

# RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make  
A World of  
Difference

## Helping Our Youth



September 2002

Issue 113

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

## The content of our character

What began as a ordinary back to school shopping trip to the Sebring Mall turned out to be anything but ordinary for Lisa Pough and her family. Lisa is an outreach worker at RCMA's Avon Park Head Start Center and she responded to a citizens cry for assistance, the very same way she would have as part of her job at RCMA. What makes her reaction so rare, and so unique is that it had everything to do with the content of her character, and little to do with the responsibilities of a job. She wasn't even working at the time.

Her adventure began in the parking lot of the mall, where she, her children and other family members set out to prepare their children for a new school year. Lisa yelled hello to a friend as they walked, and in the silence in between she heard the following words, "Miss could you help me?" She looked ahead and standing in front of her was an elderly man with a blind man's cane. She asked what he needed help with, and he responded that he needed a ride to the "quarters". The word "quarters" goes way back and was used as a reference to where the black folks live.

Lisa replied, "you sure you want to go to the quarters, is that where you want to go?" The gentleman went on to explain that he was blind and had taken the Greyhound bus from Ocala. A girl was supposed to have called a taxi, but none had shown up. Lisa asked her friends where they were headed, thinking maybe they could give him a ride. When that didn't work out introductions were made. The gentlemen introduced himself as Mr. James A. Carter. Mr. Carter had been one of the first African American taxi owners in Lake Placid.

Mr. Carter gave Lisa the names of numerous people he had known in Highway Park (the quarters of Lake Placid) and pleaded with her to please give him a ride down there and he would pay her whatever he needed to - to get there.

Off they went with Mr. Carter to Lake Placid. They stopped by Ms. Evan Portee's house. Evan is an area coordinator and her roots in this Lake Placid Community are deep. Surely she could help. Mr. Carter shared the names again and most of the individuals had moved or passed away. Mr. Carter replied, "well the undertakers must be

living on a house on the hill, remind me not to drink the water—I want to leave Lake Placid." The truth of the matter is that the community of Highway Park has indeed had a long history of living with contaminated water.

Well, when Mr. Parker heard Bishop Callaghan's voice he called him by his daddy's name—the tone was that familiar to him. Dusk was approaching and all were worried except Mr. Carter. He mentioned his neighbors and their phone numbers. Evan spoke to the neighbors in Ocala and verified that he did live there. They didn't know he had left. Numerous other stops were made - a spot where older men gather to play checkers, the police station to check missing persons, all dead ends. Lisa went back to the mall to pick up her older sons and took Mr. Carter back to Avon Park. They ran into a neighbor's celebration and a little barbeque was shared with Mr. Carter.

Lisa said, what are we going to do with you Mr. Carter? He replied, "drop me off at a hotel." She said looks like your going to have to stay with me. They pull up to her house where her husband is washing the car, and she fills him in. Thirty minutes later they are bound for Ocala to return Mr. Carter to his home.

Three trips later and after a lot of leg work, Lisa has helped Mr. Carter relocate to an apartment just four blocks from her home. She rented a U-Haul, helped him move, found furniture, has her son check up on him on his way home from school, and is currently getting him hooked into health services offered by the Veteran's Administration. Lisa relayed



the story in a recent conversation I had with her about starting College and what path she might pursue toward her future. She is unsure of that at the moment, and when I asked her about taking a career competency survey, she said I have, and no matter how hard I try—the helping professions are always the recommendation. Laughter ensued. Keep trying and keep helping, for the content of your character and that of so many RCMA staff is a remarkable beacon that lights the way for the Mr. Carter's of the world and for so many others.

**FROM  
THE  
DESK  
OF  
OLGA**

**“As a leader it is not only our responsibility to lead, but to be an example for others.”**

**DEL ESCRITORIO DE  
OLGA**

**“Como líder no es solamente nuestra responsabilidad de guiar pero además también tenemos que ser ejemplos para otros.”**

## **A Moment Prepared for by a Lifetime**

*This story was reprinted from the February Leadership Newsletter 2002 adapted from the Washington Post*

### **DEDICATED TO OUR UNSUNG HEROS**

**W**hen terrorists attacked the World Trade Center on September 11, Rick Rescorla, 62, was vice president of corporate security for broker Morgan Stanley. Thanks for the most part to Rescorla, the firm lost only six of its 2,700 employees in the South Tower. Rescorla had drawn up evacuation plans, taught the employees to use them and oversaw the evacuation.

What makes him a model for aspiring leaders is that he had always taken the lead. He was the last man to leave the South Tower in the 1993 terrorist bombing, and he saw combat action in Cyprus, Zambia, and Vietnam.

In Vietnam, Rescorla used to sing before the worst battles—both to relax his platoon and because he genuinely loved the emotional charge of danger. Morgan Stanley officials report that employees heard Rescorla singing as he directed people out of the tower. He was looking for stragglers when the building collapsed. His body was never found, but his leadership is impossible to miss.

*Mr. Rescorla was able to see his evacuation plans in action. His plan saved lives because he took the lead. He not only developed the plan, but he taught the employees to use them. As a leader it is not only our responsibility to lead, but to be an example for others.*

## **Preparacion de toda una vida para un momento**

*Copiado del Boletin el Liderazgo, de febrero, 2002: Adaptado del Washington Post*

### **DEDICADO A NUESTROS HEROES NO RECORDADOS**

**e**uando terroristas atacaron el Centro del Comercio del Mundo el 11 de septiembre, Rick Rescorla, 62, era vicepresidente de la seguridad corporativa para el corredor Morgan Stanley. Por la mayor parte gracias a Rescorla, la corporación solamente perdió seis de sus 2,700 empleados en la Torre del Sur. Rescorla había desarrollado planes de evacuación y había enseñado a los empleados a usarlos y también superviso la evacuación.

Lo qué lo hace un modelo para aspirar a líderes es que él siempre había tomado su lugar como líder. El era el último hombre en salir de la Torre del Sur en el bombardeo de los terroristas en 1993 y él vio la acción de combate en Cyprus, en Zambia, y en Vietnam.

En Vietnam, Rescorla cantaba antes de las peores batallas —para relajar a su pelotón y porque él amaba verdaderamente la carga emocional del peligro. Los oficiales de Morgan Stanley informan que empleados oyeron a Rescorla cantando cuando él dirigía a la gente fuera de la torre. El buscaba a los despaciosos cuando el edificio se derrumbo. Su cuerpo nunca se encontró, pero su liderazgo es imposible de olvidar.

*El Sr. Rescorla pudo ver su plan de evacuación en acción. El tomo su lugar como líder y su plan salvo vidas. No solamente desarrollo el plan pero también enseñó a sus empleados como usarlo. Como líder no es solamente nuestra responsabilidad de guiar pero además también tenemos que ser ejemplos para otros.*

# Mexican Independence Day Celebration

By Sonia Bravo-Romero  
Area Family Support Specialist, Florida City



On September 16, 2002, Florida City Area Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA) hosted a Mexican Independence Day Celebration at the Everglades Farm Worker Village. Commemorative events started at 10:00 AM with an RCMA children's parade around the community. All Florida City centers participated. Parents, staff and children dressed up for the occasion.

In the evening we hosted a "Fiesta" at the Community Center. Partners for the event were Everglades Community Association the Consulado General de Mexico, Comunidades Mexicanas. The event was a family services event for RCMA families and it was open to the Everglades and Florida City Community. Other RCMA partners were also invited to join us.



The main event of the evening was the "El Grito" Ceremony, done by Consul Luz Elena Banos-Rivas, and was a very emotional moment when the audience kept clamoring **Viva Mexico!** at her mentioning the different historical events that led to the Revolution and Independence. In her speech, Mrs. Banos-Rivas reminded the audience that the culture of one's country is carried in the heart and

soul. We should all be proud of who we are.

The activity included exhibits of crafts, pottery, utensils, paintings, books and history from Mexico. "Botanas tipicas" or a variety of Mexican foods were served together with "aguas frescas" or fruit juice, typical drinks. Entertainment included El Dorado folk dancers from Centro Campesino, and Mariachi El Caporal. The event was a complete success with over 500 people attending.



Congratulations and a sincere thank you to all of our partners that donated food and drinks, time, place, dancers etc. to make this event possible. To all the dedicated Florida City staff for the cooperation, team work and effort for a job well done!



# Pomona Park Head Start remembers

By Claira Puskas, Center Coordinator  
Pomona Park Head Start



On September 11th, RCMA Pomona Park Head Start invited parents to join them in remembering those who lost their lives in last year's terrible tragedy.

Every thing was decorated in red, white and blue in remembrance. Officer Ralph Levereette led the children in the Pledge of Allegiance before the scheduled health fair at the center. Officer Ralph spoke to the children about bike helmet safety and gave out safety coloring books.

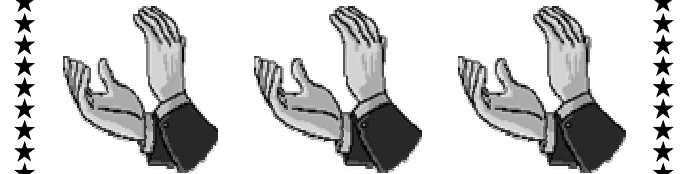


The children rotated through different learning areas related to health and safety. They were weighed and measured and got to play doctor in one area by putting on neat bandages.

When the morning events were over, the parents were invited to stay and have lunch with their children. Even though the children are young and do not have an understanding of the terrible tragedy of last year's September 11th, the staff parents and community will come together to remember and refocus their energy on improving the future for our young children.



## Congratulations!



Diane Judge, center coordinator at the South Highlands CDC has succeeded in two of her professional development goals. She is not only the proud owner of her Director's Credential, but was awarded an Associates of Science degree in Early Childhood Education. We are proud of you!

Best wishes to Lorena Hernandez, human resources specialist at the Rol-lason Center, and her family as they move into their new home!

Dollie McSwain deserves a round of applause for being recognized by the Immokalee Chamber of Commerce as the Community Volunteer of the Year.



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



**October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month**  
 Plan a training, arrange for mobile mammograms today