

RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make
A World of
Difference

Helping Our Youth



May 2003

Issue 121

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

Seven year road aimed toward prevention

By Wanda Malave
Area Service Support Specialist
Palm Beach County Area Office

RCMA Beyond Barriers, a Southeast Regional Project dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect, celebrated its 11th year with its first annual parent gathering... and the special guests were highly pleased.



Parents Recognized!

Enedina Gallegos presents parent Claudia DeLeon with a Recognition Certificate. Other parents who were recognized for their achievements included: Altagracia Salto, Rocio Lara, Mayra Guervara, Javier Alvarez, Maria Pacheco, Leticia Vazquez, Maria Alfaro, Roberto Ferrara, Gloria Tellez, Elia Belmontes, Maria Zavala, Nereida Perez, Martina Sesmas, Ausena Cortez, Martin Larios, Patricia Rodriguez, Eloisa Cruz, Maria G. Moreno, Abel Silva, Lourdes Espiritu, Moise Peirre, Felipa Torres, Maria Deleon, Claudia Deleon, John Jones, Alphonso Amilarcan, Ramiro Lopez, Maria Ortez.

...and the special guests were highly pleased. In addition, Michael Toops was pleasantly

The purpose of the conference was to celebrate and recognize the extraordinary efforts of community partners, parents, the steering committee and staff who provided top quality prevention activities and family services throughout the year.

The conference was held at the elegant Crowne Plaza hotel located in West Palm Beach. There was a delectable Mexican buffet which all the attendees enjoyed with "finger licking" delight. Participants were treated with a selection of four workshops on the prevention of child abuse and neglect, as well as a heart warming slide show demonstrating the unity of families and staff working together towards promoting positive child rearing.



Indian River Celebrates Fundraising Efforts!

surprised with a certificate of commendation for his dedication, commitment and devotion to the ongoing success of the project for over seven years.

We also need to mention the unsung heroes of this project, the Southeast Regional Area Family Support Specialists - Sonia Bravo, Valerie Carter, Hereri Contreras and Nydia Guzman. These family service leaders, tirelessly and with much effort, provide leadership in securing the much needed services for our children and families. Through outreach, educational workshops, community partnerships, parent interactions and much more, they continuously implement the necessary commitments to keep this prevention endeavor strong. Beyond their human passion they rise to the challenge of organizing the required forms and reports mandated from our sponsor. Without the commitment of our sponsor, the Department of Children and Families, this project would not be a reality.

To our Area Family Support Specialists "HATS OFF TO YA!!!" Thank YOU...for helping our families go...

**FROM
THE
DESK
OF
LESLIE**



**Del Escritorio
de Leslie**
**Reaching for a
Dream!**
**¡Alcanzando
un Sueño!**

J have spent a great deal of time reflecting on my past fifteen years at RCMA. I have gained a tremendous amount, both personally and professionally, from the many opportunities that RCMA has provided me. I have had the opportunity to work with, and among, the most committed and compassionate group of people that will ever cross my path.

The friendships and bonds I have made here will follow me throughout my life. It has never been so easy to promote a mission, or believe in a cause. It has never been so easy to contribute my all, knowing that my efforts would truly make a difference. If I am lucky I will have spent almost half of my work life in an environment that was caring, compassionate, stimulating and challenging, and most of all filled with worth.

RCMA has allowed me to pursue a path that is without a single regret, and for that I consider my experience valuable and exceedingly rare. As for all of you, I have the highest regard for the energy, intelligence, time and passion that you commit to RCMA at every turn. I thank Barbara immensely for her trust in my abilities; the freedom she has allowed me in the pursuit of my work; the value she places on my opinions; the many opportunities she has provided me to represent RCMA and to learn and grow.

Feeling comfortable in my work and in a cause is what most people strive for. For me it incites the need for change and even greater challenge. My career map has always included continuing my education. I have spent many years at RCMA convincing others with the phrase “you can do it!” Obtaining my Masters degree has always been a part of my own internal professional development plan, and I too, like so many of you, chose to put it off. I am happy to share that I have made an exciting and thoughtful decision to spend the next two years as a full time student.

My two greatest concerns about leaving my work here at RCMA, were the continuation of the Annual Conference and the HOY. I am happy to share that a competent group of highly talented and committed RCMA leaders will make sure that September’s conference is even better than the last. As for the HOY, we are lucky to have a most talented, creative and kind resource in Ernie Reid, our very own computer guy. Ernie and I worked on this issue together, and with your help in sending stories and photos to HOY@rcma.org or calling and sharing your good news with Ernie, I am confident that the HOY too, will rise to new heights.

Thank you again for all of your compassion, kindness, honesty and integrity, in carrying out what I will always believe to be a most noble and selfless mission - opening doors to opportunities for children, families, staff, and don’t forget YOU!

He estado meditando sobre mis últimos quince años con RCMA. Yo he adquirido mucho en lo personal y lo profesional, de las oportunidades que me ha brindado RCMA. Yo tuve la oportunidad de trabajar con y entre un grupo de personas muy comprometidas y dedicadas que yo podía haber encontrado en mi camino.

Las amistades y vínculos que he hecho aquí los llevaré conmigo por el resto de mi vida. Nunca a sido fácil promover una misión, o creer en una causa. Nunca a sido fácil entregarlo todo, sabiendo que mis esfuerzos realmente hicieron una diferencia. Si tengo la suerte, yo me hubiera pasado casi la mitad de mi vida trabajando en un ambiente cariñoso, complaciente, estimulante, y retador sobre todo repleto de valores.

RCMA me permitió seguir una trayectoria sin arrepentimientos, y por eso la considero una experiencia muy valiosa y extremadamente rara. Y por ustedes, yo tengo un gran respeto por la energía, inteligencia, tiempo y pasión que le entregan a RCMA a cada momento. Yo le doy inmensamente las gracias a Bárbara por su confianza en mis habilidades; la libertad que me brindo en el cumplimiento de mi trabajo; la importancia que le da a mis opiniones; las muchas oportunidades que ella me permitió para representar a RCMA y para aprender y crecer.

Sentirse a gusto en el trabajo y creer en la causa es a lo que mas aspiran las personas. Para mi esto me estimula la necesidad para un cambio y un reto mas grande. El mapa de mi carrera siempre incluyo la continuación de mi educación. He pasado muchos años en RCMA convenciendo a los demás con la frase ¡“si lo puedes hacer”! El obtener mi maestría siempre ha estado en la gran parte de mi plan interno para mi desarrollo profesional, y al igual que ustedes también lo había hecho a un lado. Estoy feliz de compartir con todos que he hecho esta decisión excitante y después de mucha meditación, de pasar los siguientes dos años como estudiante de tiempo completo.

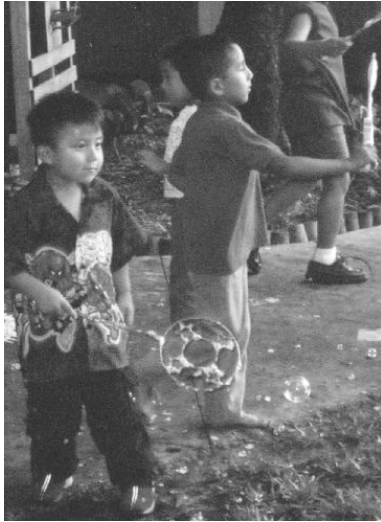
Mis dos mas grandes preocupaciones al dejar a RCMA son la continuación de la conferencia anual y el HOY. Me da gusto compartir con ustedes que un grupo de lideres talentosos y dedicados de RCMA se harán cargo para que la conferencia de este año supere la anterior. Y el HOY quedara en manos de un ser con mucho talento, muy creativo y bueno como Ernie Reid, nuestro hombre de las computadoras. El y yo trabajamos juntos en esta edición y con la ayuda de ustedes enviándonos sus artículos y fotografías a HOY@rcma.org además de las llamadas y las buenas noticias que compartieron con Ernie, yo estoy confiada que el HOY también llegara a nuevas alturas. ¡De nuevo gracias por toda su compasión, bondad, honestidad, integridad, en cumplir el cargo que yo creo el mas noble y una misión desinteresada – el abrir las puertas de la oportunidad para los niños, las familias, los empleados, y no se olviden de Ustedes!

Spring Celebrations Abound

Everglades Family Fun Day

By Guadalupe Leal, service support assistant

On a wonderful Tuesday in April, Everglades II, celebrated Family Fun Day on the playground. The late afternoon event allowed for parents to participate. Burger King provided 71 hamburger happy meals for the children. A petting zoo was on hand with sheep, rabbits, chickens, and goats. The children also enjoyed snow cones and a bounce house. Each classroom set up a table with a variety of activities that parents could enjoy with their children. Activities included a creative arts and crafts project, face painting,



bubble making, creating homemade books and musical instruments!

The parents, children and the staff had a great time helping with such an important event.



Clowning Around:

Face painting activities put a smile on the face of both the artist and the subject.

Nocatee Spring Festival

By Sharon Fox, program coordinator

The Nocatee Migrant Head Start Center recently celebrated RIF with a Spring Festival. The children planted flowers around the center and enjoyed story telling by teacher, Irma. After all the hard work, the children selected a RIF book to take home. The children continue to enjoy the flowers they planted and help to take care of the beautiful garden.



Nocatee End of Season Celebration

Dads pitched in at the barbeque to provide dinner for all. Children and families came together to celebrate the children's future entrance into kindergarten. Entertainment was provided by the Pre-K class, doing their renditions of familiar songs they learned throughout the season.



Hitting a home run in more ways than one!

Robert Coello began playing baseball when he was just four years old. It was his passion then, just as it is his passion now. Robert was ranked among the top two or three defensive catchers in the nation by Baseball America. As a senior at Lake Region High School he succeeded beyond the diamond. He graduated with an astounding 3.8 GPA. It is no wonder that the college talent scouts were all knocking at his door. Florida State, Miami, University of South Florida and Alabama were among the colleges recruiting Coello. Choices, choices....what is an academically successful, athletically talented high school senior to do? Robert signed with the University of South Florida while his teammates signed with community colleges.

His mother Lazara Coello works as a family support specialist at the RCMA Fred Dennis CDC. She is very proud of Robert's accomplishments. "It has always been his dream to play professional baseball. He has a real passion for the game", Lazara said. Lazara has raised four sons and one daughter all of whom have gone on to be successful professionals! RCMA applauds the accomplishments of Robert and his mom!



RCMA Golf Tournament tops \$55,000!

Thanks to a host of sponsors, donors, and individual golfer's love of the game, the golf tournament was the most successful fundraising event of the season. A host of fantastic door prizes were donated from vendors and local merchants, along with the three grand prizes for the final drawing.

And the winners are...

Grand Prize: 10/11 Day Royal Caribbean Cruise
donated by Royal Caribbean
Joe Paterno

2nd Prize: Systemax PC Laptop Computer
donated by Global Computers
Steve Smith

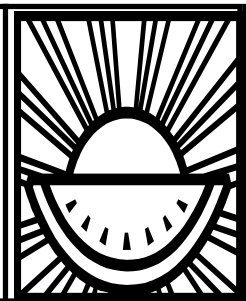
3rd Prize: Nikon Digital Camera –
donated by TruCom, Inc. – Phones & Cable Service
Neal Livingston

4th Prize: Key West Package
donated by: Key West Shuttle (Salty Sam's)
Southernmost Hotel & Resorts
Adventure Scooter Rental
Sunny Days Snorkel Trips
Roanne Moreno

Professional Development Corner
 ★ Congratulations to Veronica Lopez and
 ★ Veronica Arteaga from the Wahneta Migrant
 ★ Head Start Center on receiving their Child De-
 ★ velopment Associate credential. Congratula-
 ★ tions to both Veronicas
 ★ Rocio Zamora of Indian River Migrant Head
 ★ Start is now the proud recipient of an Associ-
 ★ ates of Science Degree in Child Development.
 ★ She has been working very hard being a stu-
 ★ dent at Indian River Community College and a
 ★ full-time RCMA center coordinator. Way to go
 ★ Rocio!
 ★
 ★*****

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Have a safe, restful, and joyful summer whether at work or on vacation!