



# REACHING OUT

Volume 7 Issue 2

Matagorda County United Way

September 2003

## MCUW names Campaign Chairs

MCUW is proud to announce the Campaign Chair & Co-Chair for the 2003-2004 fundraising campaign.

Mr. Gary Koehler, plant manager for Equistar Chemical, has been tapped to head up the drive with Sgt. Bobby Rodriguez, of the Bay City Police Department, to Co-chair this year's efforts. Through the direct assistance of these two individuals and the following campaign committee, MCUW is determined to reach its goal of \$450,000 for social services for Matagorda County residents.

Campaign Committee: Emmett Alvarez-Bay City Community Development Corporation, Ted Borel-Equistar Chemical, Cheryl Dodd-The Outrigger, Kim Effenberger-United Way, Gus Fuentes-Equistar Chemical, Donnie Horton-D's Gifts, Lacey Lowery-Lowery Bookkeeping, Sheriff James Mitchell-MC Sheriff's Dept., Mike Reddell-Bay City Tribune, Brooke Saucier-Bay City Tribune, Pat Thomas-Sargent, & Mark Thornton-Zachry Construction.

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## CLAUDETTE RECOVERY

Hurricane Claudette, although only a category 1 hurricane, packed a wallop for Matagorda Coastal areas. As of September 3, 2003—2151 Matagorda County families had applied for FEMA assistance. FEMA assisted with over \$3,286,362 for individuals. 1,772 business applications were sent out from the Small Business Association. 1,772 applications for the Other Needs Assistance program have been received and \$4,063,300 has been given out to area citizens in that program. 150-200 families are still in temporary housing or needing additional assistance. 52 families have received the maximum grants from one at least one of the FEMA assistance programs. More than 664 of the 2,151 applicants are seniors over 60. MCUW assisted in finding help for 56 seniors & disabled individuals who needed help with debris clean up, carpet removal etc. Thanks go out to the Matagorda County Sheriff's Department, Juvenile Probation, Three separate TX Baptist Men's groups, El Campo Mennonites, & First Baptist Bay City youth group.

A Long-Term Recovery Committee has been formed to work with the families affected by Claudette. This committee has been named M.I.G.H.T. which means Matagorda Interfaith Goodwill Humanitarian Team. The committee consists of faith based organizations, volunteer groups active in disaster, and community organizations. This committee will case manage individual family cases after FEMA and other financial sources are tapped out. This may include financial assistance, working with contractors, habitat for humanities type organizations, and other local resources in order to get families and individuals back to pre Claudette status. FEMA estimates we will be working with 150-200 families (some of these families for possibly 6-12 months) before final closeout. M.I.G.H.T. officers include: Rev. Eric Klimpel—President, Rev. Ray Wells-Vice President, Rev. Francis Foger-Secretary (Julia Gonzales as back-up), & Treasurer is still pending. The M.I.G.H.T. Office is located in the MC United Way office at 2417 Avenue G in Bay City. They can be reached at 979-323-7667.

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

**Doris Borchert Memorial Gift**

A Memorial gift was received in the name of Doris Borchert from Mr. & Mrs. Scott Smith. Thank you.

*All memorial 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. See the pledge form on page 4 to make other memorial, commemorative, or honorary gifts.*

12 of 20 MC United Way funded agencies rely on United Way for more than 50% of their funding either directly or indirectly through matching grants.

**Odds & Ends**

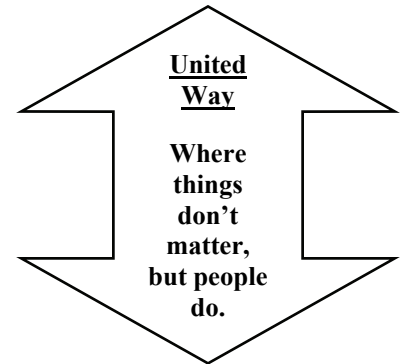
"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." -- Margaret Mead

According to the latest census bureau statistics. More than 18.5% of Matagorda County residents live below the poverty level.

The MCUW mission:

**“Meeting the health and human service needs of the Community.”**

To fulfill our mission we will identify current and emerging health and human service needs in Matagorda County and through a voluntary process, develop and distribute a variety of resources to meet those needs.



**Upcoming Events**

**—M.I.G.H.T.—**

Thursday, **Sept. 4th** at 2:00 pm at the County Building at 2200 7th St.

**—First Book-Matagorda—**

Book Give-a-way photo shoot and special event. Literacy Volunteers of America office Sept. 8th at 4:00 pm.

**—Matagorda County United Way—** Campaign Kick-Off **September 10th** at 11:45-1:00 pm at the Bay City Civic Center. Hall sponsored by Bay City Community Development Corporation.

**—Mobile Rural Health Forum —**

The Mobile Rural Health Forum is scheduled for Friday, September 12th at the Reliant Park in Houston. MEHOP, Red Cross, & Matagorda County United Way representatives will be attending.

**—Company Campaign Kick-off's—**

STPNOC & Chevron Phillips will host their individual campaign kick-offs on Sept. 15th at luncheon meetings.

**— Interagency CRCGF Meeting —**

**Sept. 17, Oct 15th, & Nov 19th** at 9:00 am at the Railroad Depot on Avenue G. Call 245-5852 for more information.

**—Matagorda County United Way—** Campaign Committee Meeting Thursday **Sept. 18th** at 8:30 am at the Bay City Tribune.

**—Health Access Community Project—**

Monthly meeting at Matagorda General Hospital's OB/Sibling Conference Room. Sept. 29th. at 1:00 pm.

**—Matagorda County United Way—**

Quarterly Board Meeting **Oct 21st & Nov. 18th** at 6:00 pm IBC Bank (Second Floor Board Room).

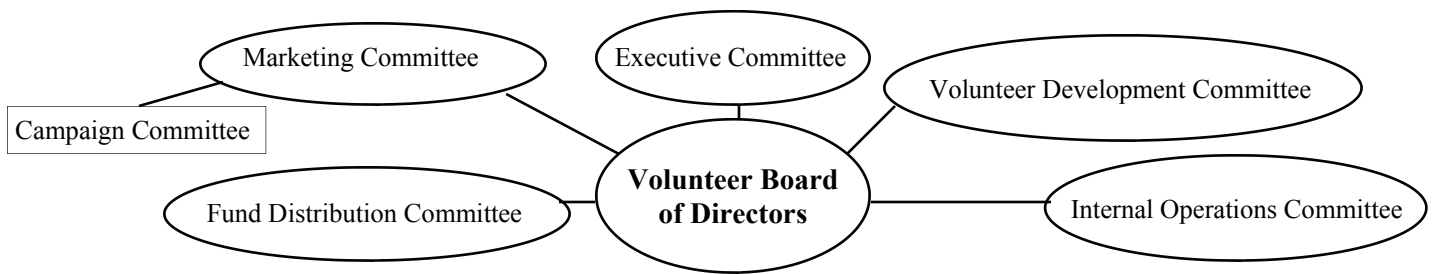
**MCUW**

Vision Statement

**“Created to Serve, Committed to Care”**



People are marvelous in their generosity, if they just know the cause is there.  
Will Rogers



# MATAGORDA COUNTY UNITED WAY

**BUILDING SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS**  
 Through these Funded Agencies & MCUW Programs:  
 D.A.R.E. —Tidehaven ISD  
 Matagorda County Teen Court  
 Council on Substance Abuse  
 MCUW HELPLINE  
 MC Women’s Crisis Center

Interagency Community Resource Coordination Group for Families (CRCGF)

Health Services Advisory Committee—Headstart

**HELPING CHILDREN SUCCEED**  
 Through these Funded Agencies & MCUW Programs:  
 Boy Scouts of America  
 Girl Scouts of South Texas  
 Bay City Day Care  
 Boys & Girls Club—Palacios Unit  
 Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)  
 D.A.R.E.—Tidehaven ISD  
 Kids in Distress  
 MCUW Kids Corner—Literacy Program  
 MCUW Empowerment Lab  
 MCUW HELPLINE  
 Matagorda County Teen Court  
 Rainbowland Day Care

Area UW Directors Meetings

**FOSTERING INDEPENDENCE FOR SENIORS**  
 American Red Cross  
 Economic Action Committee  
 Friends of Elder Citizens  
 Literacy Volunteers of America, Inc.  
 MC Association for Retarded Citizens  
 MEHOP  
 MCUW HELPLINE  
 MC Women’s Crisis Center

Matagorda County Literacy Advisory Board

Matagorda County Youth Advisory Board

MCUW HELPLINE

MCUW Empowerment Lab

Matagorda Interfaith Goodwill Humanitarian Team—M.I.G.H.T.

MCUW Volunteer Center

Bay City United

**STRENGTHENING FAMILIES**  
 American Red Cross  
 Bay City Day Care  
 Economic Action Committee  
 Literacy Volunteers of America  
 Court Appointed Special Advocates  
 MEHOP  
 MCUW Empowerment Lab  
 MCUW Kids Korner  
 MCUW HELPLINE  
 MC Women’s Crisis Center  
 Salvation Army & Food Pantry  
 Rainbow Land Day Care  
 Caring & Sharing Food Pantry

**PROMOTING HEALTH & WELLNESS**  
 Through these Funded Agencies & MCUW Programs:  
 American Red Cross  
 Council on Substance Abuse (CoSA)  
 D.A.R.E.—Tidehaven ISD  
 Economic Actions Committee (EAC)  
 Friends of Elder Citizens (FOEC)  
 Kids in Distress (KIDS)  
 MC Association for Retarded Citizens  
 MEHOP  
 MCUW HELPLINE

**Increasing Self-Sufficiency**  
 American Red Cross  
 Bay City Day Care  
 Boy Scouts of America  
 Boys & Girls Club—Palacios  
 Council on Substance Abuse (CoSA)  
 D.A.R.E.—Tidehaven ISD  
 Economic Action Committee (EAC)  
 Friends of Elder Citizens (FOEC)  
 Girl Scouts of South Texas  
 Kids in Distress (KIDS)  
 Literacy Volunteers of America (LVA)  
 MC Association for Retarded Citizens  
 MC Court Appointed Special Advocates  
 MEHOP  
 Matagorda County Teen Court  
 MCUW Empowerment Lab  
 MCUW Kids Korner  
 MCUW HELPLINE  
 MC Women’s Crisis Center  
 Rainbow Land Day Care

Matagorda County Health Coalition

MCUW Kids Korner

Emergency Food & Shelter Program Local Board

## HAPPENINGS at the Matagorda County United Way Office

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

- **HCAP**—Health Community Access Program steering committee consisting of Matagorda County United Way, Matagorda County Hospital District, Matagorda Episcopal Health Outreach Program & Palacios Medical Center will be meeting monthly to determine the best course of action for an increased health access for county residents.
- **Boost America** — Only 4 Child Safety Booster Seats are 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.
- **Empowerment Lab** — The MCUW also features an empowerment lab which includes community access to computers, video library, and other literature.
- **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.

- **Interagency CRCGF Council**— Meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 9:00 am at the Railroad Depot. Time is set aside monthly actually helping citizens of the County by active Case Management to find services needed for individuals. Please call 245-5852 to be added to the mail list.
- **Kids Korner** — The MCUW office has a Kids Korner for area students to come for computer access, games, puzzles, self esteem videos, etc. Children can also come by the office and get a free book per month through our youth literacy program.
- **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, etc. These services are provided for seniors living on a limited budget.
- **Web Presence**—Our site is now available at [www.man-net.org](http://www.man-net.org) then select social services then united way. Links to UW agencies are posted there as well as County statistics and statistics for each funded organization.

• **First Book Organization**— is a Literacy Advisory Council for the County to help get books into the hands of low-income children.

### —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. The United Way HELPLINE gets on average 250-300 calls or walk-ins monthly.

### Recent HELPLINE

#### success stories:

Claudette packed a punch for Matagorda County citizens, especially those on the coast. MCUW has been busy helping assist those citizens with storm debris clean-up and removal. A special thanks goes out to MC Sheriff's dept, Juvenile Probation, Three separate TX Baptist Men's groups, El Campo Mennonites, & First Baptist Bay City youth group for their assistance in collaborating with us to help the seniors and disabled citizens of our County.

Clients have also been helped with subsidized child care, utility assistance, rental assistance, medications, immunizations, overnight shelter, food, and meals.

### 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 2003-2004 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.)

### Marlene G. Meadows Memorial Gift

A Memorial gift was received in the name of Marlene G. Meadows from Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Lowrance.  
Thank you.

*All memorial 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. See the pledge form on page 4 to make other memorial, commemorative, or honorary gifts.*

### 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

- Computers for the Empowerment Lab.
- Educational Software for all ages for the Empowerment Lab.
- Civic or school Group or individuals to help organize a 5-K fun run/walk to help raise funds for our 21 funded Community Care Agencies.
- A few volunteers to help with campaign committee.
- Books or quiet games for our community Kids Korner.

## Local Support Groups

*(Call the HELPLINE at 245-5852 for other support group information or to have other support groups listed.)*

### Alcoholics Anonymous Support Group (979) 245-6499

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

### Al-Non Support Group (979) 245-6499

Support group for family members of alcoholics meets at 2701 Ave. H in Bay City Mon. at 8:00 pm.

### American Cancer Society Group (979) 245-3778

Meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Bay City Service Center in Bay City.

### Caregivers Support Group (979) 241-6863

Call Ruth Troble at Matagorda County Hospital District for the next luncheon meeting.

### Diabetic Support Group (979) 245-6383

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

### Domestic Violence Support Groups (979) 245-9109

Bay City domestic violence support group meets at 2805 Peach St. from 6:30-7:30 pm every Thursday.

\*Please contact BJ Wise if you wish to start a support group in Wharton or other areas of the County .

### 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).

### Military Support Group (979) 245-3056

St. Peters Lutheran at 9th & Nichols in Bay City at 7:00 pm every Tuesday and 10:00 am every Friday.

## 2nd Quarter Donors

Thanks go out to each of the following Employees & Companies.

AEP/CPL	Eckerds	Mundy Main. & Services
Alcoa	El Paso Energy	O'Reilly Distribution
Allstate	Equistar Chemical	Payless Shoe Source
American General	Exxon Mobil	Palacios ISD
Automobile Club-AAA	Flour Foundation	Shell E & P Co.
Barrett Minerals	F.O.E. #3821	Solutia
BASF	Formosa Plastic Co.	Southwestern Bell Co.
Bay City Gas Company	Gulf Coast Combined	STPNOC
Bay City ISD	Federal Campaign	Texas Industries
Bowers Shrimp	Gulf States	Trull Foundation
Boy Scouts of America	Health Food Cottage	Trull Services
Brown & Root	H.E.B.	Ultramar Diamond
Carmage & Martha Ann	IBC Bank	Shamrock
Walls Foundation	ICS	UPS
Celanese	Interplast	US Contractors
Centerpoint/Reliant	Lacks Furniture	Valero
Energy	Deshotels Family	Wal-Mart
Chevron Phillips	Lack's	Washington Mutual
Clearwater Loaders, Inc.	Matagorda County	William Orr Jr.
ConocoPhillips	MC Community Foun.	Williams Company
Craddock Gusman Trust	MC General Hospital	Zachry Construction
Dow & Dow Design	Miken	
Duke Energy		

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

### 2003 Matagorda County United Way Officers and Board of Directors

**Robert Garcia - Chairman**  
**Willie Rollins - 1st Vice President**  
**Simon DeSoto - 2nd Vice President**  
**Cindy Carroll - Secretary**  
**Dianne Bowers - Financial Officer**  
**Kim Effenberger - Executive Director**

<b>Emett Alvarez</b>	-	BC Community Dev. Corp.
<b>Lloyd Atherton</b>	-	Equistar Chemical
<b>Dianne Bowers</b>	-	Business Owner
<b>Cindy Carroll</b>	-	Home Health
<b>Kathleen Cornett</b>	-	STPNOC
<b>Simon DeSoto</b>	-	Corp of Engineer
<b>Cheryl Dodd</b>	-	Outrigger Restaurant
<b>Gus Fuentes</b>	-	Equistar Chemical
<b>Robert Garcia</b>	-	Bay City Police Dept.
<b>J. Weldon Gilbert</b>	-	Enterprise Baptist Church
<b>Donnie Horton</b>	-	D's Gifts
<b>Frank Kauffman</b>	-	Equistar Chemical
<b>Vatsa Kumar</b>	-	STPNOC
<b>James Mitchell</b>	-	MC Sheriff's Department
<b>Mike Reddell</b>	-	The Tribune
<b>Bobby Rodriguez</b>	-	Bay City Police Dept.
<b>Willie Rollins</b>	-	Tu-Son Service Co.
<b>Mark Thornton</b>	-	Zachry Construction
<b>Chris Johnson</b>	-	Internal Operations Advisor

## REACHING OUT

**Matagorda County United Way**  
 P.O. Box 972  
 2417 Avenue G  
 Bay City, Texas 77404-0972



**REACHING OUT** is compiled and published quarterly  
 by Kimberly S. Effenberger, Executive Director  
 of Matagorda County United Way

When you have finished with this  
 issue please pass it on to a friend!