



RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make
A World of
Difference

Helping Our Youth



June 2001

Issue 98

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

Head Start Recognition huge success

Over 200 Head Start and Early Head Start parents and staff came together in Orlando to learn, celebrate and be recognized for their contributions to the program. A committee of Policy Council members organized the event with the support of Charlene Edwards, Head Start manager and other staff volunteers. The day began with registration for workshops. Top-



ics and their facilitators included, "Public Speaking" – Dr. Mary Ann Jones, "Relaxing the Body Calming the Mind" – Art Robinson, "Effects of Domestic Violence on Children" – Maria Neunzig, "Make & Take Activities" – Martha Wright, Peggy Lawson, and Ana Neuhauser, "Empowering Children Through Their Parents" – Roy Ramirez.

Workshops were followed by a luncheon with special keynote speaker, Mr. Roy Ramirez, Parents as Teacher Educator and committed father. Mr. Ramirez shared his story of growing up in Mexico and the values that his parents instilled in him and how they have shaped his future and the



future of his family. After many people voiced openly that he and his young wife were destined to fail, his parents continued to provide support. He and his wife were able to both successfully obtain college degrees and raise children who are on their way to bright futures too. His passion and point of view made his message a high-point of the recognition.



The next order of business was recognition of Policy Council members for their efforts in providing leadership to the successful operation of Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Each was awarded a framed certificate and special pin.

Center Coordinators moved to the front of the room to present the top three parent volunteers in their centers with awards and a hug of thanks. Bertha Hooks, area family support specialist in Arcadia, recited a poem she wrote especially for the parents. She went on to present special recognition to the parents who had made tremendous progress in working with the Parents as Teachers home visits. Last, but not least, Charlene Edwards presented all the Center Coordinators with framed certificates which will hang in their centers to recognize RCMA as a National Head Start Program of Achievement.

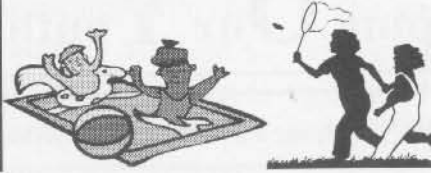


The Recognition Committee members were applauded for putting together a very memorable occasion.

FROM
THE
DESK
OF
OLGA



"Whatever you do
make sure you do at
least one thing that
is just for fun!"



DEL ESCRITORIO DE
OLGA

"Cualquier cosa que hagan,
esten seguro de hacer una
cosa solamente para
disfrutar!"

Just for Fun!

I thought this month that I would take the opportunity to do something "just for fun"! I enjoyed this little story and thought all of you might too. Many of us will be taking vacations or visiting family and friends this summer. Whatever you do make sure you do at least one thing that is just for fun!

There's a little fellow named Junior who hangs out at Tom's Grocery Store. Tom doesn't know what Junior's problem is, but the other boys like to tease him. They say he is "two bricks shy of a load." And to prove it, they sometimes offer Junior his choice between a nickel and a dime. Junior always takes the nickel, they say, because it's bigger.

One day, after Junior grabs the nickel, Tom takes him off to the side, and says, "Junior, those boys are making fun of you. They think you don't know a dime is worth more than a nickel. Are you grabbing the nickel because it's bigger, or what?"

Junior replies, "Well, if I took the dime they would quit doing it."

Soooo....who is two bricks shy of a load?

Solamente Para Disfrutar!

Este mes he decidido tomar la oportunidad para hacer algo solamente para disfrutar. Encuentre este cuento y pense que ustedes podrian disfrutarlo. Varios de nosotros estaremos tomando vacaciones o visitando familias y amigos este verano. Cualquiera cosa que hagan, esten seguro de hacer una cosa solamente para disfrutar!

Hay un niño llamado Junior a quién le gusta estar siempre fuera en la tienda de Tom. Tom no sabe qué problema tenga Junior, pero a los otros muchachos les gusta fastidiarlo. Ellos dicen que a él le "faltan dos ladrillos para cumplir la carga (que le faltan unos tornillos)." Y para demostrarlo, ellos le ofrecen entre un níquele y un daime (diez centavos.) Junior siempre toma el níquele, y ellos dicen, que es porque es más grande.

Un día, después de que Junior toma el níquel, Tom se lo lleva al lado y dice, "Junior, esos muchachos se están burlando de ti. Ellos piensan que tu no sabes que diez centavos es mas que un níquel. ¿Estás agarrando el níquele porque es más grande, o que?"

Le contesta Junior "Bueno, si yo tomo los diez centavos ellos dejarían de hacerlo."

Que huvole??? A quien le faltan los tornillos?

Arcadia Area stars in Cinco de Mayo Parade



LOOK AT THAT! Staff, parents, and children worked hard to make the RCMA float a stand-out at the Arcadia Cinco de Mayo Parade! Parents and staff volunteered to do the sewing on these beautiful costumes. Rumor has it that area coordinator, Gloria Kendrick marched along side the float in full Mexican dress!

Keeping the plan alive...



STRATEGIC PLANNING IN ACTION:

Area & Program Coordinators, Management Team, Unit Members, MIS support staff and Board members came together to plan for the upcoming season. The goal groups focused on Strategic Plan Goals of improving Communication, Program Quality, Technology, Community Relations & Professional Development!

We've got game...



GOLFERS TAKE 2ND PLACE: This award winning foursome participated in the 2nd Annual RCMA Golf Tournament at the Vanderbilt Country Club in Naples. The real winners will be the Immokalee children and families who will be served, thanks to the generosity of golfers and sponsors who helped to raise almost \$20,000 toward RCMA's required local match.

We aim to please...



COMMITMENT TO CUSTOMER SERVICE :

(left to right) Judy Brill, Melissa Zurita, Elizabeth Cardenas, Diana Santos, Julie Powell, Maria Garcia and Sovy Estrada received recognition and thanks for their efforts in providing preparation for the Head Start Federal Review Team! The hospitality they provided the federal team members was truly first class!

On her way to an Associate Degree



What does Jaqueline Kay Ramos do after a long day of working with children and families at RCMA? She attends South Florida Community College as a student pursuing an Associates degree in education. With 26 credit hours and a 3.42 GPA, she is heading toward the first finish line in her

professional development.

Jacqueline Kay Ramos began her work at RCMA South Highlands Child Development Center as a high school student working part time after school. "I remember a time even before that as a teenager when the center was being remodeled I came over to help." "I didn't have any shoes on and I remember Barbara Mainster whispering to Ms. Portee, 'she is welcome to help but she needs to have shoes on.'" After graduating from Lake Placid High School she continued to grow with RCMA. She moved from teacher trainee to teacher to lead teacher, and was center coordinator for awhile.

Kay likes challenges so she recently became an outreach worker for the Early Head Start program. She believes her two best qualities are the ability to be flexible and be a team player. These strengths helped her not only at work, but at school too. "Freshman English was a real challenge after being out of school for 17 years. I didn't spend a whole lot of time writing." "After getting many a paper back decorated in red, I

asked the instructor if she had to use red, and of course her reply was yes."

The struggle with writing combined with the high expectations of the instructor proved to be a gift that helped Kay meet the expectations of her other coursework. Kay lists Psychology as a favorite class for two reasons, she enjoys "digging into the minds of people, and because the professor made it challenging - he wanted us to think." "Psychology is part of your life."

Kay says she couldn't have made it through Algebra without the tutoring help she receives from RCMA two evenings a week. Melissa Whitney, a high school senior doesn't only help students with Algebra but will give papers the once over and make recommendations on how to improve them.

Kay is not the only RCMA student in the program, about ten of her peers are progressing right along side her. She says this is also extremely helpful. "We help each other out and bounce ideas off of each other. It is a great sense of support."

When asked what Carnecia, and Samuel thought of their mom going to school, Carnecia had this to say, "Momma, you going to school to get more money?" At 11 years old Carnecia has a handle on what an education means. Kay's husband is supportive and her mom helps with child care.

As for Kay she is hoping to graduate in 2002. She believes that her degree will help open doors for other opportunities on her career path.

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Please send suggestions, comments, and Letters to the Editor to the following address:

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**HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY
DADS!**