

# Social Concerns Newsletter

Volume XV, Number 4

Spring 2005



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

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### Inside this Issue:

News from the Executive Director	2
Giving thanks for our blessings	3
Third Age surfing into the sunset	3
We accept in-kind donations, too!	3
Contact list	4
Mark your Calendar	4

## 14<sup>th</sup> Breakfast with the Bishop a celebration of caring



Catholic Charities is extremely pleased to share the fabulous news that this year's Breakfast with the Bishop was among the most successful fundraising breakfasts in 14 years. The clients of Catholic Charities will benefit from over \$47,000 raised by this popular event. The morning kicked off with a surprise \$1,000 donation to Immigration Services.

Event Chair Gay Scott and Co-chair Arie Sherlock ensured that each guest had a morning to remember. Accepting such a challenge and making it look fun is truly a gift. Thank you, Gay and Arie. It was a pleasure working with you.



Rev. Tom Phelan, Mrs. Bobby Capps,  
Bishop Curtis J. Guillory, Kevin Roy

This year, Mrs. Bobby Capps, Director of Friends Helping Friends in Orange, accepted the Humanitarian Award for her years of service to the people of Orange County. Only persons who extend the mission of Catholic Charities through their dedication to the principals of Catholic Social Teachings are nominated for this recognition. Thank you, Mrs. Capps, for preserving the dignity of those you serve while extending a helping hand in furthering the mission of Catholic Charities.

## Catholic Charities moves in the future

On June 10, four Catholic Charities programs moved to the newly renovated **Central Services Facility**, 2780 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont. Conveniently located on U.S. 69 near Delaware Street, the facility is a permanent home for *Elijah's Place*, Counseling Services, Immigration Services, Parish Social Ministry, and Catholic Charities' administrative staff.

It has been a long process refurbishing this centrally located building. CHRISTUS St. Elizabeth Hospital generously conveyed the building to Catholic Charities on April 3, 2003. Donations from the community and grants provided the funds for the renovations. The Board and staff of Catholic Charities would like to thank the generous donors and grantors who chose to be a part of this project.

Catholic Charities made the move on June 10

and program services resumed on Monday, June 13, at the new location. Counseling Services will continue to be offered at the Port Neches office by appointment only. After June 10, services will no longer be offered at the North Street office.

For your convenience we have included updated contact information on Page 4 of this newsletter. You will notice that the main telephone and fax numbers remain the same. Catholic Charities' apologizes in advance for any inconvenience.

This new Central Services Facility enables Catholic Charities to continue *Providing Help and Creating Hope* for the Southeast Texas Community, with a renewed spirit – not only for the clients but for the staff as well. Catholic Charities would like to thank everyone for their continued support and prayers.

## News from the Executive Director

*Providing Help. Creating Hope.*

### *Changes Inspired by a Potential Client*



**Dean Terrebonne**

Almost two years ago this summer, shortly after CHRISTUS St. Elizabeth Hospital conveyed the building at 2780 Eastex Freeway to Catholic Charities, I was painting two sample colors on the side of the building in anticipation of the renovation project. A man walked up behind me and asked if he could paint to earn some money. I was almost finished, so I told him I appreciated his offer, but I was just sampling and not ready to paint the whole building. He asked how the building would be used and I told him about Catholic Charities and the programs we would be offering there. He listened intently and asked questions about the various programs.

He then asked if he could tell me something, I said of course, and he proceeded to tell me that he did not like the colors I had selected. He was straightforward, but hesitant and polite at the same time. I was impressed by that and was not sure what to say next. He proceeded to apologize, and said, "I'm nobody and of course my opinion is not worth anything." I replied by telling him that he was somebody, that I appreciated his feedback, and we are all God's children. He immediately said, "God would not be happy with me because I have not been very good lately." Hello! What do you say to that? I continued to listen without passing judgment because I did not feel qualified to address those issues.

He proceeded to talk about his situation, being in "transition" (basically homeless) and that I needed to paint the building a bright and welcoming color. I laughed to myself when he said, "not neon or anything like that, but not that blue that they paint the cells in jail to calm you down ... believe me, I know, I've been there." I asked him what color he would paint it and he said, "Something bright, like a yellow or something to make the people who come here feel happy and welcome." I told him I understood and would give that some thought in selecting the color. I told him I enjoyed meeting him and wished him luck. I turned to brush the final strokes of paint off of my brush and when I turned around again, there was no trace of the man.

If you drive by the building or come to visit, you will see that the exterior color selected is "Cadow Gold" with a cream colored trim – warm and welcoming, much brighter than the previous gray color. The interior walls are "Apple Gold," which is a bright, sunny yellow!

Why did I share this story? Well, I'm not only pleased with the building renovation project, but I wanted to share a lesson that I learned. When we treat others with dignity and respect, as we are called to do by Catholic Social Teachings, we can often benefit from the blessings in return, as I did! I learned that day that I did not need to be afraid of talking to homeless people, or people in need on the street. They need to talk to someone too. They need to know that they are "somebody" and that God has not forgotten them.

Therefore, I ask you to join me in challenging yourself to wave to a homeless person, smile and tell them hello, or wish them well. If your conscience does not lead you to assist them, that's ok, but please give them the courtesy of being treated with dignity. Do not turn your head or turn your back on them. I also ask that you encourage your children and grandchildren to do the same – by your example. Who knows, in time, we might find an answer to lessen the effects of homelessness in our communities and create a more compassionate society. This is one of the principles in which Catholic Charities is deeply rooted and the staff strives to meet in providing services to those in need.

*Dean M. Terrebonne*

### **A message from our Webmaster:**

The Eastex Building isn't the only thing under construction at Catholic Charities.

Our new website is almost complete. Visit it soon to see our progress.

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

## Giving thanks for our blessings

Volunteers bring experience, talent, and a fresh perspective to the work of Catholic Charities. Volunteers raise funds for our programs, volunteers serve our clients, and volunteers support our staff.

Catholic Charities, this is Stephanie. May I help you?



When you call our Central Services Facility, you may hear a new voice on the phone. Please join us in welcoming our new volunteer receptionist, Stephanie Reyes. Stephanie gives Catholic Charities four afternoons each week answering phones and supporting our office staff.

How do we keep up with the maintenance of our building? Mr. Charles Gradney! Mr. Gradney shares his expertise as a handyman and worker of maintenance miracles. For the past 3 years, he has helped us keep our North Street building safe and secure.

To all our volunteers, thank you for choosing Catholic Charities as your way of serving our community and living your faith. If you would like to volunteer, please call (409) 835-7118, ext. 10, to join in the fun!



**Charles Gradney**

## Third Age surfs into the sunset

Once again, the Third Agers convened to show the Diocese of Beaumont how to have a great time. On April 19, St. Mary Church Hall in Fannett was transformed into a tropical paradise by the Third Age Taskforce and their dedicated volunteers.



Along with a wonderful Knights of Columbus Council 6763 meal, 350 Third Agers enjoyed the beautiful music of Mr.

Chuck Isles and the hula styling of the Ridgewood Retirement Community brilliant dancers.

Catholic Charities' Office of Parish Social Ministry would like to thank Bishop Guillory and St.

Mary's parish for making this year's gathering a wonderful event. Many thanks to the volunteers of the Third Age Task Force whose planning and organizing made this year a huge success. Southeast Texas

Third Agers are Surfing into the sunset with style!

## We accept in-kind donations too!

The new Central Services Facility has program storage space for your wonderful in-kind donations. We appreciate your partnership in our work of *Providing Help and Creating Hope* in Southeast Texas. Thank you for everything you do for the people we serve. When you bring your in-kind donation we will give you a tour of our new home!

### 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

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

### Paper Products & Janitorial

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

### Food and Miscellaneous

#### (Hospitality Center)

Large canned foods, rice, beans, potatoes, meats, large jars seasonings, generator, 55-gallon garbage bags, laundry detergent, personal hygiene items for the homeless guests (soap, shampoo, facial tissue, deodorant, lotion, combs, brushes, shaving cream, etc.)

#### (Elijah's Place)

Canned drinks and bottled water for pot-luck suppers

### Toys & Art Supplies

#### (Elijah's Place)

Art project kits, art paper, toy cars, trains, action figures, dress-up clothes, washable markers, wooden sand trays

### Sponsor

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

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

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Beaumont, Inc.  
P.O. Box 829  
Beaumont, TX 77704-0829

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## *Providing Help*

## *Creating Hope*

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

Our new location effective June 13, 2005

2780 Eastex Freeway  
Beaumont, Texas 77703  
409-835-7118

Reception Ext. 10  
Counseling Services Ext. 18  
*Elijah's Place* 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

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

### MAILING ADDRESS FOR ALL PROGRAMS

P.O. Box 829  
Beaumont, Texas 77704

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

## Mark Your Calendar!

<b>June</b>	11	Hospitality Center
		Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
	14	Flag Day
<b>July</b>	17	Immigration Outreach
		Our Lady of Light, Anahuac
	19	Father's Day
	4	Independence Day
		Catholic Charities offices closed
<b>August</b>	16	Immigration Outreach
		Casa Madre Teresa, Smithpoint
	19	Immigration Outreach
<b>September</b>		St. Joseph, Livingston
	5	Labor Day
		Catholic Charities offices closed
	12-17	Elijah's Place
<b>October</b>		Volunteer Facilitator Training
	16	Immigration Outreach
		Our Lady of La Salette, Kirbyville
	17	Citizenship Day
	29	SAVE THE DATE! Catholic Charities' Gala