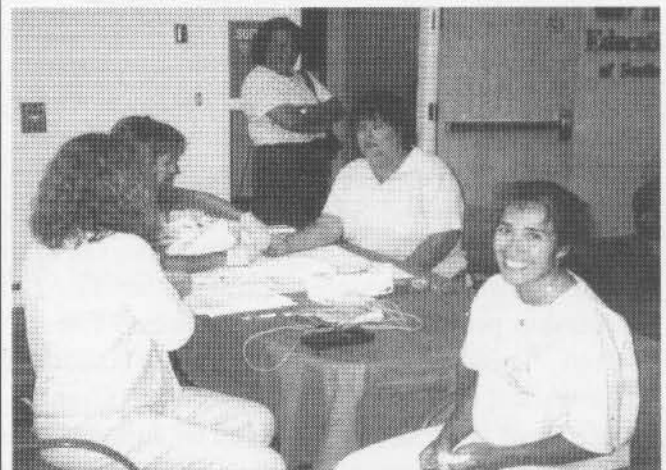
There is no time like the present to start planning center activities that focus on getting DADS involved in their children's lives. Perhaps you are already doing something successful in getting fathers involved. Don't keep it a secret! Call Phil Anderson at 863-773-4470 or submit an article or photos to Attn; Phil Anderson, RCMA Hardee County Area Office, 105 S. 8th Avenue, Wauchula, FL 33873.



SEE THE DIFFERENCE DADS MAKE IN THE EYES OF THEIR OWN CHILDREN:

Conference planners were so tuned in to their message that they offered child care for dads during the conference. William Harmon, center coordinator & Phil Anderson, family support specialist took them up on the offer. (front - left to right)

Charles Jackson, teacher, Darell Nicklow, outreach worker, Juan Cisneros, family support specialist all hoped to gain information to strengthen the involvement of fathers in their programs. (back - left to right)



Are you neglecting your own health?

These RCMA Staff participated in a wellness day at their local hospital. The program was organized by Vicki Willard, Senior Health Specialist. Staff had various tests to measure cholesterol, blood sugar, body fat analysis, etc. They also participated in seminars on eating healthy, exercise and techniques for stress reduction. If you would like more information on how to organize a Wellness Day in your area contact your Regional Health Specialist.

Palm Beach staff celebrate accomplishments

By Kathy Vergara
Early Childhood Specialist

Summer ended with a bang for New Hope and Belle Glade staff. A seafood buffet dinner was held as a backdrop for a celebration of accomplishments, both professional and personal. Judy Burleson, Program Coordinator, was part of the awards ceremony, and she was joined by staff, parents, friends and family members.

Cindy McClendon, center coordinator and Kathy Vergara, early childhood specialist of the New Hope CDC opened the event by congratulating all the staff who had achieved career milestones this year.

These are just a few of the highlights: Yolanda Nuñez and Guadalupe Ruiz not only became United States Citizens, but went on to receive their GED's. Erica Rolle went from receiving her GED to obtaining her Florida CDA Equivalency. Irene Villareal also obtained her CDA Equivalency. Plaques were presented to Diana Jenkins and Martha Gail Rudgles for obtaining their National CDA.

Staying on track Edna Andrews, Faith Green, Carla Pettigrew, and Sheila Walters successfully renewed their National CDA credentials. On their way to a two year degree through the TEACH scholarship program are Faith Green and Carolyn Warren. Faith was also recognized for Academic Achievement as a student of Palm Beach Community College (PBCC). Cindy McClendon was recognized for participating in the PBCC Director's Credential program and for serving as a mentor to four other centers.

Parents were recognized with Certificates of

Appreciation for their involvement in the program. Staff also had an opportunity to vote on some fun awards such as "Best Dressed", "Best Hairstyle", "Most Flexible", "Best Role Model", and "Most Professional".



The final presentation of the evening was awaited with great anticipation. "The Employee of the Year 2000" was awarded to Lula Murvin, toddler teacher. Ms. Murvin was overwhelmed by the honor bestowed on her. Everyone felt it was a well earned recognition!

Congratulations New Area & Program Coordinators

RCMA's Ruskin area is growing and in response to that growth the area has been split into two regions. Salma Haidermota, program coordinator welcomes her new area coordinator, Macrina Vega. Macrina was once an RCMA child and began working with RCMA in the Florida City area in 1993. Her expertise comes from her most recent positions including center coordinator, at Andrew CDC and early childhood specialist at the Palmetto MHS.

Myrta Rivera, area coordinator welcomes her new partner, program coordinator, Jorge Velasquez. Jorge brings his expertise of eleven years as early childhood specialist at Ruskin Migrant Head Start.

Moving ahead in the Homestead area is Martita Huertas. Marbelia Zamarripa, area coordinator believes Martita's seven years of expertise as an early childhood specialist will lead her to success as a program coordinator.

Martha Wright, program coordinator also ushers in a new partner, area coordinator Linda Hagan. Linda started with RCMA as a teacher trainee. She left RCMA in order to pursue a degree, and returned as Palatka Head Start's early childhood specialist. RCMA congratulates all of these new and talented individuals for their accomplishments.

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Have you shook hands with your child's new teacher yet?

Now is the time!