



RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make
A World of
Difference

Helping Our Youth



September

Issue 89

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

Friends remember Teresa Tremelling— honoring in death what she meant to them in life

*“He who has done his best for his own
time has lived for all times.”*

- Johann von Schiller

Teresa Tremelling, a committed RCMA statewide support staff in Immokalee for 17 years, died on August 20, 2000 at the age of 40. The HOY is dedicating the entire September issue to her life. A life that has touched all who have crossed Teresa’s path.

Teresa’s specialness can best be described through the loving, heartfelt and life filled words of friends and co-workers. The following are just a few of many thoughts and inspirations that were shared.

“Although I have only been on RCMA’s Board of Directors for four years, I first came to know Teresa through my father William H. Krome, when she began working with RCMA 18 years ago. Her energy and dedication to our organization set a standard which the rest of us strive to live up to and her smile, warmth and good cheer were a part of each meeting that we all looked forward to. I feel fortunate to have been able to share Teresa’s charm and spirit. She was a treasure to us all.”

— Medora K. Alleman, RCMA Board member

“Whenever I needed something, Teresa was always ready and willing. She had a lot of knowledge and information at her fingertips. I have always admired her willingness to help you when you needed it.” — Gloria Padilla, Immokalee area coordinator

“I remember when Teresa’s son Andrew was at Immokalee Child Development Center one summer. She was so happy he was there. Andrew became at-



A PROUD MOMENT WITH GOVERNOR CHILES:

Teresa displayed this picture proudly and prominently, along with a photo taken with Mr. Rollason. Also among them were photos of her husband Steve and children, Andrew, Aaron, and Craig.

They were special people and special moments to her.

tached to me and that made Teresa very happy. From the beginning we just clicked, we could communicate. Teresa always filled the room with smiles and laughter. There will never be another Teresa, she was truly unique!”

—Irma Chappa, center coordinator

“I was going through some pictures and much to my surprise I have so many pictures of Teresa. We really did a lot together. What struck me most was how happy Teresa was in all the pictures. She truly lived life to its fullest. When your close, close friend dies it’s too unbelievable. I think of her every single day and I miss her.” —Judy Brill

“I remember talking with Teresa about going to college. She was really excited about the possibility of getting certified for MS Office 97. We would share how each of us did on exams. I really liked her, she was a nice person.

—Nidia Concepcion, payroll specialist

“Teresa had no idea of her value, because she just did it, whatever it took whatever it required, she gave every inch of her being. I thought this too amazing to go unrecognized – and on several occasions I shared with her that there was no one that I would rather have teamed up with to take on an immense project like the Annual Conference. We worked hard and had fun along the way.” Leslie Moguil

FROM
THE
DESK
OF
BARBARA



"All of us at RCMA who knew Teresa miss her. Not only for what she did for us, but for her passion and energy. She was unique. Staff suggested we dedicate the new RCMA Ruskin Computer Training Center as a tribute to her memory. It will be done."

DEL ESCRITORIO DE
BARBARA

"Todos nosotros en RCMA que conocimos a Teresa le hechamos de menos. No solamente por lo que hizo por nosotros si no por su pasion y su energia. Ella era unica. Los empleados sugirieron que se le dedicara el nuevo Centro de Entrenamiento de Computadoras en Ruskin como tributo a su memoria. Se hara."

Remembering Teresa

All of us are still in shock about losing Teresa Tremelling so suddenly. It was too soon for her, for her family and for RCMA. Teresa came to us in 1983 and began as Mr. Rollason's secretary. She was used to working in a better office in her state job in Wisconsin and certainly, to newer technology!! With the "man" as she called him, Teresa learned about how to create a beautiful product, even if it meant coloring maps by hand or folding newspapers just so, to please him. All this done on a typewriter that was much less than state of the art.

They were a funny team, he reserved and patient and her very outgoing and known to be impatient. But, Teresa grew to love Mr. Rollason, and by extension, RCMA. He referred to her as a diamond in the rough. She was just a kid and he saw all her potential from the start.

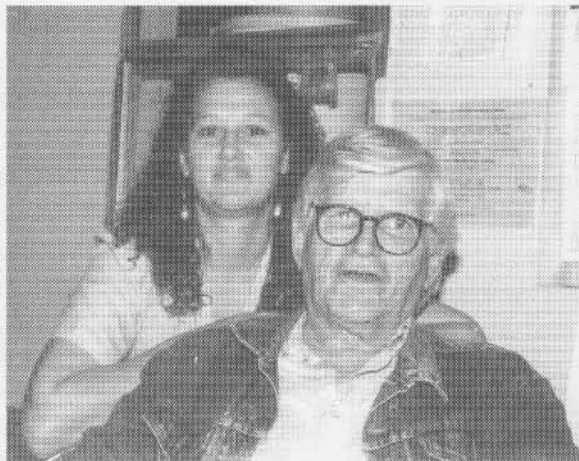
Teresa took us into the computer age, and we frequently marveled at how much easier she made producing our proposals and reports, which were her babies. Speaking of babies, we at RCMA were there with all three of them. Her first, Andrew even spent some time at the RCMA Immokalee Child Development Center.

Recordando a Teresa

Todos estamos conmovidos sobre la perdida tan repentina de Teresa Tremelling. Fue tan inesperado para ella, su familia, y para RCMA. Teresa vino a nosotros en el 1983 y trabajo como la secretaria de Mr. Rollason. Ella estaba acostumbrada a trabajar en una oficina mejor con el estado de Wisconsin por supuesto con tecnologia moderna! Con el "hombre" como le nombraba, Teresa aprendio como crear un proyecto, aunque tenia que colorear los mapas a mano y doblar los periodicos de cierta manera para darle gusto a el. Todo esto lo hacia en una maquina de escribir no muy moderna.

Eran un equipo muy particular, el reservado y paciente y ella muy sociable y a veces impaciente. Pero Teresa aprendio amar a Mr. Rollason y a la vez a RCMA. El se referia a ella como un diamante aspero. Ella era apenas una muchacha y el vio todo el potencial en ella desde el comienzo.

Teresa nos llevo a la era de la computadora y con frecuencia nos asombrabamos con la facilidad que se podian producir los presupuestos y los reportes, los cuales eran sus bebés. Y hablando de bebés, nosotros en RCMA estuvimos con los tres. Su primero, Andrew paso un tiempo en el centro Immokalee Child Development de RCMA. Aaron y Craig nos visitaban con frecuencia los sabados



Aaron and Craig were frequent Saturday visitors when deadlines for projects meant coming in to get it done.

You could always count on Teresa to meet deadlines, and there seemed to be a certain thrill at cutting it close to the deadline!! Later, as she moved into organizing anything and everything that came her way, Teresa was the one who coordinated meetings, conferences, training, and even at one time the facilities department. She had become an extremely important person to members of the RCMA Board in seeing that their questions were answered and needs met.

Her most recent project was developing and providing computer training for the Service Support Assistants. With her usual supersized ENERGY she jumped in to take on helping all area and center SSA's organize their offices, their time and learn how to get their computers to help them zip out professional looking documents, including newsletters. All the excitement of teaching led Teresa to begin college again. She was now ready to think of her own formal professional development.

I said at Teresa's Memorial Service, that as a mom, Teresa was a lioness when it came to what she thought was best for her kids. She took on school systems and made sure that Andrew got the scholarship he earned so he could start college this year. All of us at RCMA who knew Teresa miss her. Not only for what she did for us, but for her passion and energy. She was unique. Staff suggested we dedicate the new RCMA Ruskin Computer Training Center as a tribute to her memory. It will be done. And as long as we each continue to improve our computer skills, organizational skills and work with high energy and commitment, we are forever remembering Teresa Tremelling.

cuando habia proyectos para terminar con fechas de plazo.

Siempre se podia contar con Teresa para alcanzar las fechas y parecia tener un gusto en estar tan cerca de el plazo!! Despues dio paso a organizar todo y cuanto se le presentaba. Teresa era la que coordinaba las reuniones, conferencias, entrenamientos, y hasta en un tiempo el departamento de facilidades. Se hizo una person extremadamente importante para los miembros de la mesa directiva de RCMA porque ella les contestaba sus preguntas y les atendia sus necesidades.

Su mas reciente proyecto fue desenvolver y proveer entrenamiento de computadoras para las Service Support Assistants . Con su usual alta energia ella dio el salto para ayudar a las SSA's del las areas y centros en como organizar sus oficinas, su tiempo y aprender usar la computadora para producir documentos profesionales incluyendo boletines. Todo el entusiasmo de enseñar hizo que Teresa diera comienzo a sus estudios universitarios. Ella estaba lista para comenzar su desarrollo profesional.

Yo comente durante los servicios memoriales de Teresa, que como madre, Teresa era una leona cuando se trataba sobre lo que era mejor para sus hijos. Ella se afrento a los sistemas escolares y se aseguro que Andrew recibiera una beca para comenzar la universidad este año. Todos nosotros en RCMA que conocimos a Teresa le hechamos de menos. No solamente por lo que hizo por nosotros si no por su pasion y su energia. Ella era unica. Los empleados sugirieron que se le dedicara el nuevo Centro de Entrenamiento de Computadoras en Ruskin como tributo a su memoria. Se hara. Mientras continuemos mejorando nuestras tecnicas en la computadora, habilidades para organizar y trabajemos con una alta energia y devocion estaremos por siempre recordando a Teresa Tremelling.



Choosing to help others live on



“Although no sculptured marble should rise to their memory, nor engraved stone bear the record of their deeds, yet will their remembrance be as lasting...

— Daniel Webster

When I think of Teresa these are the words that come to mind, courage, conviction, commitment, strength, exuberance, emotion, empathy, energy, enthusiasm and independent spirituality. In her life she made a decision that was very important to her. In fact on one occasion we had a conversation about this decision. It was something we discovered that we had in common.

In the event of her death, Teresa wanted to be an organ donor. She shared her wish with her family, and it was proudly displayed on her license. Her son Aaron brought it to his dad's attention. I admire Teresa most for her constant display of unselfishness - in giving of herself to others, and to an idea, both in her life and in her death. The following Ann Landers column was read at Teresa's Memorial Service:

“To Remember Me”
by Robert N. Test

The day will come when my body will lie upon a white sheet neatly tucked under four corners of a mattress located in a hospital busily occupied with the living and dying. At a certain moment, a doctor will determine that my brain has ceased to function and that, for all intents and purposes, my life has stopped.

When that happens, do not attempt to instill artificial life into my body by the use of a machine. And don't call this my deathbed. Let it be called the Bed of Life, and let my body be taken from it to help others lead fuller lives.

Give my sight to the man who has never seen a

sunrise, a baby's face or love in the eyes of a woman. Give my heart to a person who's own heart has caused nothing but endless pain.

Give my blood to the teenager who was pulled from the wreckage of a car, so that he might live to see his grandchildren play. Give my kidneys to one who depends on a machine to exist. Take my bones, every muscle, every fiber and nerve in my body and find a way to make a crippled child walk.

Explore every corner of my brain. Take my cells, if necessary, and let them grow so that someday, a speechless boy will shout at the crack of a bat and a deaf girl will hear the sound of rain against her window.

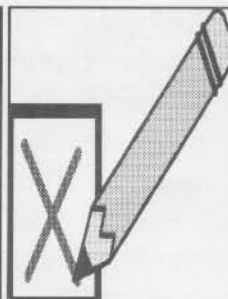
Burn what is left of me and scatter the ashes to the winds to help the flowers grow. If you must bury something, let it be my faults, my weaknesses and all prejudice against my fellow man.

If by chance, you wish to remember me; do it with a kind deed or word to someone who needs you. If you do all that I asked, I will live forever.

Teresa's heart went to a 54 year old man in Gainesville. He is doing well. Teresa's liver went to a 42 year old man in the Tampa area. He is a retired missionary and has been married for four years with three children. He is doing well. Teresa's left kidney went to a 47 year old man in Southwest Florida who has four children. He has been on dialysis since December of '98 and is doing well. Teresa's right kidney went to a 28 year old woman from North Florida. She is a single mom living with her sister and three children ages 9, 8, and 2. She has been on dialysis since 1994 and is doing well. Teresa will live on in all of our memories, and through the ways she has chosen to touch each and every one of us.

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