

# Social Concerns Newsletter

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Fall 2007



Catholic Charities  
of Southeast Texas  
P.O. Box 829  
Beaumont, TX 77704  
(409) 835-7118

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## Maceo Sisters to be honored at harvest of hope

The Harvest of Hope Gala benefiting Catholic Charities will bring Southeast Texans together Saturday, September 29, to honor Concetta Tortorice, Luce Parigi, Dimples Messina and Theresa Giglio, who exemplify devotion to God, church, family and community. The Gala will begin at 7 p.m. at the MCM Elegante Hotel.

Often referred to as the “Four Cardinals,” the Maceo sisters, lead by example. They have been diligent in passing on love of God and Church, the value of life, and the importance of education to their 19 children, 46 grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren.



photo by Mark Low Imigery

The Maceo Sisters: Theresa Giglio, Dimples Messina, Luce Parigi & Concetta Tortorice

The families of R.C. Maceo and Josephine Fertitta immigrated to the United States from Palermo, Sicily, in the early 1900s. R.C. and Josephine married and raised their family in Beaumont. The Maceo Sisters embody the best of family, faith, and community life. Their caring and generosity of spirit are a blessing to Southeast Texas. Their gifts to the community are many but perhaps their greatest gifts are their sons and daughters:

- Concetta Lucille Tortorice:** Sam J. "Buddy", R.C., Jake Jr., Tony & Rosanne Brady
- Sylvina Ann "Luce" Parigi:** Joe, R.C., Sam Jr, Gerard & Connie Prewitt
- Olivia Patricia "Dimples" Messina:** Frank, Joseph "Bub", Jude, Vincent, Tom & Mike
- Theresa Marie Giglio:** Charles, Jo Beth Jenkins & Gerri Christopher



JoEllyn Jowers, Paula "Torchy" Salter, Paula Lovoi, & Robin Gerhardt

Paula Lovoi is chairing the Gala, which will feature entertainment by the Night & Day Orchestra, conducted by Wayne Dyess. Paula "Torchy" Salter is in charge of ticket and table sales; Debbie Bando-Duit is coordinating the dinner menu; Keri Rice and Phyllis Pope are in charge of decorations; JoEllyn Jowers is entertainment chair; Martin Broussard is underwriting chair; Robin Gerhardt is in charge of printing; Catherine Armstrong and

Kay Arrington

are handling invitations and reservations; Cathy Brittain is overseeing the cocktail party, and Jackie Simien and Camille Mouton are in charge of publicity.

Grand Benefactor, Benefactor, Underwriter, Sponsor, Patron and Friends' tables are available, as well as individual tickets for \$100. For reservations and Gala details, call the Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas office at 835-7118, Ext. 21, or visit [www.catholiccharitiesbmt.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesbmt.org) online.



Catherine Armstrong & Kay Arrington

## News from the President

*providing help.  
creating hope.*

### Taking time to get away



**Dean Terrebonne**

How often do you take time to get away from the daily routine, take a trip, see some sites, and visit places you dreamt of seeing? Ahhh, the long awaited vacation! Rest and relaxation, lying out by the pool or the beach, good food, tours, excursions, adventures, marveling at God's creation ...

I recently had the opportunity to take a vacation, doing all of the above, and it was GREAT! While I was away, I reflected on the time spent planning the details of the trip and how fortunate I was to be able to see and do as much as I did. I watched the people around me who were also vacationing, eager to learn, in awe of the beauty, ready to see and do...and, of course, shop! I learned about the culture of the people in the communities I visited - how their ancestors adapted to the environment and survived using every natural resource available to them. Even today, they face limitations which require extreme conservation and sometimes result in bouts of poverty.

On my return flight, my thoughts turned to the people who cannot "take time to get away" for they cannot afford to take a vacation. Many are vulnerable and marginalized and are struggling to survive. We do not have to leave town to find God's wonderful creation in our brothers and sisters who live in poverty, faced with the challenges, dreaming of a better life. Poverty rarely takes a holiday. But, with *help and hope*...

In the last edition, I shared with you about ABC Management (Asset Building Case Management). We are well into the recruiting process and look forward to hiring the best match for the position very soon. It is our hope that this new project and aspect of service will assist families in ending the cycle of poverty or dependency and work toward the road to self-sufficiency.

When you plan to take time to get away, please remember those who cannot, and thank God for the abundance of blessings He has given you. Again, we thank each of you for your continued support as we *provide help and create hope* for our clients.

*Dean M. Terrebonne  
President/CEO*

**POVERTY  
IN AMERICA**

*A Threat to the Common Good*  
Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America

Visit Catholic Charities USA's website for information on the Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America.

<http://povertyinamerica.typepad.com>

Please send your questions, comments, and address changes to Bonnie K. Loiodice, MSW, Director of Development and Communications, at [bloiodice@catholiccharitiesbmt.org](mailto:bloiodice@catholiccharitiesbmt.org) or call 409-835-7118 ext. 16.

# Giving thanks for our blessings

## Attorney joins staff

### Immigration Services

Catholic Charities has so much to be thankful for. Volunteers were the focus of this column in the last issue of the Social Concerns newsletter. This is the story of a volunteer who is now a Catholic Charities staff member! Please join the board members and staff in giving a warm welcome to Gail Shaw Barnett. Gail came to Catholic Charities' Immigration Services as a volunteer in January 2007. With generous grantors, like the Beaumont Foundation of America, Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation and special donors Catholic Charities offered Gail a part-time position in February. This is especially exciting because Gail is an attorney with experience as a Trial Attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice, experience as a County Attorney, and currently acts as a Municipal Judge for the City of Canton Mississippi.



Gail began her tenure with Catholic Charities in February 2007. She is passionate about service. Her resume proves it. Her attitude proves it. When asked how she came to be a volunteer at Catholic Charities, Gail responds, "I was placed here to serve." She credits the Lord for directing her to advocate for the individuals and families needing assistance with legal immigration matters. Gail's skills as a prosecutor bring a new perspective to the array of services offered by the program. Catholic Charities is truly fortunate to have Gail's expertise and passion for service here for Immigration Services' clients.



Gail (Shaw-Pierson) Barnett



## Alma Garza-Cruz recognized by Board of Immigration Appeals

Join us in congratulating our Immigration Services program director, Alma Garza-Cruz, for receiving full accreditation from the U.S. Department of Justice, Board on Immigration Appeals. Alma's full accreditation was granted as an acknowledgment of her experience and knowledge of immigration law and procedures and allows her to represent clients before the Department of Homeland Security and the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Catholic Charities wishes to thank the Board of Immigration Appeals for recognizing Alma's high standards and accomplishments. And, many thanks to Alma for her dedication to her clients and to Catholic Charities.

## Have you seen this woman?



No, she is not missing. She's found her way home to Catholic Charities' Counseling Services. It's Becky Richard, L.P.C. who after a very brief absence rejoined the staff in July 2007!

Becky is seeing clients at the Central Services Facility on Monday and Tuesday of each week. Catholic Charities is excited about Becky's return and looks forward to working with her again. To schedule an appointment with Becky call (409)835-7118 ext. 33 or ext. 18.



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## For your calendar

### September

- 3 Labor Day Holiday  
Catholic Charities' offices closed
- 21 Immigration Services' Outreach & Information  
Campaign at Immaculate Conception, Liberty
- 29 **harvest of hope**  
honoring the Maceo Sisters

### October

- 7 Catholic Charities Sunday, Second Collection  
Diocese of Beaumont
- 19 Immigration Services' Outreach & Information  
Campaign at St. Francis, Orange

### November

- 16 Immigration Services' Outreach & Information  
Campaign at St. Joseph, Port Arthur
- 18 Catholic Campaign for Human Development,  
Second Collection Diocese of Beaumont
- 22-23 Thanksgiving Holiday  
**Catholic Charities' offices closed**

### December

- 24-25 Christmas Holiday  
Catholic Charities' offices closed
- 31 New Year's Eve holiday  
Catholic Charities' offices closed

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creating hope.*

## Thank you for 19 years of service

Some volunteers feel like family. Two in particular have given the Hospitality Center over 19 years of service. Fredrick "Bucket" Smith and Joseph Leroy Landry are retiring. These volunteer cooks passed their skills and knowledge to generations of volunteers. Their dedication is an inspiration to staff and volunteers alike. Catholic Charities thanks them and extends our gratitude for all they have given to the Center and the people of South Jefferson County. We hope they enjoy their much deserved rest and remember to visit us.

Unfortunately, their retirement means that there are **openings for volunteer cooks**. Weekly and monthly schedules are available. This is an excellent opportunity to share your talents and learn new skills. For more information, please contact Christina Green, Hospitality Center Director, at 409-982-4842.

