

RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make
A World of
Difference

Helping Our Youth



February 2002

Issue 106

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

RCMA celebrates staff achievements

The students and staff of the RCMA Wimauma Charter School and community partner, the Bethel Mission hosted the annual Board Recognition on January 28th. Attendees were greeted at the welcome table



LEADERS SHARE SCHOOL:
(bottom, left to right) Alejandra Hernandez, Jessica Galarza, Osmara, Rodriguez, Juan Hernandez, Daniela Diaz, Augie Montejo, charter school coordinator. (back, left to right) Janet Garcia, Areceli Julian, Gabriel Alvarez, Maria Hinojosa, not pictured Ms. Dalia Z. Rios.

by a competent and very hospitable group of seventh graders, who served as revolving tour guides of both the charter school and the neighboring center, Bethel CDC. Children young and old provided the core excitement of the tours. All guests were welcomed on to the lovely open air deck by

charter school student Gabriel Alvarez. Evan Jorn, Director of the Bethel Mission, said grace, and a delicious multicultural buffet lunch was coordinated by the area staff under the leadership of Myrta Rivera, area coordinator. It was now time to recognize staff and centers for their achievements in 2001.



Board members, area & program coordinators and center coordinators provided applause to proud staff, who had received their National C.D.A. Twenty-five year staff were presented with an engraved watch. Twenty year staff received a specially made silver pin depicting children at play. Fifteen year staff received engraved plaques with their special and unique contributions to RCMA. Barbara Mainster presented the Executive Director's Support Staff Award to Ernie Reid, our own very special systems administrator.



Child Development Associates

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Lisa Pough | Janice Douglas |
| Angela Hayes | Teresita Ortiz |
| Alma Baez | Deborah Maldonado |
| Jabina Murgado | Giesel Nieves |
| Midgalia Tur | Diane Casas |
| Virginia Lopez | Anabel Cisneros |
| Cristina Sepeda | Angelica Zavalas |
| Alma Baez | Teresa Rambarran |
| Erica Rolle | Vivian Aviles |
| Kathy Vega | Delta Dawn Jobson |
| Lilia G. Nacianceno | |

RECOGNITION, continued on page 3

**FROM
THE
DESK
OF
BARBARA**



“Finding my old parents, students and my son’s first family, his brothers and sister, was rewarding beyond words.”

**DEL ESCRITORIO DE
BARBARA**

“Encontrarme con mis viejos padres, antiguos estudiantes y la primera familia de mi hijo, sus hermanos y hermana, fue una recompensa sin palabras.”

You have to keep it in perspective. Those words were often said to me by Mr. Rollason when I was upset about something. As a matter of fact, he once said he was going to buy me a neon blinking sign which would help me remember that!! Well, my trip back to Peru after leaving over thirty five years ago as a Peace Corps volunteer sure was good for my perspective.

First of all, we in the United States have so much we take for granted. Things like running hot and cold water, refrigerators, unemployment insurance, our own cars and toys in child care centers - just to name a few of those things. I went back to where I lived and adopted my son, and found the community had really changed. When we lived there, there was no water, no electricity and no paved roads. All of that now exists. Before I left thirty five years ago, with a push from the Mothers’ Committee, the Peruvian government agreed to fund the teacher for the preschool which the Peace Corps had started. Now I found our old house, which we had built with the help of the community, is the preschool! That was great fun. But there still is no running water for the seventy children, or electricity, since the government only pays the teacher and the rest is up to the community. With unemployment at close to 50%, the parents did well to replace the tin on the roof and put in a cement patio outside the door.

The preschool became the focus of many of my former students, who were now mostly forty years old, with children of their own. We painted the building inside and out and had a big fiesta to bring everyone together like the old days. In a formal ceremony, funds were given to the mayor to have water brought in for the preschool and I made a commitment to adopt the preschool, offering donations of books, dolls, trucks, dishes for lunch, crayons etc. It reminded me of RCMA in the very first days in the Princeton Labor Camp in South Dade. But my former students who learned in the

Tienes que mantener la perspectiva. Esas palabras me las decía frecuentemente Mr. Rollason cuando me enfadaba con alguna cosa. De hecho que una vez me dijo que me iba a comprar un letrero de neon intermitente para que me lo recordara! Bueno mi viaje de regreso a Perú después de treinta y cinco años como voluntaria de los Peace Corps fue definitivamente bueno para mi perspectiva.

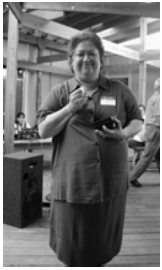
Primeramente nosotros en los Estados Unidos a veces no apreciamos lo que tenemos. Cosas como el agua caliente o agua corriente, refrigeradores, aseguransa desempleo, nuestros carros, juguetes en los centros – para nombrar unas cosas. Regrese a el lugar donde vivia y adopte a mi hijo y encuentre que la comunidad habia cambiado. Cuando viviamos ahi, no habia agua corriente, electricidad ni mucho menos caminos pavimentados. Ahora todo eso existe.

Antes que me regresara Estados Unidos hace treinta y cinco años, el Comité de Madres, empujo a el gobierno Peruano para que pagara una maestra para la escuela pre-escolar cual se había comenzado por el Peace Corps. Ahora me encuentro que nuestra casita vieja cual fue hecha con la ayuda de la comunidad, es la escolita pre-escolar. Esa fue una gran alegría. Pero todavía no tiene agua corriente ni electricidad para los setenta niños. El gobierno paga la maestra y el resto de los gastos se los deja a la comunidad. Con la taza de desempleo en un 50% los padres como quiera pudieron remplazar el techo de lamina y hacer un piso de cemento afuera.

La escolita se hizo el enfoque de muchos de mis antiguos estudiantes, los cuales ahora la mayoría cuentan con la edad de cuarenta años y con hijos. Pintamos la escolita y hicimos una fiesta para reunirnos todos como en los viejos tiempos. En una ceremonia formal se le dieron fondos a el alcalde para que ponga agua corriente en la escuela. Yo me comprometí para adoptar la escuela ofreciendo

ACHIEVEMENTS, continued from page 1

25 Years of Service



Olga Hernandez, Director of Human Resources



Myrtelina Rivera, Area Coordinator



Yolanda Guajardo, Center Coordinator

20 Years of Service

Judy Burleson, Program Coordinator

Gyla Wise, State Director of Health & Family Services

Norma Caserez, Site Director

Ramona Vidales, Lead Teacher

Reetha Woolfolk, Cook

Marbelia Zamarripa, Area Coordinator

15 Years of Service

Voncille Hills, Lead Teacher

Sadie M. Morris, Cook

Maria Azorin, Service Support Assistant

Graciela Reyes, Center Coordinator

Peggy Janitz, Infant/Toddler Specialist

Dianilda Bermudez, HR Specialist

Lourdes Villanueva, MHS Manager

Lucia Garcia, Service Support Assistant



Executive Director's Support Staff Award

Ernie Reid
Network Administrator

NAEYC Accreditation



Estancia Migrant Head Start

Parkview Child Development Center



LaBelle Child Development Center

Mira Verde Child Development Center



And a Director's Credential drum roll please...

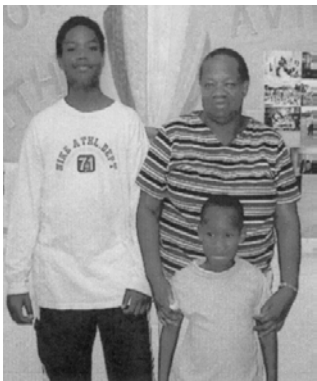


Congratulations to these staff on receiving their Director's Credential.

- Mary Tate, Centro Villas CDC
- Sheila Robinson, Smith Brown CDC
- Isabel Dopson, Indian River MHS
- Claudia Solis, South Dade Infant CDC

Congratulations C.D.A.'s -
Wanda Perez, Indian River MHS
Claudia Solis - Infant/Toddler Equivalency

Grandmother is mighty proud



ON HIS WAY: (left to right) Thaddeus Woods, Dollie McSwain and charter school grandson Mykell McSwain.

Dollie McSwain, accounts payable specialist is very proud of her grandson Thaddeus's most recent accomplishment. Thaddeus was selected by the Collier County Education Foundation as a scholar for the Take Stock in Children program. As a scholar, Thaddeus will be awarded four years of college tuition and assigned a caring mentor. Thaddeus is now on his way to reaching his full potential. He will enter into a contract which requires him to maintain his grades, and meet regularly with his mentor.

Dollie also has to agree to support Thaddeus in his efforts by helping him stay on track, and attending regular meetings as his grandmother and guardian. Dollie has dedicated herself to raising all four of her grandsons, single handedly from birth. She is actively involved in the community and in Immokalee Schools as well as being a committed grandmother.

PERSPECTIVE, continued from page 2

original metal barrack building with only a few donated toys and magazines are now teachers, doctors, nurses, policemen and solid citizens. They value education. All enthusiastically remembered the one big field trip we took to the beach, sleeping on the sand under tents, splashing in the shallow water in their underwear (obviously no one but me had a bathing suit at that time) and cooking over wood fires.

Finding my old parents, students and my son's first family, his brothers and sister, was rewarding beyond words. Being reminded of how most of the people in the world live gave me a healthy perspective of what matters, what does not and how much more we can do to make the world a better place.

***R-Day* is coming!**

Together with the *Read Across America* event, RCMA will celebrate *R-Day on March 1st* in commemoration of Dr. Seuss, who was born March 2, 1904.

Read Across America is a project of the National Education Association. They are calling for every child to be reading in the company of a caring adult on that day. Be sure to celebrate the Big Day. You can find ideas for your festivities at the following website: <http://www.nea.org> and click on the U.S. map with the Cat in the Hat picture. Find more details about these ideas at their website.

- ◆ Talk to your librarian.
- ◆ Schedule your guest readers
- ◆ Make certificates of participation

Happy R-Day & Read-Across-America-Day!
Send newspaper stories & photos (originals) to Bonnie at the Rollason Center!

PERSPECTIVA conitinue de pagina 2

donaciones de libros, muñecas, y camioncitos de juguete, platos para el almuerzo, y lápiz para colorear, etc. Me recordé de los primeros días con RCMA en el campo de labor Princeton en South Dade. Mis antiguos estudiantes los cuales estudiaban en una barraca hecha de metal con unos cuantos juguetes y magazines donados, ahora son maestros, doctores, enfermeras, policías, y buenos ciudadanos. Ellos valoran la educación. Todos recordamos con entusiasmo el gran viaje que hicimos a la playa, donde dormimos en la arena bajo carpas, chapoteando en la agua en ropa interior (obviamente nadie excepto yo tenia un traje de baño) y cocinamos sobre leña.

Encontrarme con mis viejos padres, antiguos estudiantes y la primera familia de mi hijo, sus hermanos y hermana, fue una recompensa sin palabras. Ver como la mayoría de las personas en el mundo viven me dio una sana perspectiva

Editor: Leslie Moguil
Translator: Maria Garcia
Please send suggestions, comments, and Letters to the Editor to the following address:
RCMA HOY Editor
Redlands Christian Migrant Association
402 West Main Street, Immokalee, FL 34142
PHONE: 1-800-282-6540 FAX: 1-941-658-3571

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



HAVE A FUN FILLED DAY OF READING ON R-DAY, MARCH 1st!

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

Parent News

February 2002, Issue #31 RCMA Parents in Action – Reaching out for Opportunities to Grow!

Parents focus on safety, parades, and computers

By Karina Priest
Area Family Support Specialist

This past year has been one with a lot of meaningful parental events for the Palm Beach Area. As the year came to an end, two big events took place showing the involvement of our parents and their motivation to be an active participant in their children's lives.

The parents of our New Hope CDC, participated in the "Christmas in Pahokee USA Parade". The parent committee met and agreed that they wanted RCMA to be represented this year and show parents and children working together. They decorated children's wagons in which two RCMA children rode. There were a total



Children and parents of the New Hope CDC come together to participate in a community parade.

of four wagons. The parents pulled the wagons, while the older children (siblings), carried RCMA's banner. The parade was well attended and the street was lined up with many enthusiastic observers. RCMA won Third place for Best Marching Unit. A parent participant said "I feel proud to be part of RCMA and see how we are recognized". Congratulations to our children and parents!!!

At our Farmworker CDC in Delray, our parents were busy with the "Corazon de mi Vida" event, which was sponsored by the National Latino Chil-



The instructor demonstrates the proper steps in securing a child in a car seat, while parents observe.

dren's Institute along with Nationwide Insurance and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The seat belt and safety awareness campaign was aimed at the Latino farmworker community. The activity was well participated by most of our parents. They watched a video on the topic, had a lecture, and were later trained one by one on how to install a car seat. Everyone received a new car seat, and each parent had the chance to practice what they learned. It was a pleasure to watch the parents participate and also feel how proud they were to be able to keep their children safe.



The Belle Glade center has been the first in the area to experience the new family support team composed of two outreach workers and the area family support specialist, and it has proven to be an asset to the families. Our parents can now benefit from being assisted in

English, Spanish or Creole; and the center has also set-up a computer lab that is available to all parents and staff.

The parents in Palm Beach are thriving and looking forward to another year full of opportunities.

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

Parent News

February 2002, Issue #31 RCMA Parents in Action – Reaching out for Opportunities to Grow!

Los padres se enfocan en la seguridad, desfiles, y computadoras

By Karina Priest
Area Family Support Specialist

Este año que paso fue sin duda uno muy ocupado con actividades para los padres, en el área de Palm Beach. El año se termino con dos grandes eventos que mostraron la participación de nuestros padres y la motivación de estar activos en la vida de sus hijos.

Los padres del centro de New Hope CDC, participaron en el evento “La Parada de las Navidades en Pahokee, USA”. El comité de padres se reunió y decidió que querían ver a RCMA participar y tener el orgullo de mostrar a padres e hijos trabajando juntos. Cuatro carritos con dos niños en cada uno fueron



Los niños y padres de RCMA New Hope en un desfile.

decorados y los padres los empujaron mientras que los otros hermanitos Llevaban la bandera de RCMA. La parada fue atendida por mucha gente y la calle estaba rodeada de espectadores con mucho entusiasmo. RCMA gano el Tercer Premio por Mejor Grupo Marchando. Una de las madres que participaron dijo: “Me siento orgullosa de ser parte de RCMA y ver como somos reconocidos”. Felicitaciones a nuestros niños y a los padres!!!

En el centro Farmworker CDC de Delray, los padres participo en el evento “Corazón de mi vida”,



La instructora demuestra los pasos en como asegurar la niña mientras los padres observan.

que fue auspiciado por el Instituto Nacional de Niños Latinos junto con Seguros Nationwide y la Administración Nacional para la Seguridad del Trafico y Caminos. La campaña de asiento y cinturón de seguridad fue hecha especialmente para la comunidad latina que trabaja

en los campos. Casi todos nuestros padres participaron en la actividad. Ellos vieron una película sobre el tema, escucharon también una plática, y luego fueron entrenados uno por uno en como instalar el asiento para su niño. Todos recibieron un asiento nuevo y tuvieron la oportunidad de practicar lo aprendido. Fue un placer ver a los padres participar y sentir el orgullo que tenían de poder aprender a mantener a sus niños seguros.



El centro de Belle Glade ha sido el primero en el área de Palm Beach en experimentar con el nuevo sistema de apoyo para las familias compuesto de dos outreach workers y un area family support specialist, lo que ha probado ser muy exitoso. Los padres ahora se pueden beneficiar de ser asistidos en Ingles, Español o Criollo; y también el centro ha formado un laboratorio de computadoras para los padres y el personal.

Los padres en los centros de Palm Beach están recibiendo muchos beneficios y están seguros que el nuevo año estará lleno de más oportunidades.