

Social Concerns Newsletter

Volume XV, Number 1

Fall 2004

*Catholic Charities
of the
Diocese of Beaumont, Inc.*

November Harvest of Hope honors *Anna Maria Brown*

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Dean Terrebonne
Executive Director

The season of Thanksgiving and Christmas is approaching quickly. What better way to reflect and be thankful for the many blessings that we receive than to spend an evening with friends and family honoring the charitable work and accomplishments of Mrs. Anna Maria Brown. Mrs. Brown's work is well known and respected in the business, professional and charitable community. Mrs. Brown's benevolent interests include medical facilities, churches, emergency services and retreat centers.



The event committees are busily engaging entertainment, preparing invitations, coordinating seating charts and sampling food for this festive event. An evening of music, dancing and surprises await Mrs. Brown and the guests. Catholic Charities is very grateful for the sponsors and volunteers who eagerly came forward to honor Mrs. Brown and support Catholic Charities programs.

This is the second gala-styled event to benefit the programs of Catholic Charities. Last year, Catholic Charities hosted Bishop Curtis Guillory's 60th Birthday. The monies raised by that event helped the agency continue to provide quality services during these tough economic times. While the economic future may appear hopeful to some, the future is not improving for many people. Cuts in mainstream government programs that serve children and families continue across the state and the nation. High unemployment rates and low wage jobs push more families into poverty. Funds raised by this year's event will support the unique programs of Catholic Charities as the needs of our community increase.

Please make plans to attend with the special people you are thankful for.

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A Harvest of Hope for Catholic Charities, in honor of Anna Maria Brown

DATE: November 6, 2004
WHERE: MCM Elegante
(formerly Hilton Beaumont)
TIME: 6:30 p.m. 'til
CONTACT: 409-835-7118, EXT 10

News from the Executive Director



Dean Terrebonne

Providing Help. Creating Hope. Taking off your Mask for God

While in prayer one day, I reflected on a piece of artwork I have at home, a sculpture entitled, “*Taking off your mask for God.*” It is not very ornate, quite simple in fact, and its meaning goes deep within. The figure has no face, but a void where the face should be, and the subject is holding a mask. I believe the artist intended the beholder to contemplate the ways we hide behind a mask; pretending to be something we are not, hiding what we think we are or perhaps what we are ashamed of being. I was led to consider the many ways our clients might hide behind a mask and the ways in which our programs help “unmask” their fears.

We are all created to love, to be loved, and to be treated with dignity. Sometimes we think we are less than deserving of that. We are also called to work for Peace and Justice. However, many are faced with turmoil in their lives and justice just does not seem like an attainable goal. Through acts of kindness, we can help others to realize that what is behind the mask is good. Deep within, there is a loving and caring being with potential to overcome the burdens.

Many of our clients wear the mask of poverty. Some hide behind a mask because they do not have hope. The programs and staff of Catholic Charities strive to *Provide Help and Create Hope*. For example: the single parent who struggles to find work that will provide a living for their family or who wants to go to school for a better future, but cannot afford child care; the person who struggles with problems they cannot sort out for themselves, hiding behind the fear and worry, but comes to us for counseling; the immigrant who hides behind their illegal status but wants to be a U.S. Citizen like other members of their family, come to us for Immigration Services; the hungry that hide behind their circumstances, but come forth to the Hospitality Center for a meal and a welcoming smile; the grieving child and their family who cannot see beyond the mask of grief, hurt and fear, but come to join others in *Elijah's Places* support groups to learn how to take off the mask and see each other as they are. The men and women who feel great sorrow for victims of societal neglect and discrimination are empowered by Parish Social Ministry to unmask injustice through education and advocacy. This is just a snapshot of what we do.

Thanks to your generous support and prayers, we are able to continue *Providing Help and Creating Hope*. Please continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers. As always, I appreciate your support of our staff and the work they do. May God continue to bless you.

*Dean M. Terrebonne
Executive Director*



Remember to visit our website for new,
information and online giving.

<http://www.catholiccharitesbmt.org>

Giving thanks for our blessings

During fiscal year 2003-04 Catholic Charities programs served 11,556 individuals and families. Catholic Charities' services are made possible by the support of our community, businesses and grants. Most importantly, local people provide the manpower, funds and expertise to help Catholic Charities excel at meeting the needs of our clients. At this time we would like to thank a family-owned and operated business that shows unwavering support for our efforts to *provide help and create hope* in our community.

Over the years, Mary and Bryan Lee of Bryan's 797 in Old Town Beaumont have become an indispensable part of Catholic Charities' fundraising events. Lee family members volunteer their expertise and time to the annual Breakfast with the Bishop and help assure that our events are festive and delicious.

Most recently, the Lees provided a very special dinner to help Catholic Charities raise building renovation funds for the Eastex Freeway Property. The Lee family not only provided food, they also coordinated the volunteer wait staff, and the details of the dinner. Even Grace and friends from Msgr. Kelly Catholic High School did volunteer service hours. This family's efforts made the evening a great fundraising and social success.

Catholic Charities' Board, staff and friends would like to extend our sincere thanks to this wonderful family. The Lee family truly represents the spirit of good stewardship. Their commitment to sharing their time, talent and treasure is more than personal generosity. The commitment is alive in their business philosophy as well. Thank you, Bryan, Mary, Emily and Grace.



In our holiday newsletter we will provide an update on our building renovation project. This is an exciting time at Catholic Charities. We are very near our fundraising goal and look forward to sharing news of our donors and plans.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development benefits local charities

November 21 & 22 the second collection in each parish will benefit the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). The CCHD program uses these funds to make grants to nonprofit organizations nationally and locally, regardless of their religious affiliation. Twenty-five percent of the local collection remains in the community. Catholic Charities administers the local CCHD grant process. Last spring, the CCHD committee distributed \$12,876 in grants to thirteen local organizations.

Nationally, CCHD funds programs to break the cycle of poverty through empowerment and education. All CCHD funded programs support the dignity of the human person and move the nation closer to a just society. To learn more about the CCHD visit the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops website <http://www.usccb.org/cchd/index.htm> or contact Paul Thomas, Director of Parish Social Ministry (409) 835-7118, ext. 15.

Join us for Catholic Charities Day at the Capitol



On February 1, 2005, Catholic Charities organizations from across Texas will visit the Capital for the second "Catholic Charities Day" in Austin. Thirty residents of the Diocese of Beaumont participated in the first "Catholic Charities Day" in 2003. Participants visited elected officials to remind them to "BE AN ANGEL" and remember the needs of the poor. Last year thirteen parishes were represented on the bus. This year Catholic Charities hopes to have



advocates from each of the nine counties in the service area.

Please attend this year to share the belief that a just society provides for the needs of all its citizens. Catholic Charities' Office of Parish Social Ministry will provide transportation from Beaumont. Seating is limited, so please call today to reserve your seat. Contact Christina Vara, Coordinator of Parish Social Ministry at 409-984-5204.

Catholic Charities
of the
Diocese of Beaumont, Inc.
Serves the following Counties

Chambers	Hardin
Jasper	Jefferson
Liberty	Newton
Orange	Polk
	Tyler

Staff News

Catholic Charities is pleased to announce that Carmen Lopez Spinney received her partial accreditation from the Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Immigration Affairs. Carmen is the second staff member of the Immigration Service team to qualify for accreditation. Candidates for accreditation must complete a lengthy application process demonstrating their experience and knowledge of immigration law and procedures. Only candidates with a record of providing quality services to the public and excellent letters of recommendation qualify for this credential. Congratulations, Carmen!

Catholic Charities is the only non-profit organization in Southeast Texas recognized by the Bureau of Immigration Affairs to provide legal immigration services.



Gift Certificates

Market Basket, Wal-Mart, Sam's, Manning's, Michael's or others

Office Supplies

Blank audio & video cassettes, pens, notepads, copy paper, file folders, address labels, floppy disks

Electronics

Paper shredder, Portable Printer, Portable CD Player, Portable sound system for presentations

Wish List*

Toys & Art Supplies

Art project kits, art paper, Wooden dollhouse with furniture and family, toy cars, trains, action figures, dress-up clothes, washable markers, wooden sand trays

Paper Products

Facial tissue, foam plates, napkins, plastic cups, plastic ware, paper towels

Miscellaneous

Canned food, canned drinks, generator, personal hygiene items (soap, shampoo, facial tissue, lotion, shaving cream, etc.),


Sponsor

Printing & Postage of newsletter
Office janitorial services, Internet fees


*Items on this Wish List were requested by *Elijah's Place*, Counseling Services, Parish Social Ministry, Immigration Services & the Hospitality Center

Catholic Charities' Calendar


October 2004

- 21 Faithful Citizenship Workshop
Sacred Heart, Raywood
- 25-30 *Elijah's Place*
Volunteer Facilitator Training
- 27 Last day to RSVP 
for A Harvest of Hope Gala


November 2004

- 6 A Harvest of Hope for Catholic Charities,
in Honor of Anna Maria Brown
- 19 Immigration Services Outreach
St. Joseph Church, Port Arthur
- 20 *Elijah's Place*
Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
- 21 & 22 Annual Appeal
Catholic Campaign for Human Development
- 25 & 26 Thanksgiving Holiday 
Catholic Charities' offices closed

December 2004

- 23 & 24 Christmas Holidays
Catholic Charities' offices closed
- 25 Christmas Day
Hospitality Center, 17th Anniversary

- 31 New Year's Eve
Catholic Charities' offices closed

January 2005

- 3 New Year Holiday 
Catholic Charities
offices closed
- 11 Last Day to reserve bus seat for Catholic
Charities Day in Austin
- 13 *Elijah's Place* Second Anniversary
- 17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Catholic Charities offices closed

February 2005

- 1 Catholic Charities Day in Austin 

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Beaumont, Inc.

North Street Offices	(409) 835-7118
Administration	ext. 10
Immigration Program	ext. 10
Parish Social Ministry	ext. 15

Child Care Contractor Services (409) 835-1411

Counseling Services (409) 724-0281

Elijah's Place (409) 727-1759

Hospitality Center (409) 982-4842

catholiccharities@catholiccharitiesbmt.org

www.catholiccharitiesbmt.org

Please address your questions or comments about this newsletter to:
Bonnie K. Loiodice at 409-835-7118, ext. 16, or bloiodice@catholiccharitiesbmt.org

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Providing Help ♦ Creating Hope

Calling all Cooks!

Cooks are the key to the success of Catholic Charities' Hospitality Center. Sadly, this year, the Center said goodbye to several dedicated volunteer cooks. Our prayers are with those providing caring to sick family members and also with the families that are grieving the loss of a loved one. Their selfless contributions will live on in our happy memories of working together to serve others.

Won't you consider carrying on their tradition of service by sharing your kitchen talents with the needy? The Center serves one meal a day, 7 days a week. Schedules are flexible so contact Michael Perez to discuss volunteer opportunities or visit the Center any day between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

THE HOSPITALITY CENTER
3959 Gulfway Drive
Port Arthur, Texas 77642
409-982-4842

Mark Your Calendar!

- 11/6/04 A Harvest of Hope for Catholic Charities
in Honor of Anna Maria Brown
- 2/1/05 Catholic Charities Day in Austin
- 4/2/05 14th Annual
Breakfast with the Bishop
St. Anne Church, Beaumont



Want to Help?
See our Wish List Inside