

# RCMA HOY

We Can Make  
A World of  
Difference

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

## Helping Our Youth



October 2003 Issue 126

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

### RCMA Annual Conference Held in Orlando

By Amy Smith, Resource Production Manager

The spirit of RCMA was truly alive during the Annual Conference in Orlando during September 24-26, 2003. Energizing attitudes filled the halls of the Rosen Center while RCMA staff had the opportunity to take advantage of different cultures, benefits, cook books, deeply relaxing massages, and complete a quiz at this year's Hall of Fame, which was organized by Helen Davis and Mary Espinoza. The Hall of Fame was altered this year by incorporating the idea of centers and booths to represent different countries. Each booth was elaborate with native clothing, delicious foods, rich history, and much more. Thank you to all who participated with the hall of fame! Your booths were FABULOUS!

"Making the Connection" was the theme of this year's conference and was first introduced to the staff during the opening session with a Treasure Hunt, which was organized by Hereri Contreras, Rita Mendez and the team from the Homestead area. Staff were divided into 18 groups of 20, given a leader, and challenged to complete different tasks throughout the entire hotel. As teams completed their tasks, team building began to develop, with obvious benefits of team building. A big "great job" goes out to all who participated!

Break out sessions revolved around the topics of Bosses vs. Leaders, Knowing Yourself and Accepting Others, and Communicating in Culturally Diverse Settings. Lead Teachers had an opportunity to attend and learn about Positive Guidance, Child Outcomes, and Language Development. Each session was presented by exceptional speakers with a wide variety of experience within their fields of study, and was enjoyed by our staff. Between workshops, staff had the opportunity to explore the computer kiosk by learning about the Intranet and email, which was organized and run by the MIS department. Attendees also had a chance to take a "sneak peek" at the new electronic time keeping system, E-time.

Keynote speaker and session presenter, Olga Aros, inspired us at lunch on Thursday, to continue achieving our goals, no matter what background we may be from. Her personal stories and goals she has accomplished transmitted a message to all of us about the importance of children and humanity.

ENTERTAINMENT! Do I need to say any more?! What a fabulous year for entertainment! Our entertainment began on Thursday morning with the "History of Gospel Music", by Ms. Alberta Jackson. Her mighty voice lifted our spirits in the morning presentation, energizing our souls for a day of learning. On Thursday evening, the festivities began with the introduction of the Blues Sisters, Gloria Kendrick and Evan Portee, who announced the entertainment for the night, along with Jorge Velasquez and Pauline Andrews. Entertainment continued with a parade of flags, and was followed by a fashion show, which included the clothing and traditions of many cultures. RCMA staff represented different countries like India, Mexico, Switzerland, Spain and many more, showcasing the beautiful ethnic costumes. Flamenco dancers and the band Grupo Huitzilil, whose unique dress and instrumental sound which is made from natural components like shells, wood, and turtle shells, started the party off with their musical vibes. And don't forget the DJ! RCMA's very own Greg Burgos who ended the evening with mixing of the tunes for a night of dancing and fun! A huge thank you and job well done to the entertainment committee! Can't wait to see what you all do next year!

The conference ended with a moving photo montage of the children we serve within RCMA and the activities of the conference, which was created by Ted Hoffman. Barbara Mainster closed the conference with words of advice to continue making the connection with our co-workers, families, and children we serve. Thank you all who helped make the conference a success!

### Conferencia Anual en Orlando

El espíritu de RCMA estuvo realmente vivo durante la Conferencia Anual en Orlando, del 24 al 26 de Septiembre. Actitudes energizantes llenaron los salones del *Rosen Center* mientras el staff de RCMA tuvo la oportunidad de tomar ventaja de las diferentes culturas, beneficios, libros de cocina, masajes profundamente relajantes y un cuestionario completo del Salón de la Fama de este año, que fue organizado por Helen Davis y Mary Espinoza. El Salón de la Fama fue modificado este año con la incorporación de la idea de que los centros y los *booths* representaran los diferentes países. Cada *booth* fue decorado con los vestuarios regionales, comida deliciosa, riqueza de historia y mucho más. ¡¡¡Gracias a todos ustedes que participaron en el Salón de la Fama!!! Sus *booths* fueron ¡FABULOSOS!

"Haciendo la conexión" fue el tema de la Conferencia de este año y que fue presentado al staff durante la sesión de apertura con la "Búsqueda del Tesoro" que fue organizada por Hereri Contreras y Rita Méndez y el equipo del área de Homestead. El staff se dividió en 18 grupos de 20, con un líder y el reto era completar diferentes tareas a través de todo el hotel. Cuando el equipo completaba sus tareas, la construcción del equipo se empezaba a desarrollar, y aquí se mostraron los beneficios de esa construcción de equipo. ¡Un gran "estupendo trabajo" va a todos los que participaron!

Las sesiones giraron alrededor de los tópicos: Jefes vs. Líderes, Conociéndose a si mismo y aceptando a otros, y Comunicándose en ambientes culturales diversos. Los maestros líderes (lead teachers) tuvieron la oportunidad de asistir y aprender acerca del Direccionamiento Positivo, Resultados (outcomes) y Desarrollo del Lenguaje. Cada sesión fue presentada por expositores excepcionales con una variedad de experiencia en sus campos de estudio, y fue disfrutada por nuestro staff. Entre los talleres, el staff tuvo la oportunidad de explorar el Kiosco de las computadoras aprendiendo acerca del Intranet y del correo electrónico, este fue organizado y puesto en marcha por el departamento de MIS. Los asistentes también tuvieron la oportunidad de "tener una probadita" del nuevo sistema de registro del tiempo, E-time.

El expositor principal y presentador de nuestra sesión, Olga Aros nos inspiró, en la comida del jueves, a seguir consiguiendo nuestros objetivos, sin importar nuestro origen. Sus historias personales y objetivos que ha alcanzado transmitieron un mensaje para todos nosotros acerca de la importancia de la niñez para la humanidad.

¡ENTRETENIMIENTO! ¿Necesito decir más? ¡Que fabuloso año para el entretenimiento! Nuestro entretenimiento comenzó el jueves por la mañana con la "Historia de la música Gospel", por Ms. Alberta Jackson. Su poderosa voz elevó nuestros espíritus en la presentación matinal, energizando nuestras almas para un día de aprendizaje. En la tarde del jueves, las celebraciones comenzaron con la presentación de las "Hermanas del Blues", Gloria Kendrick y Evan Portee, quienes fueron las anfitrionas junto con Jorge Velásquez y Pauline Andrews. El entretenimiento continuó con un desfile de banderas y fue seguido por un desfile de modas, que incluyó el vestuario y las tradiciones de muchas culturas. El Staff de RCMA representó diferentes países como India, México, Suiza, España y muchos más, mostrando los hermosos trajes étnicos. Las bailarinas de flamenco y el Grupo Huitzilil, quienes con su vestuario único y su sonido instrumental, generado por instrumentos naturales como conchas, madera y caparzones de tortuga, comenzaron la fiesta con sus vibraciones musicales. Y ¡no olvidemos el DJ! Greg Brugos de RCMA quien terminó la noche mezclando melodías ¡para una noche de baile y diversión! ¡Un gran agradecimiento y felicitación para el comité de entretenimiento! ¡No puedo esperar a ver lo que harán el próximo año!

La conferencia terminó con una presentación fotográfica de los niños que servimos en RCMA y las actividades de la conferencia, que fue creada por Ted Hoffman. Barbara Mainster cerró la conferencia con el consejo de continuar haciendo la conexión con nuestros compañeros de trabajo, familias y niños que servimos. Gracias a todos los que ayudaron a hacer de la conferencia de este año ¡un éxito!

Check out [www.rcma.org/intranet](http://www.rcma.org/intranet) for conference photos!

**FROM  
THE  
DESK OF  
JUDY  
BURLESON**



Have you been thinking about all the changes for teachers and classrooms? Teachers have classrooms for groups of 8 infants and toddlers. Preschool classrooms are for groups of 17 or 20 children. Teachers have new job titles and increased pay scales. There are new positions for Teacher Level 1 and Mentor Teacher. Forty two new teachers are going to college this year. We will be using more technology to help us with assessments and screenings. Classroom activities have more literacy and school readiness skills included in their day.

What does all of this mean? Why are we changing in so many ways? Most of these changes have come from our Head Start and Florida School Readiness Partnership funders. They have given us mandates to improve our education to children. Why do funders want more? Taxpayers want all children to read and learn. The public wants children who will grow up and be ready for a job. For many, many years it seemed that the public did not care about young children and how important the early years are. Now they have noticed. Early childhood education is a part of later success in school.

RCMA has a rich heritage. We have so much to be proud of. When we look back in time, we see our child care centers. As we look forward, we see early education classrooms and charter schools. As we look forward we see caring teachers, happy children, and developmentally appropriate learning. More accredited centers and caring qualified teachers, who speak the language a child hears at home, will be part of the education that children and parents will receive at RCMA. Proud parents, involved in their child's education, are a very big part of success in public school. Parents and teachers working together are what children need.

The future is challenging for all of us at RCMA. There are always changes and new things to do. We must not forget the caring, the children, and the parents. These are what brought us here and this is what is still important today. Be strong. Be proud. Remember the past. Look to the future.

**Del Escritorio de Judy**

¿Ha estado pensando acerca de todos los cambios para los maestros y sus salones de clase?

Los maestros tienen salones para grupos de 8 infantes y niños pequeños. Los salones de preescolar son para grupos de 17 o 20 niños. Los maestros tienen nuevos títulos y escalas de pago incrementadas. Hay nuevas posiciones, los maestros de nivel 1 y el maestro mentor. Cuarenta y dos nuevos maestros van al colegio este año. Nosotros estaremos usando más tecnología para ayudarnos con nuestras evaluaciones y observaciones. Las actividades diarias del salón de clases son más y están dirigidas a incrementar las habilidades en literatura y preparación para la escuela.

¿Qué significa todo esto? ¿Por qué estamos cambiando en tantas formas? La mayoría de estos cambios vienen de las organizaciones que nos proveen de fondos, *Head Start* y *Florida School Readiness*. Ellos nos han dado órdenes para mejorar la educación de nuestros niños. ¿Por qué nuestros estas organizaciones quieren más? Los contribuyentes de impuestos y los americanos quieren que todos los niños lean y escriban. El público quiere que los niños que crezcan y estén listos para un trabajo. Por muchos, muchos años, parecía que la gente no se preocupaba de los niños pequeños y tampoco de lo importantes que son los primeros años para la educación. Ahora lo han notado. La educación para niños en edad temprana es parte del éxito posterior en la escuela.

RCMA tiene una herencia rica. Tenemos tanto de lo que podemos estar orgullosos. Cuando vemos hacia atrás en el tiempo, vemos a nuestros centros de cuidados de niños. Si vemos hacia delante, vemos maestros cariñosos, niños felices y aprendizaje apropiado para el desarrollo. Centros acreditados, maestros afectuosos calificados, que hablan el lenguaje que el niño escucha en casa, todo esto será parte de la educación que los niños y los padres recibirán en RCMA. Padres orgullosos, involucrados en la educación de sus hijos, son una gran parte del éxito en la escuela pública. Padres y maestros trabajando juntos es lo que necesitan los niños.

El futuro es desafiante para todos nosotros en RCMA. Siempre hay cambios y nuevas cosas que hacer. No debemos de olvidar el afecto, los niños y los padres. Esto es lo que nos trajo aquí y esto es lo que aún es importante hoy. Sean fuertes. Esten orgullosos. Recuerden el pasado. Vean el futuro.

## STUDENTS VISIT COLLEGES

By Sonia Bravo- Romero, AFSS  
and Abdias M. Huertas, Student

The Florida City Area and the CCA (Centro Comunitario de Aprendizaje) sponsored two high school students to participate in a trip, GALATA, that a local agency organized. The trip was to tour Florida universities in Jacksonville, Tallahassee and Orlando for the participants to find out about the curriculum, the campus and college life. The trip included hotel, all meals, transportation and guided tours and finished with some fun in Orlando, where they went to Universal Studios.

Abdias Mizael Huerta, a volunteer tutor at the CCA, and Rodrigo Nunez a part-time student at Everglades 1 were the two lucky teens that were chosen to participate. Following is a short commentary written by Abdias:

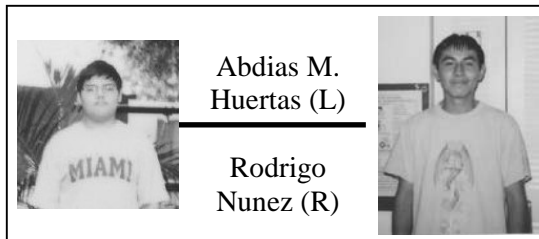
### MY TRIP – Abdias M. Huertas

GALATA took me on a trip to the Florida Universities. This trip was in the summer from July 23 to July 25 of 2003. Some of the universities we visited on this trip were: Bethune-Cookman College, Edward Water College, Florida State University, Florida A & M University, and the University of Central Florida.

Bethune-Cookman, one of the universities we visited, is very pretty. They have a large campus for the students. They have places where the students can sleep. Their stadium was built for more than 1,000 people. They had professional teachers to help the students get ahead in their careers.

Florida State University was one of the universities that I liked because they have programs that I am interested in. For example, they have a specialized program to teach about the laws of the United States and other places as well.

As you can see, these are some of the universities I liked. On the trip we met lots of different and friendly people. Thanks to the Florida City CCA and to GALATA that gave me the opportunity to learn about which university that will be good for me.



Abdias M.  
Huertas (L)

Rodrigo  
Nunez (R)

### ESTUDIANTES VISITAN UNIVERSIDADES

POR Sonia Bravo-Romero, AFSS y Abdias M. Huertas

El área de Florida City y el CCA (Centro Comunitario de Aprendizaje) costearon los gastos de dos estudiantes de escuela superior para que participaran en un viaje que organizó la agencia GALATA. El viaje fue para visitar Universidades de la Florida en Jacksonville, Tallahassee y Orlando con el fin de que los estudiantes obtuvieran información sobre el currículo, el campus y la vida universitaria. El viaje incluyó, hoteles, todas las comidas, la transportación y visitas con guías culminando en una visita para divertirse a Universal Studios.

Abdias Mizael Huertas, voluntario del CCA y Rodrigo Núñez, empleado a parte del tiempo en Everglades 1 fueron los dos afortunados adolescentes que participaron. Lo que sigue es un comentario escrito por Abdias:

### Mi Viaje

GALATA me llevó a un viaje a las Universidades de la Florida. El viaje fue en verano desde Julio 23 a Julio 25 del 2003. Algunas de las Universidades que nosotros visitamos durante este viaje fueron: Bethune-Cookman College, Edward Water College, Florida State, Florida A & M University y University of Central Florida.

Bethune-Cookman College una de las universidades que visitamos es muy bonita. Ellos tienen un campus muy grande para los estudiantes. También tenían un lugar donde ellos podían dormir. El estadio es para más de 1000 personas. Tienen profesores profesionales que ayudan a los estudiantes con sus carreras.

Florida State fue una de las universidades que a mí me gustó, porque ellos tienen unos programas que a mí me interesan. Por ejemplo ellos tienen un programa especializado en enseñar las leyes de los Estados Unidos y de otros lugares.

## NEWS FROM FLORIDA CITY

By Sonia Bravo-Romero, AFSS

The Florida City Area kitchens and cooks got monitored by the state in the month of September. They passed with flying colors! The state had excellent comments about the food program. Florida City is proud and also very happy, since our cooks are excellent. Just the smell out of their kitchens in the morning makes everyone hungry! Congratulations to **Sara Sandoval, Maura Jaimes, Elizabeth Palos and Maria Garcia.**

The children, staff and parents of Centro Villas, Andrew Center and Everglades 1, joined together to have a parade on September 15th to launch Hispanic Month. The parade was around the Everglades Farm Worker Community. Some of the children and staff wore costumes and carried flags from their countries. Andrew Center hosted a small exhibit of items from Puerto Rico, Panama, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico.

In a partnership with Peace Foundation, both Florida City Area and Homestead staff have been taking trainings in nurturing for 0-3 yr olds. This includes positive discipline for the home and the centers. Next class for trainers is on October 20<sup>th</sup> after which the trained staff will be able to offer the support groups for our parents.

During the summer, we had a lot of great opportunities at our Summer Program. The participants were from grades kindergarten to sixth and the program was held at the Everglades 2 Migrant Head Start Center. The children enjoyed various field trips such as: a baseball game at the Marlin's stadium, the movies at the mall and three days at a camp in Marathon Key sponsored by Joshua's Expeditions. At the camp in the Keys they did crafts, games, and got to study marine biology while collecting specimens at the beach. The days were fun filled and busy! We came back exhausted, but happy!

Florida City Centro Comunitario de Aprendizaje or CCA is now two years old! The center is a technology and education center for adults in the community. Maria Gasca is the center's tutor and coordinator. Sonia Bravo-Romero is the project overseer and Irene Brammertz is the state representative as part of her Literacy Programs. (More information on the Intranet!) It is sponsored by the Monterrey TEC, the National Institute for Adult Education (INEA) both in partnership with the Mexican Consulate. The center in Florida City was opened thanks to a generous grant from Women's Fund of Miami, who granted us the money to purchase the computers needed for the first year. Allegheny Foundation and Wal-Mart funded AV equipment and supplies. During our second year, Women's Fund of Miami also gave us another grant to purchase additional computers and provide for some child care hours to enable single mothers to attend. The Mexican Consulate also gave us a mini-library for a Circulo de Lectura (Reader's Circle), to which we are adding donated books. People from the community can borrow books and join in scheduled readings and discussions. The CCA partnered with Barry University HEP Program to provide GED classes in Spanish at the center. Two sessions have been offered and the following six adults have graduated: **Miriam Samaniego, Nixia Sagastume, Norma Morales, Patricia Moreno, Armando Moreno and Mario Martinez.** In September a partnership with the Miami-Dade Adult Skills Center is providing a teacher and materials for our English as a second language class. Over 25 adults both from RCMA and the community, are enrolled.

I am very proud of our area and the team efforts that make all of the above become realities in opening doors of opportunities for our parents and staff. Thank you to all involved! Let's keep up the good work!

# NOTES AND NEWS

## Words and Photos from Around the State!

### ESCUCHA AHORA

por Erika Daniel, Ruskin Infant Center

**Toma un momento para escuchar ahora lo que tus niños están tratando de decirte. Escucha ahora, sea lo que sea, o ellos no estarán para escucharte. Escucha sus problemas, escucha sus necesidades; aprecia sus pequeños triunfos, aprecia sus pequeños hechos. Tolera sus pláticas, amplía sus carcajadas. Descubre lo que están pasando, descubre lo que están buscando. Diles que los amas cada noche, y aunque los corrijas, asegurate de acariciarlos; Diles que todo estará bien- que mañana todo será más brillante! Toma un momento para escuchar ahora, lo que tus niños te están tratando de decir. Escucha ahora, sea lo que sea, y ellos regresarán para escucharte!**

### LISTEN TODAY

by Erika Daniel, Ruskin Infant Center

**Take a moment to listen today to what your children are trying to say. Listen today, whatever you do, or they won't be there to listen to you. Listen to their problems, listen to their needs; Praise their smallest triumphs, praise their smallest deeds. Tolerate their chatter, amplify their laughter, find out what's the matter find out what they're after. Tell them that you love them, every single night, and though you scold them, be sure you hold them tight; Tell them, everything's all right. Tomorrow's looking bright! Take a moment to listen today to what your children are trying to say. Listen today, whatever you do, and they will come back to listen to you!**

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### THE JOY OF GIVING

by Tucker Hughes, Southern Trainer, MIS

For the past three years, Karen and Ed Farrington of Island Walk in Naples, and RCMA have formed a marvelous relationship. Karen Budnik, a former employee of RCMA, knew that her neighbors, the Farrington's, were looking for something to do, and so she introduced them to our RCMA family. It began with donations of clothing, which quickly led to furniture, computers and all the things that our families can use. And the number of centers receiving these items also grew as the word spread of how hard working and generous the Farrington's were when it came to helping RCMA. Last Christmas, Ed and Karen were delivering gifts to the LaBelle Center office when Norma Labra, Area Coordinator, said they could take no more, but the Moorehaven area didn't have any Christmas gifts. Soon, the gifts grew in volume to accommodate additional centers. This past month, Rosa Martinez from Rollason-Preschool CDC asked about the availability of school bags and, since that inquiry, over 500



school backpacks have been delivered, full of all the things necessary for a kindergarten kid to need and enjoy; crayons markers, glue, scissors, tissue boxes and folders. In the works for this coming Christmas are glorious, hand made, wood piper cub airplanes for the children and, who knows what else?



Florida is full of hardworking, generous people who have retired to enjoy the benefits of our state, but many find they need to give to find meaning in their lives. All they need is for RCMA to reach out and find them. Call every possibility, write the local papers, be active in finding these generous people and we will all benefit. The world is full of endless possibilities for us to help our children and families!

### TECH TIPS

ENTER

Hints for  
Healthy Computing

### E-MAIL ETIQUETTE—Part 2

- TIP:** When replying to an e-mail, ask yourself if your reply is really warranted - a message sent to a group of people which only says "I agree" is probably better sent privately to the person who originally sent the message.
- TIP:** Always use a signature if you can: make sure it identifies who you are and includes alternative means of contacting you (phone and fax are usual). A "Signature" is a small block of text placed at the end of your messages, which usually contains your contact information. Our e-mail system can add a signature to your messages automatically.
- TIP:** Definitions of "offensive" vary widely: avoid language which might offend people on the grounds of religion, race, politics or sexuality.
- TIP:** Always remember that there is no such thing as a secure e-mail system. It is unwise to send very personal or sensitive information by e-mail unless you encrypt it using a special program. Remember the recipient - you are not the only person who could be embarrassed if a delicate message falls into the wrong hands.
- TIP:** If you are sending in a question to which you expect a response, make sure you include enough information to make the response possible. For example, sending the message "My spreadsheet program doesn't work" to MIS really doesn't give them very much to work with. When requesting technical support, include a description of the problem and the software you're using.
- TIP:** Above all else, remember that electronic mail is about communication with other people. When you compose an e-mail message, read it over before sending it and ask yourself what your reaction would be if you received it. Any time spent on making our e-mail clearer is time well-spent!

# Redlands Christian Migrant Association

## Parent News

October 2003, Issue #37

RCMA Parents in Action – Reaching out for Opportunities to Grow!

### ¿Es tu centro amigable para los padres?

por Shirley Sloan, Area Family Support Specialist, Immokalee

Para contestar esta pregunta, conteste las preguntas que se encuentran a continuación. Sus respuestas pueden sorprenderlo.

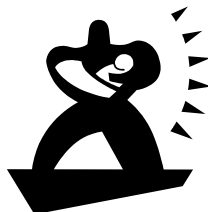
	Preguntas para saber si tu centro es amigable con los padres:	Si	No
1.	¿Tu centro tiene fotografías de padres/hombres en los salones de clases, oficina y áreas de recursos?		
2.	¿Tu centro tiene libros/literatura de interés para los padres/hombres?		
3.	¿Tu centro tiene libros para niños que enfatizen la importancia de la interacción entre el padre/hombre con sus niños/familia?		
4.	¿Tu staff de visita a domicilio ( <i>home visiting staff</i> ) incluye al padre/ hombre en la visita, cuando es posible?		
5.	¿Su staff notifica y se dirige a los padres/hombres en las juntas, en las invitaciones, flyers y durante conversaciones telefónicas?		
6.	¿El staff motiva a los padres/hombres a participar en las actividades del centro, eventos especiales y juntas de padres y de juntas de comité?		
7.	¿El staff organiza grupos de soporte ( <i>support groups</i> ) para padres/hombres?		
8.	¿El staff enfatiza las fiestas (Día del padre) y hace proyectos especiales con los niños para los padres/hombres en sus vidas?		
9.	¿Son los padres/hombres motivados a hacer trabajo voluntario en el centro?		
10.	¿Son los padres/hombres saludados y hechos sentir bienvenidos cuando ellos visitan los centros?		
11.	¿Su regalos de bienvenida ( <i>door prizes</i> ) y recuerdos incluyen cosas apropiadas para los padres/hombres?		
12.	¿Pide que padre y madre llenen las formas de inscripción ( <i>enrollment forms</i> )?		
13.	¿Usted espera que el padre/hombre se involucre en su centro?		

Si usted contesto si a las 13 preguntas de arriba- ¡Felicidades!, su centro es amigable para los padres. Si usted contesto si a menos de 13, entonces lo invitamos a asistir a la primera conferencia a nivel estatal "Es su centro amigable para los padres" ("Is Your Center Father Friendly") pronto en lugares cerca de usted.

Diciembre 2, 2003 – Ft. Myers

Diciembre 9, 2003 – Tampa

Se entregaran \$500 en materiales para ayudarlo a hacer su centro mas amigable para los padres, estos materiales serán entregados a los centros que envíen dos o mas miembros del staff. Llame o envíe un correo electrónico a Amy Smith ([amy@rcma.org](mailto:amy@rcma.org)) en el Rollason Center para más detalles.



# Redlands Christian Migrant Association

## Parent News

October 2003, Issue #37

RCMA Parents in Action – Reaching out for Opportunities to Grow!

### Is Your Center Father Friendly?

By Shirley Sloan, Area Family Support Specialist, Immokalee

To answer this question, take the quick quiz below. Your answers may surprise you.

	Is Your Center Father Friendly Quiz:	Yes	No
1.	Does your center have pictures of father/male figures posted in classrooms, offices and resource areas?		
2.	Does your center have books/literature of interest to fathers/males?		
3.	Does your center have children's books that emphasis the importance of father/male interaction with his child/family?		
4.	Does your home visiting staff include the father/male in the visit, when possible?		
5.	Does staff acknowledge and address the fathers/males at meetings, on invitations, flyers and during telephone conversations?		
6.	Does staff encourage fathers/males to participate in center activities, special events and parent and committee meetings?		
7.	Does staff organize support groups for fathers/males?		
8.	Does staff emphasize holidays (Father's Day) and do special projects with the children, for the father/male in their lives?		
9.	Are fathers/males encouraged to volunteer at the center?		
10.	Are fathers/males greeted and made to feel welcomed when they come to the center?		
11.	Do your door prizes & giveaway items include appropriate things for fathers/males?		
12.	Do you request both mother and father complete application/enrollment forms?		
13.	Do you expect father/male involvement at your center?		

If you answered yes to all 13 questions above - Congratulations! Your center is *father friendly*. If you answered yes to less than 13, then we invite you to attend the first ever, statewide "Is Your Center Father Friendly" Conference, coming soon to locations near you.

December 2, 2003 – Ft. Myers

December 9, 2003 – Tampa

\$500 in materials to assist you in making your center more *father friendly* will be awarded to centers who send two or more staff members. Call, or email Amy Smith ([amy@rcma.org](mailto:amy@rcma.org)) at the Rollason Center for more details.

