

RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make
A World of
Difference

Helping Our Youth



October 2001

Issue 102

OUR MISSION: "We Open Doors to Opportunities!"

Don't Take My Word for It...

By Juan Cisneros
Family Support Specialist, Lake Placid CDC

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." Charles Dickens put it best when describing London and Paris during the French Revolution in *Tale of Two Cities*. However, this famous phrase, filled with many more metaphors depicting an important period in world history, not only illustrates one of the most popular works of English literature ever written, but also describes the California University of Pennsylvania Basic Social Service Credentialing Program (provided through RCMA Social Work Educational Scholarships) to a tee. But don't just take my word for it...

"They were six long weeks, but very interesting to me. I made new friends that were very helpful." - Teresa Hernandez, Bonita Springs Migrant Head Start

The good times came with the camaraderie and the ambient atmosphere. The bad times came with the reading assignments, homework and (of course) tests. Overall, the class was very beneficial and I learned many things about being a more successful social service provider. But don't just take my word for it...

"Great location and excellent courses."
- Delta Jobson, Walker Head Start

"I have enjoyed this course because it has really helped enhance my knowledge of better providing the services our parents and children need." - Lorena Carrizo-Gutierrez, Dover Migrant Head Start.

The Basic Family Service Assistant Certificate, a bi-level certificate program for family service workers,



LEARNING IS FUN!

requires the successful completion of three courses (worth 9 college credits).

The first course, Foundation of Family Service Skills (SOCW 231), gives an overview of the social work principles, family dynamics and case management. It also includes information on improving communication skills, conflict resolution and the importance of documentation and confidentiality.

The second course, Basic Competence Skills for Social Service Providers (SOCW 232), was more about the problem solving process, forming and maintaining a successful group and group advocacy.

The last course, Competency Based Practice Experience (SOCW 233), is a work experience class where we have exercises to complete that are directly related to our work. We send our reports to our instructors and we are graded based on our ability to solve problems using the case management skills that we learned in the other two

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NOW is the time to take the G.E.D. test!



I recently read an article about the G.E.D. (General Equivalency Diploma) changes that will arrive on January 1, 2002. That is only two months away! The biggest change is that the test will no longer be divided

into individual areas. In the past you could pass a section like math and get credit for it. Later you would only have to take those areas you did not pass on the first try.

Come January, it will be a Pass/Fail type of test. You pass or fail it as a whole, and each time you take it you must take the entire test.

There are still two months before the changes take place. Now is the time to take the test. Don't forget many of you have been practicing on Skillstutor and have learned quite a bit. Don't wait! Just do it! You have nothing to lose! Plus there is something to gain—a \$150 bonus from RCMA when you send in your G.E.D. certificate to the Human Resource Department at the Rollason Center.

Sooooo.....if you don't have a high school diploma or a GED, please, please, please go and take the test NOW! Be strong and believe in yourself. YOU CAN DO IT! I KNOW YOU CAN!

“Let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself”

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

Ahora es el tiempo de tomar el examen de para el G.E.D.!



Esperamos que los empleados que regresan estén entusiasmados al empezar la nueva temporada. Anticipación es buena para el alma. Aumenta todos los sentidos. Espero que cada una (o) de ustedes vean este año como “su año” ya sea por razones

personales o profesionales.

Leí un artículo recientemente que hablaba sobre los cambios que se llevaran a cabo Enero 1, 2002. Eso es solamente dos meses. El cambio más grande será que el examen ya no se separara en diferentes áreas. En el pasado usted podía aprobar una sección como matemáticas y recibir merito. Después solamente tuviera que tomar exámenes en áreas que fue reprobado.

Empezando Enero 1, 2002 el examen será aprobado/reprobado solamente. Se aprobó en total o si se réproba, se tiene que tomar de nuevo en total tiene.

Aun quedan dos meses antes que los cambios se lleven a cabo. No se les olvide que muchos de ustedes han estado practicando en Skillstutor y han aprendido mucho. No esperen. Hágalo! No tiene nada que perder. Además hay algo más que ganas – RCMA te da un prima de \$150 cuando envías tu certificado al departamento de Recursos Humanos en el Rollason Center. Así que por favorcito.....si no tiene su diploma o GED vaya y tome el examen antes de Enero 1. Se fuerte y cree en ti misma (o). LO PUEDES HACER! YO SE QUE SI PUEDES!

“Permíteme reafirmar mi creencia que la única cosa que debemos temer es el temor mismo.”

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

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classes.

Personally, I enjoyed the ecomapping and genograms because it gives me a graphical view of how our families are made up and what type of strong and weak relationships they share. But don't just take my word for it...

"The best thing that I will take back and use is the seven-step problem solving process." -Jennifer Timms, Krome CDC

"Even though I already had a Man 2 Man group established, I learned many things about starting new groups. This course has been very helpful for me." – Darrel Nicklow, Smith Brown CDC

We are currently in the process of completing our third class. Everyone agreed that if the opportunity arises, we would continue our education and pursue the advanced certificate that is also offered California University of Pennsylvania. The professors were excellent and they left us with a feeling of accomplishment and self-pride. For the most part, I believe that these classes not only helped us better our education, but also our confidence and ability to be better employees. But don't just take my word for it...

"These classes gave me validation to the work that I am doing. It made me feel more confident in my job." – Sherry Shupp, Glades Early Childhood Center

"These classes have helped me focus. They allowed me to see how I spend my time – at work, with myself and with my family. It also helped me realize how important our work is (as Family Support Specialists and Outreach Workers) to our families and RCMA."

– Juanita Gilyard, Palatka Area Office

"These classes have helped me with how to be more successful in life and how to communicate more effectively. Above all, these classes have inspired and motivated me to further my education."

– Ribed Cruz, Lake Placid CDC

We recommend these classes to anyone who is interested in the social service field. Not only will you meet great instructors, but you will also meet many great employees of RCMA from around the state that you might not know. We would like to thank RCMA for making this opportunity available to us. Take care everyone and God Bless!

Brown bags carry special message

By Sherry Shupp
Family Support Specialist, Glades ECC

As the first of the teachers at the Glades ECC arrived to the center on Friday, September 7th, they were in for a surprise. The Parents As Teachers (PAT) Program was serving a Brown Bag Breakfast. Not only the staff and parents of our center got this morning treat, the school board, bus drivers, elementary school, lunch room staff and employees of the Glades Public Health Department. In total 116 brown bags were shared.



Starting on Thursday evening the center team began the work to prepare for the next morning's event. Staff wrapped bagels and cream cheese. At 5:30 in the morning staff began to bag the breakfast. Each bag contained a bagel, cream cheese, juice, a piece of fruit and a flyer about PAT. When it came time to hand out the breakfast, our area family support specialist, Ivette Galarza, was there to help out.

The reason that we chose to include so many in our brown bag breakfast activity was to educate some of our community partners about the PAT program. The flyer that was distributed with the food gave a short history of the program, and the educational and social benefits that families who have participated with PAT have received.



This very successful PAT activity could not have been pulled off without the team work of our staff, from printing out stickers to handing out the breakfasts. No one person could have pulled this huge activity off, this is one fine example of team work in action!

Annual Conference ushers in slogan: “We Open Doors to Opportunities!”

Almost 400 RCMA staff came together in Orlando for the opportunity to learn, network and refocus on better serving the children, families and staff who make RCMA the great organization that it is today!

The Conference began with registration for over 51 workshop sessions designed around positions and general areas of interest. The RCMA Hall of Fame Exhibit Booth Area had over 40 exhibits manned by both RCMA staff and Community based volunteers. The exhibits covered information on RCMA programs, community and family services, education, inclusion, literacy, technology and benefits information.



The Opening Session began with a most powerful video put together by Ted Hoffman and Roland Barron, which will be reproduced and shared with centers. Next Barbara Mainster, executive/head start director facilitated a large group session titled, “Why are our kids failing?” and “What can we do to help?” Barbara began by outlining the factors that contribute to failure and the audience was asked to work in small groups to come up with solutions that we can implement here at RCMA. Lots of good ideas were shared. They will be compiled and distributed for use in all areas.

The following days were filled with workshops and special speakers, including some of our very own staff who spoke in front of almost 400 peers about the doors that have opened for them as a result of their involvement with RCMA. The audience heard from Marbelia Zamarripa, Gloria Kendrick, area coordinators, Josue Rincon, Immokalee school-age program director,



MAYA FIESTA introduces the traditional sounds of the Marimba and Guatemalan dance to attendees. Jeronimo Camposeco (center) is the band leader and family support specialist at Farmworker CDC. Veronica DuBois and her sister adorned traditional costume and recreated a popular Guatemalan dance.

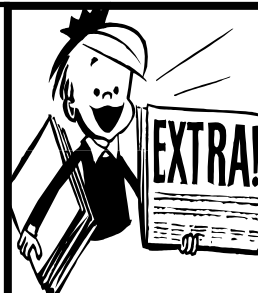
Aurora Perez, Diane Judge, center coordinators, Leticia Gonzalez, area service support assistant and Tina Grice, outreach worker. Their stories were at times emotional, humorous, hopeful and mostly inspiring!

The luncheon keynote, Dr. Amelia Rose spoke about the importance of fathers being involved in the lives of their children. Several RCMA Board Members and guests from the Mexican Consulate of Orlando joined in the evening festivities, which included dinner with entertainment sponsored by the Consulate. Riveli & Marcelo played Latin American Folk Music with their own special flair. DJ Moyo, a former RCMA child, now Ybor City Club owner kept the music going and the dance floor full.

A license plate frame featuring the conference theme and RCMA slogan was given to all attendees. Enough were ordered to make their way to all staff statewide. We should all be proud to advertise the fact that “WE OPEN DOORS TO OPPORTUNITIES!”

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