

# RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make  
A World of  
Difference

## Helping Our Youth



May 2002

Issue 109

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

## Spring into a host of RCMA events

On your mark, get set, go... these words started off the 9th Annual Wendall N. Rollason 5K Scholarship Run held at the Immokalee Community Park. Under blue skies and with a cool breeze at their backs, 125 runners made their way along the route, some trying to beat their best time, others attempting their first 5K.



**Charter School students readying for the race.**

Thanks to sponsor, Tom Moonan, RCMA Wimauma Community School teacher, and coaches Juan Calderon and Benny Reyna, over 30 charter school students participated in the race. Through their participation,

along with a host of corporate sponsors, and a committed RCMA volunteer squad \$1,300 dollars was raised toward scholarships for Immokalee High School graduates for their continuing education.

Who says RCMA is not into sports? Running lead the way, and was followed by the 3rd Annual RCMA Golf Tournament held at Cedar Hammock Golf and Country Club in Naples. 144 golfers teed off on a scorching hot Saturday to help raise money for RCMA. The Golf Committee, chaired by volunteer, Brad Young successfully signed on 113 corporate and individual sponsors for the event, along with a solid group of volunteers.

The highlight of the event was special guest, William Laimbeer, Jr., former NBA Detroit Pistons player, who played on a foursome with Immokalee Charter school students Noe Gamez and Jonathon Rodriguez, and their coach Benny Reyna. The event



**Can you guess who is the former NBA Detroit Pistons player?**

brought in \$33,000 dollars which will go toward statewide match, along with \$12,000 which is designated for the Immokalee Community Charter School building fund. Incorporated into the golf tournament was a Grand Prize drawing for 1st Prize, a Royal Caribbean Cruise to the Bahamas, 2nd Prize a \$400 gift certificate to the Sanibel Harbor Resort and Spa, and 3rd Prize a DVD player. And the winners were... 1st Prize to Mary George of Naples, 2nd Prize to Roger Warren of Labelle, and third prize to Kathleen Griffith of Iowa.



**Peggy Lawson, infant/toddler specialist & Lupe Mayorga, Sr. early childhood specialist work as a team to land their canoe .**

Fundraising was not the only game in town. Area and program coordinators, health specialists, management team, statewide support staff and Board members came together to set goals for the future. They spent three days at the DaySpring Presbyterian Conference Center working on specific plans to address improvement in the five strategic plan areas of program quality, communication, community relations, professional development, and technology.

EVENTS, continued on page 3

## FROM THE DESK OF CHARLENE



## DEL ESCRITORIO DE CHARLENE

### ¿Están preparados los niños de RCMA para “tener éxito”?

#### Are RCMA children “ready to succeed”?

**A** good deal of Federal, State, and local money is spent on child care and public school programs across the country. The public, politicians, and researchers are interested in not only hearing about what a difference Head Start, and other programs make, but seeing child by child, classroom by classroom, and program by program, what gains children are making. The one big word you will hear often is “Outcomes”. Outcomes are the specific (can be measured) gains that children and families have received as a result of participating in our program. We know that RCMA provides high quality services to children and their families. We know our children learn and progress as a result of the hard work teachers do assessing, planning and individualizing for children. We know we have lots of success stories. To know is no longer enough. We must now be sure that in each and every classroom we measure our progress in achieving *Positive Child Outcomes*.

So how will the new Outcomes requirement affect RCMA teachers? For over 25 years, Barbara Mainster, our executive director, has said that the development of language and self-esteem are the two top priorities we have for our children. We still have this goal. RCMA teachers have measured children’s individual progress in these areas for many years. Teachers use the Learning Assessment Profile (LAP) on a monthly basis to determine where children are developmentally, and what activities and skills they should be introduced to next. We will continue to do this.

What will be new? What is new is that by September 2002 the LAP assessment tool for children aged 3 - 5 will include other areas (domains) of learning that RCMA will measure. The LAP will include more skills (indicators). Teachers will measure children’s progress in the domains (areas) of literacy, math, science, and social & emotional development. RCMA will record preschool children’s LAP information three times a year by entering scores into a computer program. Teachers, center coordinators, early childhood specialists, and program coordinators will be able to look at the computer printed results to determine how children are progressing by classroom, by center, or by area. Teachers will be able to use the information to help plan for groups of children. At the end of the program year, teachers and staff will be able to determine what outcomes, in all domains, were achieved by classroom, center, or area. The information will be used for future planning. The statistics will now provide concrete proof that RCMA is, and always has been, preparing children to be “ready to learn” when they reach kindergarten.

**U**na buena parte del dinero que proviene del gobierno, estado, y local se usa para el cuidado de niños y en los programas de las escuelas publicas de esta nación. El publico, los políticos, al igual que los científicos no solo están interesados en saber la diferencia que hace el programa Head Start, y algunos otros programas, si no que también quieren ver los adelantos hechos por cada niño, en cada salón de clase, al igual que cada programa. Una de las palabras mas importantes y escuchada será “outcomes” resultados. Estos resultados son los adelantos de los niños y sus familias por su participación en nuestro programa.

Nosotros sabemos que RCMA provee servicios de una alta calidad a los niños y sus familias. Nos hemos dado cuenta que nuestros niños aprenden y progresan por el gran esfuerzo que hacen las maestras durante las evaluaciones, planificaciones, y plan de individualización para los niños. Sabemos que hemos tenido muchos triunfos. Pero el saberlo no es suficiente. Ahora debemos estar seguros que cada uno de los salones de clase alcance resultados positivos para los niños.

¿Como afectara a las maestras de RCMA el nuevo requisito de “Resultados”? Por mas de 25 años, Barbara Mainster, nuestra directora ejecutiva, ha dicho que el desarrollo de lenguaje y la estima propia son los dos temas con prioridad que tenemos para nuestros niños. Seguiremos con esta meta. Por muchos años las maestras de RCMA han grabado el progreso individual de los niños. Ellas usan el (LAP) Perfil de Evaluación de Aprendizaje cada mes para determinar donde van con el desarrollo, y que otras habilidades y actividades se deben de introducir. Continuaremos con este proceso.

¿Que viene de nuevo? Lo que viene de nuevo en RCMA en Septiembre del 2002 es el Perfil de Evaluación de Aprendizaje (LAP) para los niños de 3 a 5 años de edad que se usara para grabar otras áreas del dominio del aprendizaje. El LAP incluirá otras habilidades. Las maestras grabaran el progreso de estos dominios en los niños en las áreas de alfabetismo, matemáticas, ciencias, y desarrollo social y emocional. RCMA grabara el progreso de los niños pre-escolares tres veces al año en una computadora. Las maestras, coordinadoras de los centros, especialistas en la niñez, y coordinadoras de programación podrán observar el progreso de los niños. Las maestras podrán usar esta información para planear los grupos de niños. Al fin del año, las maestras y empleados podrán determinar el resultado de todos los dominios en cada salón, centro y área. Esta información se usara para la planificación en el futuro. Las estadísticas nos darán evidencia concreta que RCMA esta y seguirá teniendo “los niños listos para aprender” cuando lleguen al kindergarten.



RCMA staff, friends, family and community members celebrated the opening of the new Hardee County Area Office on April 25<sup>th</sup> with an

open-house. Area coordinator Isabel Garcia, program coordinator, Rebeca Milan, area service support assistant, Louisa Villegas and fatherhood coordinator, Albert Harris welcomed guests to the new state-of-the-art 1600 square foot office facility located on 7<sup>th</sup> Street in downtown Wauchula. "It feels like home.." said Isabel Garcia.. "It's the perfect place in town".

Guests enjoyed finger-foods and punch, and took home decorative flower pots that had been hand-painted by the staff at the Fred Dennis CDC. They were filled with small RCMA gifts. The new office space is in a renovated warehouse that was formerly used to store pool tables and pin ball machines. Gyla Wise, state director of health found the space last year, and negotiated a contract with the owner, who paid for all the renovations. "We really thank Gyla for seeing what was possible" said Isabel, "This is a great place to work!".

## Advocacy begins early for children at Everglades II



On Friday April 12th, four and five year old children from the RCMA Everglades II Migrant Head Start Center received there first civics lesson. They took part in a community sponsored parade to rally to prevent child abuse. This was not a silent march, children cheered "Stop Child Abuse" as they carried silhouettes of

children with the message "Love Me" inscribed on them.

The event took place near the local YMCA and family Resource center. The Hamburglar from McDonalds stopped by with treats for the committed marchers. Children and staff had a great time helping support such an important cause!

## Professional Development Corner



**Three Teachers Receive G.E.D. at Rollason CDC Infant in Immokalee!**

**Congratulations to:  
Benita Abrigo  
Juana Jesusa Garza  
Santa Isabel Ledezma**

## RCMA in the lime-light! Mainster on cover of national child care magazine

Emails, phone calls and letters of commendation have been pouring in to RCMA congratulating Barbara Mainster, executive director, on her appearance on the cover of the May/June 2002 Child Care Information Exchange magazine. Barbara's warm smile combined with the loving embrace of a child at one of the Immokalee centers, make for a truly inviting cover. Turn to page 32 and read on about RCMA's important work with children and families throughout Florida.

Also featured in magazine photos were Ester and Norma, both teachers at RCDC Infant Center, who received there very own "hot off the press" copies. It is not every day that the important work of classroom teachers, the thoughts and philosophy of a respected leader, like Barbara, and the crucial work that each of us do to help "open doors to opportunities" for our children, families, and staff is recognized.

So seize the moment, check the resource shelf and read the article, or look for a copy to be mailed to your center or area soon. After taking it in, stop a moment to recognize your individual contributions that make this recognition possible. For as each one of us contributes to the whole of RCMA - all things that make a difference in the lives of others are truly possible. This light shines on all of us.

# Espinoza honored

By Paula Rounsavall  
Early Childhood Specialist, Farmworker CDC

On Friday, April 26, 2002., Mary Espinoza, center coordinator of the Farmworker CDC in Delray was honored at the "One Child at a Time" luncheon sponsored by the Child Advocacy Board of Palm Beach County and the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County. She was nominated and presented by Patricia Torres of Journey to Justice Ministry for her work and commitment to the farmworker population in Delray.

The luncheon presentation was quite an honor, but the biggest surprise came at the center. Staff and children celebrated the event by crowning Mary the "Queen of the County with Little Noses." The red carpet was unrolled and the ceremony was held in the preschool room. The children and teachers sang the anthem below.

"National Anthem of the Country with Little Noses"

We crown you here today  
We laugh we sing we play  
You are the queen of little nose land,  
We all walk hand in hand.

Mrs. Mary is the best  
Mrs. Mary is the best  
Hi-Ho the Dario  
Mrs. Mary is the best.

Things get sometimes tough  
You delegate and laugh,  
You take it till you make it  
Now today relax and sit.  
(repeat refrain)

Today is just for you,  
We appreciate all you do  
You go up front and lead the way  
You do this every day.

**Mrs. Mary you are the best!!!**

# Slow and steady they work to realize their goals

Whether you were in the Commencement of Polk Community College, Highlands Community College, or the University of Minnesota and perhaps in other commencements we have not yet heard about, chances are there was a crowd of fans cheering for the accomplishment of an RCMA staff person. The first TEACH Scholarship recipients have taken the short walk at the end of the long road toward a college degree.

For Isabel Garcia, area coordinator, wife and new mother the commitment never dampened, even during her pregnancy. Her successful journey lead her to an Associates of Science Degree, complete with the Honors sash. We are so proud of you!

For Hilaria Cuevas, outreach worker from Fred Dennis CDC it was the sum total of many small professional development opportunities she had taken advantage of that lead to her receiving her Associates of Science degree. We are so proud of you!

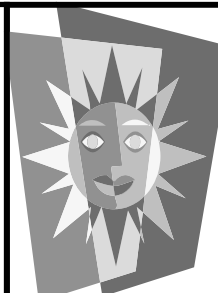
For Joanevia "Navie" Eason center coordinator at the Sebring CDC the road started four years ago as one of the first Teach Scholarship recipients. This month she realizes the "successful completion of all requirements to obtain her degree with honors— Magna cum laude." We are so proud of you!

For Beatriz Hentschel, her work as program coordinator was not good enough with just a Bachelor's Degree. She bravely embarked on a virtual journey which started at the University of Minnesota and ended on a conference call where her thesis was reviewed by the committee that would decide her fate. All were overwhelmingly impressed and she was granted a Master's Degree. We are so proud of you!

For all the struggling students out there, continue on your journey through those doors that only education can open in your future.

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



**For those of you  
who leave us  
this Summer:  
May it be safe,  
restful and  
happy!**