

RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make
A World of
Difference

Helping Our Youth



December 2001

Issue 104

OUR MISSION: WE OPEN DOORS TO OPPORTUNITIES!

The true spirit of giving

Griselda Jimenez, senior teacher at the William H. Krome Child Development Center begins her day before five o'clock in the morning. As she prepares her three children, Maria de Jesus, 12; Jose' Alfredo, 5; and Diana Lara, 3; for their day, yet another child makes his way into the Jimenez home. At 6:20 a.m. one of the parents from the RCMA Mira Verde CDC drops her child off with Griselda, where he plays with her children while she prepares breakfast. She later takes the child to the center, where her own children also attend, and proceeds to her classroom of four infants and four wobblers, which she shares with

Timirra Williams at Krome CDC.

Here in her fourth year with RCMA, Griselda is doing the work which she loves. "The children fill me with love. I love playing with them and am

happy to see them take their first step and learn new words." "I believe that in giving them love, someone else will do the same for my children."

Griselda reflects back to an experience she had as a six year old child in Mexico, when her teacher took her hand, physically pulled her and criticized her for not understanding what was being taught. She keeps this sad memory with her as a reminder of how powerful adults can be in the lives of children, either to hurt or to help.



Griselda chooses to help, and not only the children. After a long day in her classroom, she heads home with an 8 month old child who she cares for at home along with her family until 7:30 p.m. The child's mom who is working and going to school could not succeed without Griselda's help. When asked if the families of these children who Griselda cares for offer her anything, she replies, "They ask how much they can give me, but I won't take money." She shares that a vase full of flowers was a nice thank you that she received. Griselda remembers the hardships she suffered in living and doing the hard work of picking oranges eight years ago when she came to the United States with her husband and child. "I had to work and it was hard for me to leave my children, they cried and I cried." She understands what parents are going through.

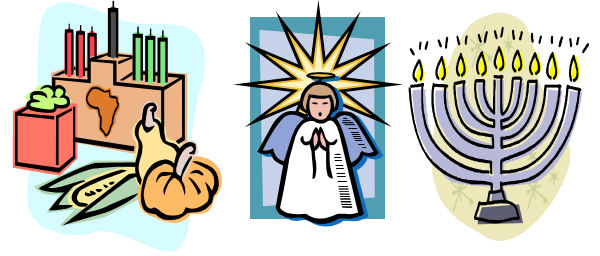
When asked about how her husband Ramiro feels about her opening her home to other children, she said, "He also feels happy to help, he watches the children while I prepare dinner." He is also very supportive of Griselda in learning more. "He wants me to succeed." "We have had our problems, but we work together." Griselda has received her Infant/Toddler Equivalency, and is working toward her National CDA. She has a few other goals to accomplish; she wants her own children to receive an education and will support them in whatever decisions they make for their futures, she would like to work with a tutor to learn English and learn how to cut hair, most important to her would be to be able to bring her mom from Mexico.

When asked what made her the kind person that she is, Griselda said without hesitation, "All that I do and all that I am is because of my parents. They taught me how to love and respect others". There is a quiet strength in Griselda's voice as she shares what she believes is important for teachers to know, "I would like us to better understand the needs of the families, and if it is in our hands to help others—we should do it. A child's smile will be our reward and from heaven we will get our blessings."

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The Gold Wrapping Paper

A good friend of mine sent this story to me and now I want to share it with you.

It's said that we have a choice to make. The story goes that a long time ago a man punished his 5-year old daughter for wasting a roll of expensive gold wrapping paper. Money was tight, and he became even more upset when the child pasted the gold paper so as to decorate a box to put under the Christmas tree. Nevertheless, the little girl brought the gift to her father the next morning and said, "This is for you daddy."

The father was embarrassed by his earlier over reaction, but his anger flared again when he found the box was empty. He spoke to her in a harsh manner: "Don't you know, young lady, when you give someone a present that there is supposed to be something inside the package?"

The little girl looked up at him with tears in her eyes and said: "Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was full." The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his little girl and he begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later and it is told that the father kept that gold box by his bed for the years of his life. And whenever he was discouraged or faced difficult problems he would open the box and take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us as human beings have been given a golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, family, friends and God.

Wishing you a holiday filled with love and blessings.

El Papel Dorado de Envolver

Una buena amiga compartió esta historia conmigo y quiero compartirla con usted.

Se dice que todos tenemos algo que elegir. Se dice que hace mucho tiempo un hombre castigo a su niña de cinco años por el desperdicio de un rollo de envolver caro. No había mucho dinero y se molesto aun mas cuando la niña pego el papel dorado para decorar una caja para poner debajo del árbol navideño. De todas maneras, la siguiente mañana la niña le llevo la caja a su padre y le dice "Esto es para ti Papi."

El padre se siento avergonzado por su reacción esa mañana pero de nuevo se enoja y le habla en una manera brusca. "Que no sabes que cuando das un regalo que debe haber algo dentro del paquete?"

Con los ojos llenos de lagrimas le contesta la niña "Papi, no esta vacía, la llene de besos para ti." El padre cae de rodillas y abraza a su niña y le pide perdón por su enojo.

Un accidente tomo la vida de la pequeña niña y se dice que el padre guardo la caja cerca de su cama por el resto de su vida. Cuando el se sentía triste y desolado, tomaba la cajita y sacaba un beso imaginario y recordaba el amor de la niña que puso los besos allí.

En un sentido muy real nosotros como seres humanos se nos ha dado una caja dorada llena de amor y besos incondicional de parte de nuestros niños, familiares, amigos y Dios.

Food boxes brighten holidays

This year almost 150 needy RCMA families received holiday food boxes, including turkey or ham and all the trimmings thanks to a five year plus partnership between the RCMA Immokalee School-Age program and East Naples United Methodist Church. Even though the church is 45 minutes from the rural agricultural town of Immokalee the recognition of the needs of our families is close to their members hearts.



Thanks to church involvement in the SHARE program, combined with generous donations from the congregation of hams, assorted fruits and vegetables, and pies, wonderful boxes began to take shape.

On several Saturdays, Joshua Rincon, school-age program director, along with Arnie Nieto, school-age site director and sometimes his son, A.J. made their way to Naples United Methodist Church. Beginning at 8:00 a.m. they assisted church volunteers in stuffing not only



RCMA boxes, but all boxes making their way to needy families. They load vehicles for transport and any other volunteering that is necessary. Midday it was time for a lunch break and then the delivery to the families begins. At about 7:00 p.m. the two guys, known

as "Santa's helpers in the yellow sleigh", by one family, eventually made their way home to their own families after a hard days work and a great sense of satisfaction.

Perhaps there is a church in your community that needs a partner to help meet the many needs of our children and families. If you have questions about how to foster such a partnership, please call Joshua, Arnie or Bonnie Rosenmeier, director of community relations for some pointers.

Professional Development Corner

The HOY has done some investigative reporting and has found that the number of RCMA staff who have successfully obtained a

Director's Credential is now 14!

Congratulations to new members:

Dorothy Crowley	Palatka
Mary Espinoza	Palm Beach
Juanita Garcia	Immokalee
William Harmon	Palatka
Margarita Hinojosa	Florida City
Alma Morua	Homestead
Sonia Romero	Florida City
Olga Rosales-Gutierrez	Immokalee
Betty C. Royal-Nelson	Palm Beach

New staff hunt for resources



TREASURE HUNT PAYS OFF: Almost 50 new staff took part in a four day new staff basic training in November. One of the highlights of the training was an evening resource fair featuring exhibits in the areas of Health, Education, Literacy, Family Services, Benefits, Technology, and Safety. Participants received a treasure hunt questionnaire and answers could be found at the booths or by talking with representatives.

In the corner seen above staff are learning more from Albert Harris, fatherhood project coordinator (left) and Dana Reeves, employee benefits manger (center). After completing the questionnaire staff are eligible for a prize drawing. Feedback from attendees on RCMA's fourth New Staff Basic Training was the best yet. More improvements are already in the works.

Letters to the Editor



November 26, 2001

To: Leslie Moguil, Editor
Hoy Newsletter

For the last two years the Rural Women's Health Project [RWHP] has had the pleasure of working throughout the state with staff and parents of RCMA's centers. Our project has been to develop outreach materials that will raise the community interest about KidCare's health care insurance. We have found dedicated staff and families at all of the RCMA locations that we have visited.



Veronica Martinez, center coordinator, Dade City MHS with her adorable daughter, Elizabeth.

On our latest trip we found a special discovery that shouldn't go unnoticed. Veronica Martinez of the Dade City Migrant Head Start program is incredible. The RWHP facilitated a focus group in Dade City in September with both the Migrant Head Start and After School Program programs.

The parents were so fabulous and interested in this RCMA/RWHP project that we asked Dade City staff to assist us in finding volunteer actors and locations to shoot our "novelas."

Veronica took on this time-consuming project with both willingness and creativity. We appreciate the great relationship that she has with both the parents and the community, and as a result Veronica pulled together a fabulous work team. Everyone will

soon see the results of Veronica's ability to recruit parent and community volunteers in the upcoming series of KidCare *novelas*.

We appreciate Veronica's dedication to serving the RCMA community and her ability to link into those who also share the call of community service.

Robin Lewy and Fran Ricardo
Rural Women's Health Project

Estimado Editora,

Felicidades Bárbara por su artículo del escritorio de Bárbara "Crear un mundo mejor". Al recibir este periódico lo primero que me dio por hacer fue leer los textos y contenidos en Español. Actualmente asisto a una Escuela de Ingles, porque quiero llegar a una meta que yo misma me he propuesto cumplir. El motivo por el cual le envío la presente es para que se tome en importancia lo que Ms. Bárbara publico:

"CREAR UN MUNDO MEJOR"

CREAR UN MUNDO MEJOR; para mi significa hacer en mi familia y en mi desempeño de trabajo; creaciones y motivaciones que ayuden a reflejar que dia a dia se mejora un poco mas que el ayer. Asi unidos lograremos ver la diferencia, lograremos CREAR UN MUNDO MEJOR.

Animando a padres y empleados de RCMA a la formación de "UNA CAMPANA DE AMOR PARA LEER". Asi nosotros mismos contribuimos en la formacion y desarrollo de nuestros hijos. Entre todos colaboremos con nuestro tiempo, esfuerzo y entusiasmo y apoyemos esta gran campana. Con mucho empeno y dedicacion haremos que la educación de nuestros hijos florezca cada vez mas y mas.

Atentamente,

Sra. Rosa Idalia González

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A wish for happiness, good health & peace in the New Year!

Noticias de Padres

December 2001, Edición #29 RCMA Padres en Acción – ¡Alcanzando las oportunidades para crecer!

Padres en vuelo hacia sus sueños

Aunque fue un día fuerte de trabajo, El Señor Huantes llega con una sonrisa lista y una actitud positiva. Su esposa Ana Huantes es igual de entusiasmada y motivada. Ellos son una pareja joven con niños, tienen sueños y esperanzas para ellos y sus hijos. Ellos no necesitan ser motivados para asistir a las clases, ya vienen motivados de su propia cuenta. Ellos saben cual es su meta y la están siguiendo. Sr. & Sra. Guantes comentaron lo, "nosotros estamos muy felices con las clases de ingles, porque estamos muy intersados en aprender ingles para nuestro futuro. Otros padres que asisten a las clases de ESOL en el centro de RIC tambien están igual de motivados. Aunque se les nota en sus ojos el cansancio de un día largo de labor, su espíritu no esta afectado.



Después de una cena de arroz con frijoles, pollo y jugo, los niños se van a jugar con su maestra mientras los padres se van para el salón detrás del centro. Allá se encuentran con la Señora Kuss la maestra de ESOL. Julie ha sido una maestra en la comunidad por mas de 15 años. Ella conoce a los niños, los padres y de la comunidad en general. Ella vive en Wimauma y ama a nuestros padres y su cultura(además de su comida). Me siento muy privilegiado en tenerla como nuestra maestra. Los padres del centro de RIC la quieren mucho y se sienten motivados para aprender. Ellos hacen preguntas, buscan contestaciones y quieren aprender.

En los Jueves los padres asisten al salón de computadoras en la oficina regional de Ruskin. Atraves del Internet los padres viajan electrónicamente a otras partes del mundo. Ellos visitan su pueblo, se enteran sobre el tiempo, las noticias, la política y lo que sucede en el mundo. Yahoo Español es una de las áreas que les gusta visitar, y también Univision, el canal hispano de

televisión. Ellos aprenden a manejar el "raton" con un chasquido aqui y otro alla y enseguida viajan a otra parte del mundo.

ASPIRE es un programa de literatura familiar que es financiado por fondos del programa federal Even Start atraves de un presupuesto sometido por SERVE. SERVE es una organización de estudio educativo del la Universidad de Carolina del Norte. Este programa hace posible para padres asistir a clases de literatura adulta. El programa provee cuidado de niños mientras los padres estudian, y tambien una cena. Presentemente hay dos sitios donde funciona el programa uno en Wimauma Infant Center en el lindo pueblito de Wimauma y el otro es en el Ruskin Infant Center. Los padres de los centros de Ruskin asisten a RIC y los de Wimauma asisten al WIC. Las comidas sabrosas y nutritivas están preparadas y servida en el centro. Esto es conveniente para los padres. Los padres, niños y las maestras comen juntos esto ayuda a los padres y a los niños sentirse mas relajados y los prepara para estudiar.

El programa de estudio de padres como maestros de ASPIRE es Parents As Teachers. Es un programa ejemplar. La ideología de este programa es que los padres son los primeros maestros de sus niños. El programa envuelve a los padres en aprendizaje y desarrollo de sus niños y les da los padres las destrezas necesarias para preparar ha sus hijos para la escuela. Es un programa de gran éxito que es usado mundialmente. El personal de RCMA siente que el programa es muy beneficioso para los padres para aprender como ser unos padres mejores. El programa también da enfasisa la profesionalidad de el personal.

La preparativa para el programa de ASPIRE no es fácil por la cantidad de familias envueltas y empleados envueltos. La combinación de siete centros en Ruskin y Wimauma, mas la preparación de comidas y el cuidado de niños no es fácil, pero los resultados y beneficios a nuestras familias vale la pena. El diccionario defina ASPIRE (ASPIRA) como la buscar o alcanzar de una meta, Ascenderse o volar alto. La meta de nuestros padres es obtener una vida mejor a través de la