

RCMA

quarterly

Redlands Christian Migrant Association
Providers of quality child care and education for
migrant and low-income families in Florida

Volume 1, Issue 4 2007



Opening doors to opportunities since 1965.

SUCCESS STORY

The daughter of former migrant workers, 11-year-old Jessica Velazquez



doesn't want to follow in their footsteps. "I want to be a doctor or an architect," she says.

Born in Guatemala, Jessica has been in RCMA's care since age 3. Today she's a bilingual fifth-grader at the Wimauma Academy, RCMA's charter school in Hillsborough County. Jessica's favorite subjects are math and science, and she's on the honor roll.

Tailored to children of farmworker families, the Wimauma Academy opens doors to opportunities for Jessica and 180 other children under its roof.

RCMA Launches Annual Campaign



Florida's largest non-profit child care provider, the Redlands Christian Migrant Association has launched its 2007 Children's Fund to raise \$375,000 for children's services.

RCMA provides child care and early education for nearly 7,000 children of migrant farm workers and rural, low-income families in 20 Florida counties. It must raise approximately \$650,000 annually from local sources to qualify for over \$10 million in funding under the Child Care Development Block Grant Program.

"The good news is, we can generate up to \$16 for every dollar donated, so even a modest donation creates a huge ripple effect," explained RCMA Executive Director

Barbara Mainster. "We're also extremely fortunate that several counties with the highest dollar amounts to raise are also those with

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- *Barbara Mainster, Executive Director*

recurring generosity from the United Way and other local sources, which lowers our campaign target this year to \$375,000."

However, six counties - Collier,

Lake, Highlands, Miami-Dade, Putnam and Hardee - traditionally fall short raising their match. "We'll be making special appeals to foundations, businesses and individuals to help us there," Mainster said. "Unfortunately, we anticipate a shortfall of \$125,000 in these five counties alone."

Join the Campaign and Make a Difference See Page 3

Good luck, Alex!



RCMA congratulates one of its former Board members, Alex Sink, on her recent election to the Florida Cabinet as the state's new

Chief Financial Officer.

"Alex has been a friend of RCMA for over a decade, since her days with the United Way of Tampa Bay," said Executive Director Barbara Mainster. "We're elated that farm workers and rural, low-income families have such a great advocate on the Cabinet!"

HOW YOU CAN HELP



Volunteer.

RCMA has many volunteer possibilities, such as reading to children, rocking babies and office work.



Donate.

Your tax-deductible donations go toward RCMA child development centers, childhood services, educational equipment and more. For every dollar donated, RCMA can generate up to \$16 in matching funds.



Plan your estate.

Leaving a gift to RCMA in your will ensures that children will prosper and grow thanks to you.

Please contact Matt Bokor for more information at (800) 282-6540 or matth@rcma.org.

9 New Members Join RCMA Board *Panel is a diverse cross-section*

Nine new members have been elected to the RCMA Board of Directors, bringing a wealth of expertise, perspectives and cultures to the association's 30-member governing body. The three new members at large are:

◆ Mr. Paul D. Covill of Vero Beach, retired president of Nynex Corp., the telephone company that served New York and New England. RCMA's Robert G. Covill Center in Fellsmere is named in honor of his and Mrs. Covill's late son in recognition of the Covills' volunteer service and generosity.

◆ Ms. Ellis M.M. Robinson of Sanibel Island, president of The Buttonwood Partnership, which provides strategic organization, fundraising, communications and membership services to nonprofit agencies. Ms. Robinson is author of the book *The NonProfit Membership Toolkit*.

◆ Dr. Wilma Robles de Melendez of Fort Lauderdale, program professor of early childhood education at Nova Southeastern University and author of numerous education-related publications. Before joining Nova in 1991, Dr. Robles was an assistant professor of humanities at the University of Puerto Rico.

The six new members representing parents of children enrolled at RCMA centers are:

◆ Ms. Sarah Cathlino of Hawthorne, president of the RMCA Head Start Policy Council. She has two daughters at the Irene Monroe Walker Head Start Center in Johnson.

◆ Ms. Carmen Garcia of Winter Haven, president of RCMA's Migrant Head Start Policy Committee. She has two sons at the Wahneta Migrant Head Start Center.

◆ Mr. Victor Martinez of Wimauma, secretary of the Migrant Head Start Policy Committee. He has three daughters at the Balm Child Development Center.

◆ Mr. Michael Michael of Palatka, vice president of the Head Start Policy Council. He has a boy and a girl at the Ragsdale Child Development Center in Palatka.

◆ Ms. Rosie Thomas of Lake Placid, secretary of the Head Start Policy Council. She has two boys at the South Highlands Child Development Center in Lake Placid.

◆ Ms. Cherlynn Whitfield of Nocatee, treasurer of the Head Start Policy Council. She has two boys at the Smith-Brown Child Development Center in Arcadia.



RCMA CHILDREN'S FUND
Supporting Migrant & Rural Low-Income Families

RCMA's children's Fund supports thousands of farmworker and rural low-income children throughout Florida.

The Redlands Christian Migrant Association was created in 1965 to provide a safe, nurturing environment for migrant children while their parents worked in the fields.

The organization has grown from three small centers in Homestead to over 70 centers in 20 Florida counties caring for 7,000-plus children. The need never subsides.

Open your heart this spring.

	FRIENDS 4 LIFE (MULTIYEAR \$10,000+)
	OUR HERO (\$7,500 - \$9,999)
	BEST FRIENDS (\$5,000-\$7,499)
	U R 2 SWEET (\$2,500-\$4,999)
	GOOD BUDDIES (\$1,000-\$2,499)
	OUR PAL (\$200-\$999)
	HUGS (\$100-\$199)
	HEARTFELT THANK YOU (\$1 - \$99)



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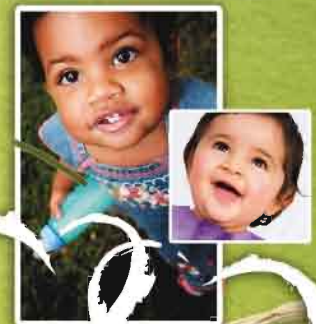
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Help Make A Difference in Their Lives

Your contributions help to ensure that RCMA can continue to provide and expand services to migrant and low income children and families.

RCMA has an annual budget match requirements of over \$600,000 to receive federal/state funds for our child care programs. Your support makes a difference:

- \$25 will generate funds to tutor five after school children for one week.
- \$50 will pay for school supplies for a child for one year.
- \$100 will buy books for a classroom.
- \$200 will generate funds to sponsor one preschool child for one year.
- \$250 will provide scholarship help for one staff member or graduating senior.
- \$1,000 will generate funds to sponsor four children for one year.



Contribute today and make 16x the impact