



REACHING OUT

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Matagorda County United Way

January 2002

Equistar Chemical Gets Good Neighbor Award

MCUW's annual meeting brought good news not only to local funded agencies, campaign committees, and volunteers, but also to one of Matagorda Counties own industry leaders. Equistar Chemical received the first ever *Good Neighbor Award* from Matagorda County United Way at the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in January. "We are so grateful for the wonderful things Equistar and employees have done for the people of this community," said Executive Director, Kim Effenberger. "They refurbished two houses for seniors last year and held numerous drives for clothes, toys, food, school supplies, coats, and more. Each month they took on a new project to help the citizens of the County." "Having someone to call on when our clients are needing something beyond the norm is a blessing." "Our hats are off to Equistar Management for backing their employees and to the employees who volunteered their time and resources to help those less

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Matagorda County United Way Surpasses Goal

The devastating attacks on our country September 11 will be forever etched in our minds. Those tragedies have shown us what many of us already knew: we are a deeply caring people. Together, Matagordians have responded against overwhelming odds to reach and surpass the 2001 campaign goal of \$500,000.00. Matagorda County United Way Campaign Co-Chair, Sgt. Bobby Rodriguez, announced a campaign total of more than **\$538,000.00** to the 150 plus participants at their Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon and annual meeting held January 30th. Certificates of appreciation were handed out to 49 companies, small businesses, school districts, and governmental agencies for their donations to MCUW in 2001.

Platinum donors of more than \$10,000 included: **Celanese, Equistar Chemical, H.B. Zachry, H.E.B., Phillips Petroleum, STP Nuclear Operating Company, and Williams Company.**

Gold Donors of \$1,000—\$9,999 included: **AEP/CP&L Company, Bay City Gas Company, Bay City ISD, Chevron Phillips Chemical, CitiFinancial, Dr. Dennard & Dr. Humphries 5K, Duke Energy, IBC Bank, LCRA United Charities, Matagorda County, Matagorda County Hospital District, Southwestern Bell, The Trull Foundation, Ultramar Diamond Shamrock, Wal-Mart, and Wells Fargo.**

Silver Donors of \$500—\$1,000 included: **Exxon Mobil, Interplast, Mundy Companies, Palacios ISD, and Texas Industries.**

Bronze Donors of less than \$500.00 included: **Blessing American Legion Restaurant, City of Bay City, City State Bank, Creative Designs, Dan Hayes-Attorney at law, El Paso Energy, First National Bank, Hair Gallery, Headlines Hair Designs, Health Food Cottage, Lack's, Little Taste of Sargent, Matagorda County Community Foundation, McDonald Equipment Company, McDonald's Restaurant, Mother Zion Baptist Church, Northland Cable Properties, Outrigger Restaurant, Reel Things Family Dining, South Texas Inn, Stepping Up Hair Salon, Star Bowling Lanes, Styles by Rosie, Tett's Jewelry Co., The Children's Store, Tony's Country Kitchen, Trull Service, and Van Vleck ISD Class of 2002.**

Special Awards were also presented to **Barrett Minerals** and **IBC Bank** for having 100% Company and Employee Participation. Other recipients included Campaign Committee Members, Company Campaign Coordinators, and, of course, **Sgt Bobby Rodriguez** and **Kathy Cartwright** the 2001 Campaign Co-chairmen.

See related stories for our Good Neighbor award, Volunteer of the Year Award, as well as the MCUW incoming and outgoing Board Members for 2002.

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

MCUW Board Bids Farewell To A Few And Welcomes Newcomers

Reverend Leroy Cunningham was honored with a plaque and gift at the MCUW annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon as an 8 year veteran of the MCUW Board. "It is with sorrow that we see Reverend Cunningham leave us", said Chairman of the Board Gerald Wilson. Rev. Cunningham has been a steady supporter for Matagorda County United Way since 1993.

Jana Huddleston of Blessing and proud new Mom will also be stepping down from the Board.

Long-time friend and supporter **Sgt. Bobby Rodriguez** of Bay City Police Department was welcomed to the Board as well as new comer **Dr. Rev. Weldon Gilbert** of Enterprise Baptist Church in Bay City.

Newly elected officers for 2002 include: **Gerald Wilson**—Chairman of the Board, **Tim Powell**—First Vice Chair, **Capt. Robert Garcia**—Second Vice Chair, **Cindy Carroll**—Secretary, and **Chris Johnson**—Financial Officer.

Emergency Food and Shelter Program

MCUW as a member of the Local Board of the Federal Emergency Management Associations (FEMA) Emergency Food & Shelter Program (EFSP) helped to allocate the \$38,582.00 awarded to Matagorda County by the National FEMA Board.

The EFSP is a needs based program for which clients must qualify under federal guidelines.

Local recipient Organizations for 2002 include: Economic Actions Committee of the Gulf Coast was awarded \$13,325.00 for utility assistance, Salvation Army—Bay City—\$12,500.00 for rental or shelter assistance, Palacios Ministerial Alliance \$4,000.00 for utility assistance for (361 area code), and Robert Duran Caring & Sharing Food Pantry \$3,000.00 for food assistance.

Carrol McGehee 2001 Volunteer of the Year

Carrol McGehee, of Sargent, excitedly accepted her new title of Matagorda County United Way 2001 Volunteer of the Year during the January Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.

Carrol, a volunteer for Matagorda Episcopal Hospital Outreach Program (MEHOP) since it's inception in June of 1999, is the volunteer coordinator whose responsibility it is to schedule volunteers to work at each MEHOP medical clinic site. Carrol has been trained by the American Red Cross in CPR,

the InFocus vision program, as well as the Reach Out and Read Program.

Volunteers such as Carrol McGehee are the life blood of non-profit organizations.

Other nominees for this prestigious award included: Brenda Schumacher—American Red Cross, Mike & Vanessa Gonzales—Bay City Day Care, Frances Finley—Salvation Army, Alan Mikus—Literacy Volunteers of America, Mary Jo Sharp—Crisis Center and Woody Wilson—Robert Duran Caring & Sharing Food Pantry.

Upcoming Events

— Teen Court Roast & Toast —

Feb 16th at 6:30 pm at the Bay City Civic Center. Call 245-1401 for more information.

— Edith Armstrong —

Open House from 5-7 pm Monday, March 4th in observance of Mental Retardation Awareness Month. The Edith Armstrong Center is located at 920 Nichols Street in Bay City.

— Logan Respass Farewell —

A farewell reception for County Extension Agent Logan Respass will be held February 22nd from 3-6 pm at the County Building.

— Interagency Council Meeting —

Feb 20th and March 20th at 8:30 am at the Legacy on 12th St. The Interagency Council is a group of concerned citizens who meet monthly to learn more about the social services available in the community. Each month a different organization does a presentation about their organization and what is available to clients. Time to collaborate with others or get assistance for a client is provided at the end of each session.

Everyone is welcome. To be put on the mail list for Interagency Council please call MCUW at 245-5852.

T We would like to thank all the companies and organizations who
H helped to be event sponsors for this years Volunteer Appreciation
A Luncheon. Without your help we would not be able to thank all of our
N campaign committees, companies, volunteers, agencies, and fundrais-
K ing teams for all the support they give throughout the year.

Our Thanks go out to the following Event sponsors:

**AEP/Central Power & Light, Equistar Chemical,
 LCRA United Charities, Phillips Petroleum, and
 STP Nuclear Operating Company,**

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The following Agencies 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.
- **CASA—Court Appointed Special Advocates** are always looking for children advocates to assist with children caught up in legal battles. Free intense training classes for volunteer advocates. Call 245-4958 for more information.
- **Crisis Center** always has projects that need fixing at the shelter. 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 paint their offices. Tutors for their classes, 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 (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.
- **Rainbow Land Day Care** is in the process of cleaning, painting, & reorganizing the entire center. Any number of hours or volunteers would be welcome. Call 361-972-2831 for details.
- **Robert Duran Caring & Sharing Food Pantry** needs volunteers to assist in food sorting, shelving, boxing up and delivery. 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** always needs teen jurors, prosecutors, and defense attorneys as well as adults willing to be jury monitors on Tuesday evenings 5-7 pm. They are also looking for help in building renovations. Call 245-1401 for details.

HAPPENINGS at the Matagorda County United Way Office

MCUW is currently working on several collaborative events and projects.

- **Public Forum**—Children at the Crossroads was held in December with the Bay City Community Development Corporation, Matagorda County United Way, and Matagorda County Hospital District as sponsors. The report on Children is available at the Regional Outreach Center of the University of Houston at Victoria.
- **Needs Assessment Survey**—The survey responses have all been input and arrangements are ongoing for the publication of results. We now have preliminary results. For a copy please call 245-5852.
- **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.

- **Non-profit Board Training**—Plans are underway to provide a board training for any members of local boards and advisory committees. April 12, 2002 is the date set for the training. Please call if you are interested in more details and want to participate.
- **Grant Collaborations**—We are currently collaborating with several agencies in writing grant proposals. If these come to fruition it will bring outside dollars back into the County for much needed services.

- **Fundraising** — With the 2001 Campaign complete. Activities and preparations are underway for the coming fall campaign. Video production, Brochure preparation, Combined Federal Campaign Approval, etc.
- **Boost America** — 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.
- **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, Eye Glass prescription forms, etc.

MCUW Mission Statement
“Meeting the health and human service needs of the Community.”

**- Congratulations -
Harvest Reapers Mission**

The Bay City Baptist Harvest Reapers Mission is now open for business at 2904 First St. in Bay City. The mission provides meals, shelter, training, and spiritual guidance for those who find themselves homeless.

- WISH LIST**
- Any building materials for senior home repairs
 - Refrigerator for office
 - Tablecloths, plants, and cloth napkins for special events

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

Your Gift helps ——— “All of us”

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

Yes! I want to Help!

My one time donation is \$ _____
 I wish to Leave a Legacy by making a Memorial, Commemorative, or Honorary 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.)

2002 Matagorda County United Way —Family of Agencies!—

AMERICAN RED CROSS-MATAGORDA COUNTY CHAPTER (979) 245-3056 — Provides disaster preparedness and relief, service to military and their families; health education on current issues such as AIDS, first aid, CPR, and water safety.

BAY CITY COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY (979) 244-1777 — The Food Pantry, overseen by the Bay City Ministerial Alliance, feeds the hungry of Bay City and will meet the needs of other communities in Matagorda County when needed. A person may receive food once every ten days depending on need.

BAY CITY DAY CARE, INC. (979) 245-9641 — Provides low cost day care services for children of low-income families, often single parents. The children are exposed to cultural enrichment through planned activities.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB – PALACIOS 361-972-2481 or 361-972-3960 — Boys & Girls Club is an after school safe haven for school aged children to go for social activities, mentoring, tutoring, etc.

COUNCIL ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE (CoSA) 1-800-386-0931 — Formerly Brazoria/Matagorda County Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Reduces the impact of chemical dependency by providing education, information and prevention programs for all age groups who are affected by substance abuse.

D.A.R.E. – BAY CITY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT (979) 323-1266 — A alcohol, tobacco, gang involvement and drug education program set up to educate students about the hazards and dangers of use and involvement.

D.A.R.E. – TIDEHAVEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT (361) 588-6685 — Committed to educating the students of the district about the consequences of decisions related to the use of alcohol, tobacco, gang involvement and other drugs.

ECONOMIC ACTION COMMITTEE OF THE GULF COAST (979) 245-6901 — A non-profit organization that is instrumental in providing vital services that are pertinent to the livelihood of low-income households in the Matagorda County area.

FRIENDS OF ELDER CITIZENS (361) 972-2715 or (979) 245-7400 — Provides transportation, information and referral, outreach, home delivered meals, congregate meals, recreation, nutrition, educational information, and health services for persons age 60 years and older.

GIRL & BOY SCOUTING--MATAGORDA COUNTY (979) 245-6812 or (361) 972-3960 — Funded through Matagorda Community Foundation and Palacios Area Fund, to provide needs to local girls and boys for scouting activities. Program designed to inspire girls and boys 5 to 17 years of age with the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism, and service, so that they may become responsible and resourceful citizens.

GIRL SCOUTS OF SOUTH TEXAS COUNCIL 1-800-952-5556 — Program designed to inspire girls 5 to 17 years of age with the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism, and service, so that they may become responsible and resourceful citizens.

HELPLINE (979) 245-5852—Free & confidential bilingual information and referral line. Access to health & human service organizations for the area.

KIDS IN DISTRESS SERVICES (K.I.D.S.) (979) 244-4014 — KIDS provides certified therapy for sexually, physically, and mentally abused children in Matagorda County. KIDS also provides information dealing with child abuse in order to prevent abuse of potential victims. There is no fee for services.

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA--BAY CITY AFFILIATE (979) 244-9544 — LVA Bay City is a non-profit organization whose mission is to teach the adult non-reader skills in literacy to increase their occupational competency and to empower their drive toward personal fulfillment.

MATAGORDA COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CITIZENS (979) 245-5833 —Provides services for male and female, mentally retarded adults, to improve their lifestyle skills to make them self-sufficient.

MATAGORDA COUNTY CASA, INC. (979) 245-4958 — CASA provides trained community volunteers who are advocates for abused and neglected children in cases assigned by the courts.

MATAGORDA COUNTY WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTER (979) 245-9109 — The Crisis Center is a community based non-profit organization. Its mission is to provide a safe refuge for victims of domestic violence or sexual assault

MATAGORDA COUNTY 4-H MARINE GROUP – Sea Masters (979) 245-4100 — To educate the youth of Matagorda County through a 4-H program that emphasizes awareness, stewardship, and economical and recreational opportunities in the coastal environment.

MEHOP – Matagorda Episcopal Hospital Outreach Program (979) 245-2008 — MEHOP is a nonprofit mobile medical clinic. MEHOP provides acute care on a minor emergency basis, chronic care, community screening, wellness, and health education activities.

RAINBOW LAND DAY CARE (361) 972-2831 — To provide quality low-cost child care for those children whose parents must work outside the home.

ROBERT DURAN CARING & SHARING FOOD PANTRY (361) 972-6355—Feed the Hungry regardless of race, age, sex, income level, etc. Provides nutritional food boxes once a month for individuals and families in need regardless of the reason.

SALVATION ARMY – BAY CITY SERVICE UNIT (979) 244-1777— Provides emergency assistance with basic needs, including food, medicine, clothing, transportation, shelter, utilities, and disaster relief.

TEEN COURT (979) 245-1401 — Provides a form of alternative sentencing for juveniles charged with fine-only offenses. Administered through a jury of peers.

Several Successes!

The Matagorda County United Way HELPLINE was able to assist 8 Matagorda County seniors in getting home repairs taken care of for the later part of 2001. Through individual case management and knowing the availability of services, finding volunteers, MCUW was able to help eight senior citizens with repairs and accessibility issues.

Through one program we were able to get a shower fixed, kitchen floor repaired, a bathroom roof replaced, complete home weatherized for one individual, plus other floor repairs for two individuals.

Local company volunteers also worked with United Way to help with a complete shower/tub installation as well as plumbing repairs, a wheelchair access ramp, and complete new siding for one individual.

“Our seniors being on fixed incomes and often fragile health we try to find help where ever we can, says Kim Effenberger, MCUW Executive Director. “There are little known programs and services available for our seniors and we are trying to be more than an Information & Referral source, we try to case manage when we can.”

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	-	First Prosperity
Cindy Carroll	-	El Campo Hospital
John Connor	-	Retired to 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 Daily Tribune
Bobby Rodriguez	-	Bay City Police Dept.
Willie Rollins	-	Tu-Son Service Co.
Pat Thomas	-	Retired to Sargent
Gerald Wilson	-	STPNOC

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!
