

Social Concerns Newsletter

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Fall 2006



Catholic Charities of the
Diocese of Beaumont, Inc.
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Beaumont, TX 77704
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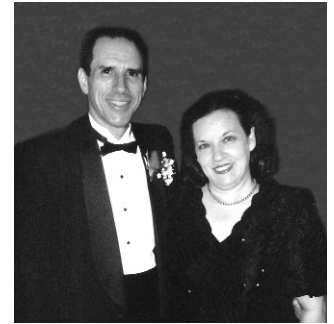
Dean M. Terrebonne
Executive Director

harvest of hope

Catholic Charities' Harvest of Hope gala is proud to honor Linda and Joe Domino for their commitment to *providing help and creating hope* in our community. Linda is one of the most active and effective community volunteers in Southeast Texas. Linda has graciously given her time to many organizations including her service as a Catholic Charities Board Member, Committee Chair, and Event Chair. Joe's duties as president and chief executive officer of Entergy Texas make him a well-known public figure. Catholic Charities knows Joe best as an enthusiastic volunteer at events like Breakfast with the Bishop! Linda and Joe's contributions to social service organizations truly exemplify the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

Shelley Tortorice, 2006 Harvest of Hope Chairman, and the event committees have arranged a wonderful evening with food, decorations, music and dancing. The Memphis Train Band will arrive at the Holiday Inn Plaza to deliver a crowd-pleasing mix of blues, rock and roll, and jazz.

Saturday
October 21, 2006
7 p.m.
Holiday Inn Plaza



Ticket and table sales continue through October 13. Please join us as we salute this wonderful couple and raise funds for the programs of Catholic Charities. For more information call 409-835-7118, extension 21.

Tell us a story, please?

...30 years service

On October 25, 2006, Catholic Charities will celebrate 30 years of service to Southeast Texas. Many people thank us as we work throughout the diocese. Some even share their story of how Catholic Charities' programs touched their lives. For 30 years Catholic Charities has been providing help and creating hope. Do you have a Catholic Charities' story you could share with the community? Will you help us collect the personal stories of our clients, our board members, our staff, and our programs? We hope to compile a collection and select a few stories to share in future issues of this newsletter. If you would like to contribute your memories to our history, please contact, Bonnie Loiodice at 409-835-7118, ext. 16, or address your story to Bonnie Loiodice, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Beaumont, Inc., P.O.Box 829, Beaumont, Tx 77704. Thank you for your support throughout our 30 years.

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News from the Executive Director

*providing help.
creating hope.*

“If not We, then Who?”



Dean Terrebonne

I recently attended the 2006 Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) Annual Gathering in St. Paul-Minneapolis and the theme this year was *Reviving the Common Good, Renewing Covenant with the Poor*. I would like to share with you an experience of realization and inform you of what CCUSA and Catholic Charities agencies across the nation will be focusing on this upcoming legislative year and months to follow. You have heard me mention Catholic Social Teaching frequently and Paul Thomas, Parish Social Ministry Director, writes about it in his column, Faith and Action, in the East Texas Catholic. “The Common Good” is prevalent within Catholic Social Teaching.

One of the conference sessions opened with 18 year-old Rodney “October” Dixon performing Spoken Word Poetry, sharing the poem titled, “If not We, then Who?” The carefully selected words, phrases and descriptions in the poem, along with his passionate emphasis embracing the subject matter enabled the listening audience to feel and understand the impact of poverty, generational poverty, and racial discrimination. I had heard it said, but not until then did I realize how far from reality my life experience had been with regard to an appreciation of what someone goes through, how they feel, what they face on a daily basis, just because they come from a history of generational poverty or are targets of racial discrimination. I think we, as society have made some progress with regard to racial discrimination, but not enough. With regard to poverty, I think we are just beginning to scratch the surface.

“If not We, then Who?” That is the question. I offer that it may also be a statement. “If not We, then Who!” If we do not learn about poverty to try to understand the problem and root causes, then how can we expect the “We” to join together to work on the problem? I cannot share the poem with you at this time, for it is being compiled with other poems to be published in a book; however, I can share with you a document that CCUSA developed as a Policy Paper titled, “Poverty in America: A Threat to the Common Good.” The CCUSA Membership attending the conference voted and approved the DRAFT policy paper. I encourage you to begin learning more about the subject so you can join us in becoming the “We”, please access the DRAFT via the web link: <http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/poverty/>

Once the final document is available, we will post it on our web site for your review. I will also reference and address various aspects of the document in upcoming issues of our newsletter. Thank you for being open to learning more about poverty and your openness to joining US in becoming the “We.”

Elijah's Place

Elijah's Place children's grief support program is growing. In addition to the Monday night groups, a Thursday night group began in September. Please contact Gail Rexses, Program Director, for information.

Working with the St. Charles Borromeo Church, Office of Family Life, Catholic Charities' *Elijah's Place* director and Counseling Services' counselors will provide a series of grief seminars in Nederland. These seminars will be held October 30, November 6, 13, and 20. Please attend or tell a friend who needs this special support as the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays approach. For more information contact Derick Drummond (409) 722-3413 or Gail Rexses (409) 835-7118, ext 19.



Helping Grieving
Hearts Find Hope

Giving thanks for our blessings



I would like to introduce myself, my name is Ali Duffel. I am the new Volunteer Coordinator for Catholic Charities. Born in Beaumont and raised in Sour Lake, I graduated from Hardin Jefferson and moved to College Station to continue my education at Texas A&M University. I graduated from A&M in December of 2005. Since then, I have moved back to Beaumont to work for Catholic Charities.

As Volunteer Coordinator I am given the responsibility of matching people to our volunteer needs. In addition to recruiting new volunteers, I will be cultivating the current volunteer programs to keep our volunteers informed and educated about the issues concerning their program's responsibilities. Volunteers are the heart and soul of our programs. They are what allow us to serve the community and run as smoothly as we do.

Our current programs requesting volunteers are:

Elijah's Place

Volunteer Facilitators
Licensed Facilitators
Kitchen Volunteer

Disaster Response/ Special Initiatives

Case Aid Volunteer
Greeters
Data Entry/Clerical

Hospitality Center

Cooks
Drivers
Servers
Computer person

Around the office

Various day-to-day
clerical activities

If anyone is interested in serving the community by volunteering with one of our programs or learning about other ways you can help, you can call me (409) 835-7118 ext. 32, e-mail me at aduffel@catholiccharitiesbmt.org, or visit our website www.catholiccharitiesbmt.org.



Preparing for our Harvest of Hope Gala: Volunteer coordinator, Ali Duffel, with volunteers Paulette Burrhus, Karen Schroder, Stephanie Reyes, and board Member Shelley Tortorice

Did you know that Catholic Charities receives Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and State Employees Charitable Campaign (SECC) funding?
Please consider remembering Catholic Charities as a designation in your giving this year.

Wish List

Catholic Charities strives to keep expenses low. One way that is accomplished is by sharing expenses for certain necessary items. The Wish List below is organized to show some of the items the programs and administrative staff share. Your in-kind donations help Catholic Charities keep costs down! Thank you.

Elijah's Place

Facial tissue, paper towels,
foam plates, dinner napkins,
plastic cups & utensils,
art project kits,
art paper, dress-up clothes,
washable markers, wooden sand trays,
portable CD player

For All Programs

Pens, notepads, copy paper,
address labels, floppy disks,
portable printer, janitorial supplies.
Sponsors for: internet fees,
printing & postage of newsletter,
office janitorial services,
internet fees, lawn maintenance

Hospitality Center

Large canned foods, rice, beans,
potatoes, meats, large jars of
seasonings, powdered chicken
bouillon, generator, 55 gallon garbage
bags, laundry detergent, personal
hygiene items for the homeless guests
(soap, shampoo, tissues)

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*providing help.
creating hope.*

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Beaumont, Inc.

mailing address for all programs
P.O. Box 829 Beaumont, Texas 77704

Central Services Facility
2780 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont, Texas
409-835-7118

Reception	Ext. 10
Counseling Services	Ext. 18
Disaster Recovery	Ext. 26
<i>Elijah's Place</i>	Ext. 19
Immigration Services	Ext. 30
Parish Social Ministry	Ext. 15

Child Care Contractor Services
304 Pearl Street, Beaumont, Texas
409-835-1411 / 800-253-1411
3901 Twin City Hwy., Port Arthur, Texas
409-962-1236, Ext. 278 & 279

Hospitality Center
3959 Gulfway Drive, Port Arthur, Texas
409-982-4842

catholiccharities@catholiccharitiesbmt.org
www.catholiccharitiesbmt.org

Calendar items

October

- 20 Immigration Services
St. Francis of Assisi, Orange
- 21 harvest *of hope*
Honoring Linda & Joe Domino
- 23 *Elijah's Place* group meets
- 25 Happy Anniversary Catholic Charities
30 years of service
- 30 Grief Seminar at St. Charles

November

- 1 *Elijah's Place* group meets
- 6 Grief Seminar at St. Charles
- 10 Immigration Services in Port Arthur
- 13 Grief Seminar at St. Charles
- 13 & 16 *Elijah's Place* group meets
- 20 Grief Seminar at St. Charles
- 23-24 Thanksgiving Holiday
Catholic Charities' Offices Closed
- 27 Elijah's Place group meets

December

- 7, 11 & 21 *Elijah's Place* group meets
- 22-25 Christmas Holidays
Catholic Charities' Offices Closed
- 27 *Elijah's Place* group meets

