

# Social Concerns Newsletter

Volume XVI, Number 2

Spring 2006



Catholic Charities of the  
Diocese of Beaumont, Inc.  
P.O. Box 829  
Beaumont, TX 77704  
(409) 835-7118

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## honors Joe Broussard II

On February 18, 2006, friends, family and admirers of Joe Broussard II gathered at the MCM Elegante to recognize Joe Broussard II for his contributions to community life in the Diocese of Beaumont. Joe II's contributions to the quality of life in our community are as varied as his personal interests. His interests, and support, include education, art, music, health care, and social services. The printed program for the evening stated it beautifully. "Joe has quietly made a difference for present and future generations in the Beaumont community, making southeast Texas a better place through his presence and his generosity."



Event chairs: Dr. Mark Kubala & Mrs. Donna Harris



Joe Broussard II

The Night and Day Orchestra and Mr. Wayne Dyess filled the room with the big band sounds of the '30s and '40s. The 420 guests enjoyed a fabulous dinner-dance thanks to the dedication of the Harvest of Hope Committee. This committee deserves special recognition for their hard work before and after the evacuation. The scheduling, canceling and rescheduling caused by Hurricane Rita was stressful, but our committee carried out their plans with smiles and good cheer. These wonderful volunteers worked countless hours preparing a very memorable evening. Carol Gary's decorations (splendid!) combined with Debbie Bando-Duit and Iris Nathan's menu gave the evening a warm and comfortable glow. Linda Domino's efforts as event publicity chair were absolute perfection. Lonnie Arrington reprised his role securing underwriters for the event. And, of course our Chairmen, Donna Harris and Dr. Mark Kubala, pulled it all together with the fine leadership that makes them a joy to work with. Thank you for *providing help and creating hope*.

Estimates of funds raised as of February 29, 2006, indicate that the agency realized over \$115,000 to support the programs of Catholic Charities. The Board, staff and the people we serve thank you all for supporting this special event.

## 2 Hurricane Rita update

*thanks from the staff*

3 At Catholic Charities we are very proud of our community's response to the call to service following Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. Many wonderful things are happening, and we know with 3 prayers and patience many, many extraordinary things are still to come.

3 Our sincere heart felt thanks to all who have supported our work. Our Hurricane Recovery Team is providing follow-up care to the more than 2,400 households that we interviewed during the emergency phase of our project. Follow-up interviews help our emergency assistance clients reach their long-term recovery goals. Between October 10, 2005, and March 1, 2006, Catholic Charities' 4 has distributed \$370,240 in direct disaster recovery assistance in the form of gift cards for gas, food, building materials and other basic needs. Your donations made this possible. Thank you for 4 sharing your blessings with your neighbors.

*Ben, Bonnie, Chrissi, Juanita, Matt, & Paul*

## News from the Executive Director

*Providing Help. Creating Hope.*

*It's Not Just for Catholics Anymore ...*



**Dean Terrebonne**

...But, it never was! Many people have asked me if Catholic Charities provides services only to Catholics, and I respond, “No, but thanks for asking.” I would like to take this opportunity to address and clarify the Catholic Identity of our Agency. Yes, we are a Catholic Agency, but we provide services to anyone, regardless of their religious affiliation.

According to Canon Law (Church Law), the Bishop takes a pledge to serve the poor within his diocese; not just the Catholic poor. While Catholic Charities is separately incorporated, we share the non-profit tax exemption of the Church. We are the Social Services Arm of the Diocese of Beaumont, and serve to help Bishop Guillory carry out that pledge. At a recent gathering of Diocesan Directors, in Alexandria, VA, provided by Catholic Charities USA (our National Association), I learned how to better respond to this question and address the Catholic Identity issue. Catholic Charities is a ministry of the Church, directly related to our faith, in carrying out the mission of Jesus. Sister Sharon Euart, RSM, spoke so eloquently and made such an impression on me that I would like to share her words: “As Diocesan Directors of Catholic Charities, you assist your respective diocesan bishop in fulfilling his pastoral responsibility to promote the social mission of the Church and to provide the necessary social services and programs for the people of God entrusted to his care. You carry out your responsibilities in the name of the Church in keeping with the Church’s universal law and under the direction of the diocesan bishop.” As I am responsible to the bishop for the mission of Catholic Charities, I report to a Board of Directors, who has fiduciary responsibility and oversight for the Agency.

While some of our employees are Catholic, many are not. We do not require that all employees be Catholic, but all are asked to respect and support the mission of the agency, which is founded upon the Catholic Social Teachings. These are not teachings on how to be or become Catholic, but they are principles for Social Justice. They are applicable to and can be followed by any denomination of faith that cares for its people. As the word “catholic” means universal, we strive for social justice for all and we are inclusive in our service to others.

We receive funding from a variety of sources, some of which is government funding. There are agreements we sign stating that we will not discriminate in providing service to anyone, nor require participation in any religious activity in order to receive program services. This comes easy for us, for it is our mission to serve anyone, regardless of their affiliation. While we are a Catholic Agency, we welcome and respect the dignity of all, inclusive of their faith.

Therefore, to those who have asked me the question in the past, I thank you. I also hope that this serves as an explanation which will result in clarification and understanding of who we serve and why.

*Dean M. Terrebonne*

**Did you know that the Hospitality Center receives United Way, South Jefferson County, funding? Please consider remembering Catholic Charities as a designation in your giving this year.**



# Giving thanks for our blessings

Each day at Catholic Charities there is a reason to give thanks for our blessings. Thanks for the volunteers who make a commitment to share their time and talents, thanks for foundations who provide grant funding, and thanks for the staff members who have chosen to make caring and giving their career.

In this issue Catholic Charities' would like to thank the Wayne Reaud family for their professional and personal dedication to the community. 2005 was an exciting year for Catholic Charities. Our dream of moving to the Central Services Facility became a reality. Elijah's Place's families can now enjoy a lovely permanent home. Hurricanes Rita and Katrina pulled our community closer together and brought new responsibilities to the agency. The Reaud Family's support is with us each day as we enjoy our renovated Central Services Facility, as we continue to grow our Elijah's Place's program, and as the Hospitality Center feeds the hungry in South Jefferson County. Many, many thanks to you for your continuous support of the mission of Catholic Charities.

You are *providing help and creating hope* in a very special way in the Diocese of Beaumont.



## Texas Bar Foundation Grant promotes social justice in Southeast Texas

Catholic Charities' Immigration Services Program has received a \$12,500 grant from the Texas Bar Foundation to provide legal immigration services to low income persons of Southeast Texas. This grant allows the program's rural outreach project to continue through 2006. Scheduled throughout the nine county service area, outreach events bring the services of immigration caseworkers to people who cannot travel to the Beaumont office for assistance.

Since its inception in 1965, the Texas Bar Foundation has awarded more than \$6 million in grants to law-related programs. Supported by members of the State Bar of Texas, the Texas Bar Foundation is the nation's largest charitably-funded bar foundation.

Catholic Charities is the only accredited non-profit organization in Southeast Texas recognized by the Board of Immigration Appeals and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service to provide legal immigration services. Catholic Charities' program services are available to all members of the community regardless of their religious preference or affiliation. For information on Catholic Charities' programs visit [www.catholiccharitiesbmt.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesbmt.org) or call (409) 835-7118.



## Wish List

Our wish list continues to shrink because of your generosity. Your donations help us provide high quality services while keeping our administrative costs low. Thank you.

### 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

### Paper Products & Janitorial

Facial tissue, foam plates, dinner napkins, plastic cups, paper towels, window cleaner.

### Toys & Art Supplies (Elijah's Place)

Art project kits, art paper, dress-up clothes, washable markers, wooden sand trays

### Sponsor

Printing & Postage of newsletter  
Office janitorial services  
Internet fees, Lawn maintenance

### Electronics

Portable Printer, Portable CD Player,  
Portable Sound System for Presentations

### Volunteer Cooks Needed

weekly & monthly schedules  
available

Hospitality Center  
3959 Gulfway Drive, Port Arthur  
call (409) 982-4842

### Food and Miscellaneous

#### (Hospitality Center)

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

#### (Elijah's Place)

Foam plates & plastic utensils  
for pot-luck suppers

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

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## Calendar

### April

- 1 Breakfast with the Bishop
- 2-8 Child Care Contractor Services  
Week of the Young Child
- 7 Last Day to Purchase  
Tickets for 3<sup>rd</sup> Age Day
- 17-22 Volunteer Facilitator Training  
Elijah's Place
- 18 3<sup>rd</sup> Age Day Celebration  
St. Francis of Assisi, Orange
- 22-22 Immigration Services at  
Mercado Days in Port Arthur
- 28 Immigration Outreach  
St. Michael, Jasper

### May

- 6 PSM Day Retreat  
Catholic Charities' Facility
- 26 Immigration Outreach  
St. Louis, Winnie



Catholic Charities  
Invites You To

*The 15<sup>th</sup>  
Annual*

*Come enjoy breakfast with  
Bishop Curtis J. Guillory*

Saturday, April 1, 2006  
9:00-11:00 AM

St. Anne Church Parish Hall  
2715 Calder, Beaumont

Tickets: \$20.00 Donation  
Available through  
Catholic Charities  
409-835-7118, ext. 10

*Breakfast  
With  
The  
Bishop*

All Proceeds Benefit Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Beaumont, Inc.