



# Immokalee Child Care Center News



**CENTER HAPPENINGS 2010**

## MISSION STATEMENT:

TO SERVE THE IMMOKALEE COMMUNITY BY PROVIDING EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND THE HIGHEST QUALITY CHILD CARE

Nationally Accredited, Early Learning and Development

**- YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK -**  
**- INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION -**  
Their Future is in Your Hands



Football Player

Nascar Driver



Librarian

Horticulturist



Doctor

Architect



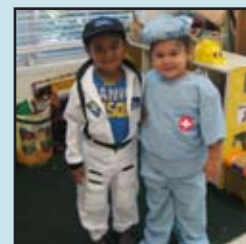
Radio Announcer



Chef



Fashion Designer



Astronaut Nurse

Early literacy helps me to communicate, puzzles improve my problem solving skills, dressing up helps me express myself, blocks teach me about shapes, sizes and balance, when cooking I learn all about nutrition, outside games improve my coordination and balance. Everything I learn is because you have invested in me. My success will be because you cared. Thank you.



## From the Executive Director ... Valarie Bostic

Recently I was asked what I do for a living. I responded by saying “I’m in the field of early childhood education”. His comment to me was, “Is that like babysitting?” making me cringe at the response! I have spent so many years advocating the importance of quality early childhood education and the difference it can make in the life of a child. By the time our conversation ended, he said, “You’re talking about a school!”

Child care is not a new concept in the United States. Day care for children actually originated with the welfare and reform movements of the 19th century. Jane Adams, a well known reformer in her era, developed nurseries for poor children who needed supervision and care while their parents endeavored to survive in a new land. This story sounds very similar to the humble beginnings of the Immokalee Child Care Center. Founded in 1964 by Church Women United of Collier County, the original center was housed in an old open wash pavilion. At that time, because there was no child care available, migrant families had no choice but to take their young children to the fields with them.



Through the years, the face of child care has changed. While centers still have the primary objective of caring for young children, a major focus on quality has prompted programs to move from custodial care only to educational environments that foster the cognitive, social, and physical needs of children. New Florida State mandates have made many centers take a hard look at their programs. Changes in room sizes, health and safety regulations, provider background screening laws and training requirements have affected many programs. For our Center, these requirements are not new. It has always placed a major emphasis on quality and the health and safety of the children. At the Immokalee Child Care Center, the children are what matters. It’s a place where children can grow, learn and be loved unconditionally. Immokalee Child Care Center truly is a place which has continued to make a difference in Collier County for over four decades....one child at a time.

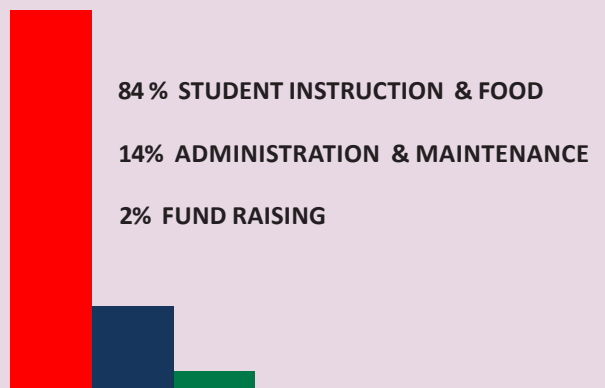


## \$\$\$\$ For your tax-deductible end-of-the-year gift please be aware, your donation (in any amount) is very important to us.

The Immokalee Child Care Center has an educational program that encompasses not only the education of the children, but also the parents and staff. The children of today will be the educators of tomorrow. ICCF focuses on strengthening the family through education, because, strong families build strong children who in turn will build a strong America.



### Where your money goes



**Graduation** This year's Graduation was especially exciting for the Center. It included a gathering of some of our former students from middle school, high school and college. Students home from college joined us in support of their younger siblings and joined in the graduation celebration. Jaime Vega came to share his experiences at the Center and encourage the children of the graduating class to always do their best, work hard and face challenges. Jaime creates and designs art work to help raise money for the art program at his school. Special guest speaker for graduation was Cierra Tims, a



Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten teacher at Immokalee Child Care Center, who fondly recalled her days as a child at ICCC. She finds it comical that some of the teachers she had as a child are still there. "I have been told I used to talk a lot and play with my glasses," she says. "I guess I should have known I would come full circle and eventually end up right back where I started." Cierra attended the University of Florida and has her Florida Child Care Professional Credential. In June 2010, she also received her Florida Child Care Level I Director's Credential.



Cierra Tims Class of 1988

Other alumni attending: Jernell Hughes- Immokalee High School (Commitment to Liberty University for Basketball); Johnerra Thomas (Student at FAMU), Jasmin Vega (Middle School), Christian Vega (Immokalee High School), Rodderick Talbert (Graduating Senior, Immokalee High School), Rodetter Talbert (Graduate, USF), Adrinna Morgan (Lake Trafford Elementary, Scored 6 on Florida Writes,FCAT), Andrew Gonzales (Graduate Edison State College).

## A Special Thank you to:



**Naples Children & Education Foundation:** Tuition Assistance.

**League Club:** Support of Educational programs, Music Program, Computer & Parent Resource Library.

**Lizzie Golumbic:** Chapter President SW Florida Pajama Program.

**Cool Cruisers of SW Fl., XI XI Theta, United Way, Publix:** Program Support.

**Von Liebig Art Center, Trinity-By-The Cove (Matching Grant):**

Summer Art Program

**Foundation for Immokalee Child Care Center:**

Purchase of the land on which the Center is located.

**Nordstom:** Fashion Presentation.

**Christmas Elves:** For the donation of holiday presents for the children .





## Update from the President ... Bill Robinson

This past year, in spite of the wandering economy, the Immokalee Child Care Center was able to maintain the optimum enrollment levels in their 11 classrooms. We had a full roster of 26 teachers and aides and a more educated enhanced staff due to their continuing education efforts.

I wish to thank our Executive Director Valarie Bostic and our staff of outstanding teachers, administrators, education specialist, cooks and maintenance staff for another successful year. We are fortunate to have little turnover and over 50% of the staff moving to the next level in child care education requirement levels, including two attaining director credentials and several working on associative degrees at collaborating Colleges and Universities.

A successful child care learning center cannot exist and perform well without supporting parents. Our investment last year in new computers and the expansion of our parent resource library has resulted in more family involvement in the continuing education of the children in the home. We have the children for over one third of their day and for fifty percent of their awake hours. We respect the parent's trust by continuing to make the Center a welcoming, safe and healthy environment. Our evaluation, test scores and inspections all pass with high marks, another credit to our Director and staff. As a result we are able to maintain our Gold Seal Accreditation.

For our immediate future, a matching grant application has been submitted to totally renovate and up-grade the toddler playground. We must raise \$60,000 to achieve the match. We invite you to visit the Center. A tour and transportation can be arranged at your convenience. Please call the office at 261-1774.



## Welcome new Board Members:

**Robert Stift** - Retired Executive,  
President & CEO Industrial Products Group,  
a subsidiary of Strategic Industries.



**Tennille Sevigny**  
Executive Vice President & COO  
Acadia Wealth Management.



“In final analysis, it is not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings.”

- Ann Landers

## MEET THE STAFF

### CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER



Irene Gonzales (infant teacher) for recently celebrating 25 years of employment at ICCC.



Voncael Jackson (preschool teacher) received an honorary "Apple Dumpling Award" at the ICCC graduation for her outstanding commitment to the children.



Sylvia Vidaurri (two year old teacher) and VPK instructor Cierra Tims received their State of Florida Director's Credential.



Bernadette Geter and Isabel Salazar received National Food Service Management Certification through the University of Mississippi.

Linda Delara & Maria Parra attended the National Association of Young children conference in Washington – thanks to a grant from Collier Care Resources.



In-Service Day: Fire Drills/ Safety/Disaster Planning.



**Wish List:** scraps of fabric, small containers with lids, egg cartons, baby wipes, paper towel & toilet paper tubes, brown paper bags, old telephones/phone books, old pots & pans, batteries (all sizes), laundry soap, paper plates for art, toothbrushes/tooth paste, cotton balls.

**For drop-off instructions, call 261-1774.**



NATIONALLY ACCREDITED EARLY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

### **Immokalee Child Care Center, Inc.**

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[www.imchildcare.org](http://www.imchildcare.org)

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## **Immokalee Child Care Center 2011**

### **Officers**

President: Bill Robinson  
VP: Bob Stift, Beverley Vining  
VP at Large: Margaret Pagel  
Treasurer: Dave Fisher  
Secretary: Roberta Sandberg  
Member at Large: Bob Bauerle  
Past Pres: Pearl Quinby

### **Directors**

Pru Boyson, Val Enghauser, Holly Holland, Art Kozy,  
Sue Matthews, Phyllis McGraw, Oto Nadassky,  
Marita Ott-Brayman, Tennille Sevigny, Callie Spilane,  
Isabel & Ken Sturgeon, Lee Rush, Kathy Thomas.

### **Center Staff**

Executive Director: Valarie Bostic;  
Assistant Director: Valencia Thomas;  
Ed. Co-Ordinator: Mary Shipman;  
Administration Naples: Lyn Kaihara

## **Coming Events**

### **Annual Green Tea**

**December 3rd 1:00 pm**

Moorings Presbyterian Church  
791 Harbour Dr. Naples

Church Women United will host a holiday program  
by the Immokalee Child Care Center. Admission:  
One unwrapped gift for a child 1 month - 5 years old.

**(Public Welcomed)**

### **Ditka/Hart Celebrity Golf Invitational**

**March 25th/ 26th 2011**

Golf Club of the Everglades will host  
a pairings party Friday @ 5:30 with the  
Invitational starting with a shotgun  
start 9:00am Saturday

For Information on the above events  
(239) 261-1774  
Email: [naplesiccc@aol.com](mailto:naplesiccc@aol.com)