

RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make
A World of
Difference

Helping Our Youth



August 2003

Issue 124

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

New Technologies Coming to RCMA

As the summer winds down and school begins, new and exciting programs are on the horizon to improve and enhance how RCMA operates. Preschool outcomes, time-keeping and fee collection will be getting a “face-lift”, through the use of computer hardware and software. Take a look at what’s in store!

Ready, Set...GROW: Easy Child Outcomes Tracking!

Tracking outcomes for our preschool children can be very difficult. To help this situation, RCMA has purchased the Ready, Set, GROW program, created by Hach, a leader in educational technology. Teachers will use Palm Pilots to enter outcome information, using very simple and clear instructions to complete the outcomes information. Information that is placed in the Palm Pilots are then downloaded into a computer. This reduces paper and time to pull together outcomes information for teachers’ use in lesson plans.

RCMA has purchased 119 Palm Pilots to be used state wide for this program. Training was held by Hach and RCMA on August 13th and 14th to train program coordinators. The ECS’s and teachers in the classroom will begin using this program in the next several weeks. For more information about Ready, Set GROW, contact Penney Cobb at (863)386-6131 or by e-mail at penney@rcma.org.

E-TIME: Electronic Timekeeping Software

Every pay period, lots and lots of paperwork and time is completed by everyone throughout the state to get a paycheck. Beginning in September, a new way to write

down time worked will be used. The program, called E-Time, will be able to be accessed through the Internet. Employees will be able to enter their hours worked electronically. Supervisors will also be able to use E-Time to approve and make changes to time-sheets.

E-Time will be implemented slowly to make sure that each office understand how to use the program. Trainers from the Payroll department and MIS will be on hand to help everyone learn the easy-to-use program. If you want additional information on the E-Time program, please call Lynn Chambers at (239) 658-3560 ext. 218 or e-mail lynn@rcma.org.

ProCare: Fee Collection Software

Help is Here! We have been promising this for a long time, and it is finally ready. ProCare (our new fee collection program) will make your lives easier. This fee collection software will be loaded at each School Readiness center and will help staff keep track of charges and payments made. The software will also print receipts and can keep a running balance for each family. Reports can be run on all data and can print fee collection reports to turn in to Immokalee!

The new software is currently being used in the Immokalee area and will be loaded on computers throughout the state in the next couple months. Members of RCMA state office and MIS staff will be traveling to each area to load the programs and train center staff on how to use the new software.

If you have any questions regarding the new fee collections software, please call Rosie Borrego at (239)658-3560, ext. 239 or e-mail her at

FROM THE DESK OF FRANCISCO



About two weeks ago I talked to a friend of mine who now lives in California. He shared a lot of what he's been through in the last five years since we spoke last. Al shared how crazy his life is and has been, he of course shared his accomplishments; he is driving a Mercedes SL55, just recently purchased a 5 bedroom house in Burbank, and he is building a promising career at the Los Angeles Community Hospital. When we first met Al was married to Scarlet, a very intelligent and caring woman, they had a baby girl when he was in medical school. He also shared that this part of his life, the one with the wonderful wife and the girl, was part of the not so successful side of his life.

Often we are running against the clock pursuing an ideal of life that we have come to believe is a must. We work hard because we prefer to be driving a newer and better car, a bigger and nicer house because we deserve it, because we work so hard. Yet, we hardly ever stop to think about what is really important. If you grab pencil and paper and calculate the amount of time you actually invest nurturing those relationships that are important in your life, versus the time you invest pursuing other interests, you will be surprised! Many of us do lousy when it comes to taking care of those who love us. Pursuing a career and striving for excellence is admirable. We should not forget however, that it is important to pace ourselves and that we do not neglect our main responsibility of loving and being loved. That there is a time for everything and it all can be done, we need to be wise however to know when we need to concentrate on career and when it is time to go home.

After I hung up with Al I looked at my 17 month old son playing joyfully around the living room. I once again thought about how blessed I am to have a job that allows me to enjoy the company of my family. That night my son looked intensely into my eyes as I sang him to sleep, and I rejoiced as I watched him falling asleep. He was peaceful, content. Today when you go home, enjoy your children, your family. If you live alone make that phone call or that visit to someone you know who will be happy to hear from you.

Del Escritorio de Francisco

Hace dos semanas hable con un amigo que ahora vive en California. Compartió conmigo mucho de lo que le ha ocurrido en los últimos cinco años. Al también compartió sus éxitos, se compro un Mercedes SL 55, una casa de cinco cuartos en Burbank, y esta haciendo una buena carrera en el Hospital Comunitario de los Ángeles. Cuando lo conocí, estaba casado con Scarlet, una chica muy inteligente y de buen corazón, y tuvieron una niña mientras el estudiaba medicina. También me dijo que esa parte de su vida, la de la esposa y la hija, no era parte de sus éxitos. El matrimonio había terminado.

Frecuentemente estamos corriendo en contra del reloj, en busca de un ideal de vida que nos hemos convencido a si mismos que necesitamos tener. Trabajamos duro por que preferimos tener un carro más nuevo y mejor, una casa más grande y más bonita, por que lo merecemos, después de todo para eso trabajamos duro. Sin embargo, casi nunca nos detenemos a pensar en lo que es realmente importante. Si agarras un papel y un lápiz y calculas el tiempo que inviertes en aquellas relaciones que son importantes para ti, y lo comparas con el tiempo que inviertes en otros intereses, ¡te sorprenderás! Muchos de nosotros no somos muy buenos cuando se trata de cuidar de aquellos y aquellas que nos quieren. Construir una carrera y dedicarse a ella es admirable! Sin embargo no debemos olvidar que es importante que tomemos nuestro tiempo y no descuidar nuestras responsabilidades más básicas, aquella de amar y permitirnos ser amados. Hay tiempo para todo, y todo se puede hacer, sin embargo necesitamos sabiduría para decidir cuando concentrarnos en el trabajo y cuando es tiempo de ir a casa.

Después de hablar con Al, mire a mi hijo de 17 meses de edad jugando alegremente en la sala. Una vez más pensé en lo afortunado que soy de tener un trabajo que permite compartir con mi familia. Esa noche mi hijo me miraba a los ojos cuando lo arrullaba para dormir, y disfrute verlo como caía en el sueño. Sus ojitos reflejaban paz, y satisfacción. Hoy que vayas a casa, disfruta a tus hijos, a tu familia. Si vienes solo o sola, has esa llamada o esa visita a alguien que tu sabes que le dará gusto saber de ti.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

By *Daune Frankenfield*, Early Childhood Specialist

HELP! Our center is flooded! That was the call to the Palm Beach County RCMA Belle Glade and O'Brien centers in late April. The East Coast Migrant Head Start South Bay center had flooded over the weekend and the center was closed down by the Health Department until repairs could be made to walls, flooring and classroom materials.

But what do you do with the children?

That's when RCMA Belle Glade and O'Brien centers stepped up to lend a helping hand. Belle Glade had a family room that was converted in an afternoon to a classroom for nineteen preschoolers. The O'Brien center had a place for infants and toddlers. In addition, the kitchen staff of both centers had to start cooking more food to serve all



East Coast Teaching staff & Belle Glade CC Esther Wainz

the extra children. Both SSA's Norma DeLa Cruz and Irene had to process food applications and organize children's records immediately. All these changes were handled practically overnight, but that's what friends are for!

East Coast Migrant Head Start South Bay at first thought that it would take only a week to fix their center, but circumstances caused the repairs to stretch into a month. They didn't



East Coast Teaching Staff & O'Brien Care Staff with AC Mary Espinoza and PC Paula Rounsavall

need to worry. Both RCMA Centers gladly gave the space and rearranged meetings so that the children could still attend school. Center Coordinators Ester Wainz and Maria Gonzalez and ECS's Daune Frankenfield and Frances Ramirez made sure that the South Bay teachers, children and administrative staff were comfortable and at ease in this time of transition.

All's well that ends well. After a month of repairs, the Migrant Head Start children and staff moved back into their refurbished center—just in time for federal review. When trouble arises and neighbors need help, RCMA is there to lend a hand.

Florida Family Development Credential Transforming the way Florida works with Families

By *Debbie Thompson*, Family Services Project Director

Beginning in the Fall of 2003, several Florida Community Colleges will begin to offer college credit courses in Human Services degree programs which will help individuals obtain the Family Development Credential. This training combined with the successful completion of a portfolio and FDC state examination will allow them to achieve the Florida Family Development Credential. The Credential will involve:

- 90 hours of class time (at community colleges so college credit will be offered!!!)
- meeting with a field advisor (who will encourage the student and help facilitate the creation of a portfolio; meeting a minimum of one hour per module),
- an approved portfolio and a state exam.

Successful completion of these requirements will render a frontline family service worker with a new perspective (paradigm shift) and a well-respected Credential which we expect to be recognized by the federal Head Start Bureau. The Credential will encourage, yes, even stretch an individual's way of thinking to a strength base. What does that mean? The curriculum, written by Christian Dean at Cornell University, is based on the premise that all families have hopes and dreams for a richer, fuller life. Family Service workers will be trained to help families use their strengths to achieve their own goals.

You are probably wondering where we are in the progress of offering the Florida Family Development Credential. We offered the 1st FL FDC Trainer Institute in July which is necessary before anyone can teach the curriculum. Several community college instructors and possible community college instructors attended the training. The Training was a great success!!! Now, on to offering the Credential! We are currently working with community colleges to offer the course. However, at this time, we do not have any classes scheduled. That does not mean that we won't be able to offer any this Fall. We may be able to. We are talking to Indian River Community College, St. Johns Community College, Hillsborough Community College, St. Petersburg Community College, and Florida Gulf Coast University at this time. It is possible we will have a class starting late at each of these institutions. Please e-mail your interest to debbiet@rcma.org and stay tuned for further details. Remember, your interest will help generate more interest by the community colleges.

The "Lost Photos" of Smith Brown Afterschool

The "Badges of Honor" Article from last month's HOY were missing the photos to go with the story.



This month, we have the images of the summer Smith Brown Afterschool Program and their activities for you!

(Left): Working on their badges: Elizabeth Montero, Margarita Montero, Anayeli Damaso, Tishonna Riley, and Richard Castillo



Librarian, Ms. Sharon Roses and children: Moneshia Williams, Maria Ramirez, Dwayne Hearn, Elizabeth Montero, and Romalo Ramirez



In the Garden: Tishonna Riley, Jeremiah Castillo, Mechala Wooten, Angel Valenzuela, Richard Castillo, Laquavious

NOTES AND NEWS

Words and Photos from Around the State!

IT'S A BOY!

Josie Gracia gave birth to David Emmanuel on July 15, 2003 at 6:26PM. He was 7 pounds, 12 ounces and 19 inches long. Congratulations, Josie and family!!!



RCMA Conference Update

By Amy Smith, Resource Production Manager

Live it up RCMA style at the 2003 Annual Conference which is Wednesday, September 24 thru Friday, September 26th in Orlando at the Rosen Centre. Even though the participants will be attending sessions, they will also have the opportunity to explore the Hall of Fame and have some fun! At the Hall of Fame which is open from Wednesday, September 24th from 1pm to 2:45pm and from 4:30-6:00pm, visitors will be exposed to different cultures like India, Mexico, and Switzerland, but they will also have an opportunity to take advantage of learning about benefits, Christmas Cards, RIF, the First Annual RCMA Cookbook, and many other vendors. The evening festivities on Thursday, September 25th, will begin with an elaborate fashion show presenting dress from different cultures around the globe that influence RCMA. After the fashion show, the band Grupo Huitzilin whose unique instrumental sound is made from natural components like shells, wood, and turtle shells, will start the party off with their musical vibes. And don't forget the DJ! RCMA's very own Greg Burgos who will be ending the evening by mixing the tunes for a night of dancing and fun! So get your dancing shoes ready for the festivities at the 2003 Annual Conference! If you have any questions or concerns about the conference, please contact Amy Smith at amy@rcma.org or 800-282-6540 ext.

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Is Your RIF Essay the Winning Entry?

By Ireme Branmmertz, Literacy Specialist

As more and more of the RCMA staff become quite good using the computers and looking for information on the intranet and internet, we have expanded the information we provide on the intranet. Our new, expanded site is now titled "Family Literacy" and when you click you will find a sub-menu with three choices: CCA (Centro Comunitario de Aprendizaje, or Community Learning Center), Literacy, and RIF (Reading is FUNdamental).

Besides the general information posted, many of documents have been revised.

In particular, we invite you to check out these topics under the RIF heading:

- o **Essay Contest**
- o **Updated Fundraising kit** (amounts have changed)
- o **Online quiz** (it will give you immediate feedback as to how you did!)
- o **Online distribution reporting** (no more papers to copy or fax)

Please be sure to check with your area team about how you can participate in the essay contest. Deadline for area submission is November 3, 2003. Don't miss out on this opportunity!

If you need assistance in learning how to complete the online distribution form, please contact your roving computer trainer or sign up for a class with Joyce at the Ruskin computer lab.

As always, contact Irene by phone (305-360-2560) or email (irene@rcma.org) for any questions not covered on the website or to request a visit in person, either to provide technical assistance or as a guest during a RIF distribution event.

CONGRATULATIONS, ABEL!



Congrats to Abel Yzguirre, a long-time after-school and summer employee of the fiscal department at the Rollason Center. This spring, he graduated from Immokalee HS and is now on his way to study computer engineering on a full pay scholarship at USF.

Best of luck, Abel!