

# RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make  
A World of  
Difference

## Helping Our Youth



December 2002

Issue 116

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

## A mom's story... A child's success!

*The HOY received a phone call from Patty Martinez, the mother of Janie Martinez, a former RCMA child. She agreed to share the following story about her daughter's success with RCMA HOY readers, so that perhaps other moms and daughters who are facing the same difficult choices would know that they are not alone. She also wanted to convey the message of just how proud she is of her daughter.*



### A Graduate Moves

**Forward:** Janie Martinez is a first year student at Tallahassee Community College!

Janie began as a child in RCMA's Farmworker Village child development centers when she was just 5 months old. She is the child of former farmworkers. Her mom was very happy for her to be in RCMA while she worked. Janie is the first person in the family to graduate from high school. She did not want high school to be the end of her educational accomplishments. Her mom supported her daughter in her desire to go to college. Believe it or not, it wasn't as easy as it sounds.

The first challenge the family faced was how would they pay for tuition and college expenses. Once again they turned to RCMA for assistance. Thelma Martinez, Patty's sister, works as the center coordinator at Farmworker Village B. She was able to connect Janie to RCMA mentor tutor Becky Hoffman. Becky worked hard to help Janie navigate the system, complete her financial aid forms and apply to Tallahassee Community College.

Now all that was left to do was to wait...or should they? A friend of Janie's was also going to college in Tallahassee, and they were going to share their living expenses. Waiting for financial aid could take awhile, delaying Janie's start and possibly changing her roommate guarantee. Janie's extended family is very close so they all chipped in and helped pay for Janie's first semester. Robert Davenport of Davenport Nursery, Patty's boss, also helped by paying for Janie's books. Hopefully financial aid would arrive soon.

The hardest part for a mother was still to come. Janie, her mother, and Janie's friend set out on the journey to Tallahassee to establish their new roots. "I was so happy and proud of her, but there also was a feeling of great sadness that my daughter would not be with me all the time", said Patty. There were many times when friends or relatives would say, "how can you let her go so far away—don't you love her?" There was an overwhelming feeling of guilt and sadness. "My daughter asked me several times, do you want me to stay?" It was very difficult, but Patty knew what she had to do—and that was to support her daughters hopes and dreams by allowing her to go away to school.

As for Janie, she is experiencing winter in Tallahassee, college life and what will be the beginning of a bright future. Janie is a careful planner. Her financial aid has arrived, and this is cause for celebration. A part time job at Walgreens is still necessary to pay the bills. She wants to spend at least her first year at Tallahassee Community College and than apply to Florida State University. Janie would like to work with computers and teach.

Janie we are all very proud of you, but even more proud of your mom for her courage and desire to help you achieve your dreams. Patty fought back tears while relaying her story. She does miss her daughter. But she is confident that she is doing the right thing for Janie - and her daughter's happiness is what matters most to her.

**FROM  
THE  
DESK  
OF  
BARBARA**



**“It was no surprise to learn that research shows that people with strong ties to family and friends, as well as being absorbed doing work that they like are HAPPY”.**

**DEL ESCRITORIO DE  
BARBARA**

**“No me sorprendió saber que las investigaciones muestran que las personas con ataduras fuertes a la familia y amistades, al igual que tener un trabajo que a uno le gusta son feliz”.**

## What makes us happy?

**J** recently read an article in the newspaper USA Today. (This is not my favorite paper, but it was all I had.) The story was about what makes people happy. Of course, that I was interested in! It was no surprise to learn that research shows that people with strong ties to family and friends, as well as being absorbed doing work that they like are **HAPPY**.

Well, for those of you who are saying **DUH** right now let me point out that money was not one of the factors leading to happiness, nor were material possessions. Again, some of us already knew that.

Every time one of our family members in RCMA has a crisis, my respect grows and grows for the immediate reaction of caring and attention. It reflects one of our values as an organization. As for working hard at something we like, most of us in RCMA are terribly fortunate. As a matter of fact, I hope all employees know that if they are doing something they do not enjoy, they need to explore what else we have that they might like better. At RCMA we realize that everyone benefits when staff are happy.

So think about this, and let us know if you want a change. It may not happen right away, but just knowing makes it more possible.

And while you are at it, have a wonderful, loving holiday with family and friends!!

## ¿Que nos hace feliz?

**R**ecientemente estuve leyendo un artículo en el periódico el USA Today. (Aunque este no es mi periódico favorito, es todo lo que estaba disponible). El artículo se trataba de lo que hace a las personas felices. Y por supuesto esto si me interesa! No me sorprendió saber que las investigaciones muestran que las personas con ataduras fuertes a la familia y amistades, al igual que tener un trabajo que a uno le gusta son felices.

Bueno, para los que están pensando “Y Que” les digo que el dinero no era uno de los factores que nos lleva a la felicidad al igual que la posesión de cosas materiales. Aunque algunos de nosotros ya sabíamos esto.

Cada vez que alguno de nuestros miembros de la familia en RCMA pasa por una crisis, mi admiración crece por la reacción inmediata que se demuestra hacia esa persona. Esto refleja uno de nuestros valores como organización. El trabajar duro en algo que nos gusta mucho como nosotros en RCMA es realmente una gran fortuna. Espero que todos los empleados sepan que si no están haciendo algo con lo que están contentos, ellos necesitan explorar que otra cosa les puede gustar mejor. En RCMA nos damos cuenta que todos nos beneficiamos cuando alguien esta contento.

Así que piense en esto y déjenos saber si usted quiere un cambio. Quizás no suceda inmediatamente, pero el saberlo lo puede hacer posible.

¡Y mientras piensa en todo esto, tengan unos maravillosos días festivos en compañía de su familia y amistades!

# Charter school teachers recognized



RCMA Wi-  
mauma Acad-  
emy physical  
education  
teacher, Juan  
Calderon was  
selected by the  
Ruskin/Sun  
City Center  
Wal-Mart as  
the outstanding  
local teacher of

the year. The store manager presented Mr. Calderon with a \$500 educational grant for the school.

Winning teachers are nominated by members of their local community, including fellow teachers, principals, students and parents. When accepting the award Mr. Calderon said, "There are others here who are as deserving or more deserving than I am. We all want to make a difference in your lives."

Congratulations Mr. Calderon, for the unique difference you have been making for RCMA children, families, and staff for over 10 years!

A little further south at the RCMA Immokalee Community School, Alma Reyna, third grade teacher, was recognized as one of two "Title I Migrant Education Distinguished Graduates" in Collier County. Ms. Reyna was involved in the Migrant Education program as a public school student in Immokalee. She went on to get her Bachelors in Elementary Education from the University of Central Florida Ms. Reyna will be one of several national guests of honor at the Title I Migrant Education Conference in Anaheim, California this February.

Ms. Reyna is in her second year as a teacher at the charter school. As a graduate student at Florida Gulf Coast University she is learning how to utilize technology to create student success. She will receive a Masters Degree in Instructional Technology in May 2003. Congratulations Ms. Reyna on receiving such an extraordinary recognition for all of your past and present accomplishments.

## Professional Development Corner

### Dover Migrant Head Start

Norma Muñiz form received her Bilingual National CDA. Way to go Norma! Your center and all of RCMA are very proud of you!

### Nocatee Migrant Head Start

Applause for Maria Gamez who received her National CDA. Virginia Delgado, ECS has earned her Director's Credential.

### DeSoto Area

Gloria Kendrick, area coordinator for Desoto County is setting the example for center staff in her area by successfully obtaining her Director's Credential. Hats off to Gloria.

### Avon Park Head Start Center

Congratulations to National CDA recipients, Elba De Jesus and Maria Rivera. Great work Elba & Maria! Lillie Phillips obtained her CDA Equivalency. Way to go Lillie! Iris Diaz is off to a great start. She is now a certified Parents as Teachers educator. She will now be able to better help parents learn about their children's' development.



**What do cameras, early childhood specialists, and learning have in common?** Immokalee Area early childhood specialists are getting some hands on education of their own at a digital camera workshop facilitated by Tucker Hewes, MIS trainer. Now that the ECS's have mastered digital camera technology, they plan to utilize their equipment along with what they have learned to foster improved learning for children, families & staff in new and exciting ways!

# Letters to the Editor

The following letters were sent in by Janie Martinez, former RCMA child. She sent these to the HOY after she became a Tallahassee Community College student. Dr. Rebecca Hoffman served as the RCMA Mentor Tutor for Collier, Hendry and Glades County. She is now part of the faculty at Florida Gulf Coast University. Thelma Martinez is the center coordinator at RCMA Farmworker Village B.

Dear Rebecca,

I am sending this letter to acknowledge you for taking time out to help me get to where I am now. I just received my financial aid. Words can not explain how appreciative I am of your help. I just wanted you to know you're one of the many people who helped me get a step closer to my dream. Once again, thank you for the time you took out of your busy schedule to help me. I guarantee you that it was not a waste of your time. Thanks a million!!

Dear Thelma,

It's me your niece! I'm pretty sure you're well aware of how much financial aid I received by now. I just wanted to tell you that if it weren't for you and your connections to good people, I probably would be struggling a great heap right now. I want to thank you for introducing my mother and I to Mrs. Rebecca, because both of you helped us out a whole lot. I love you as my Aunt and I love you as a friend also, because you always have told Jessica and I if we ever had a problem to come to you and somehow you would help us resolve it. Thank you for being there no matter what the circumstances. I appreciate everything you have done for me, whenever a helping hand was needed. Thanks a bunch! Miss ya!! Love ya!!

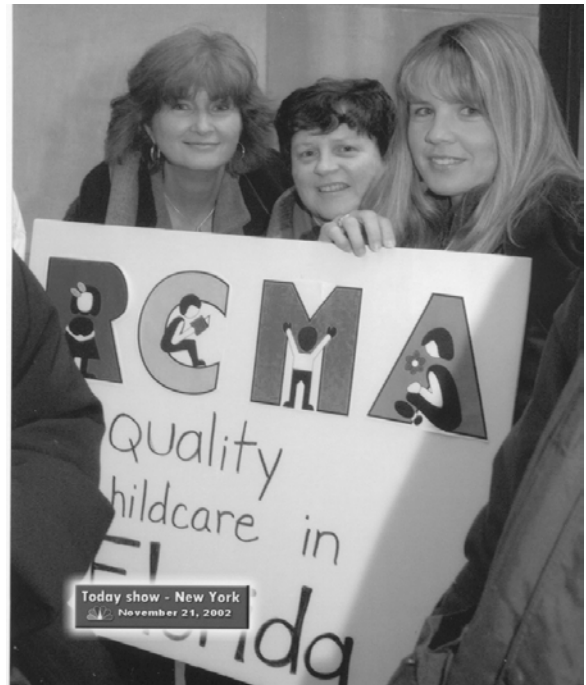
*Janie Martinez*



## Technology Tip

To select a single sentence in a paragraph, hold down the **CTRL** key in the lower left hand corner of your keyboard and click on the sentence with the mouse.

## Community Relations alive and well in the Big Apple!



**RCMA Sign Seen Nationwide:** After a busy day attending workshops at the NAEYC Conference in New York City (left to right) Patti Young, Peggy Janitz, and Ana Neuhauser spent their evening preparing a sign that would take the RCMA mission to network television. Braving the predawn hours of New York City they scoped out a prime spot outside of the NBC Today show. On November 21st Today show viewers were introduced to RCMA thanks to the efforts of these three committed or as Ana put it, perhaps crazy RCMA staff.

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**Wishing you a holiday filled  
with peace and joy!**