



# RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make  
A World of  
Difference

## Helping Our Youth



October 2000

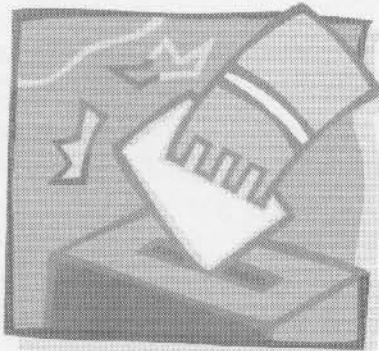
Issue 88

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

## Voter turnout will decide close Presidential race

By Leslie Moguil  
Editor

If you are keeping up with the news on the two front runners for the President, George W. Bush and Al Gore, the race is a dead heat according to many polls! In a close race it always matters how many people actually go out to cast their vote on Tuesday, November 6, 2000.



In the last presidential election the voting public set an all time low for voting numbers. Only 49%, less than half of all registered voters showed up at the polls to vote. Statistics also point to less and less young people voting or even being aware of who their local politicians are.

One of the cornerstones of RCMA's mission is advocacy. We encourage staff to advocate and try to build parents into advocates for their own children. Guess what? Voting is advocacy! It means learning about a candidates po-

sition and making a choice.

On any given day one can hear a complaint about something that is not right with government, or social services, or housing or education, or healthcare, or equal rights. I read in a recent editorial, "you have no right to complain if you have the right to vote and do not use it!" I couldn't agree more.

A recent story published in US News and World report, September 25, 2000, entitled "*A Statement in Selma - In City Hall, finally the mayor is a black man*" illustrates the power of the community of Selma's voters. Thirty five years after Congress passed the Voting Rights Act (gave African Americans the right to vote), the city that for many came to symbolize the struggle for racial justice finally elected a black mayor.

That's right, Selma, Alabama finally put an African American in City Hall, and his name is James Perkins. He was just twelve on that infamous "Bloody Sunday", when state troopers attacked 600 peaceful civil rights marchers. His parents knew there would be trouble, so they forced the youngster to stay home.

Now 47, Perkins defeated Joe Smitherman, 70, a former segregationist who had been Selma's mayor since 1964. That makes Perkin's the first African American mayor in Selma's history. It took him three tries but he finally won. Perkins says "he will be a mayor for all of Selma, not just black Selma."

### Cast Your Vote



This true story illustrates the power of the vote. The ending was written by those who showed up on election day and made their voices heard! I challenge all of you to do the same!

FROM  
THE  
DESK  
OF  
OLGA



"The moment is ripe, opportunity is knocking on your door. You can begin your formal education or continue it. I say charge and go for it!"

## DEL ESCRITORIO DE OLGA

"Estamos en unos momentos llenos de oportunidades para seguir o quizás de empezar nuestra educación formal. Adelante!"

### I'm too old to study!

**W**e are always learning new things. Most of the time we are not aware that we are learning because we do it naturally and as part of our daily life. As women we learn how to manage a budget, how to doctor small cuts and bruises (and we didn't have to go to medical school), how to operate a washing machine, the air conditioner, and many other small appliances. Yet, we are not horrified because we do it naturally and we have no other choice but to learn. The scariest part of all this is that when we have children and raise them we don't even think about it. We just do what is required.

Then why are we scared to study or go to school when we have a few gray hairs? The moment is ripe, opportunity is knocking on your door. You can begin your formal education or continue it. I say charge and go for it! We should never let opportunities go by especially when financial help (someone else pays for it) is available. Learning is wonderful! Look for a partner so that you can help and support each other. This will make it easier for you. And about those gray hairs, go and buy a bottle of hair color and the gray hair will be gone-like magic.

Remember that gray hair usually means that you are more disciplined in your life and that you are ready to start school. Set the example for your children. It is never too late to get an education. Go forward and good luck. If you need help getting started, talk to your center coordinator or feel free to call me at the Immokalee office.

### Estoy muy vieja para estudiar!

**E** como seres humanos siempre estamos aprendiendo cosas nuevas. A veces no nos damos cuenta de que estamos aprendiendo porque lo hacemos con naturaleza porque es parte de nuestra vida cotidiana. Como mujeres aprendemos a manejar dinero, a curar heridas pequeñas (y no tuvimos que estudiar medicinas), a como operar una maquina de lavar, el aire acondicionado y muchos otros aparatos. Y no nos espantamos porque lo vemos como algo natural y algo que tenemos aprender. Y lo mas espantoso y dificil lo hacemos sin pensar—el tener hijos y crearlos.

Entonces porque nos da miedo estudiar o de ir a la escuela porque ya tenemos unas pocas de canas? Estamos en unos momentos llenos de oportunidades para seguir o quizás de empezar nuestra educación formal. Adelante! Ay que darle con ganas porque las oportunidades nunca se deben de despreciar, especialmente cuando hay ayuda financiera (alguien mas paga). El aprender es algo maravilloso. Busque una compañera (o) para que se den animo y apoyo. Esto lo hara mas facil. Y esas pocas canas que tiene, nada mas compre una botella de color y las canas se desaparecen-como la magia.

Y tambien es una señal que hay mas disciplina en su vida y que esta lista para estudiar. Pongale la muestra a sus hijos. El mensaje es que nunca es muy tarde para aprender, no importa a que nivel usted tenga que empezar. SUERTE y hechele ganas. Si necesita ayuda para empezar hable con su directora del centro o deme una llamada en Immokalee.

# HOY welcomes new Parent News Editor



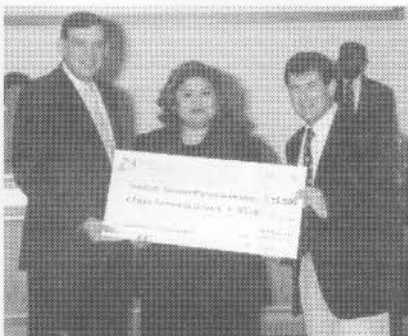
The HOY welcomes Phil Anderson, family support specialist in the Hardee County area as the new RCMA HOY Parent News Editor. Phil has been working with RCMA for two years. He is now at the RCMA Zolfo Springs School Age Program, providing support services to families there.

Phil is a former Peace Corps member from the Dominican Republic. He has also done missionary work in Haiti, where he was a woodworking instructor. Phil met his wife in Haiti. They have two beautiful children Sabrina, ten and

Aurelio, four. Phil has helped RCMA partner with the Farmworker Family Services Council of Hardee County to produce a series of Radio Novelas in Spanish and Creole for community parent education. Phil also teaches English classes at the local Community College.

We are very excited about Phil joining the HOY team. Phil is actively seeking family success stories to share with HOY readers. If you have a family success story that you would like to share please contact Phil at (863) 735-0550, or fax to (863) 735-0924 or if you are really high tech Email him at [phileanderson@hotmail.com](mailto:phileanderson@hotmail.com)

## Orange County Commission awards \$15,000 to RCMA



### MONEY TO HELP SERVE ZELLWOOD CHILDREN & FAMILIES:

Velia Muruaga, center coordinator, Zellwood CDC smiles as she accepts a generous donation from the Orange County Commission.

## RCMA remembers Mr. William H. Krome



Longtime friend and Board member William H. Krome passed away on October 8, 2000 at the age of 86. Barbara Mainster had this to say at Mr. Krome's Memorial Service, "We will gratefully never know what we would have done without his faith in RCMA. And then his comments about what a difference he saw in the kids before RCMA and after. He said in the 60's when he went into the grove and the kids saw him, they would run and hide in fear.

But after RCMA, when he went into one of the child care centers, why, he couldn't even walk, because they all expected to be picked up and hugged. His pride in that difference made me cry."

## Professional Development Corner

Media stars Gloria Kendrick and Gloria Paddilla, area coordinators, appeared as guests on the "Lee Pitts Live" to answer the hosts questions under fire. The segment was fifteen minutes long and they did it on the spot, studio lighting and all, no retakes or edits. The interviews provided a big boost for local viewers on RCMA and the communities we serve.

Congratulations on a job well done!

Elida Gomez, also took to the airways via Public Radio where she was interviewed about RCMA and the lives of migrant farmworkers. A co-worker gave me this tip and said, Elida's Public Radio interview was a breath of fresh air on her recent commute. Way to go!

Maria G. Cruz, outreach worker and Lorena Quinoñes, center coordinator of Everglades II used their summers wisely. After much work they received their High School Diplomas. Congratulations to you both!

Two RCMA students at South Florida Community College were recognized for academic achievement. Deborah Maldonado and Hilaria Cuevas from Dennis received a grade point average of 3.8 - 4.0. Keep shooting for the stars!

# Parent News

## “Small steps, but Always Moving Ahead”

The daughters of Cruz Rodriguez, Ruvi and Gladys, see their mother live out this motto before their eyes every day.

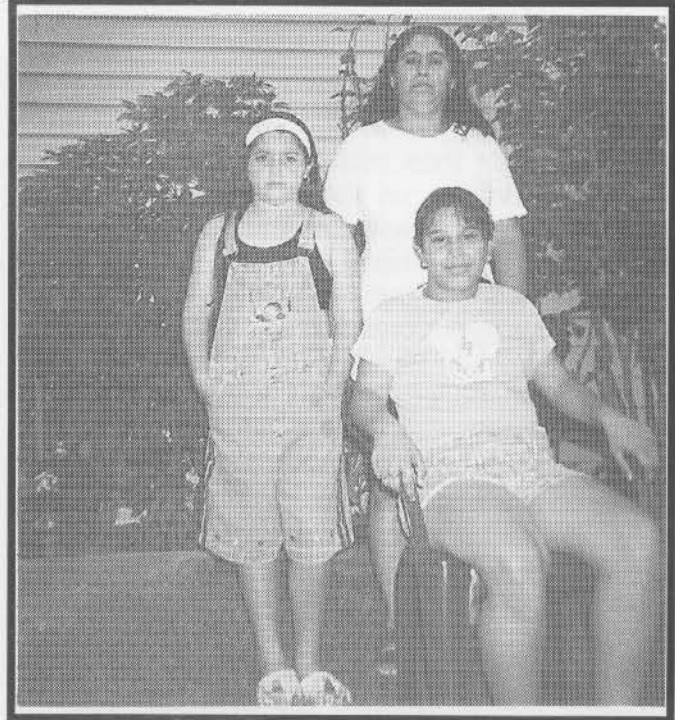
The most recent step that Cruz took has been to buy a home for herself and her daughters. It has been a big step for a single mother with two daughters!

Let's follow the steps that Cruz has taken over her long journey . . . . “At the age of 20,” she says, “I lived happily with my family in Zacatecas, Mexico.” One day, Cruz says she was joking when she answered “yes” to her husband's invitation to join him on his yearly trek to the United States. It turned out to be a very bad joke.

After passing the border, they walked for sixty miles. Their food and water ran out. They rode on a freight train to Forth Worth, Texas. They found some friends from Zacatecas. After three months there with no work, they headed for North Carolina with four friends from Zacatecas. After one week of work, all of them together got only \$110 in pay. Some other friends from Zacatecas invited them to Lake Placid, Florida.

Ruvi and Gladys were born. RCMA opened their arms to receive the girls and their mother. Her husband, who had been beating her almost since the beginning of their marriage, took another woman. Cruz told him that she was not going to allow her daughters to live under the influence of that bad example.

Cruz rented a house. The renter treated her badly. One night, she came home from work to find he had rented the other bedroom to six men. They had been drinking beer, and had eaten up all her food. She came to Zolfo Springs to live with a friend from Zacatecas in a small room. She soon rented her own place. Since she didn't have a car, a crew leader gave her rides to work. RCMA in Wauchula taught Ruvi and Gladys.



Her daughters grew up and began school. The RCMA in Zolfo Springs taught them in their After School Program. One day, a friend who had bought a home told Cruz she could buy one too.

“I always dreamed of getting ahead with my daughters, but fear and the lack of information kept me back,” says Cruz. She looked for many months and in many places, until she found an opportunity. She grabbed it, and now she says, “The most important thing is that now I am settled in a place.” Cruz and her daughters are so happy, enjoying a stable life now, and a secure home. We congratulate them, and we wish them the best as they keep moving ahead!

In Florida, there are many kinds of programs that help people to buy a home. Your county and city Community Development Offices and local banks will have information. Call TODAY!

# Noticias de Padres

October, 2000 # 25 Noticias de Participación de Padres en RCMA

## "Pequeños Pasos, Pero Siempre Hacia Adelante"

Las hijas de Señora Cruz Rodríguez, Ruvi y Gladys, ven a su Mamá vivir esta lema delante de sus ojos cada día.

El paso mas reciente que Cruz tomó fue el de comprar un hogar para ella y sus hijas. ¡Un paso bastante grande para una madre sólo con dos hijas!

Vamos a seguir los pasos de Cruz, a través de su largo trayectorio . . . "A la edad de 20 años," ella dice, "yo vivía feliz con mi familia y esposo en Zacatecas, México." Un día, de bromas Cruz respondió que sí a la invitación de su esposo para ir con el al Norte. La broma le salió pesada.

Al pasar la frontera, caminaron a pie por sesenta millas. Se les acabó el agua y la comida. Se montaron a un tren de cargas hasta Fort Worth, Texas. Hallaron unos amigos de Zacatecas. Pasaron tres meses sin trabajo. Fueron a Norte Carolina con otros cuatro amigos de Zacatecas. Entre todos, ganaron \$110 dólares por una semana. Otros amigos de Zacatecas les invitaron a Lake Placid, Florida.

Ruvi y Gladys nacieron. RCMA abrió sus brazos a recibir a las hijas y su mamá. Su esposo, quien le había pegado casi desde el principio de su matrimonio, ahora tomó otra mujer. Cruz le dijo que ella no podía permitir a sus hijas vivir bajo la influencia de ese mal ejemplo.

Ella rentó una casa. El rentero la maltrató. Llegó de su trabajo una noche a encontrar que el había rentado el otro dormitorio a seis hombres. Estaban tomando cerveza, y habían acabado toda su comida. Ella vino a Zolfo Springs a vivir con otra amiga de Zacatecas, en un cuarto pequeño. Rentó otra casa. Como no tenía carro, un chivero de Zacatecas la raitiaba al trabajo. RCMA en Wauchula enseñaba a Ruvi y a Gladys.



Las hijas crecieron y entraron a la escuela. RCMA en Zolfo Springs les enseñaba en su programa para niños de edad escolar. Un día, una amiga que había comprado una casa le dijo a Cruz que ella podía comprar una también.

"Yo siempre soñaba con sacar a mis hijas y yo adelante, pero el miedo y la falta de información me impedía," dice Cruz. Ella investigó por muchos meses en muchas partes, hasta que halló una oportunidad. La agarró, y ahora ella dice, "¡Lo mas importante es que ya estoy instalada!" Cruz y sus hijas están disfrutando de una vida mas estable y segura ahora. Las felicitamos, y les deseamos que siga siempre adelante.

En Florida, hay muchas programas de ayudar a las familias comprar casa. La Oficina de Desarrollo de la Comunidad tiene información, y también los bancos privados en su área. Llámelos HOY.