


REACHING OUT

Volume 6 Issue 3

Matagorda County United Way

August 2002

2002-2003 Campaign Chairman & Co- Chairman announced

MCUW is proud to announce our Campaign Chair and Co-chair for the 2002-2003 Fundraising Campaign. Sheri Denton will be this year's Chairman and Sgt. Bobby Rodriguez will be the Co-Chairman. As two Community service minded individuals, we are looking forward to having a great year.

Campaign planning committees, which consists of volunteers from local businesses and industry, will start meeting in August and meet at least monthly throughout campaign. Anyone wishing to help during campaign is more than welcome.

Brochures are complete and on hand. The latest video is still in the production stage and should be complete early August

Campaign Kick-off is currently being planned for early September. We hope to see you all there.

MCUW
Vision Statement
**"Created to Serve,
Committed to Care"**

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TEEN BLAST-OFF

A County-wide Teen Health/Informational Fair will take place Friday, August 9th from 2:00 pm—8:00 pm at the Bay City Civic Center. Teens will be able to participate in games and activities, listen to music, view fashion shows, have refreshments, listen to speakers or visit booths pertaining to 1.) Teen health issues (including: diabetes, eating disorders, chemical dependency, health risks and screenings, nutrition, etc.) 2.) Social issues (including: gang involvement, healthy relationships, local avail-ability of services), and 3.) Community service opportunities to name a few.

Activities include: A Battle of the Bands, Praise Dancers, Beauty makeovers, Laser Tag, Obstacle Course wearing drunk goggles, Sumo Wrestling, Bungee Run, and Drag Racing.

Exhibitors include: American Red Cross, Bay City Police Dept., Bay City Girls Softball, BCHS Key Club, BCHS Student Council, Coastal Plains Gideons, CoSA, Children's Health Insurance Program, Drivers Ed in a Box, Marilyn Dimas – Beauty make over and Massage therapy, Matagorda Area Network, Matagorda County Hospital District, MCHD-Women's Health Clinic, Matagorda County Women's Crisis Center, Matagorda County Teen Challenge Program, Matagorda County Teen Court, Matagorda County United Way, MEHOP, South Texas Medical Clinics, Texana STAR Program, Texas Department of Health, The WorkSource, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, Wharton County Junior College, Women's Pregnancy Center, & Youth Runaway Hotline.

TEEN BLAST-OFF Major Donors include: AEP/CP&L - \$500.00, STPNOC - \$500.00, McAda Drilling Fluids Inc. - \$500.00, Bay City Kiwanis - \$500.00, Equistar - \$250.00, Gulf Coast Seafood & More - \$250.00 worth of door prizes, and HEB - \$200.00 worth of door prizes. We also had other sponsors who contributed over 100 door prizes.

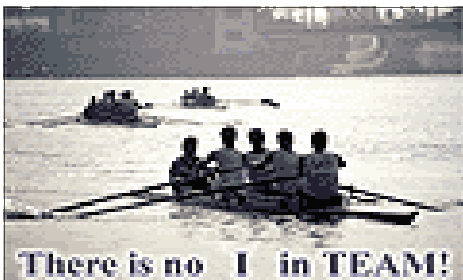
TEEN BLAST-OFF Coordinators include: American Red Cross – Bay City Chapter, Bay City Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture, Bay City Independent School District, Bay City Police Department, Boy Scouts of America – Matagorda, Council on Substance Abuse, Matagorda County Community Education Department, Matagorda County United Way, Matagorda County Veterans Administration, Maximus, MEHOP, Salvation Army – Bay City Unit, Texana Star Program, Texas Department of Health, The Crisis Center, The WorkSource, and the U.S. Marines.

Thank You to all our Donors, Volunteers, and Agencies!!!

FEMA Training

Pat Curry, American Red Cross Director, and Kim Effenberger, MCUW Director, completed the Emergency Management Institute Emergency Planning and Special Needs Populations course in Emmitsburg, MD in June.

The course provides the people who are responsible for emergency care of special needs groups with the skills and knowledge they will need to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergency situations by improving technical competence and offering public policy perspective for key emergency managers and staff.



Odds & Ends

—Special Volunteers—

Thank you to several special volunteers: Sarah Alvarez, Jeffrey Effenberger, Jennifer Effenberger, Jessica Effenberger, Brittainy Helton & Christi Johnson.

These teens helped to build databases, file, make folders, shred old documents, input needs assessment surveys, etc. over the past year.

Congratulations to Christi on your graduation, the MCUW staff will miss you and we hope the community service you did for us, helped you out as much as it did us.

Thank you!

—Friends of Elder Citizens —

FOEC names new Director. We would like to welcome Former Mayor Beverly Watson to the MCUW family. We wish you all the best and look forward to working with you over the coming years.

Cheryl Dodd has moved into a contract position with FOEC as Grant writer. We wish you well, Cheryl, in the Restaurant business and are glad you haven't hung up the towel for good.

—MEHOP—

Welcomes new Medical Director Dr. Cheryl Sacco. MEHOP is in the process of adding a dental component and has currently started trying to add a Mental Health Component as well.

-Matagorda County Teen Court -

Our local Teen Court group recently visited the Brazoria County Teen Court session in which a contempt of court verdict was imposed. Brazoria County Teen Court will be visiting our local Teen Court Master Jury sometime in September. The collaboration between the Counties and courts has allowed more kids to view the judicial process first hand.

—Crisis Center—

The Matagorda County Women's Crisis Center is gearing up to move into their new headquarters on 6th St. The new building is large enough to house administrative offices, resale shop, classrooms, and shelter all under one roof. Congratulations.

Upcoming Events

—Teen Blast-Off—

August 9th from 2:00—8:00 pm at the Bay City Civic Center. Fun, activities, health screenings, speakers, and entertainment. Teens 13-18. Call 245-5852, 245-3056, or 323-8273 for information.

—MEHOP—

Market Days vitamin program **August 17th**. Bay City Court House Square.

—Matagorda County United Way—

Quarterly Board Meeting **Aug. 20th**. 6:30 pm IBC Bank (Second Floor Board Room).

— Interagency Council Meeting —

Aug. 21st at 8:30 am at the fourth floor Board Room at the County Building at 2200 7th St. in Bay City featuring Norman Hayes with Bay City Baptist Harvest Reapers Mission. Call 245-5852 for more information.

—CASA Volunteer Training—

Volunteer Training coming up. Please call 245-4958 for more information.

— Interagency Council Meeting —

Bay City Salvation Army & Food Pantry will present at the **Sept. 18th** Meeting. Remember we are moving into more of an unmet needs committee, so think about the clients you need special assistance with.

— Interagency Council Meeting —

Houston Center for Independent Living with Melvin Johnson presenting at the **October 16th** Meeting.

—MEHOP Volunteer Training —

Volunteer training will take place in September for volunteers to help at the MEHOP sites. Please call the office at 245-2008 for more information.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The following Non-profits can use a little help!

- **American Red Cross** can always use assistance in teaching CPR classes, Life guarding, First Aid Basics, Emergency drill support, office help, etc. please contact 245-3056 if you would like to get involved.
- **Bay City Community Food Pantry** is in need of volunteers to help stock shelves, pack up & hand out food, write small articles for church bulletins, organize files, food drives, etc. Call 244-1777 for more details.
- **Bay City Day Care** is seeking help in preparing new building for older children. Call 245-9641 to assist.
- **CASA—Court Appointed Special Advocates** are always looking for children advocates to assist with abused children caught up in legal battles. Free intense training classes for volunteer advocates. Call 245-4958 for more information.
- **Crisis Center** needs assistance in moving to their new location. They have regular volunteers who answer their 24-hour Crisis hotline. They are in need of any donated items for sale in the resale shop. Call 245-9109 to get involved.
- **Friends of Elder Citizens** need volunteers to help with special events, help fix up a courtyard area , assisting their clients in maintaining independence, etc. Call 245-7400 or (361) 972-9921 if you have a few hours to spare.
- **Economic Actions Committee** often needs help in organizing large food distribution, making phone calls, painting, assisting elderly in many areas, etc. Call 245-6901 or 245-3250 to help out.
- **Literacy Volunteers of America, Inc.** is in need of volunteers to help around the building, tutors for their classes, and babysitting while parents learn, etc. For details call 244-9544.
- **MC Association for Retarded Citizens** needs volunteers to assist in the teaching of clients, organizing special events, tilling their garden, and finding jobs for the clients. Call 245-5833 for more details.
- **Matagorda County United Way** is in need of volunteers for the campaign committee. This committee is responsible for running the annual campaign. Any ideas, legwork, speakers, etc. is helpful not only to United Way, but to each of the funded non-profits of the County. Call 245-5852 for more information.
- **Matagorda County United Way (HELPLINE)** needs volunteers to help repair homes for our senior and disabled citizens around the county. We have small or large projects. Groups of any size are welcome. Help a Neighbor. We also need Campaign Committee volunteers to help with brainstorming meetings during the fall. Call 245-5852 to participate.
- **MEHOP - Matagorda Episcopal Hospital Outreach Program** needs volunteers to go to rural sites as hostesses, and other special event volunteers. Call 245-2008 to get involved.
- **Robert Duran Caring & Sharing Food Pantry** needs volunteers to assist in food sorting, shelving, boxing up and delivery to the homebound. Call 361-972-6355 to help out.
- **Salvation Army-Bay City** is in need of volunteers to help assist hanging up clothing, reorganizing & sorting sale items on a daily, weekly, hourly basis. Of course any items you would like to donate can be used to assist those in need or to sell to help assist other clients. Call 244-1777 to volunteer or for more info.
- **Teen Court** needs Adults willing to be judges and jury monitors on Tuesday evenings 5-7 pm. Teens are also needed for jurors, prosecutors, and defense attorneys as well. Call 245-1401 for details.

HAPPENINGS at the Matagorda County United Way Office

MCUW continues to work on several collaborative events, committees, and projects.

- **Boost America** — About 30 Child Safety Booster Seats are still available for low-income families with children weighing 40-80 pounds. For more information please call 245-5852 or come by the MCUW office at 2417 Avenue G in Bay City.
- **CHIP**—Children’s Health Insurance Program registration forms are now available at the MCUW office at 2417 Ave G in Bay City or 245-5852 for more information.
- **Options Program**—Registration forms are available at the MCUW office for the Options for Independent Living program. This program can sometimes help with small home repairs, shower chairs, medication assistance, etc. These services are provided for seniors living on a limited budget.
- **Community Resource Coordination Group (CRCG)** —Meets monthly to case manage for individuals with mental health/mental retardation to help provide the services each individual is needing. Currently adding an adult component to the already strong youth advocacy group.

- **Interagency Council**—Meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 8:30 am at the County Building. We have recently voted to shorten the presentations so that more time can be spent monthly actually helping citizens of the County by active Case Management to find services needed for individuals. Anyone is welcome to come. Please call 245-5852 to be added to the mail list.
- **Fundraising** — The 2002-2003 Campaign activities and preparations are underway for this coming fall. Video production, Brochure preparation, Combined Federal Campaign Approval, etc. Currently seeking individuals to serve on the Campaign Committee.
- **Grant Collaborations**—We continue to collaborate with Community organizations in grant searches, writing proposals, support letters, etc. If these succeed it will bring outside dollars back into the County for much needed services.
- **Matagorda Area Network (MAN)**—We have been working closely with the MAN volunteers to get a web presence not only for MCUW but also for the other social service organizations in the County.

—HELPLINE—

MCUW Information & Referral service is not only an information source. We are doing a lot more case management. Which means helping seniors and disabled fill out government forms, CHIP enrollment forms, and prescription enrollment forms, as well as researching other services and alternatives.

Recent HELPLINE success stories:

1. A Bay City resident living on a limited income and without dental insurance recently received dental services due to HELPLINE intervention.
2. Several single mom’s have been helped with Day Care this past month.
3. Helping to coordinate school supply drives for students through several area businesses.
4. Helped to coordinate home repairs for several Matagordians through church and local assistance groups.

Your Gift helps citizens of Matagorda County!

Name _____
 Address _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Employed by _____ Daytime Phone _____
 Alternate phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Yes! I want to Help with the 2002-2003 Campaign!

My one time donation is \$ _____
 I wish to Leave a Legacy by making a Memorial gift in the name of: _____
 I wish to Leave a Legacy by making an Honorary gift in the name of: _____ I
 wish to Leave a Legacy by making a Commemorative gift in the name of: _____
 I wish to donate stock or other property (Please contact me.) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

(Gifts to Matagorda County United Way are 100% tax-deductible. Memorial, Honorary, and Commemorative gifts will be placed in our Leave a Legacy Endowment. Contact your local office for further details.)

Sea Masters new Lead

We would like to welcome Matagorda County Extension Services new Marine Agent Jeff Rank who will take over the leadership of 4-H SeaMasters program for the kids of Matagorda County.

Welcome Jeff, we look forward to working with you in the future.

MCUW Mission Statement

"Meeting the health and human service needs of the Community."

**Have you remembered us in your will?
Charitable bequests offer lasting support to United Way and funded agencies throughout our community**

WISH LIST

- Volunteer to help design a website.
- Volunteer to build a searchable database for the HELPLINE Information & Referral Directory.

Local Support Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous Support Group (979) 245-6499

Meets at 2701 Ave. H in Bay City Mon.-Sat. 12:00 noon and Sunday, Monday, & Thursday at 8:00 pm.

Al-Non Support Group (979) 245-6499

Support group for family members of alcoholics meets at 2701 Avenue H in Bay City Mondays & Thurs. at 7:00 pm.

American Cancer Society Group (979) 244-2265

Meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the First National Bank Building in Bay City.

Caregivers Support Group (979) 241-6900 or 241-6383

For individuals caring for elderly. Meets Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30 pm at the Avenue H side of the Hospital. First Floor Senior Phases entrance.

Diabetic Support Group (979) 245-7800

Matagorda House at the Legacy -500 wing day room- 6:00 pm second Thursday of each month.

Domestic Violence Support Groups (979) 245-9109

- *Matagorda group meets at the United Methodist Church from 2:30-3:30 pm the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month.
- *Palacios support group meets at Solid Rock Fellowship from 11:00 am-12:00 noon every 1st & 3rd Thursday.
- *Wharton domestic violence support group meets at The Work Source in Wharton from 6:00-8:00 pm every Tuesday.
- *Bay City domestic violence support group meets at 2805 4th St. from 6:00-8:00 pm every Thursday.

Fibromyalgia, Rheumatoid Arthritis , and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Support Group (979) 245-7891

Meets the first Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm at the Bay House auditorium at The Legacy.

Grief Support Fellowship (979) 245-3778

St. Peters Lutheran at 9th & Nichols in Bay City at 6:30 pm the 2nd & 4th Mon. of the Month. (Babysitting is available).

2nd Quarter Donors

AEP/CPL	Exxon Mobil	Palacios ISD
Alcoa	Gulf Coast Combined	Phillips Petroleum
Allstate	Federal Campaign	Reliant Energy
American General	Gulf States	Shell E & P Co.
Barrett Minerals	H.B. Zachry	Solutia
BASF	H.E.B.	Southwestern Bell Co.
Bay City Gas Company	IBC Bank	STPNOC
Bay City ISD	ICS	Trull Services
Celanese	Interplast	Ultramar Diamond
Chevron Phillips	Janie Michael	Shamrock
Craddock Gusman Trust	Matagorda County	UPS
Dow & Dow Design	MC Hospital District	US Contractors
Duke Energy	Miken	Wal-Mart
El Paso Energy	Lack's	Wells Fargo
Emett Alvarez	Lois Deshotels	Williams Company
Equistar Chemical	O'Reilly Distribution	

2002 Matagorda County United Way Officers and Board of Directors

Gerald Wilson - Chairman
Tim Powell - 1st Vice President
Robert Garcia - 2nd Vice President
Cindy Carroll - Secretary
Chris Johnson - Financial Officer
Kim Effenberger - Executive Director

Emett Alvarez	-	BC Community Dev. Corp.
Dianne Bowers	-	Prosperity Bank
Cindy Carroll	-	El Campo Hospital
John Connor	-	Mayor of Palacios
Simon DeSoto	-	Corp of Engineer
Gus Fuentes	-	Equistar Chemical
Robert Garcia	-	Bay City Police Dept.
Weldon Gilbert	-	Enterprise Baptist Church
Donnie Horton	-	D's Gifts
Chris Johnson	-	AEP/CP&L
James Mitchell	-	MC Sheriff's Department
Tim Powell	-	STPNOC
Mike Reddell	-	The Tribune
Bobby Rodriguez	-	Bay City Police Dept.
Willie Rollins	-	Tu-Son Service Co.
Gerald Wilson	-	STPNOC

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

REACHING OUT

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REACHING OUT is compiled and published quarterly
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When you have finished with this
 issue please pass it on to a friend!