



Matagorda County United Way **REACHING OUT**

May 2006

Volume 9, Number 1

Outstanding Community Donors

At the Matagorda County United Way Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in January, donors were recognized in four categories: Platinum (\$10,000 & above), Gold (\$1,000 to \$10,000), Silver (\$500 to \$1,000), Bronze (under \$500).

Platinum Donors: South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company, Williams Companies, Celanese, Lyondell Chemical, H.E.B., Conoco Phillips, and Zachry Construction Co. @ Old Ocean. **Gold Donors:** Barrett Minerals, Bay City Gas Co., Carmage & Martha Ann Walls Foundation, Chevron Phillips, Inteplast Group Ltd., Matagorda County Hospital District, Palacios Central Elementary, SBC, The Trull Foundation, Valero Energy Corp., Van Vleck ISD, Wal-Mart – Bay City/ El Campo/ Wharton, Zachry Construction @ Lyondell, and Zachry Freeport LNG. **Silver Donors:** AEP/CPL, Duke Energy, IBC Bank, Lacks Bay City, Matagorda County, and Texas Industries. **Bronze Donors:** Alcoa, Bay City ISD, Dawson Elementary – Wharton, El Paso Energy, Formosa Plastics Corp., Palacios Lion's Club, Tennie Holmes Elementary, United Health Group, and Washington Mutual.

THANK YOU!

Matagorda & Wharton County Thanks You for Your Help!

Volunteers everywhere are at the heart of what's great about Matagorda County. People pitching in, doing a little something extra, lending a hand, and showing their caring hearts. We thank you, VOLUNTEERS, for your tremendous efforts.

Volunteer of the year nominees for 2005 included:

1. 255 volunteers helping with Hurricane Katrina – American Red Cross-Rio Colorado Chapter
2. Cleora Boeker – LVA
3. Jo Halbert - ARC
4. Josephine Gonzales – Friends of Elder Citizens
5. Pie Flores – Friends of Elder Citizens
6. Mary Lesley – Friends of Elder Citizens
7. Jack Morton – Robert Duran Caring & Sharing Food Pantry
8. Tiffany Chancey – Bay City Day Care
9. Mary “Jo” Sharp – Crisis Center
10. Maria Mireles – Matagorda County Teen Court
11. Bruce Krauskopf – Boy Scouts of America

**Our Volunteer of the Year for 2005 went to
“Jack Morton”**

**“What
Matters”**

**“Community
Matters”**

**“Volunteers
are not paid
- not
because
they are
worthless,
but because
they are
priceless.”
-unknown**

"Real Lives.
Real
Impact."

Matagorda County United Way Campaign Goal

The devastating disaster in our neighboring states will be forever etched in our minds. This disaster has shown what many of us already knew: we are a deeply caring society. Together, the citizens of Matagorda & Wharton County worked to help the evacuees from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama with shelter, food, clothing, etc... To Matagorda County United Way's surprise, the disasters' affect on the 2005-06 Campaign pledges were only \$8,000 short of its \$450,000 goal. This proves that the citizens of Matagorda county and Wharton County care about there community. Some of the agencies were cut a small percentage on their funding, but we were still able to fund 27 programs for the following 20 local non-profit social service agencies: AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas, Inc., **American Red Cross Rio Colorado Chapter**, ARC (MC Association for Retarded Citizens), BACODA (Bay Area Council on Drugs & Alcohol), Bay City Day Care, **Boy Scouts of America Sam Houston Area Council**, **CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)**, **Crisis Center**, Crime Stoppers, D.A.R.E. Tidehaven ISD, EAC (Economic Action Committee), FOEC (Friends of Elder Citizens), Girls in Scouting, Girl Scouts of South Texas Council, LVA (Literacy Volunteers of America), K.I.D.S. (Kids in Distress), **MEHOP (Matagorda Episcopal Health Outreach Program)**, Rainbow Land Day Care-Palacios, Robert Duran Caring & Sharing Food Pantry-Palacios, and **Teen Court**. Other support organizations include M C Community Foundation, Palacios Area Fund, and Matagorda Serv. Recycling Whamco Pallet Co...

(Agencies that also serve Wharton County are in bold)

Local EFSP Board receives an additional \$27,000 to assist with Emergency Food, Shelter & Utilities For Area Residents

In January a letter was sent to the EFSP State Set-aside committee requesting **an additional \$42,000** for assistance with emergency issues in Matagorda County. Our jurisdiction was awarded \$31,248 from the National Emergency Food and Shelter Program at the beginning of the year. Following are some excerpts from that funding request.

- Matagorda County is a County with population just under 39,000.
- We are a rural coastal community covering more than 1,114 square miles with no public transportation.
- Matagorda County has been a double-digit unemployment county for more

**“United
Way’s not
just a
fundraiser -
Collaborativ
es &
Coalitions
are key”**

- than a decade.
- Median income for Matagorda County is \$32,174, which is almost \$7,750 less per household than the state average.
- One of every four children in Matagorda County is uninsured.
- The County has been declared a medical and dental shortage area.
- 18.5% of County residents live below the federal poverty level.
- 70% of public school students qualify for free or reduced lunch programs.
- Almost 3,250 individuals qualify for food stamps monthly, which is 8.5% of the County population.
- 18% of County residents are considered functionally illiterate.
- More than 145 families are currently qualified for the TANF programs.
- Local food pantries are seeing at least 1100 families monthly. With area food banks unable to fill orders, the local pantries are forced to go without food, shut the doors, or buy at retail prices.
- The 2005-2006 United Way fundraising campaign is \$8,000 short of their \$450,000 goal. This has resulted in less for local non-profits servicing emergency needs of County citizens and some of the local agencies have been cut grants of \$30,000 or more.

We are a hard hit area with a number of factors affecting our families. The local social service organizations are unable to meet the needs in these difficult times.

United Ways Standard of Excellence

In March 2005, United way of America unveiled new Standards of Excellence, a comprehensive description of benchmark standards and best practices. Developed in conjunction United Way executives, staff and volunteers throughout the country, the standards are designed to enhance the effectiveness of the 1,350 United Way affiliates. The five key areas of operation are: Community Engagement and Vision – working with formal and informal leaders to develop a shared vision and goals for a community and the overall well being of its citizens; Impact Strategies, Resources and Results – creating “impact strategies” that address the root causes and barriers of a community’s priority issues; Relationship Building and Brand Management – developing, maintaining and growing relationships with individuals and organizations in order to attract and sustain essential assets; Organizational Leadership and Governance – garnering trust, legitimacy and support of the United Way in local communities through leadership and overall management; and Operations – providing efficient and cost-effective systems, policies and processed that enable the fulfillment of the United Way’s mission, while ensuring the highest levels of transparency and accountability. The mission is to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities. The vision is that we will be a stronger America by mobilizing our communities to improve people’s lives. The purpose of the Standards is four-fold:

- To define how to be a “great” United Way, pursuing and achieving community impact
- To establish aspirational benchmarks for individual United Way and system performance
- To provide clear definitions and a common language to describe United Way’s business today
- To provide a vehicle to help enhance stakeholder understanding of the “new” United Way

Office Happenings



Literacy Book-Give-a-way - As collaboration with First Book-Matagorda, we recently received more than 150 books to add to our Kids Korner Literacy Program. **Any child** can come into the United Way office at 2417 Avenue G and receive a free book for his or her very own. They are eligible for one book a month as long as supplies last. We are looking for a volunteer to go at least one day a month to area day cares, housing authority, schools, and read to the kids and distribute books. If you are interested please give Tressa a call at 979-245-5852.

First Quarter Allocation payments have been distributed to the 20 non-profit Community Care agencies approved for funding in 2006. In addition to these 20 non-profits, designations have been accepted for 28 other non-profit organizations through the MCUW annual campaign.



HELPLINE - Our in-house Information & Referral service averages 9000 calls annually. Are your parents having difficulty paying for prescription drugs? Would you like to volunteer your time for a worthy cause? For the most up to date local social service information give us a call or email at mcuw@skycasters.net

WISH LIST

Committed volunteers are needed for Court Appointed Childs Advocate (CASA) agency.

Bay City Day Care needs the inside of their building painted.

Rainbow Land Day Care in Palacios needs some work on the outside of their building.

Bookshelves to house literacy program books for community children at MCUW office.

Upcoming Events

Matagorda County
United Way
2417 Ave G
P.O. Box 972
Bay City, TX 77404

Phone:
(979) 245-5852

Fax:
(979) 244-1541

E-mail:
mcuw@skycasters.net

We're on the Web!
www.man-net.net

Crisis Center Chicken Fried Steak Dinner – Friday May 12, 2006 5:00PM-7:00PM at Crisis Center

Teen Court Fish Fry – Saturday May 20, 2006 10:30-2:00 at Bay City Service Center

Life Line Screening at FOEC in Palacios – May 16, 2006. Pre-registration is required by calling

1-800-710-1913. source code: FEFL-819

Crisis Center Sporting Clay Fun Shoot – June 3, 2006, Garwood Sporting Clay, Inc. in Garwood Texas. Call Glenda Davenport at (979)245-9109

Success...to leave the world a bit better...to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. That is to have succeeded. - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Thank you all for your support and encouragement. Without your help needed services for area citizens would not be possible.

You can also help United Way by forwarding the above newsletter to your acquaintances.