

# Social Concerns Newsletter

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Summer 2007



Catholic Charities  
of Southeast Texas  
P.O. Box 829  
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## 16th Annual Breakfast with the Bishop blooms at St. Anne

The 16th Annual Breakfast with the Bishop was the place to be on Saturday, April 28, 2007. Blooming, spring flowers adorned each of the tables where the friends of Catholic Charities enjoyed good food and great company. The floral theme seemed especially popular this year. The centerpieces gave the guests a chance to take a little Breakfast with the Bishop springtime home for their own gardens. Catholic Charities realized more than \$21,000 to provide help and create hope in our community.

St. Anne's Church in Beaumont once again was the perfect scene for the event. Many thanks to Fr. Manger, his staff and the parishioners for sharing their facility with us. A very special thank you to the event co-chairs, Carolyn Wood and Barbara Steen, for taking charge of this much anticipated event. Organizing and planning this festive spring gathering is a challenge. Catholic Charities is grateful to the event co-chairs, committee members, donors, underwriters and the volunteers who made this year's event a success.

This year, the Humanitarian Award was presented to a family whose work extends the mission of Catholic Charities. The Courville family's ministry is a wonderful example of work and family life combining to serve others. Ever mindful that many members of our community are hungry, the Courville family gives their time, talent and treasure to support local charitable organizations, especially organizations that prepare meals for the poor. Catholic Charities is privileged to honor them for their personal and professional commitment to ending hunger in Southeast Texas.



From Left: Bishop Curtis J. Guillory, Jami and Chelle Courville, Eleanor Means and Rich Courville.

## Texas honors Catholic Charities' volunteer

*Elijah's Place* / **Becky Richard**



Rebecca "Becky" Richard

The Governor's Volunteer Awards selected Catholic Charities' volunteer Becky Richard as the 2007 Community Capacity Builder, Individual of the year. The awards were established in 1983 as a way to thank volunteers for their service to the people of Texas.

Becky assisted Catholic Charities with the creation and development of the *Elijah's Place* program, the first ongoing grief support program in Southeast Texas. Becky continues to provide support to the program director, the volunteer facilitators, and the families of *Elijah's Place*. Congratulations, Becky, for this much deserved acknowledgment of all that you have done and continue to do for Catholic Charities.

The 24th Annual Governor's Volunteer Award winners were recognized by Governor Rick Perry at a private ceremony in Austin on June 6, 2007. In addition, Becky received the President's Volunteer Service Award in gratitude for her many contributions to the welfare of others. For more information on the awards and the award winners visit [www.onestarfoundation.org](http://www.onestarfoundation.org).

## News from the President

*providing help.  
creating hope.*

### Lessons Learned and Looking to the Future



**Dean Terrebonne**

In conjunction with the beginning of the 2007 Hurricane Season, Catholic Charities, under the direction of Randi Fertitta, Director – Disaster Response/Special Initiatives, held a Hurricane Drill. Staff prepared for a virtual hurricane, “Bubba”, and followed our Disaster Preparedness Plan for a virtual mandatory evacuation. Lessons learned were discussed as we anticipated what we needed to prepare should a real storm occur and how we would return to better provide services to our community, as a second-line provider. After Rita, we learned that Case Management is essential for long-term recovery. As it appeared there were no Social Service agencies currently providing “comprehensive case management”, we determined that Catholic Charities should be at the forefront in developing this service. We are currently providing such case management for long-term recovery from Rita. I am proud of the dedication of our staff in serving those in need.

We realized that there are individuals in our community that suffer from the “un-natural disaster” of poverty, dependent on Social Services and assistance to survive. They may feel stuck in the cycle of dependency. Thus, we developed a plan to provide Asset Building Case Management (ABC Management).

We applied for and were granted funds, through the CHRISTUS Fund Hurricane Recovery Initiative, to develop such a service. We will be recruiting a Case Manager to develop and provide this service, effective July 2007. Our program will identify families, affected by Hurricane Rita, who are ready to participate in asset building activities such as Individual Development Accounts (IDA’s) that provide families with long-term security. They will learn financial management skills and agree to a savings plan that can be matched up to three times their goal amount to purchase a home. In collaboration with Beaumont Habitat for Humanity, we will work toward facilitating home ownership. It is our hope to assist families in ending the cycle of poverty or dependency and work toward the road to self-sufficiency. We are grateful to the CHRISTUS Fund for their faith in us to support this effort financially.

We will provide updated progress in our next issue. 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*

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**September 29, 2007**  
**harvest of hope**  
**Honoring**  
**THE MACEO SISTERS**  
*Paula Lovoi, Event Chair*

Visit our website for information on program services, agency events,  
volunteer and employment opportunities.

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

*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

## Catholic Charities' Volunteers

Catholic Charities' volunteers work with clients, help keep facilities in good repair, and provide direct services to their parish community. The most well known Catholic Charities volunteer opportunities are with the Hospitality Center in Port Arthur. Every day, 365 days each year, Hospitality Center volunteers feed the hungry. Their service is a blessing to the people of South Jefferson County.

What you may not know is that Catholic Charities volunteers are creative, resourceful, and committed to their volunteer service. **Clara Jo "C.J." Liberto** and **Tommy Leicht** have a long and rich history



CJ Liberto & Tommy Leicht



Leadership Service Project by Benjamin Bonsall

with Catholic Charities. C.J. and Tommy have served Catholic Charities for 16 years! Both have served as Board Members and you will probably recognize them as the team that keeps Breakfast with the Bishop ticket sales well organized each year. **Benjamin Bonsall** chose Catholic Charities' Central Services Facility as his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project. He is pictured here with a portion of his project along the 16th Street entrance to the parking area. Benjamin's project includes landscaping and constructing a patio and picnic table at the employee entrance to the building. Finally, the photos at right are of a unique group



PSM Director Paul Thomas with Fall 2006 graduates: Brenda English, Effie Sharp, and Julia Beaudoin.

of people who wish to serve Catholic Charities and their parish families at the same time. These two groups are recent graduates of the **Parish Social Ministry Leadership Series**. This series of workshops helps prepare volunteers to participate in or develop social service activities in their parish or community.

Your volunteer hours are precious to Catholic Charities. We want to help you find your dream volunteer assignment. Call our volunteer coordinator, Ali Duffel (835-7118 ext. 32) if you enjoy cooking, serving, clerical work, casework or simply wish to help us *provide help and create hope* in Southeast Texas.



Spring 2007 graduates. From left: Mary Clare Wilsford, Linda Brown Adams, Carol Fetters, Ali Duffel, Coquese Williams and Paul Thomas

## \$1 a year for the *Best of the Best*

The Hospitality Center will celebrate 20 years of service during the 2007 Christmas Season. To commemorate this milestone, the Hospitality Center Advisory Council is coordinating a cookbook featuring recipes from the wonderful cooks, volunteers and some surprise contributors. Catholic Charities would like to thank everyone for their work on this fundraising project. *Best of the Best* cookbooks will be available for purchase at the modest cost of \$20. That is \$1 for each year of Hospitality Center service to South Jefferson County. How many people on your Christmas list would like to own a copy of this limited edition masterpiece?



## Catholic Campaign for Human Development



Catholic Charities would like to congratulate this year's Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) local grant recipients.

- Caring Christians Sharing, Sour Lake*
- Community Care-Prayer Outreach, Port Neches*
- Helping Our People Exel (HOPE), Port Arthur*
- Port Arthur Area Shrimper's Association, Port Arthur*
- Saint Katharine Drexel Humanitarians, Beaumont*
- Some Other Place, Beaumont*

Administered by Catholic Charities' Parish Social Ministry, CCHD local grants fund organizations that work to end poverty and injustice in our community. Please join us in wishing these organizations success with their 2007 projects.



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creating hope.*

## For your calendar

### July

- 4 Independence Day Holiday  
Catholic Charities offices closed
- 10 Immigration Services'  
Information Campaign meeting  
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Catholic Charities' office, Beaumont
- 26 Immigration Services'  
Information Campaign meeting  
6 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
Catholic Charities' office, Beaumont

### August

- 17 Immigration Services' Outreach & Information  
Campaign at St. Joseph, Livingston

### 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

## Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas

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
Disaster Response	Ext. 26
<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  
409-984-2589

Hospitality Center  
3959 Gulfway Drive, Port Arthur, Texas  
409-984-4842

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