

“What Matters”

**“One out of every 6 (16.67%) children lives in poverty in the United States, One out of every 4 (25%) children lives in poverty in Matagorda County”
-Children’s Defense Fund**

United Way Presents An Internationally Flavored Kick-off

It will be a Kick-off to remember. United Way will feature area restaurants at this year’s Campaign Kick-off scheduled for Thursday, September 16th, from 7:00 pm- 9:00 pm. at the Bay City Civic Center. Area restaurants have supported us in the past, now it’s our turn to help them out by getting the community out to taste their cuisine. Come join us and



taste what the restaurants have to offer. Judging will be based on 1.

Favorite Flavor, 2. Best Food Presentation, 3. Best Decorated, & of

course The People’s Choice. Plaques Booths are available for area restaurants for \$50.00 each for a 10 x 10 foot space. VIP tickets are available for \$30.00 each. (Entry at 6:00 pm, souvenir and an additional drink ticket) General admission tickets are

\$15.00 each. Entry at 7:00 pm includes Restaurant sampling, 2 drink tickets, special international dancers and entertainment, and preview of the latest United Way video. Tickets can be purchased at participating restaurants, the United Way office, and Bay City Chamber of Commerce.



Campaign Materials Ready For Delivery or Pick-up

We are gearing up for the 2004 - 2005 Fundraising Campaign. Campaign brochures, catalogs, etc. are in the office ready for pick-up or delivery. The video will be complete sometime in mid August. To schedule campaign presentations, agency fairs, meetings, Agency Tours, etc. please contact Kim at (979) 245-7211 or mcuw@skycasters.net.

WISH LIST

A committed volunteer to implement a Women’s Initiative for Matagorda County.

A literacy volunteer to go out in the community at least once monthly to read to children and distribute books to them.

Bookshelves to house literacy program books for community children.

**"Real Lives.
Real
Impact."**

Community Impact – Coalitions & Collaboratives

Matagorda County United Way participates in the following community coalitions.

- 1. Matagorda Co. Health Care Coalition (MHCH)**-Collaboration with Matagorda County Hospital District, Matagorda County United Way, MEHOP, Palacios Medical Center, Texana MHMR, & The Trull Foundation;
- 2. Healthy Family Initiative** – 10 county coalition to strengthen area families.
- 3. Literacy Advisory Board-First Book-Matagorda (LAB)** - collaboration between Bay City Day Care, Bay City Library, Blessing Library, Boys & Girls Club-Palacios, First Book, Head Start-Bay City, Head Start-Palacios, Literacy Volunteers of America, Matagorda County United Way, MEHOP, Palacios Library, & Sargent VFW;
- 4. Youth Advisory Board** - collaborative involving: area youth, Bay City Housing Authority, Bay City ISD, Prosperity Bank, Matagorda County United Way, The WorkSource, & Van Vleck ISD ;
- 5. Interagency Community Resource Coordination Group for Families (CRCGF)** has a membership of more than 100 local social service non-profits, federal, & state agencies,
- 6. Matagorda Interfaith Goodwill Humanitarian Team (MIGHT)** - includes local churches, faith-based organizations, & local non-profit social service organizations;
- 7. Texas Community Futures Forum-2004** - includes local community leaders;
- 8. Head Start Child Development Council**- includes local social service organizations & medical teams;
- 9. Emergency Food & Shelter Board (EFSP)** - includes representation from American Red Cross, Catholic Charities, the County Judge, two Government agency representatives, Homeless representative, Matagorda County United Way, Ministerial Alliance, & Salvation Army; among other Community wide efforts.
- 10. Matagorda Area Network (MAN)** – includes area technology gurus in an effort to assist Matagorda County Businesses & non-profits with technology endeavors.

For information on any of the above organizations please contact Kim at the United Way office at 979-245-7211.

Leave A Legacy Endowment

All memorial, commemorative, or honorary gifts are placed in a permanent endowment to help the continuation of Matagorda County United Way's efforts to help the citizens of Matagorda County. When the Endowment reaches a certain level, the interest alone will support the perpetuity of the organization.

**“United Way
is not just a
fundraiser -
Collaboratives &
Coalitions
are key”**

Upcoming United Way Participating Community Events:

- 8/4/04 – Equistar United Way Committee-photo-op.
8/6/04 – MEHOP – Free Health Screenings – Bay City Service Center 9:00 am – 2:00 pm.
8/6/04 – Matagorda Area Network – advisory committee meeting - Photo Graphics at 1816 6th St. in Bay City - 12:00 noon.
8/9/04 – First Book-Literacy Advisory Board Meeting-MCUW office 9:00 am.
8/13/04 – U.S. Coast Guard Car Wash for First Book Matagorda – Jiffy Lube at the Brazos Mall 10:00 – 4:00.
8/14/04 – Back to school safety, health fair at Wal-Mart-Bay City. 10:00-2:00.
8/17/04 – Bay City United Small Business Task Force. City Hall 11:00 am.
8/17/04 – United Way Board Meeting – IBC Bank 6:00 pm.
8/18/04 - Matagorda County Interagency Community Resource Coordination Group for Families (CRCGF) August Meeting – Bay City Railroad Depot 9:00 am.
8/18/04 – First Book Matagorda Annual Meeting 11:30 am- 1:00 pm. Bay City Service Center at the corner of Avenue M & Hwy 35.
8/18/04 – STPNOC United Way Ambassadors Meeting 12:00 noon.
8/19/04 – Healthy Families Initiative – Catholic Charities Houston-9:00–4:00.
8/21/04 – Caregiver Training 10:00 am-2:00 pm George Memorial Library, Richmond, TX.
8/31/04 – Matagorda Interfaith Goodwill Humanitarian Team Board meeting –Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Palacios – 10:00 am.
9/13/04 - First Book-Literacy Advisory Board Meeting-MCUW office 9:00 am.
9/15/04 - Matagorda County Interagency Community Resource Coordination Group for Families (CRCGF) August Meeting – Bay City Railroad Depot 9:00 am.
9/16/04 – United Way presents “International Flavor” – Restaurant Taste testing competition and Campaign Kick-off 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Bay City Civic Center.
9/26-30/04 - Certified Grant Specialist Training – Austin.

“Your gift to United Way begins and ends right here at home!”

The President's Volunteer Service Awards



Matagorda County United Way is the County's certifying organization for the Presidential service awards program. MCUW certified eleven volunteers for an award for 2003. You can track volunteer hours and find out more about the awards at the following site. Remember to count up hours spent on organizing campaign times each campaign volunteer, plus food drives, home repairs, school supply drives, etc. I

would love to have all the hours in and certificates ordered so these awards can be given out at the Volunteer luncheon early next year.

<https://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov>

It's been said before but it bears repeating.

"Volunteers are not paid - not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless." -unknown

Office Happenings



Literacy Book-Give-a-way - In collaboration with First Book-Matagorda, we recently received an additional 500 books for our Kids Korner Literacy Program. **Any child** can come into the United Way office at 2417 Avenue G and receive a free book to take home. 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 Kim a call at 979-245-5852.

Third Quarter Allocation payments will be distributed at the end of August to the 20 non-profit Community Care agencies approved for funding in 2004. In addition to these 20 non-profits, designations have been accepted and sent to 27 other non-profit organizations through the MCUW annual campaign.

HELPLINE - Our in-house Information & Referral service averages 9,000 calls annually, (That is 23.8% of the total population of Matagorda County). 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 at 979-245-7211 or email at mcuw@skycasters.net



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.

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We're on the Web!
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