

RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make
A World of
Difference

Helping Our Youth



February 2003

Issue 118

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

January highlights staff achievements

On a picture perfect day, in the shadow of the new RCMA Immokalee Community School the RCMA Board and staff took the time and attention to honor a host of achievements. Honorees and guests were treated to a delicious meal of bicultural favorites coordinated by Velma



Adame, food program director and Ramon Lozario, kitchen equipment manager. George Sorn, past president of the RCMA Board of Directors opened the ceremony with the

Board recognizing Barbara Mainster's 30 years of service to RCMA children, families and staff. The Board presented Barbara with an original oil painting of one of Florida's most memorable natural landscapes.

The artist, Robert Butler was on hand to present the gift and to provide the history behind a group of talented African American artists known as the Highway Men. The Highway Men were a group of talented young men who traveled the highways and byways capturing the essence of Florida through their art. Many of their painting grace the walls of public spaces, Florida businesses and individual collections. The recognition also included the Board establishing an RCMA Foundation with a Barbara Mainster Fund in which Barbara would be able to use the proceeds to



build and strengthen the work of RCMA on behalf of children and families.

Barbara was visually moved by the two surprises and after many kind words from Mr. Sorn, graciously accepted the recognition. It was now Barbara's turn to do the honoring with incoming board president John Dinkel. The duo graced RCMA's two past presidents, Mr. Fernando Pro and Mr. George Sorn each with an engraved rocking chair that would serve as a reminder of the many years in which their leadership has contributed to the success of RCMA's work to open doors to opportunities for children, families and staff.

The best was yet to come as RCMA's newest Child Development Associates were called to the stage by Barbara, Olga Hernandez and John Dinkel to receive plaques and hugs of recognition. Staff who have moved forward and earned a two year degree were called to the stage



for the first time in recognition of their steadfast commitment to higher education.

Newly NAEYC accredited centers were congratulated with center signs and applause. A long line of staff who have committed themselves to children, families and staff for 15, 20 and an amazing 25 years, were presented with 15 year individualized plaques, 20 year silver art pins, and 25 year engraved silver hearts. Biographies were gathered from the 20 and 25 year recipients and shared aloud to a moved audience.

Ted Hoffman, architect summarized through the reading of a



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FROM THE DESK OF BARBARA



“The quality of services we offer depends on these kinds of achievements, which in turn makes what we do with the children so successful.”

DEL ESCRITORIO DE BARBARA

“La calidad de servicios que nosotros ofrecemos depende de estos tipos de logros que a su vez hacen lo que nosotros hacemos con los niños tan exitosos.”

Glorious days of achievement!

Jhese past few weeks have been ones of recognition for many of our staff. At the RCMA Board meeting on January 27 we celebrated forty seven staff who achieved their CDA credential; twenty one staff who completed 15 years of service with us; fourteen staff who completed 20 years of service and two staff who made the 25 year milestone!! There were also six staff who finished their Associate degrees and two more centers which became accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, bringing our total statewide to forty five accredited centers! It was a glorious day for me and for all of us in RCMA.

Last, but not least, RCMA saluted our two past presidents. Chappy Pro, who served in the early 70's, and was never properly thanked, and George Sorn, who gave us sixteen good years from 1986 to 2002, were recognized for their dedication and leadership. Unpaid and too seldom thanked, our Board members take on the fiscal and legal responsibility for RCMA, without which we would cease to exist. Talk about a team – the Bucs could take lessons from us!

While I stood on the platform, looking out at this group of dedicated people, realizing how hard they worked to get this recognition, whether it be as a student themselves, or caring for toddlers day in and day out for twenty years, or with their center staff to reach the accreditation star, our motto of opening doors to opportunities came alive. It is all connected. The quality of services we offer depends on these kinds of achievements, which in turn makes what we do with the children so successful.

Another well deserved acknowledgement

Desk of Barbara continues on page 3

¡Dias gloriosos lugros!

Las últimas semanas han sido de reconocimiento para muchos de nuestro personal. ¡En la ultima reunión de la Mesa Directiva del 27 de enero nosotros celebramos a cuarenta siete personas que lograron su credencial de CDA; veinte una personas que completaron 15 años de servicio con nosotros; catorce personas que completó 20 años de servicio y dos personas que hicieron el 25 hito del año!! ¡Había también seis personas que terminaron sus grados de los Socios y dos más centros que se acreditaron por la Asociación Nacional para la Educación de Niños Jóvenes, mientras trayendo nuestro total estatal a cuarenta cinco centros acreditado! Era un día magnifico para mí y para todos nosotros en RCMA.

Último, pero no menos, RCMA saludó a nuestros dos presidentes pasados. También fueron reconocidos por su dedicación y dirección. Chappy Pro que sirvió en el pasado en los tempranos 70's y nunca se reconoció apropiadamente, y George Sorn que nos dio dieciséis años buenos desde 1986 a 2002. Mal pagado y raramente agradeció, nuestros miembros de la Mesa Directiva asumen la responsabilidad fiscal y legal por RCMA sin lo cual nosotros dejaríamos de existir. ¡Hable sobre un equipo—los Bucs podría tomar las lecciones de nosotros!

Mientras yo estaba de pie en la plataforma, mientras miraba afuera de este grupo de personas especializadas, comprendí lo duro que ellos trabajaron para conseguir este reconocimiento, ya sea como un estudiante, o cuidando a los niños pequeños día tras día por veinte años, o para alcanzar la estrella de acreditación, nuestra tema de abrir las puertas a las oportunidades tomo vida. Todo esta conectado. La calidad de servicios que nosotros

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poem what the new and beautiful three story school building symbolizes and his motivation to create artistic beautiful buildings is directly linked to the children, families and staff of RCMA.



Last, but not least the Executive Director’s Support Staff Award was presented to Julie Powell, HSFIS data specialist. Julie’s plaque read: *Ever helpful, willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done. With a smile, she prepares for Policy Council Meetings, assures that HSFIS is up to date, generates reports, gathers information and never complains! Her energy and commitment, dedication and dependability is deeply appreciated.*

RCMA salutes all of those individuals who commit themselves through achieving educational goals, obtaining seals of quality, and going above and beyond in utilizing their energy and dedication toward their work to improve the futures of migrant and low income children and families throughout Florida!

Child Development Associates

Adame, Luz	Gutierrez, Melinda
Adams, Mattie	Juanchi, Flor
Ashford, Alisha	Lunda, Maria.
Atkins, Mae	Manrriques, Magali
Belmares, Maria	Morales, Roseangely
Boyzo, Flor	Morenoa, Emma M.
Briones, Maria	Muniz, Norma
Burks, Cynthia	Olmos, Patricia
Camargo-Soria, Martha	Patino, Florencia
Castillo, Celsa	Pecina, Martha
Charles, Nicole	Perez, Evelinda
Cortez, Laura	Perez, Wanda
Cruz, Martha	Peterson, Arlene
Day, Louise	Pickle, Aaron
DeJesus, Elba	Regalado, Yolanda
DeJesus, Maria	Rivera, Maria
Delacruz, Norma	Rodriguez, Esperanza
Deleon, Debra	Soto, Rosa
Elrod, Sherri	Triguero, Juanita
Gamez, Maria	Ugarte, Melissa
Garcia, Claudia	Valdes, Raymaris
Garcia, Marisela	Vargas, Cynthia
Gasca, Maria	Vega, Kathy Marie
Gasca, Noelia	Williams, Cindy
Guerrero, Maria	Young, Shalyna

Del Escritorio de Bárbara continué de la pagina 2

ofrecemos depende de estos tipos de logros que a su vez hacen lo que nosotros hacemos con los niños tan exitosos.

Otro bien merecido reconocimiento se llevo acabo en Washington, DC en la Conferencia de Nacional Migrant y Seasonal Head Start el 2 de febrero. Lourdes Villanueva, nuestra Gerente de Migrant Head Start , recibió el Premio “Plate of Bounty” en el reconocimiento de sus logros como un padre que completó su GED, AA, BA, mientras trabajaba difícilmente, primero en los campos, y entonces con RCMA. Además, con ella el marido quien la apoyo mucho, ella crió a tres niños, todos quien están ahora en la universidad. Su abogacía para las familias migratorias y su actitud de si, si se puede (sí, usted puede hacerlo) se ganó este premio nacional. ¡El personal y padres que estaban allí con ella no podrían estar más orgullosos! Una vez más, se demostró la filosofía de RCMA de contratar de la comunidad que nosotros servimos para ser muy eficaz y vital a nuestro éxito continuado con las familias y sus niños.

Associate Degrees

Coronado, Beatriz	Homestead
Cuevas, Hilaria	Bowling Green
Eason, Joanevia	Sebring
Fernandez, Anselma	Westside Village
Garcia, Isabel	Bowling Green
Valadez, Graciela	Wauchula

25 Years of Service

Greene, Karri D.....	Arcadia
Staggers, Mary Ann.....	Florida City

20 Years of Service

Adame, Velma Maria	Lupercio, Evangelina
Carter, Walter D	Minez, Rosalinda
Cuevas, Eudelia	Nieves, Juana
Dragustinovis, Maria	Padilla, Gloria
Eguia, Ida	Portee, Evan
Guerra, Maria Tirsa	Sandoval, Sara
Ibarra, Imelda	Serrano, Maricela

Lourdes Villanueva honored with Plate of Bounty Award

Desk of Barbara continued from page 2



Lourdes Villanueva is congratulated on receiving the Plate of Bounty by Sandra Carton, Chief, Migrant and Seasonal Programs Branch

On Sunday, February 2, 2003, in the ballroom of the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC, Lourdes Villanueva, RCMA migrant head start manager was in for a big surprise. The banquet was part of the 34th Migrant and Seasonal Head Start National Conference. Lourdes, accompanied by a table full of RCMA parents and staff watched as three previous winners took the stage. Even after she was called to the stage and her photo and biographical information was being flashed on a screen behind her she still could not believe that she was the National Migrant Head Start staff member to be recognized.

The Plate of Bounty Award was created in 1999 by the National Migrant Head Start Association to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to migrant and seasonal farmworkers. There are four categories: 1) Parents, 2) Growers and Food Processors and 3) Community Partners. The award is beautifully hand-crafted and offers a unique dual symbolism: a bounty of giving by the recipient of the award and the bounty of food picked each year by migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

took place in Washington, DC at the National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Conference on February 2nd. Lourdes Villanueva, our Migrant Head Start Manager, received the Plate of Bounty Award in recognition of her accomplishments as a parent who completed her GED, AA degree, BA degree, all while working hard, first in the fields, and then with RCMA. In addition, with her very supportive husband, she raised three children, all of whom are in college now. Her advocacy for migrant families and si, se puede (yes, you can do it) attitude earned her this national award. The staff and parents who were there with her could not have been more proud! Once again, the RCMA philosophy of hiring from the community we serve was demonstrated to be most effective and vital to our ongoing success with families and their children.

NAEYC Accreditation

RCMA Avon Park Head Start
RCMA Ruskin Migrant Head Start
RCMA Wahneta Migrant Head Start

15 Years of Service

Alonzo, Noemi	Wimauma
Arevalo, Rosalinda	Immokalee
Cooper, Audrey Jean	Dade City
Quinoñes, Lorena	Florida City
Rosales-Gutierrez, Olga	Immokalee
Joseph, Jeannine	Wimauma
Lopez, Maria Martha	Wahneta
Mateo, Claudia	Wimauma
Moguil, Leslie	Immokalee
Murray, Jean	Immokalee
Ridley, Bernice	Arcadia
Rincon, Josue	Immokalee
Rodriguez, Rosa	Ruskin
Rodriguez, Sofia	Immokalee
Salazar, Teresa S	Immokalee
Soto, Evelyn	Wimauma
Soto, Rosa	Dade City
Stringfield, Andrea	Lake Placid
Tovar, Rosa Isela	Immokalee
Wigfall, Pamela	Dade City
Young, Julia Mae	Palatka

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All we need
is love...
Happy
Valentine's
Day

