



RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make
A World of
Difference

Helping Our Youth



January 2003

Issue 117

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

Acts of kindness brighten holidays

The generosity of RCMA's many statewide community partners and individual donors was felt throughout the state. The spirit of Christmas giving helped to make the holidays much happier for our children and families thanks to many generous donations of toys, money to purchase toys, food baskets, parties and center Santa sightings.

Many of our HOY readers were anxious to share these acts of kindness. A special thank you goes out to all RCMA supporters who contributed their time, money and gifts in an effort to brighten the faces of our migrant and rural low income children and their families.

In Dade County, a huge toy drive was organized by Service One Title Corporation, in conjunction with Hands on Miami, Bank United and numerous other supporters. Donations included over 300 toys, four wagons, a pizza party, a visit from Mr. & Mrs. Claus and \$950 toward a playground improvement project to the Redlands Christian Migrant Association.



Mr. Claus and Rudy Blanco from Service One Title Corp.

Jerry Patricio, Vice President of Service One Title, comments, "In the title business, I see millions of dollars transacted daily in and then I drive around and marvel at all the new construction going up. After talking to RCMA's Area Coordinator Marbelia Zamarripa about this child care center serving 160 children of farm workers, I knew we could do this, with some help." In addition, Jade, a new eclectic lounge located on South

Beach, offered to host a fundraiser on a busy Saturday night and raised over \$950 for the final item on the RCMA "wish list": a fence around the sandbox to keep the animals out. Thanks Yvette and all Title I staff and partners!



Ms. Jean is in the elf cap surrounded by grateful parents, children and staff.

In the far north in Gadsden, a long time friend of RCMA, Ms. Jean organized a toy drive with help from friends and neighbors. Santa was on hand to help with the celebration and parents and children were at the center to greet him and his kind elf, Ms. Jean.

Fun and smiles were had by all. Thank you Ms. Jean!

In Naples at the Six Ls Migrant Head Start Center, Six L's a major packer and grower who owns the property where the center is located, donated \$700 for Christmas gifts for the children. Eudelia Cuevas, center coordinator, arranged for parents to go on a shopping trip with an allowance for purchasing gifts for their children. First Presbyterian Church, the Salvation Army, Alumnae Club, and the First National Bank of Naples all helped with gifts for the children.



Santa arrives with the gifts on a tractor, all thanks to Six L's Farms.

First National Bank also pledged funds for the Reading is Fundamental program to purchase books for the children.

Kindness continued on page 3

**FROM
THE
DESK
OF
OLGA**



“Listen to what people do NOT say also. If someone doesn’t talk to you it might mean that they do not respect, support or trust you. It could also mean that they are afraid to tell you something.”

**DEL ESCRITORIO DE
OLGA**

“Escuche a lo qué la gente no dice. Si alguien no habla con usted es que podría significar que ellos no le tienen respeto, apoyo o confianza a usted. También podría significar que ellos tienen miedo decirle algo.”

Listen and Learn 2

Listening is the basic attribute of leadership. This was discussed in the November 2002 issue. So let’s continue.

While you are listening, ask questions as a way of showing that you are listening as well as getting more information that will help you remember.

Listen to what people do NOT say also. If someone doesn’t talk to you it might mean that they do not respect, support or trust you. It could also mean that they are afraid to tell you something. If you notice this happening, talk to that person and find out what’s going on. Share your observations and concerns with the person. And really listen to what they tell you.

Listen with your eyes as well as your ears. Watch how people react to what you say. If they look away or look distracted they may not be interested in talking with you. Sometimes people move around if they don’t believe what they are hearing.

Listen to ideas that are not your own. Listen to what others tell you without getting defensive. Make it ok for others to share ideas that conflict with your own.

Be open to the truth. Ask for the facts, especially when things are not going well.

Escucha y Aprende 2

Escuchar es el atributo básico de dirección. Esto se discutió en el ejemplar de Noviembre 2002 Así que continuemos.

Mientras usted está escuchando, haga las preguntas en una manera para mostrar que usted está escuchando así como conseguir más información que lo ayudará recordar.

Escuche a lo qué la gente no dice. Si alguien no habla con usted es que podría significar que ellos no le tienen respeto, apoyo o confianza a usted. También podría significar que ellos tienen miedo decirle algo. Si usted nota este acontecimiento, hable con esa persona y averigua qué está pasando. Comparta sus observaciones y preocupaciones con la persona. Y realmente escucha a lo que ellos le dicen.

Escuche con sus ojos así como sus orejas. El reloj cómo las personas reaccionan a lo que usted dice. Si ellos parecen lejos o parecen distraído que ellos no pueden ser interesados hablando con usted. A veces las personas mueven adrededor si ellos no creen lo que ellos están oyendo.

Escuche a las ideas de otros. Escuche a qué otros le dice sin ponerse defensivo. Hágale saber que esta bien que den ideas que contradigan a los suyos.

Esté abierto a la verdad. Pida los hechos, sobre todo cuando las cosas no van bien.

Giving continued from page 1

Thank you to all Six Ls Migrant Head Start partners!

Meanwhile Immokalee School-Age children were supported by a very successful Collier County Marine Corps Toys for Tots Toy Drive. Over 1,000 toys were collected by a host of Toys for Tots partners in Naples. Each of the 800 children from the RCMA Immokalee Community School and Immokalee School-Age programs were able to receive 2-3 toys each. Big smiles is what generous Toys for Tots donation brought to our children this Christmas. Thank you Toys for Tots!



WOW! I love this toy!

A large group of RCMA preschoolers took a field trip to Naples where they were invited to a Christmas party with toys, games, face painting and refreshments by the community members of Di-Vosta's Island Walk. Festivities took place at the clubhouse and children had a chance to show their stuff by performing for the group.



Face painting fun!

From Palm Beach to Collier County the 2-5 year olds were treated to toys once again from our very own Board member elf, Michael Bayer. Michael has been providing leadership for this massive toy drive for almost ten years now. Michael's



Look at these good looking elves from the Bonita Migrant Head Start Center!

partners include federal offices, local companies, community groups, schools and individuals who come together in Palm Beach County for the Annual RCMA Toy Drive. Hundreds of toys were collected for RCMA children in Palm Beach, Glades, and

Collier counties. Thank you Michael and friends!

Last but not least, Rollason Center staff decided to do their part by donating new Teddy Bears for the chil-



We love our teddy bears!

dren of Farmworker Village C. Nothing like a bear to hug at Christmas. Thank you Rollason Center staff!

Kids helping other kids was the yuletide story in Wimauma, where East

Bay High School's Club Impacto threw a party and individually bought presents for RCMA children. It is the third year that Club Impacto has made RCMA children one of their service projects. Beyond the pleasure of playing with a new doll or remote control car, all of the migrant preschoolers will treasure the relationships they formed with club members. About 60 students are active in the service club. Some students in the club are migrant students too. East Bay Senior Ashely Ramirez said, "I have so much fun playing with the kids because I am a kid myself." Ninfa Martinez, center coordinator said this about the students; "They bring very big smiles to our children. Our families really appreciate it because some of them can't afford to give gifts to their children. We're very fortunate."

There were many other true acts of kindness throughout the state that helped make a happy holiday for our children and families. We have only been able to scratch the surface in our brief HOY coverage. We look forward to featuring other centers and partners next year. Until then our heartfelt thanks go out to all of RCMA supporters for a great end to 2002 and an even better 2003!

Tax-Time Checklist

Get your taxes done for free.

Don't give your money to "rapid refund" shops or professional tax preparers. They can charge high interest and service fees. Instead, get your taxes done for free, fast, at one of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites in our community. Locations are announced in February. Or call 800/TAX-1040 to get the locations from the IRS.

Cash in on the Earned Income Tax Credit.

- ◆ You can get up to up to **\$2,506** if you have 1 child & a family income of less than 9,201 (single) or \$30,201 (married).
- ◆ Up to **\$4,140** if you have more than 1 child & a family income of less than \$33,178 (single) or \$34,178 (married).

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