

RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make
A World of
Difference

Helping Our Youth



September 2003 Issue 125

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

The Pillars of Gold and Silver

By Rita Mendez, Special Projects / Community Relations Coordinator

There is a song in Mexico called "Doña Blanca". One part of the lyrics says "los pilares de oro y plata" (I hope some of you remember this song). I mention this because I'm going to tell you about the pillars of gold and silver (pilares de oro y plata in Spanish) for the Tellez family, an RCMA family.

What is the difference between the solid and stable families and the ones who are not? Maybe there is not a single answer, but we will know the Jesus Tellez' view..

Mr. Tellez was born in Michoacan, Mexico and has two daughters. Like many others, he arrived in the United States with the purpose of improving his economic situation. He frequently goes back to Mexico, and in one of those visits he met his wife Gloria. They married in Mexico and came to the United States.

Their daughter, Daisy, is one of the best students of her classroom. She excelled on the FCAT and is a very good reader, like Gaby, her sister. I asked Mr. Tellez what he considers the most important thing to keep his family integrated. His answer: "Overall, the time we (my spouse and I) spend with our daughters. As a father, one must be aware of their homework, help them and speak with them. Besides that, he must be informed about their friends and hobbies"

One other thing important to the family is to be established. He said "When somebody comes to the US, they keep thinking about getting back to Mexico. For this reason they never think about establishing a life in the US. After a while, after the children come, they don't know anything about Mexico. When the children don't want to go back, this is the moment when a father must make a decision"

These days, Jesus is a US citizen. I asked him why many Mexicans who have the opportunity and the desire to apply for citizenship don't do it. He answered that sometimes it's because most of

the people believe that it is too hard to pass the test. In his case, he passed the test the second time. "If we are determined to do something we can do it".

To provide a secure environment to his family, spend quality time with his children and

enjoy their success, these are the "pillars of silver and gold" for the Tellez family.



LOS PILARES DE ORO Y PLATA

Hay una canción en México llamada Doña Blanca, en una parte de la canción mencionan "los pilares de oro y plata" ojalá algunos la recuerden. Hoy platicaremos de los pilares de oro y plata que sostienen a la familia. ¿Que es lo que hace la diferencia entre las familias sólidas estables y las que se desintegran? Pienso que no hay una sola respuesta, hoy sabremos una de ellas, la de Don Jesús Tellez.

El Sr. Tellez, es padre de familia del programa de Afterschool de South Dade tiene dos hijas: Daisy de 9 años y Gaby de 7 años. El nació en Michoacán. Como muchos otros mexicanos llego a Estados Unidos con el deseo de encontrar un mejor nivel económico. A veces regresaba a México y en una de esas visitas conoció a la que hoy es su esposa: Gloria. Se casaron allá y vinieron a los Estados Unidos a vivir.

Daisy, la mayor de sus hijas, es una de las mejores alumnas de su salón, lo mismo que Gaby la mas pequeña, ambas asisten a la escuela "Leisure City Elementary". Daisy obtuvo un reconocimiento por su puntuación en el examen FCAT y por su lectura. Gaby tiene muy buenas calificaciones en 1er. Grado.

Pregunté al Sr. Tellez que es lo que consideraba importante para lograr mantener unida a su familia nos comento: "Sobre todo la convivencia con las niñas. Como padre uno debe estar pendiente de las tareas de la escuela, ayudarlas y platicar mucho con ellas, además procurar estar enterado de sus gustos y amigos"

Otra de las cosas que nos platico es la necesidad de establecerse, nos dijo: "Cuando uno llega a Estados Unidos siempre piensa que es temporal, que pronto se regresara a México y por esta razón uno nunca logra establecerse. Luego vienen los hijos y ellos no conocen México, no quieren regresar a un lugar que no conocen, ahí es cuando se debe tomar la decisión de establecerse aquí o allá"

Actualmente Don Jesús es ciudadano norteamericano, le preguntamos por que muchos mexicanos que tienen la oportunidad y el deseo de obtener la ciudadanía no lo hacen. El nos comento que muchas veces es porque creen que es sumamente difícil presentar el examen, en su caso paso el examen la segunda vez, "si uno se lo propone lo puede pasar" comentó.

El establecerse y crear un ambiente seguro, el platicar y disfrutar de la convivencia con su esposa e hijas son los pilares de oro y plata de la familia Tellez.

FROM THE DESK OF BARBARA



This is Hispanic Heritage month. Given the large number of Hispanics in our country and in RCMA, we should enjoy learning more about what this all means. I know there are people everywhere who resent this new group of Americans, and given the country's current economic situation, the anger and racism are even worse.

But let me share one bright spot on the subject. I recently attended the last part of a School Advisory Committee (SAC) in our Immokalee Community School. Sitting around the table in the cafeteria there was a rainbow of races. The discussion was moving along fast and friendly, with everyone chiming in to add their opinions. The group waited for translations to be made before moving on. The elected officers were as follows: the president is African American, the vice president and treasurer are Hispanic and the secretary is Anglo. They laughed together, made decisions together, ate together and when the meeting ended, they hugged each other.

And no one thought this was special, or unusual. What they know is that they are all human beings, all with children who mean the world to them, all working hard at making ends meet and all grateful to be involved in their child's school. What a wonderful example they are to their children!

Each of us can enrich our lives by learning more. Take advantage of this month and learn more about Hispanics – and then share it with your family and friends. Little by little, we are making the world a better place for those who will come after us.

Hispanic Facts

- ◆ As of the year 2002, there are more than 35 million Hispanics in the United States. One out of every 10 Americans is of Hispanic descent.
- ◆ Hispanics are the second largest minority in the U.S. and will be the largest in approximately five years.
- ◆ Hispanic is not a description of race. There are Hispanic Americans of many races including White, Black, Native American and even Asian.
- ◆ Many Hispanic-Americans trace their roots to the cultures of the indigenous peoples of the Americas, including the Aztecs, the Incas, the Maya, Arawaks and Tainos. Others trace their roots to the Spanish explorers who in the 1400's set out to discover a new way to trade with the Indies and other areas of Asia.

Facts provided by Gloria Rodriguez, Fort Myers News-Press, September 10, 2003.

Del Escritorio de Barbara

Este es el mes de la Hispanidad. Dado el alto número de hispanos en este país y en RCMA, deberíamos disfrutar el aprender más el significado de todo esto. Yo se que existe gente que resiente este nuevo grupo de Americanos, y dada la situación presente de la economía, el resentimiento y racismo son aun mas acentuados.

Sin embargo quiero compartir un buen punto al respecto. Recientemente asistí a una junta del concilio de padres (SAC) en la Escuela Comunitaria de Immokalee. Sentados alrededor de la mesa en la cafetería, estaba un arco iris de razas. La discusión se estaba llevando acabo rápida y amigablemente, y todos participaban expresando su opinión. El grupo se detenía para permitir las traducciones, antes de seguir adelante. Los oficiales electos son: el presidente es Afro-Americano, el Vice-Presidente y Tesorero son hispanos y el secretario es anglo. Ellos compartieron risas, tomaron decisiones y comieron juntos, y al final de la junta se abrazaron unos a otros.

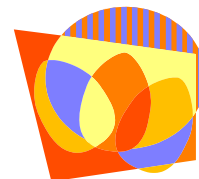
Sin embargo nadie pensó que esto fuera especial, o inusual. Lo que ellos saben es que todos son seres humanos, todos con niños que son todo para ellos, todos trabajando duro para ganarse la vida y todos agradecidos de estar envueltos en los estudios de su niños. Que bonito ejemplo son ellos para sus niños!

Cada uno de nosotros enriquecemos nuestras vidas cuando aprendemos algo nuevo. Aproveche este mes y aprenda más acerca de los hispanos- y compártalo con sus amigos y familiares. Poquito a poquito, hacemos este mundo un lugar mejor para aquellos que vendrán después de nosotros.

Datos Hispanos

- Desde el año 2002, hay más de 35 millones de hispanos en los Estados Unidos. Uno de cada 10 Americanos es de descendencia hispana.
- Los hispanos son la segunda minoría mas grande en EU y será la mas grande en aproximadamente 5 años.
- El término "Hispano" no es la descripción de una raza. Existen hispano-americano de muchas razas, incluyendo blancos, negros, Americanos Nativos e inclusive asiáticos. Muchos hispano-americanos tienen sus raíces en culturas indígenas de las Americas, incluyendo Aztecas, Incas, Mayas, Arawaks y Tainos. Otros tienen sus raíces en los exploradores Españoles quienes, en los 1400's, se aventuraron a descubrir nuevas rutas comerciales con la India y otras regiones en Asia.

Datos históricos fueron proporcionados por Gloria Rodríguez, Fort Myers News-Press, 10 de Septiembre de 2003.



United Way Recognizes Ruskin RCMA Volunteers

For the first time in the Ruskin Area since RCMA has had a connection with the United Way, we had two nominees at the 2003 Volunteer of the Year Luncheon Awards Ceremony. The Ceremony was held at the Double Tree Hotel at Westshore and W. Cypress in Tampa on Wednesday, April 30, 2003.



(L-R: Steve Kracik, Program Coordinator Salma Haidermota, and Jean Seifert at the United Way Ceremony.

RCMA nominees included volunteer Jean Seifert, who has done arts and crafts at Wimauma After School programs for eight years. Nominee Steve Kracik has helped at the Wimauma After

School programs for five years.

The large dining room was filled with over one hundred generous volunteers plus representatives of numerous agencies such as RCMA, that receive funds from United Way of Tampa Bay. As the Attendees enjoyed the luncheon, a large screen was showing pictures of each volunteer, listing their name and the agency they represented.

Congratulations and many thanks to Steve, Jean and all the fantastic Volunteers that help RCMA meet our mission every day!

BEGINNING ANOTHER YEAR

Redlands Christian Migrant Association held an enrollment event Saturday, August 16, at Barron Park. Parents registered their newborns to five-year-olds for RCMA programs at one of three Labelle centers: Krome Center on Cowboy Way, Mira Verde in Port LaBelle or the CDC on S.R. 29S. Families must meet eligibility guidelines to register their children at RCMA. At Saturday's event, certified child restraint tech Tracy Pemberton helped fit children with

proper carseats, which were obtained by RCMA with grant funding. Pictured from left: Debbie Roundtree, Early Head Start Out-



reach at the Krome Center, Regina Williams with six-month-old Shakiya, who was being fitted for a carseat and Tracey Pemberton, RCMA Head Start Outreach at Mira Verde.

CREATIVE CHOICES COMES TO RCMA

By Peggy Janitz, Infants / Toddlers Specialist

Some RCMA toddlers have been picking up worms, jumping off logs, and tossing rolls of toilet paper into laundry baskets. If you are wondering why, check out "Creative Choices for infants and toddlers" at: WWW.rcma.org/intranet/

Five RCMA centers worked hard last year trying out new activities. The centers were Krome Child Development Center, Wimauma Infant Migrant Head Start, Crescent City Child Development Center, and Smith Brown Child Development Center. Rollason Pre/EHS also contributed to the project. Thousands of pictures were taken of infants, toddlers, and their caregivers having fun while they played and learned. The theme-based activity guide will help all RCMA infant and toddler teachers plan simple, enjoyable, and developmentally appropriate lesson plans.

The Creative Choices website is being tested throughout this year. The English version is now available and the Spanish version will be ready soon. As you visit the site, try out our activities. If you have a suggestion or comment, please send it along to Peggy@rcma.org. If you are not sure how to use the computer, ask for help from your local MIS field representative.



With experiences:
Young children learn to read the world

Con experiencias:
Niños pequeños aprenden a leer el mundo que los rodea
StoryQUEST: Beginning the journey to literacy
StoryQUEST: Comienza el viaje a la alfabetización

TALENTED CANINE VISITS RUSKIN INFANT CENTER

Ruskin Infant Center had a recent visitor to entertain the little ones. Veronica Dubois, ECS, brought in her two year old Chihuahua, Lupita for a visit. The children fell in love with Lupita, and enjoyed the entertainment she provided. Lupita is a dog of many talents. While the children sang, Lupita joined in on the singing, using her own sounds. When Veronica prompted her, Lupita attempted to repeat simple words like "Mama", and imitated actions that were done such as singing the high notes with a high-pitched whine or howl. Be assured, Lupita is a "spoiled" little Chihuahua.



NOTES AND NEWS

Words and Photos from Around the State!

Congratulations!

Jacqueline Kay Ramos

By Delia Ortiz, Hardee-Highlands Mentor-Tutor

“People with goals succeed, because they know where they're going.” --Earl Nightingale



That's why Kay Ramos succeeds, because she knew what her goal was all the time.

With all the challenges that a college student has to deal with, especially when you're a full time

employee, Kay kept looking at the goal. Not only that, Kay dealt with sickness that put her out of work for a couple of months. Still, she continued working toward her goal. Nothing stopped Kay from doing what she wanted; achieving her A.A.S. Degree in Child Development and Education.

Kay has been working at RCMA since 1983. She left for three years and then returned. She has been here for a total of seventeen years. Kay has performed different positions in our organization such as; teacher trainee, teacher, lead teacher, Assistant Director, Center Coordinator, outreach worker, and now is working as Site Director in Lake Placid Parent and Child Center. She has a vast experience working with every department. She started studying in South Florida Community College in May 1999 and this past May, she accomplished her degree. She also received the Advanced Level Director Credential from Florida Department of Children and Families. Kay, We know you won't stop there!

We are very proud to have Kay as part of our staff. She's an excellent example of motivation and enthusiasm, accompanied with determination and commitment toward a professional goal! Here are a few words from those who work with Kay:

- “It took persistence and fortitude to accomplish this goal. I knew you could do it! Congratulations, Kay! This is a special day for you and your family.” - Penney Cobb, Outcome Specialist

- “¡Felicidades! I knew that with your commitment and dedication, you would make it. Remember you can reach any goal in life that you put your mind into.” - Yessica Rodriguez, Outreach Worker
- “Every moment is an opportunity for those who are ready to seize it, and you did it!” - Diane Judge, Center Coordinator

CONTRATULATIONS KAY! WE KNEW YOU COULD DO IT!



TECH TIPS



Hints for
Healthy Computing

E-MAIL ETIQUETTE—Part 1

TIP: Do not write in CAPITALS—IF YOU WRITE IN CAPITALS IT SEEMS AS IF YOU ARE SHOUTING. This can be highly annoying and might trigger an unwanted response in the form of a flame mail (nasty response). Therefore, try not to send any email text in capitals.

TIP: Be concise and to the point—Do not make an e-mail longer than it needs to be. Remember that reading an e-mail is harder than reading printed communications and a long e-mail can be very discouraging to read.

Tip: Don't forward virus hoaxes and chain letters—If you receive an email message warning you of a new unstoppable virus that will immediately delete everything from your computer, this is most probably a hoax. By forwarding hoaxes you use valuable bandwidth and sometimes virus hoaxes contain viruses themselves, by attaching a so-called file that will stop the dangerous virus. The same goes for chain letters that promise incredible riches or ask your help for a charitable cause. Even if the content seems to be bona fide, the senders are usually not.

TIP: Don't reply to spam—By replying to spam or by unsubscribing, you are confirming that your email address is 'live'. Confirming this will only generate even more spam. Therefore, just hit the delete button or use email software to remove spam automatically.



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