



Matagorda County United Way

REACHING OUT

July 2006

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United Way Presents

An Internationally

Flavored Kick-off



“What Matters”

It will be another Kick-off to remember. This will be United Ways 3rd year to feature area restaurants at the annual Campaign Kick-off scheduled for Thursday, August 17th, from 6:00 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.

Booths are available for area restaurants for \$50.00 each for a 10 x 10 foot space. Tickets are \$15.00 each (includes entry, restaurant sampling, entertainment, voting for People's Choice and preview of the latest United Way video). Tickets can be purchased at Outrigger Restaurant in Palacios, the United Way office on 2417 Ave G, and the Bay City Chamber of Commerce. At this time, the restaurants participating are: Outrigger in Palacios, Windswept in Freeport, Ricardo's Mexican Restaurant, D's Backstreet BBQ, Franco's Taco

“Together we Matter.”



House, Pizza Hut, Health Food Cottage, H.E.B., Sweet Creations, and Stanley/Fisher Bed & Breakfast. Entertainment is being provided by Logan Studio, The Coastaliers, and Indian dancers from Houston.

Community Impact –

UW's Not just a fundraiser

So many people view United Ways as only a fundraiser and distributor of funds. United Ways as a whole have moved more towards Community Impact. The Fund Distribution committees (community volunteers) have moved more towards program funding as opposed to Agency funding, meaning dollars are designated to certain services/programs instead of openly awarded. The resources that become available to Communities through community impact have become so vast that it dwarfs the annual community campaign and accomplishes so much more to the benefit of people in our community. The larger funding streams (foundations, governmental, etc) have moved more towards funding collaborative efforts than individual programs. Community Impact models help to make grass root changes instead of Band-Aids for the ills of our Community. MCUW's current initiatives include: Helping children succeed, fostering independence for seniors, increasing self-sufficiency, strengthening families, and promoting health and wellness. Community Impact also allows more collaborations with groups outside the funded agency status that has past presided. Matagorda County United Way is currently involved in several local collaboratives, including: **Matagorda County Health Care Coalition (MCHC)-**

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

Collaboration with Matagorda County Hospital District, Matagorda County United Way, MEHOP, Palacios Medical Center, Texana MHMR, & The Trull Foundation; **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; **Youth Advisory Board** - collaborative involving: area youth, Bay City Housing Authority, Bay City ISD, First Prosperity Bank, Matagorda County United Way, The WorkSource, & Van Vleck ISD ; **Interagency Community Resource Coordination Group for Families (CRCGF)** has a membership of more than 100 local social service non-profits, federal, & state agencies, **Matagorda Interfaith Goodwill Humanitarian Team (MIGHT)** - includes local churches, faith-based organizations, & local non-profit social service organizations; **HeadStart Child Development Council**- includes local social service organizations & medical teams; & **Emergency Food & Shelter Board (EFSP)** - includes representation from American Red Cross, Catholic Charities, the County Judge, 2 Government agency representatives, Homeless representative, Matagorda County United Way, Ministerial Alliance, & Salvation Army; among other Community wide efforts.

For information on any of the above organizations please contact Tressa at the United Way office at 979-245-5852.

The President's Volunteer Service Awards

Matagorda County United Way is a certifying organization for the Presidential service awards program. This year I would like to submit names of individuals that have volunteered their time out in the community. Remember to count up hours spent on organizing campaign x for each campaign volunteer, plus food drives, home repairs, school supply drives, etc. I would love to have all the hours in and certificates ordered in order to give these awards out at the Volunteer luncheon early next year.

<https://www.presidentserviceawards.gov/>

Office Happenings



Literacy Book-Give-a-way – As collaboration with First Book-Matagorda, **any child** can come into the United Way office at 2417 Avenue G and receive a free book for their very own from our Kids Korner Literacy Program. 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.

An **Empowerment Lab** at the United Way office which is set up with 4 computers is available to adults to use so they can enhance their computer experience.

Second 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.

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



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

Agency Happenings

The tentative completion date for the new **MEHOP** medical facility is 8/7/06. The grand opening for the new MEHOP Medical Facility is scheduled for September 6, 2006 at 12:00 noon at 101 Ave F, North, Bay City. Pre-school screenings will be given on August 4th at the Bay City Service Center. Diabetic classes by Nina Sicking will start at the beginning of September in the MEHOP building (call 245-2008 for more info).

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) would like everyone to know that new volunteer training will begin in August. Anyone who is interested should call Ernestine at the CASA office, 979-245-4958, for more information and application.

Rio Colorado American Red Cross had their 1st Annual Kid Fish Day at the Ashwood Palms Retreat on June 24th. Over 50 kids came out to wet their lines in the 5 ponds which are stocked with bass, bluegill, and crappies to just name a few. Red Cross Board Member Willie Rollins owns the retreat, and offered it to the Red Cross for this event. The event included free hot dogs, donated and cooked onsite by the Matagorda County Hospital District, and drinks which were donated by El Campo Coca-Cola Distributing Co. Bay City Parks & Rec. and Texas Cooperative Extension Service donated fishing poles for the kids to use. Packets were given out to the kids and parents about Hurricane Preparedness and Water Safety. Fishing rods were given out each hour for the longest caught fish. The winners were Dustin Bilski, Lee Ann Immenhauser, Robert MacAllister, and Trey Love.

Chapter volunteers from Matagorda and Wharton counties recently responded to families affected by flooding in East Bernard. They went door to door throughout affected neighborhoods delivering cleanup kits and assessing damages. Although the damage was fairly minor, families truly appreciated the kits that include brooms, mops, squeegees, antibacterial industrial strength cleaners, sponges, and more.

The Matagorda County Emergency Management office is looking for volunteers to drive buses (30 - 40) for the purpose of evacuating persons in risk areas through out Matagorda County that may be impacted by a catastrophic event, i.e. hurricane. The State of Texas has designated Austin as the Shelter Hub for this county. Drivers do not have to be CDL qualified and will be allowed to take their families with them on the bus. If the volunteer prefers, family members can also drive to a central location in LaGrange where drivers can take buses until the event is all clear. Shelter and food will be provided for drivers at this location. The driver would then return to Austin to bring evacuees home once the directive is given from emergency management officials. Please contact the American Red Cross at (979) 245-3056 to volunteer or for further information.

The Matagorda County Crisis Center assists over 1000 victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault on average each year. The Crisis Center in Bay City assisted 1236 victims of family violence and /or sexual assault from July 2005 to June 2006. For reasons only known to the victim, the majority of these crimes were not reported to local officials. The following statistics and information come from the Attorney's General Office, Texas Association against Sexual Assault and The Texas Council on Family Violence: Family violence victims come from all educational backgrounds, all income levels, all races and

“United Way doubling you Money”

nationalities, and all religions. The effects of family violence on children is staggering and lasts a lifetime. Dating violence is a real problem with our youth, at the college level, 52% of women reported being sexually assaulted by a date. Date rape is rampant-often a girl comes to our center and does not realize that she had been raped. One out of three females can expect to be sexually assaulted in their lifetime, additionally, sexual assault of a male is occurring more frequently. Only one out of ten rapes are reported to law officials, only half of those reported ever get charged and only 16% are ever sent to prison and that is only with an average of 128 days of time being served.

Bay City Day Care Center, William Smith Sr. Tri-County Head Start, and Bay City ISD have come together in starting a new preschool program. This will allow the children to be on the same curriculum. The youth with Matagorda Co. Teen Court and the Youth Work Program will be painting the center this summer. Needing help with purchase of paint.

At the beginning of June, **Matagorda County Teen Court** held it's First Annual Youth Advocacy & Restorative Justice Conference at the University of Houston. It was designed to train the youth in difference court positions. Actual attorney's trained youth on how to do opening / closing statements, direct / cross examination, objections, introducing evidence and other courtroom procedures and etiquette. Court Clerks and Bailiffs were also trained on procedures. The next day, actual trials were held and youth were able to practice what they learned. They had 3 teams from the surrounding cities which included Bay City, Palacios & El Campo. Around 40 youth participated from the 3 cities and 150 from other Teen Courts in the surrounding area. Bay City won second place in overall top teen courts. Bay City also had a prosecution team, a clerk and bailiff to win. El Campo had a prosecution team to win. Palacios had a defense team and clerk to win. This will be held again next year in April. Teen court is an excellent leadership program for youth interested in law and government. Any youth age 11-18 are encouraged to participate in various positions with Teen Court. Sessions are held generally every Tuesday evening at 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the Bay City Municipal Court located at 1824 6th St. If interested in volunteering please call Kelly Rodriguez, Project Coordinator @ 245-1401.

Agency Wish List

M.E.H.O.P. is needing a refrigerator with freezer for the new building to house immunizations and a Guardian generator with automatic transfer switch for the new building in case of power failure to preserve refrigerated medications.

Crisis Center is needing Indoor-outdoor carpet for shelter, Combs, Brushes, Deodorant, Bra's in all sizes, Underwear- Children's and Ladies in all sizes, Children's Pajamas in all sizes, Shampoo and Conditioners, Hair Color, and Bath Rugs.

Bay City Day Care is needing play ground equipment, resting mats for children, changing tables for infants, 3 shelves for new pre-school classroom, 4 high chairs or feeding table for older infants ages 11 months to 17 months, 1 kidney table for toddlers, 1 kidney table for 3yr olds, and security/surveillance cameras

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

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