

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS
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Save The Date

- **09/01/08**—Offices will be closed for Labor Day
- **09/12/08**—Immigration Services Outreach
- **09/20/08**—Begins Fundamentals of Good Credit
- **10/11/08**—Harvest of Hope Gala

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*providing help.
creating hope.*

Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas Social Concerns Newsletter

Volume XIX, Number 1

Summer 2008



Breakfast with the Bishop 2008

On the morning of Saturday, April 5th, 2008, Catholic Charities welcomed friends and supporters to the 17th Annual Breakfast with the Bishop. This annual breakfast, recognition, and fundraiser was graciously hosted at St. Anne Church. Beautiful fresh floral decorations created the atmosphere for an enjoyable breakfast with Bishop Guillory.

The annual event also allowed Catholic Charities to honor some very special Southeast Texas community members. In recognition of their humanitarian efforts, awards

were presented to John Hanes, Leighia Barron, Rev. Ruby Nelson, and Fred Anderson. These Humanitarian Award recipients were honored for their efforts in helping others in our community following the aftermath of recent disasters. Their professional and personal commitments have improved the quality of life for residents in Southeast Texas.

This year's Breakfast with the Bishop event was co-chaired by, Gay Scott and Arie Sherlock. Keeping with tradition, the serving aprons were available for auction. This year's aprons were a smock fashion and a hot commodity for our guests.

Catholic Charities wishes to thank St. Anne Church, the event co-chairs, committee members, donors, underwriters, and volunteers who enabled this event to be a success. Through their efforts, Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas was able to raise approximately \$58,000 to provide help and create hope in our community.



John Hanes, Leighia Barron, Bishop Guillory, Rev. Ruby Nelson, & Fred Anderson

The Ring of a New Phone

The fax number at our CSF remains **(409)832-0145**.

Child Care Contractor Services is not impacted by the phone conversion and can be reached at **(409) 835-1411** or **(800) 253-1411** for Beaumont & Hardin Co. clients or **(409) 962-1236** for Port Arthur, So. Jefferson Co. & Orange Co. clients.

In late June and early July, our Central Services Facility, and Hospitality Center received a new phone system. We are slowly transitioning to our new numbers. This process could take up to six weeks.

The **Hospitality Center** can be reached at their previous number of **(409) 982-4842**.

Our Central Services Facility continues to be reached at **(409) 835-7118**. Program and staff extensions have changed.

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News From the President There is an Appointed Time for Everything.....



Dean Terrebonne

Referencing Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, “There is an appointed time for everything...” Catholic Charities has been very busy since our last issue. As you will see in this issue, we have had a number of changes in personnel due to various transformations in their lives; however, program services offered to our community continued – thanks to the dedication of our staff.

Reflecting on, “...a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.”, I am reminded that we not only plant seeds in the lives of clients but in the lives of employees as well, and we help nurture their development. Sometimes a plant is uprooted to be transplanted elsewhere to grow and flourish. As a result of this experience we were able to promote four (4) employees from within the agency to cultivate new specialized skills to better serve our clients.

In response to “...a time to mourn,” we are pleased to have restructured Disaster Response/Special Initiatives and *Elijah's Place* into Disaster, Trauma & Loss, to enhance services to those who have experienced various types of loss.

As part of Special Initiatives, we are responding to an identified need addressing “A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them...” **A**ss**B**uilding **C**ase Management (ABC Management) is helping individuals and families learn financial management skills to better manage the “scattering” and “gathering” of their “stones” to work toward and achieve their self-sufficiency and housing security goals.

As for, “...a time to build.”, our Quality Committee is reviewing our Strategic Plan to evaluate existing program services and plan for expansion and development of new program services in the future.

Of course, let’s not forget, “...and a time to dance.” We hope you can join us in honoring The Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word (C.C.V.I.), celebrating their service to our community, at our annual Harvest of Hope Gala, Saturday, October 11, 2008. Come dance to the music of Night & Day Orchestra.

Yes, there is certainly a time to give thanks. Thank you for your continued support of Catholic Charities, enabling us to continue to *Provide Help and Create Hope* through our program services.

Dean M. Terrebonne President/CEO

New Faces for New Places



Ginger Culver, Vice President of Programs
Ginger received her BS from Texas Woman’s University and her MS from the University of Houston. She is a licensed Clinical Social Worker with over 10 yrs. experience counseling adults, children, and families. Recently, Ginger taught mathematics for grades 8 – 12 in the public school system. As a social worker, Ginger developed and managed programs including residential treatment, foster care, and outpatient counseling services.



Raymond Broussard, CCCS - Director
Raymond is native to Southeast Texas having graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in Port Arthur and receiving his BBA at Lamar University. Raymond has had career experience in business management and operations, finance, accounting, marketing, and working with children. Raymond is married and the father of two college graduates who currently reside in the Houston area.



Gail Rexses, former Director of *Elijah's Place* at her farewell Celebration on June 17th.

Recognition & Appreciation

We would like to recognize and thank the following staff for their dedicated service to provide help and create hope in Southeast Texas.

Gail Rexses - 5 years of service
Elijah's Place Director

Paul Thomas - 4 1/2 years of service
Parish Social Ministry Director

Carmen Vega - 8 years of service
Immigration Caseworker



Grace Gonzales,
Immigration Caseworker



Santos Hernandez,
Immigration Caseworker



Ginny Smith,
Parish Social Ministry
Coordinator



Charmaine Garner
CCCS - Client Services



Amber Billeaud,
CCCS—Client Services



Lourdes Rangel,
Office Assistant

What if Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can! GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality



search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up! GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Ama-

zon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause. Just go to www.goodsearch.com

and be sure to enter Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas as the charity you want to support, or Go to our website: www.catholiccharitiesbmt.org. There is a link on our home page to the GoodSearch site and Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas will automatically populate for your charitable cause. Helping your community through your everyday activities. You can't beat that.

SPREAD THE WORD!



Program Spotlight Disaster, Trauma & Loss Unit

Catholic Charities had been seeking to fill the position of Director of Elijah's Place since September 2007. Effective May 1, 2008, Randi Ferritta (former Director – Disaster Response/ Special Initiatives) accepted the position of Director – Disaster, Trauma & Loss. This incorporated 2 programs (Disaster Response & Elijah's Place) into 1 division of services allowing the agency to respond to A broader range of trau-

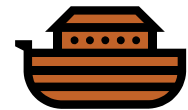
matic/disruptive life events experienced by families (i.e. death, disaster, trauma, hardship cases, etc.). Additionally, the position of Coordinator – Disaster, Trauma & Loss was added and accepted by JoAnna Schrock., formerly Parish Social Ministry Coordinator.

Since January 2008, Elijah's Place has experienced a large increase in the number of families actively participating in the program. 13 families

have been added to the program since January 2008 and active participation has increased dramatically. The number of families having experienced a traumatic death such as a murder or suicide has increased as well.

The coming months will involve Volunteer Facilitator refresher training and a new Volunteer Facilitator training. Additionally, the Director and Coordinator of Disaster, Trauma & Loss will work to in-

crease the community's awareness of the services provided by Elijah's Place . The Director is also working to identify other areas of trauma and loss that are not being addressed by existing programs within the community. Such issues will be addressed through additional Elijah's Place groups designed to address those specific needs.



harvest of hope

Honoring the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word

Saturday, October 11th, 2008 7:00pm

*Janie Phelan, Event Chair
Carole Mattingly & Torchy, Co-Chairs*



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*providing help.
creating hope.*

Check out our new look:
www.catholiccharitiesbmt.org



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS

A B C is working like 1 2 3

Through the dedicated work of Catholic Charities employee Stephanie Lundgren, we have been able to fill the gap for community members in need of financial education. It is our intention to educate the underserved, offer tools they need, and help them establish a good financial foundation. Through building that foundation, their assets can increase and the cycle of poverty can be broken.

Through our partnership with the Credit Coalition and successful sponsorships from Lamar University, Entergy, Beaumont Housing Authority, and Covenant Capital Corporation we have been able to offer our 1st "Fundamentals of Good



Catholic Charities President Dean Terrebonne, ABC Case Manager Stephanie Lundgren, Habitat For Humanity Uliana Trylowsky, Randi Fertitta Director DTL

Credit" class on three Saturday mornings in April and May. During this class, the participants were educated in....

- Personal Financial Mgmt.
- Credit Reporting
- Basic Banking Skills
- The Credit Process
- Consumer Laws & Rights
- Financial Planning, and
- Homebuyer Training

Classes are scheduled to be

conducted again this fall—9/20, 10/4, & 10/18.

In addition to our work in financial education, our partnership with Habitat For Humanity of Jefferson County (HFHOJC) has enabled us to complete 21 applications for housing through the Jefferson Co. HFH program. HFHOJC Executive Director, Uliana Trylowsky (pictured above), commended the work of Catholic Charities by offering, "The results have been impressive."