

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018





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RCMA opens doors to opportunities through quality child care and education from crib to high school and beyond.



To be recognized as a national role model in preparing rural low-income children for leadership.



Compassion Opportunity Quality Respect

On the cover: Teacher Joselin Vasquez and 2-year-old Ana Maria enjoy the playground from LaBelle area.

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July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018



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WHEN KIDS LASH OUT

RCMA responds gently, lovingly - and with lots of questions

Charles* was only 20 months old, yet he frightened his RCMA teachers. He would bite them, pinch them or pull their hair. Charles' most affectionate teacher drew his worst attacks.

Yet Charles spared his classmates. He was angry only at adults.

RCMA kids face fear daily. They come from low-income families, where stress can afflict those who are least able to understand it – much less cope with it. Some children are traumatized by the deportation or incarceration of a parent. Some wonder whether they will be evicted from home, shot at school or left hungry by a parent with an opioid addiction. Like Charles, some lash out.

RCMA responds with a long list of tactics focusing on a closer understanding of the children and their home lives.

At a private childcare center, Charles might have been promptly expelled. But not at RCMA.

"RCMA has been known to serve the children that no one else will," said Isabel Garcia, RCMA's interim executive director/ Head Start director. "Many times our centers get a bad reputation in the public schools because 'the challenging children come from RCMA.' But we say, 'Yes, we serve them, because we care about making a difference in their lives.' And we say that with pride."

In Charles' case, RCMA took the following steps in a matter of days:

- Charles' teachers quickly met with a mentor teacher.
- She followed up by observing Charles and his classroom teacher over five days.
- The program coordinator, RCMA's education expert for the area, observed Charles in class.
- A family support worker reviewed the results of Charles' developmental screenings and visited Charles' home.
- Charles' mother was called in for a conference.
- Charles' family visited the Florida State
 University College of Medicine in Immokalee,
 where a psychologist observed Charles for an hour.
- RCMA consulted with a behavior analyst from Naples.
- All RCMA staff involved with Charles collaborated on a plan for helping him.

One thing was not done. RCMA never punished Charles. He wasn't spanked, humiliated or frightened. Nobody threatened Charles with time out or the loss of privileges such as snacks or playground time.

Instead, RCMA employed gentle, loving techniques spelled out in its 80-page Positive Guidance Notebook.



Angie Granadero, an RCMA early childhood specialist, visits with two RCMA preschoolers in Immokalee.

Last year, RCMA served more than 5,600 children ages 0-5. About four percent came from homeless families. About two percent arrived at RCMA via foster care. About 7 percent had been identified by the Department of Children and Families as being at risk of abuse, neglect or abandonment. All of these arrived with negative memories that no child should have.

Given such fragile, young children, RCMA's services often far eclipse the traditional definition of child care.

RCMA employs professional problem-solvers called "family support workers" at every childcare center. They work with families to help them solve myriad problems ranging from health to housing, finances to immigration status. FSWs encourage parents to approach problems through step-by-step goal-setting.

Eileen* is a mother of six. Her 2-year-old son is enrolled at RCMA's Plant City Child Development Center, which qualifies her family for help from a family-support worker.

Eileen was pregnant last winter when her husband was deported to Mexico. She became the family's only breadwinner.

"RCMA took me to the hospital when my baby was born," she said. "They picked me up after I had

my baby, and brought me home. RCMA helped me with food, diapers and gift cards to buy medicine. They helped me pay the rent. They took me and my children to medical appointments."

In the process of arranging such services, RCMA's FSWs and teachers explore potentially stressful factors in the children's home lives.

That's how staff in Immokalee developed insights about Charles' aggression.

Charles' father lives in Haiti. Charles was born in New York, then moved with his mother to Immokalee last year. Mom cooks in a local café, often working 12-hour days.

So Charles has experienced a succession of baby-sitters, who applied varying tactics of childcare and discipline. After staying with a disciplinarian, Charles turned violent at RCMA last February.

Eventually, Charles calmed down through the efforts of teachers who employed a balance of love and rules. They implemented a firm daily routine for Charles, and helped his mother to do the same at his home.

"The anger's still there," said Angie Granadero, an early childhood specialist at Charles' childcare center. "But he's doing better."

HOW SEPARATING FAMILIES DAMAGES CHILDREN



Javier Rosado
Director of Clinical Research
Center for Child Stress and Health
Immokalee

IMMOKALEE – When people sense a physical threat, a brain structure called the "amygdala" automatically sends them into a "fight or flight" mode.

But what happens if the fear is so profound that it persists long after the threat has subsided? What if the amygdala cannot settle back into the "all's well" mode?

Researchers call this "toxic stress." They see it a lot in children whose parents have been taken away by immigration police.

"It could have a lifelong effect," said Javier Rosado. "The risk for a developmental delay increases significantly."

Rosado is director of clinical research at the Center for Child Stress and Health in Immokalee. A program of the Florida State University College of Medicine, the center aims to help local families treat and prevent toxic stress. Through grant funding, the Center is in the process of training all RCMA teachers about toxic stress, and is developing study and treatment techniques for farmworkers' children nationwide. Rosado has participated in workshops for RCMA.

Rosado notes that the younger a child is, the more severe is the effect of separation.

"Children ages zero to three in particular are vulnerable," Rosado said. "Their brain is literally forming. Toxic stress potentially has lifelong consequences in that child's behavior."

The stress inflicted on a child when he or she is separated from a parent has been a prime topic in Florida immigrant communities this year, ever since the Trump Administration last spring began separating members of unauthorized immigrant families at border crossings.

However, the impact on children can be equally severe when a parent is arrested or deported in Florida.

It usually occurs suddenly and unexpectedly. And it's difficult to explain to the child.

Rosado has worked with Michael*, 11, a student at Immokalee Community School. Michael was in the car when his father was arrested. The father was deported several months later.

In his absence, the family's income shrank. Michael's mother became the family breadwinner, living in fear that she, too, could be deported. She limited her travels, and the family lived in relative isolation. The lack of social support aggravated Michael's stress. He became depressed and defiant; his school grades dropped.

RCMA connected Michael with Rosado for treatment. Over nine months, Rosado helped Michael understand the immigration system and his father's deportation. Michael became less aggressive and better at managing his emotions. After a year away, the father returned. That, too, required adjustments, and Rosado helped.

Rosado has a message for RCMA teachers, especially those caring for preschool-age children who are shattered by the loss of a parent.

"Never underestimate how much impact you can have when you form an attachment and become a supportive person to that child," Rosado said.

"Your teachers are changing and saving these children's lives."

ONE NIGHT, AND A 40-YEAR FRIGHT



Isabel Garcia

RCMA's interim executive director/
head start director

I am a rational woman, living a life filled with responsibility. But on rare occasions, I am 9 years old again, trembling with fear.

This dates back nearly 40 years. During my childhood, my father and uncles led a large crew of farmworkers as they migrated from Florida's orange groves to North Carolina's tobacco fields to Maryland's peach orchards.

In Maryland, our extended family stayed in a big house in the orchard. One day, the men heard that authorities were planning to raid our camp. If it happened, our fathers instructed the workers, then they should run into the orchard and hide.

As for our family, we children were put to bed while my father and uncles sat on the porch all night – with shotguns. How could we sleep? I spent the night shaking and crying.

As it turned out, it was a false alarm; the expected confrontation never happened.

Yet to this day, I'm uncomfortable around immigration police such as the U.S. Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. And I'm a U.S. citizen, born in Florida!

I visited Mexico a few years ago and found myself near checkpoints staffed by uniformed agents of the Border Patrol and Immigration & Customs Enforcement. I immediately grew tense and nervous. Once again, I trembled, struggling to calm down.

However unnerving this is, I see some value in this latent fear. It reminds me how sensitive young children are, especially those growing up amidst the rigors of poverty. I know first-hand how lasting their traumas can be.

This, in turn, renews my appreciation for our staff.

As you can see in the accompanying articles, we have teachers with infinite patience and love. We have family-support workers who can help families unravel crisis after crisis.

Collectively, they have learned from decades of experience that if a child is unruly, it's time to ask some sensitive, sympathetic questions.



Young Isabel Garcia

HIGHLIGHTS

July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018



RCMA served more than **6,462** children during the fiscal year.



In the wake of Hurricane Irma, Immokalee residents converged on RCMA's headquarters complex for the community's first hot meals; RCMA became a hub of Immokalee's recovery efforts.



RCMA served **443** children with disabilities.



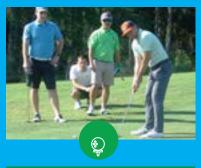
Gloria Padilla, a senior staff member in Immokalee, received a **commendation** in the *Congressional Record* for her tireless efforts to aid victims of Hurricane Irma.



Some **877** children were left on a waiting list because RCMA lacked the capacity or resources to serve them.



Isabel Garcia, an RCMA employee since her high school days, stepped up as interim executive director/ head start director following the departure of Gayane Stepanian.



The annual Lipman Golf Classic in Naples attracted 88 golfers and raised nearly **\$63,000** for RCMA.



The annual Strawberry
Picking Challenge, staged
by Wish Farms in Plant City,
raised nearly **\$100,000**for RCMA.



Students at an RCMA elementary school south of Tampa - who have posted some of the best math results in Florida - won a national competition involving online math games, along with \$15,000 for their school.



RCMA accepted some \$712,000 in hurricane relief donations, and used it to help low-income families recover from storm damage.



RCMA returned in style to the Highway Park neighborhood of Lake Placid, where it lost a lease in 2008, opening a \$1.1 million childcare center.



For \$2.1 million, RCMA bought 34 acres, the former campus of a Bible college south of Lakeland, with plans to address the growing farmworker demand for childcare and elementary education in the area.



PUPPETS IN THE TOOLKIT

RCMA finds a new way to teach preschoolers

Polly the Pig and Chester the Raccoon have joined RCMA's teaching staff.

They are puppets and their arrival was the brainchild of Patricia Wiggins, an inclusion coach who helps RCMA childcare centers to fully involve their children with disabilities in classroom life. Wiggins began researching the idea last year. She learned that puppets aligned with RCMA's Head Start-approved curriculum and had proven effective in teaching coping strategies. RCMA ordered dozens, and they have made a splash.

Soon after a training session in September, an RCMA manager made a spur-of-the-moment decision to bring her new puppet, Polly the Pig, into a classroom of 3-year-olds in LaBelle. The children were riveted.

Inclusion Manager Shawne Thomas had one child in mind. Jack* tended to address any problem with blood-curdling screams. So

with the children gathered closely around, Thomas and Polly the Pig discussed frustrations and alternatives to screaming, such as asking an adult for help.

Later in the day, something bothered Jack. He began to scream, then clapped his hand over his mouth. Jack didn't want Polly the Pig to hear him.

Through this fall, puppets have been used to teach empathy, sharing, turn-taking, collaborative play, understanding your emotions and asking for help.

In Sebring, children bring food for Chester the Raccoon, and cover him at the end of the day so he won't be cold overnight. During a fire drill, they expressed concern to their teacher, Aida Torres, that Chester had been left in the building.

"They totally act like this is a real live thing," Thomas said.

Camarion Hankerson, 5, and his teacher, Aida Torres, play with Torres' puppet, Chester the Raccoon at RCMA's childcare center in Sebring.







WHY THE *?

The asterisk next to a name in these articles means the person's true name was changed.

Nearly all children enrolled in RCMA childcare programs or charter schools are U.S. citizens, but many parents are not. We are protecting their identities to keep them with their children.

In the midst of an immigration debate that is emotional and multi-faceted, RCMA follows a single ironclad truth: Separating children from their parents is devastating to the children.



FINANCIALS

Redlands Christian Migrant Association, Inc.

(A not-for-profit organization)

Statement of functional expenses

For the year ended June 30, 2018

(With summarized comparative totals for 2017)

	Programs General and Support		pport	Combined Totals				
	Total Program Services		Administrative		Fu	nd Raising	2018	
Personnel costs								
Salaries	\$ 37,092,1		\$	3,494,943	\$	152,105	\$	40,739,233
Payroll taxes and fringe benefits	9,596,6			1,175,937		28,958	\$	10,801,590
Total personnel costs	46,688,8	380		4,670,880		181,063	\$	51,540,823
Contracted services								
Childcare services	1,894,3	379		-		-	\$	1,894,379
Other	220,9			172,413		6,899	\$	400,294
Food	1,713,9			-		-	\$	1,713,938
Supplies*	1,858,1			96,098		92	\$	1,954,387
Consumable equipment	855,8	361		77,031		213	\$	933,105
Transportation	667,6	519		59,556		-	\$	727,175
Out of state travel	67,5	00		34,154		707	\$	102,361
Occupancy costs	4,643,9	980		255,735		686	\$	4,900,401
Donated space	3,443,1	75		-		-	\$	3,443,175
In state travel	288,9	921		82,515		12,528	\$	383,964
Health services	171,0	90		30,609		-	\$	201,699
Interest		-		161,956		-	\$	161,956
Conferences and workshops	742,4	113		73,639		3,530	\$	819,582
Direct costs of fund raising events		-		-		116,424	\$	116,424
Scholarships	18,0	000		-		-	\$	18,000
Other expenses	1,132,2	244		270,846		24,650	\$	1,427,740
Professional fees	25,1	22		217,795		-	\$	242,917
Repairs and maintenance	279,8	318		56,740		204	\$	336,762
Depreciation	1,797,5	513		1,362,739		-	\$	3,160,252
Data processing	347,3	390		29,131		-	\$	376,521
Uncollected childcare fees	-			2,845		-	\$	2,845
	\$ 66,857,0)22	\$	7,654,682	\$	346,996	\$	74,858,700

^{*} Includes \$59,096 of donated supplies

Redlands Christian Migrant Association, Inc. (A not-for-profit organization)

Statement of financial position

For the year ended June 30, 2018

(With summarized comparative totals for 2017)

			Temporarily		Combined Totals			
	Ur	restricted		Restricted		2018		2017
Revenues and Contributions								
Grants - federal, state and local agencies	\$	60,321,606	\$	911,821	\$	61,233,427	\$	59,927,130
- counties and municipalities		58,000				58,000		118,000
- charter schools revenues		4,560,083				4,560,083		4,508,071
Other revenues:								
Childcare fees		677,835				677,835		785,734
Rental Income		161,560				161,560		20,965
Interest, investment and other income		70,663				70,663		180,783
Fund raising events		383,956				383,956		392,717
Hurricane revenue		783,974		167,233		951,207		-
Contributions - Local		162,745		15,467		178,212		180,827
- Agriculture		34,000				34,000		40,596
- United Way		401,447				401,447		422,764
- Other		184,228				184,228		133,933
- for Charter Schools		481,898				481,898		515,163
Donated services and occupancy costs		3,503,269				3,503,269		3,406,487
		71,785,264		1,094,521		72,879,785		70,633,170
Functional Expenses								
Program services		66,857,022		-		66,857,022		63,865,340
General and administrative		7,654,682		-		7,654,682		6,980,061
Fund raising		346,996		<u> </u>		346,996		265,322
		74,858,700		<u> </u>		74,858,700		71,110,723
Excess of revenues and contributions over expenses		(3,073,436)		1,094,521		(1,978,915)		(477,553)
Other increases (decreases) in net assets:								
Net assets released from restriction		1,606,304		(1,606,304)				
Other increases in net assets				(1,000,504)		25,402		100 660
Other increases in het assets		25,402				25,402		109,669
Net Increase in Net Assets		(1,441,730)		(511,783)		(1,953,513)		(367,884)
Net assets - beginning of year		12,454,215		8,859,367		21,313,582		21,681,466
Net Assets - end of year	\$	11,012,485	\$	8,347,584	\$	19,360,069	\$	21,313,582

^{*}Certain amounts have been reclassified for comparative purposes

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Morris J. Weinberg & Rosemary Armstrong

Pam K. & William P. Bissett

Paul R. & Julia Moore

Priscilla Lee

Richard L. & Susan Hanas

Robert V. & Nancy F. Rupp

Salvador & Wilma Melendez

Sharon K. Lillis

Stephen & Crystal Whitescarver

Susan E. Halbert

\$250 - \$499

Action Together Suncoast

All in One Commercial Cleaning Services, Inc.

Bob and Becky Allen Fund

DeSoto County Literacy Council, Inc.

Fred's Award World

Gardner Consulting Services, Inc.

Girl Scouts - Troop #737

Gordon Food Service

HPS

Island Grove, LLC.

JHS Builders, LLC

Karen of New York, LLC

Leah Morris Donoghue Memorial Fund

Marco Office Suplly Furniture & Printing, Inc.

MC Loans, LLC.

PayPal Charitable Giving Fund

PP Inc., LLC

Propulus Products, Inc.

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida, Inc.

St. James United Methodist Church

St. John The Divine Episcopal Church

St. Sebastian R.C. Church

Suncoast Credit Union Foundation

SWBG Operations Group

The Royal Companies

United Way Metro Chicago

Utilitech, Inc.

V & R Insurance, Inc.

Village of Mayville Wild Goose Farms LLC

Barbara Bein

Chad Cahill

Dean & Jean M. Young

Ellen Berkowitz

Evelyn Rodriguez

Fred B. & Susan B. Clayton

Genaro Casas Julian

Helen Francis

James Roberts

James Roberts

Jeff & Jeanice Harring

Jim Scartz

Joe & Sally James

John L. & Suzanne Haley

Lee N. & Sydelle Blatt Martin A. & Mary C. Call

Marv Alfaro

Megan & Marc Sewell

Michael & Ann Simon

Michael Lia

Michael T. Bayer Natalie Jackson

Palmer Weeks

Paul Tateo

Peter & Linda Schwarz Ray L. & Leah Morris Donoghue

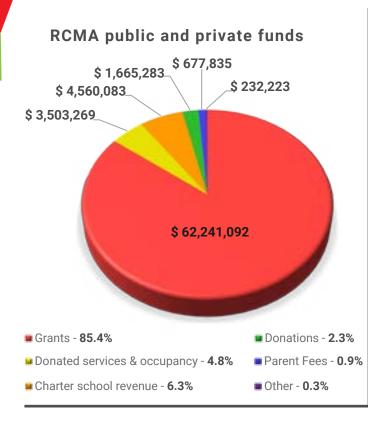
Sam Monte

Susan I. & Charles M. Caito William & Nancy Futch

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HEAD START PROGRAM STATISTICS

Program year 2017-2018

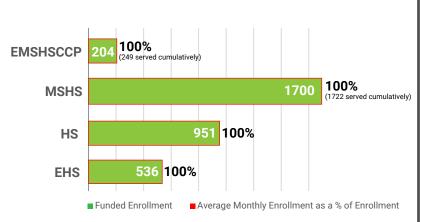


Total number of children & families served by funding source

	children	families	pregnant women
Early Head Start (EHS)	752	662	22
Head Start (HS)	1211	1104	n/a
Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS)	1451	1104	1
Early Migrant Seasonal Head Start Child Care Partnership (EMSHSCCP)	228	211	n/a

Average monthly enrollment

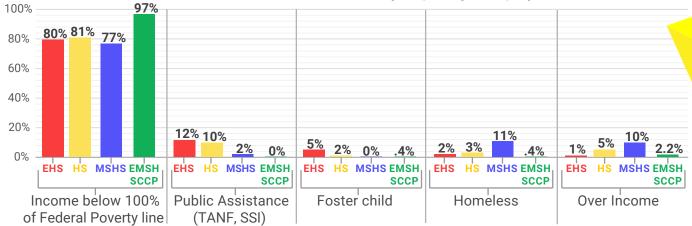
(as a percentage of funded enrollment)



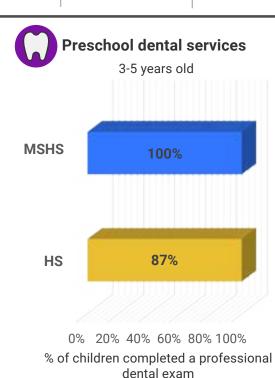
Parent involvement

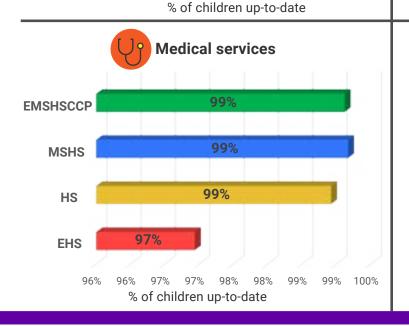
	community volunteers	parent volunteers
EHS	779	639
HS	114	939
MSHS	1690	1524
EMSHSCCP	384	236
Total	4237	3338

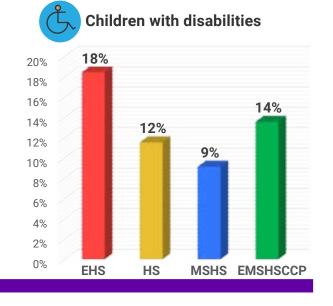
Children and families served by eligibility category



Infant & toddler preventive dental services 0-2 years old EMSHSCCP 98% MSHS 90% EHS 90% 0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%









Redlands Christian Migrant Association

402 W. Main St. Immokalee, FL 34142 1.800.282.6540 WWW.RCMA.ORG



COLLIER

953 children 6 centers 26 family child care homes 1 charter school 2 partners

DESOTO

227 children 3 centers

FLAGER

42 children 1 center

GADSDEN

4 children 1 partner

GLADES

133 children 3 centers

HARDEE

207 children 3 centers

HENDRY

463 children 3 centers 1 partner

HIGHLANDS

520 children 7 centers 1 partner

HILLSBOROUGH

1618 children 16 centers 2 charter schools

INDIAN RIVER

232 children 3 centers 1 partner

LAKE

46 children 1 center

LEE

37 children 1 center

MANATEE

68 children 1 center

MARION

134 children 2 centers

MIAMI-DADE

823 children 7 centers

ORANGE

56 children 1 center

PALM BEACH

175 children 2 centers

PASCO

99 children 1 centers

040 111

312 children 4 centers

PUTNAM

POLK

186 children 3 centers

VOLUSIA

127 children 2 centers