

Social Concerns Newsletter

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Summer 2006



Catholic Charities of the
Diocese of Beaumont, Inc.
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15th annual Breakfast with the Bishop

On April 1, St. Anne Church Parish Hall hosted the 15th Annual Breakfast with the Bishop. The Hall was decorated with an array of colorful umbrellas in keeping with the April Showers theme. Bishop Guillory greeted the guests as they enjoyed the delicious traditional breakfast. This year ticket sales and auction items raised \$55,490 for Catholic Charities.

The event took on special meaning when an anonymous donor purchased two of Bishop Guillory's signature aprons as a memorial gift for the parents of Ashley Brown and Alicia Bonura. Bishop Guillory invited the guests to add their signatures to the aprons as a gesture of love and caring for the families. Later, Bishop Guillory personally delivered the aprons to the families.



Catholic Charities' Board of Directors, staff and clients would like to thank committee co-chairs Mary Helen Burd and Fran Landry for organizing this splendid event. Our thanks also to our chefs: Bryan Lee, of Bryan's 797, for the heavenly eggs and Suzanne Maloney for the delicious grillades! In addition, we thank the St. Charles Ladies, Nederland, clergy, religious, and many other volunteer servers for making this event a success. It takes so many people and organizations to make Breakfast with the Bishop the wonderful fundraising event that it is. Below is a list of our underwriters for this year's Breakfast. We cannot thank them enough for their support of our efforts.

Underwriters

Melissa and Nicholas Baldo
Christine and Martin Broussard
Broussard's Mortuary
Bryan's 797
Mary and Jerry Burd
Chance Pride Foods
Cocomo Joes
Linda and Joe Domino
Pat and Tom Frank
Golden Croissant



Cheryl Granger
Terri and John Humble
Jason's Deli
Mary and Jim Kirby
Lovoi & Sons Pharmacies, Inc.
Suzanne and Don Maloney
Marsha Woody
Academy of Dance
Carole and Paul Mattingly
Sharon and Edward Neusel
Bethanie and Christopher Penning
Poblano Grill
Rao's Bakery and Coffee Café
Shirley and John Riedmueller
Dr. Anthony Sala
Sam's Package Store
Gay and Bill Scott

Shepherd's Uniform & Linen Supply
Barbara and Arthur Smith
Sweet Magnolias
Sylvan Learning Center
Texas Coffee Company
Triangle Blue Print
Sherry and Richard Weaver
Lori and Rhon Wenner
Regina Winegar
Karen and Bob Wortham
Jean and Victor Zeto
Zeto Enterprises, Inc.

*Our heartfelt thanks to those whose contributions were received after the program printing deadline.

News from the Executive Director

Providing Help. Creating Hope.

A 'catholic' response ...



Dean Terrebonne

The anniversary of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita is approaching. One might ask, how much progress have we made? Well, the “we” is the question. Is it “we” as community, or “we” as “Catholics”? I would like to think the answer is “both.”

As many of you know, “catholic” means “universal.” I have learned through this process that serving the “community”, regardless of religious affiliation, is what we are called to do. The community is comprised of Baptist, Methodist and other faith denominations that join in responding to hurricane victims. However, the “Catholics” were in question. Yes, Catholic Charities received a lot of feedback that the “Catholics” did not collectively respond to the needs of the people after the Hurricanes. This feedback came from both Catholics and non-Catholics.

Since last August/September, I have learned a great deal from our interfaith brothers and sisters. The Baptists and the Methodists, among others, responded in the early days after the storm providing shelter, food and water, tree removal, and covered the roofs of many in need. Perhaps you saw or read about their efforts in the media? I know about a couple of Catholic parishes that responded within the community after Katrina, and I know of Catholic individuals/families that assisted after Rita, but I must have missed the media coverage.

Well, the “Catholics” **did** respond to the community, but perhaps we did not join our brothers and sisters collectively, as we could have. Catholic Charities did provide financial assistance to the community that lined up at our doors on October 10 - 14. Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) sent volunteers and financial assistance to help us assist the community. The first week, we provided emergency response case management to 727 households and distributed \$54,205 in financial assistance. We quickly realized the need to respond to the community in the rural areas that did not have access to the government and social services available, as did those in the Beaumont and more urban areas of the Diocese.

To date, Catholic Charities served over 2500 households and distributed \$675,000 in financial assistance. We continue providing follow-up Case Management to the families identified through our initial emergency response phase, having already followed up with over 500 households and distributed over \$400,000 in financial assistance.

We are not called to serve only the “Catholics”, but the community at large. Therefore, “we” as “Catholics” join our brothers and sisters in a “community” response. For example, an interfaith organization, Southeast Texas Interfaith Organization (SETIO), formed to address home repair needs in our area. Catholic Charities has attended SETIO meetings since the effort began, and the United Methodist Community on Relief (UMCOR) has been instrumental in helping those in need by providing family advocates and home repair. Various denominations are collaborating in this endeavor. Catholic Charities supported this effort by securing a grant for \$100,000 from CCUSA for building materials to assist UMCOR in their mission.

In June 2006, CCUSA awarded our agency a grant for \$1,090,178 to assist our community through disaster response and capacity building for a period of three years. The grant funds three positions: Director – Disaster Response/Special Initiatives, Volunteer Coordinator and Office Assistant, along with direct financial assistance to enable us to continue our recovery efforts and develop the ability to respond more fully in the event of a future disaster. We have selected the Director and Volunteer Coordinator, but continue recruiting an Office Assistant (bi-lingual, English/Spanish), to assist us in this effort.

Additionally, Paul Thomas, Director – Parish Social Ministry (PSM), is working to identify/establish PSM Contacts in each parish to help develop a response at the parish level. The parish-level response is not intended just to help the “Catholics” but for the “Catholics” to respond to their local community. These efforts can be in collaboration with congregations of other faiths. For example: if a particular parish does not have shelter facilities and a neighboring congregation of a different faith does, then why can we not work together? Also, UMCOR provides Family Advocate training to assist in their mission to provide home repairs and would welcome volunteers.

While many people may not wish to “sound their trumpet” and make their efforts known, from a spiritual perspective, people need to know that their church cares for them. If you don’t publicize your efforts, how will they know? Please share your experience of helping others during and after the hurricanes and also share what you have learned of the “catholic response” to this community crisis.

We will continue with our response efforts. I encourage you to consider joining us and others in a “catholic, universal, community” response. Your prayers for a safe and uneventful hurricane season are very much appreciated, as well as your continued support. Thank you!

Dean M. Terrebonne

Giving thanks for our blessings

Volunteers are the heart of Catholic Charities' programs. Everyday at the Hospitality Center volunteers cook, clean, and serve. And in addition to preparing the daily meal, the volunteers add those special ingredients – dignity, care and concern. Volunteers make each meal at the Center a celebration of our commitment to caring for *the least of His people*. In appreciation for this huge effort, the Center hosts an annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.



Hospitality Center Volunteer(s) of the year – The Comiskey Family, from left: Mary, Annie, Julie, Bill and Paula

After several storm related delays, the Hospitality Center, held the annual dinner on May 16 in St. Joseph Parish Hall at Queen of Vietnam Church in Port Arthur. The sun and surf theme included a luau menu of pork roast in banana leaves, shrimp fried rice, and teriyaki chicken. Thanks to Chef Mrs. Ray and her kitchen crew for this beautiful feast. Adding to the festive theme, the guests were entertained by hula dancers from the Elvira Estrello School of Dance and of course the door prizes created some excitement.

Each year the highlight of the evening is the announcement of the Volunteer of the Year Award. This year was very different from years past. The Center chose to honor a family! The Comiskey Family have volunteered at the Hospitality Center for 17 years. Thank you Mary, Annie, Julie, Bill and Paula. We are so proud that you include the Hospitality Center in your family's very personal ministry.

Catholic Charities' Hospitality Center has so much to be thankful for. In addition to the wonderful volunteers, the Center has dedicated donors who regularly provide material and financial support. A special thank you to:

VFW Post 797
Woodmen of the World Lodge 6192
Rich Courville Catering and Eating

Dr. Chris Penning
Knights of Columbus Nederland Council 5145
E.I. DuPont de Nemours at Sabine Riverworks

To all our volunteers and donors, thank you for choosing the Hospitality Center as your way of serving the community and living your faith.

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 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

Blank audio & video cassettes,
pens, notepads, copy paper, file folders,
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)

Elijah's Place... helping grieving hearts find hope

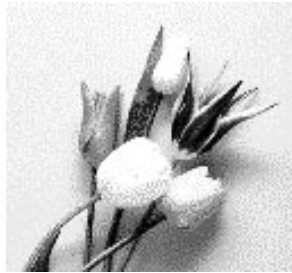
Elijah's Place will begin a new **Volunteer Facilitator Training** session (20 hours) July 31-August 5, 2006. Training will begin at 5:30 p.m. July 31 and will be held at our Central Services Facility, 2780 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont. *Elijah's Place* volunteers must make a commitment to working with grieving children and their families. Volunteers have two commitment options. Those interested in making a 6-week commitment may participate in the grandparent group described below. Volunteers make a one-year (2 nights per month) commitment to participate in the ongoing program of *Elijah's Place*.



Grieving the death of a grandparent?

Elijah's Place will begin a **6-week grief support group** August 22, 2006, for children, ages 5-18, who have experienced the death of a **grandparent**, and their families. Groups will meet once weekly 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Catholic Charities Central Services facility, 2780 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont.

For additional information or to volunteer, please contact Gail Rexses, Director of *Elijah's Place* at (409) 835-7118, Extension 19, or grexes@catholiccharitiesbmt.org. You may also visit our website at www.catholiccharitiesbmt.org for program and a detailed volunteer training schedule.



Make a statement about your faith and commitment to the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Consider Planned Giving as a way of including Catholic Charities in your estate planning. For more information on Planned Giving and memorial contributions contact Dean Terrebonne, at 409-835-7118 ext. 10. Help us provide help and create hope for the generations yet to come.

Board news

At the February meeting of the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities, new members join the board and some members complete their terms. This year Catholic Charities is pleased to welcome Joanne Adams, Larry David, and Shelley Tortorice to the board. Catholic Charities looks forward to their

participation in the guidance of the organization.



New board members: Shelley Tortorice, Larry David & Joanne Adams

Members completing their term of service this year are Carole Mattingly, Rev. Tom Phelan and Dr. Steve Socher. Thank you for your dedicated service to our community.

A complete list of Catholic Charities officers and board members appears in each newsletter and on our website, www.catholiccharitiesbmt.org.



Kevin J. Roy presents a thank you gift to Carole Mattingly for completing her term of service. Rev. Tom Phelan and Dr. Steve Socher, not pictured.

Going once, twice – proceeds to Southeast Texas

High Meadow Ranch Joint Venture

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita introduced many people to the joy of giving and the joy of receiving. Catholic Charities has been so very fortunate as to be selected to receive contributions from Arizona, New York, Illinois and other areas of the United States. One contribution in particular displays the donor's belief in each person's responsibility to one another and to the larger society. Jack Frey Properties, of Tomball, found a unique way to "have a little fun" and fulfill that responsibility during their October 2005 Showcase of Homes event.

Since 1977, Jack Frey Properties has developed land, neighborhoods and communities in the Tomball area. On October 23, 2005, Jack Frey Properties auctioned a "premium golf course homesite" and donated 25% of the proceeds to charities that assist hurricane victims. A panel of residents from two of the developer's properties selected the charities to receive the funds. The Village at High Meadow Community Association selected our Catholic Charities to receive their gift. In April 2006 Catholic Charities received \$18,125 from High Meadow Ranch Joint Venture to support our ongoing Hurricane Recovery Project. This one-of-a-kind gift will help many Southeast Texans still suffering from the damages caused by Hurricane Rita. Many thanks to everyone involved in this unique auction.

Welcome & thank you

Please join the board and staff in welcoming Christie Byrne, M.S., L.P.C. as the new Program Director of Catholic Charities' Counseling Services Program. Some people may recognize her name because Christie is re-joining us. Now that she has returned to Southeast Texas, Catholic Charities is very fortunate to have this talented professional once again. Welcome back, Christie.

Gail Rexses, M.S., L.P.C., has graciously led the Counseling Services Program for the past four years. Now that Christie Byrne is assuming those duties, Gail will become the first full-time director of *Elijah's Place*. However, Gail will continue providing bilingual (English/Spanish) counseling sessions. Many, many thanks to Gail for guiding two programs at once and doing so with a winning smile!



Christie Byrne & Gail Rexses

Save the Date!!

October 21, 2006
A Harvest of Hope – Annual Gala
honoring Linda and Joe Domino
Please Save the Date and plan to attend.
Invitations to follow



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Providing Help and 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
<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

July

- 15 Immigration Services at Mission of Anahuac, Smithpoint
- 31 Volunteer Facilitator Training *Elijah's Place* (7/31 thru 8/5)

August

- 1-5 Volunteer Facilitator Training *Elijah's Place*
- 18 Immigration Services at St Joseph Church, Livingston
- 22 Grandparent's Group *Elijah's Place*

September

- 4 Labor Day – Catholic Charities Offices Closed
- 22 Immigration Services at Our Lady of La Salette, Kirbyville

October

- 1 Catholic Charities Sunday – Second Collection
- 20 Immigration Services at St. Francis of Assisi, Orange
- 21 A Harvest of Hope for Catholic Charities Honoring Linda & Joe Domino

