



RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make
A World of
Difference

Helping Our Youth



September 2001

Issue 101

OUR MISSION: We Open Doors to Opportunities! ¡Abrimos puertas a las oportunidades!

Early ambition at the core of her success!

On September 15, 2001 Gloria Padilla was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Administration from Barry University. After much arm twisting Gloria reluctantly agreed to allow the editor to interview her about what lead her to this personal and professional accomplishment.

Gloria began her career with RCMA soon after she graduated from Immokalee High School. She said at the time that she had a real desire to leave her community and venture away from Immokalee. RCMA was opening a center in Fort Myers and needed teachers. She moved in with her Godmother and went to work. After three short months she realized that far from home was not where she wanted to be, so she accepted a teaching position in Immokalee working with the School-Age program.

This was in 1982 when the first wave of Haitian immigrants came to Immokalee. It was her first exposure to Haitian culture, which fascinated her. She learned enough Creole to communicate with parents and she said, "back in those days I invited my kids to my house."

Gloria was the first Immokalee staff to get her CDA and the youngest center coordinator at nineteen. She remembers to this day the phone call she received from Olga Hernandez, she said, "el jeffe quiere hablar contigo." (the boss wants to speak to you). A wave of panic and dread came over her.



What had happened? What went wrong? Gloria even went so far as to assemble her staff together to ask them if anything had happened, or gone wrong that they had not shared with her.

She went in for the meeting with Mr. Rollason where she was told that she had been chosen for the Area Coordinator position. Most people would have been overwhelmed with the vote of confidence, but Gloria had some difficulty with the idea. Several other staff had been with RCMA longer and she wasn't so sure in her own mind, that she deserved it.

Even when she told her family her mother questioned, what about ... She was promised any help or support she needed, so forward she moved and she moved. In 1986 she began to take classes at the local community college. There she got a taste of a different world, and was faced with other students who had lots of knowledge. Slowly but surely she continued, with a host of mentors both inside and outside RCMA taking a personal interest in her continuing to go to school..

AMBITION, Continued on page 3

**FROM
THE
DESK
OF
BARBARA**



“This all came to mind when I read a quote from John Ruskin: “When love and skill work together, expect a masterpiece.”

**DEL ESCRITORIO DE
BARBARA**

“Esto se me vino a la mente cuando lei una cita de John Ruskin que dice “Cuando el amor y las habilidades trabajan juntas, espera una obra maestra.”

A Connection to History

Wendell Rollason believed there were no coincidences. In other words, things are connected and happen for a reason. Well, I'm not sure I am 100% in agreement with him, but almost! This all came to mind when I read a quote from John Ruskin: “When love and skill work together, expect a masterpiece.”

Now you all know RCMA has long served children and their families in Ruskin. This town was named for John Ruskin. Even more exciting, did you know RCMA's Ruskin Area Office and North Area Compute Lab are in one of the houses that were part of Ruskin's College? This man who knew that love and skill make masterpieces was part of the history of a building in which we now work, meet and train staff, board, parents and youth.

When you read our latest Annual Report and see examples of the masterpieces – young people – whose futures we have helped to create, please decide if our being of John Ruskin's legacy is a coincidence or was Wendell Rollason right again!? “Love and skill” – we belong together with John Ruskin.

Barbara Mainster
Executive Director

Una conexión a la historia

Wendell Rollason creía que no había coincidencias. En otras palabras las cosas estaban conectadas y sucedían por alguna razón. Bueno, yo no se si estoy el 100% de acuerdo con el, pero casi! Esto se me vino a la mente cuando lei una cita de John Ruskin que dice “Cuando el amor y las habilidades trabajan juntas, espera una obra maestra.”

Como ustedes saben RCMA por un largo tiempo a dado servicio a los niños y sus familias en Ruskin. Este pueblo fue nombrado por John Ruskin. Lo mas interesante es que la Oficina de RCMA en el area y el Laboratorio de Computadoras del Norte estan localizadas en una de las casas que fueron parte del colegio de Ruskin. Este hombre que sabia que el amor y la habilidad hacen obras maestras fue parte de la historia de un edificio en el cual ahora nosotros, trabajamos, nos reunimos, entrenamos empleados, padres, miembros de la mesa directiva, y los jóvenes

Cuando ustedes lean nuestro mas reciente Reporte Annual veran ejemplos de obras maestras – jovenes – a los cuales les hemos ayudado crear un futuro. Por favor decidan si por que somos parte de el legado de John Ruskin es una coincidencia o es que Wendell Rollason tenia la razon de nuevo!? “Amor y Habilidad” – nosotros y John Ruskin debemos estar juntos.

Barbara Mainster
Directora Ejecutiva

An experience in 1997 really impacted her. Gloria was part of an interview team for the position of Director of the local domestic violence program. She listened as other members of the group talked about one candidate, Lucy Ortiz. She was bilingual, college educated, a former victim and the interview team was willing to do whatever it took to get her to except the position, because of what she had to offer.

Gloria processed this event into two realizations—one, if Lucy could do it, she could, and she wanted to reach a level where a group of individuals would some day say these same things about her.

Call it a hunch or a clear observation, but when you talk with Gloria one word jumps out at you, “ambition”.

I posed the question, what has lead you to be ambitious? I suggested things like your parents, peers, etc. She thought a moment and described in detail what she did as a second grader for her teacher, Ms. Juarez. She decided that her desk needed to be straightened out so she did it without her teacher’s permission. Her teacher was very angry and told her that she had to stay after school. Later her teacher thanked her for wanting to help and also explained the importance of asking first. Gloria became a Brownie without her parents even knowing. She wanted to be a Brownie, she went to meetings despite the fact that she showed up in shorts and not a uniform. She was involved in student government, clubs, and held offices. No one encouraged her to join, she just new she wanted to be a part of it.

She said that despite her learning how to set small goals for herself and take it one step at a time, their were times when she said, that’s it I give up. Her greatest challenge came this year when her father passed away. School was no longer important and her sadness was hard to overcome. She is well aware that without her husband not only standing by her, but encouraging her and supporting her by playing an active role with their two girls she could have never done it.

Her future is here with RCMA and after a short break she is going to go back and pursue her Master’s. Gloria likes what she is doing and is firm in her belief that there is no other organization like RCMA. She reflects, “things may not always be perfect, but whenever there is a crisis, RCMA is there for you.” I asked Gloria what she thought her father would think about her degree. She said, “I think he would be proud!”

**Professional Development
Milestones!**

Isabel Garcia, area coordinator,
joined 23 other Region IV
“Champions for Excellence: The
Next Generation of Early Child-
hood Education Leaders”.

Isabel completed the one year pro-
gram over the course of four one
week Institutes where the **Champi-
ons** have successfully completed
participation in a leadership devel-
opment program with special focus
on young children’s development
and learning based on the new
Head Start Outcomes Framework.
Her work actively engaged her in re-
turning to RCMA to fully implement
a plan of action on overall program
quality.

CONGRATULATIONS ISABEL!



More Great News ...

**Isabel Garcia and her husband
Abel Vargas welcomed their
new baby boy Abel Vargas Jr. to
the family on
September 11, 2001.
Best wishes to the family!**



Proud to be one of the first to receive Director's Credential

RCMA Center Coordinators all across the state are actively involved in obtaining the newly required Administrative Credential. All child care directors will have to obtain their credential before January 1, 2003.



After January 1, 2003 directors will have to complete the credential requirements prior to being hired in a director position.

Lorena Quiñones, center coordinator at Everglades II Migrant Head Start is one of the first directors to receive her credential. What makes her story so

unique is she had to accomplish two serious professional goals at the same time.

The Credential requirements are:

- ◆ A high school diploma or GED.
- ◆ Department of Children and Families 20 hour Introductory Child Care Course and the 10 hour Observation and Assessment module.
- ◆ A CDA or CDA Equivalency
- ◆ One to three approved courses in early child care and education program administration.
- ◆ One or two years of experience in on-site child care and education program administration.

Lorena received the word of what was required and enrolled with a group of her peers in a course at Miami Dade Community College. She attended class once a week for two hours

and at the same time scrambled to get ready for her GED test. She couldn't successfully get one without the other, not to mention the three college credit hours she would not be eligible for without a GED.

The course covered things like observation, administration, health, safety, and leadership. Lorena felt pretty advanced because during her 13 years at RCMA she had received a good deal of training in most of the areas, but she shared that she also learned a great deal too.

One of the homework assignments was to perform a classroom observation using the form provided. This was her favorite project because of the ease of using the form. It was very clear and allowed her to rate much of what she was observing. She thought the tool so helpful that she introduced it to her teachers, discussed the items outlined and has adopted it for use in her center.

Another piece of valuable information was how to motivate people to apply for vacant positions. She put what she learned to work in her most recent Job Opening Announcement for a full time teacher. Instead of just describing the job qualifications she included a section on RCMA Benefits and Center Background Information with items like accreditation, CC and ECS provide great leadership and respond to children, families and staff needs, and that the center provides a healthy and safe environment.

She says there are many of her peers who are right behind her and are eagerly awaiting receipt of their Credentials. When this story went to print Marbelia Zamarripa and Blanca Garcia of the Homestead area received word that they had also been successful in obtaining their credentials! Congratulations to all! To all of those center coordinators who are on the verge of completing their credentials, good luck and keep us posted on your achievements!

Editor: Leslie Moguil

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

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Any time, any day, any problem. When you need someone to talk to, LifeBalance is there. 1-800-811-2849



Our hearts go out to all who are grieving!