

IMMOKALEE BULLETIN

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The Shelter's Immokalee Outreach Manager Norma Rodriguez, left, and Kaydee Tuff decorate a vehicle in preparation for the Immokalee Peace Parade.



Tamara Somerville, left, and Janette Lopez "power up" in preparation for the parade.

Students First - Honoring the Migrant Teacher of the Year

By Jennifer L. Kupiec
Collier County Public Schools

As mentioned in last week's edition of the Immokalee Bulletin, we will be featuring stories of our Florida Exemplary Migrant Award winners. This week, we will introduce you to Olga Martinez who was named the 2020 Migrant Teacher/Educator of the Year.

Olga Martinez was born in Cuba and came to the United States with her adoptive parents in December of 1971. She grew up in Miami where both her parents worked in factories. In 1986, Martinez graduated from college and married the love of her life. Together, they had two children and will be celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary in January. They also became first-time grandparents just this year.

Martinez began her teaching career in Miami in 1986. While there, she taught in a private school, public school, and found her calling teaching English Language Learners (ELL). In 1999, Martinez moved to Naples and started teaching for Collier County Public Schools (CCPS). During her 20 years with CCPS, Martinez has worked with ELL students, primarily in the area of reading. For the past 10 years, Martinez also gave up her summers to support the Migrant Education Program, assisting students and parents in their homes.

Martinez has helped many migrant students improve and develop their reading skills while showing parents how they can also support their child's learning. She has always expressed a joy for working with migrant students, so when a Migrant Resource Teacher position opened up, Martinez gladly applied and was accepted.

In her current role as a Migrant Resource Teacher, Martinez collaborates with classroom teachers and parents to make certain all migrant students are actively learning. She also ensures parents are informed of how their children are doing in school and holds all migrant students accountable. In addition to her regular daily duties, Martinez offers presentations at Migrant Parent Institutes, where she works with parents on reading and math strategies. She also provides training to migrant tutors, offering tips and strategies to support migrant students throughout the year.

Martinez is a tremendous asset to CCPS and the Migrant Education Program, and we are very thankful she made the move to Naples and chose our #CCPSFamily.

Immokalee Shelter hosts Peace Parade

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

IMMOKALEE — Downtown Immokalee got a colorful surprise around 5 p.m., Oct. 19, as The Shelter for Abused Women & Children held a Peace Parade down main street.

In honor of October's National Domestic Violence Month, The Shelter traditionally holds the Immokalee Children's Peace Fair. This year, due to COVID-19, organizers replaced the fair with a Peace Parade featuring 22 cars decked out in colorful balloons and banners. The group gathered at the Immokalee Sports Complex and, with the help of the Collier County Sheriff's Office, the caravan completed the route traditionally used for the Peace March to raise a call to end domestic violence.

"This has always been a very special event for The Shelter," says Shelter CEO Linda Oberhaus, "This year it was even more important as the new Immokalee shelter is open and serving survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking. We knew we wouldn't be able to safely host the traditional booths and children's games so this parade was a way for us to reach out and let the community know we are here for them."

For more information on The Shelter, go to naplesshelter.org. For more information on the Immokalee Outreach Office, call 239-657-5700.



Maria Castillo, left, and Lucy Otiz attach a banner to their decorated car prior to the parade.