



REACHING OUT

Volume 6 Issue 2

Matagorda County United Way

May 2002

Campaign Chairman & Co-Chairman Search Underway

MCUW is currently searching for two individuals to serve as Volunteer Campaign Chairman & Co-Chairman for the upcoming fall fundraising campaign.

1. Individuals should be fairly well known in the community.
2. Believe in the need of social services and the United Way.
3. Be able to speak in front of all types of gatherings.
4. Have a little flexibility in work and other commitments to be available for presentations and meetings.

Benefits to Individuals include:

1. Increase in Public relations and visibility for you and your business or employer.
2. Increased education in Social Services in Matagorda County.
3. Get to meet some of the most dedicated, caring people you would ever get to know.
4. Be a video star.

**If you or someone you know would be interested in a Chair, co-chair, or committee position, please call Kim at 245-5852.

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Non-Profit Board Training

Matagorda County United Way recently hosted a Board training for members of local non-profit boards and advisory committees. Forty plus Board Members and staff from Matagorda, Wharton, & Colorado Counties non-profits were registered.

Mike Terry, of United Ways of Texas in Austin, was the presenter. Topics covered include: The role of a Board member; Roles of staff; Types of Boards-policy making, advisory, or administrative; Competencies of Effective Boards-Contextual, educational, interpersonal, analytical, political, or strategic; Risk management for boards-legal obligations, insurance considerations, financial controls/oversight; What do new board members need to know, Fiscal matters-Budget development, fiscal controls, auditing & accounting, & reporting requirements; insurance-employee benefits, liability insurance, property insurance, criminal acts, automobile or fleet insurance, and worker's compensation; Board functions-strategic planning; community relationships; resource development; and supervision of the Staff Executive.

Other topics discussed include: Financial decision making & bookkeeping practices, What financial reports a board should see at least quarterly, The need for written Policies and Procedures, Empowering committees to do the real behind the scenes work, Active Board involvement, dependability & preparation, recognition & publicity, How to write a press release, What the media is really needing from each of us, Community calendar coordination, "Out of the Box" fundraising approaches, avoiding duplication of effort, and board personal commitment & conflicts.

Copies of hand-out material from the Training are available at the United Way office at 2417 Avenue G.

Thanks to all of you who attended. Thanks also for all of the good feed back, the jokes, and witty comments that made the training fun as well as educational.

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

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 additional \$3,838.00 awarded to Matagorda County by the National FEMA Board. This brought the total allotment to \$42,420.00.

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

Final allocation for 2002 include: Economic Actions Committee of the Gulf Coast was awarded \$17,163.00 for utility assistance, Salvation Army-Bay City-\$18,257.00 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.

County-wide Teen Health Fair Coming Up

A catchy name has not been selected as yet (Perhaps Teen Round-up or Teen Blast Off) but a County-wide Teen Health/Informational Fair is being planned through collaboration of Health, Social Services, Business, and other local entities.

A planning meeting is set for May 9th at 10:00 am at Bay City Service Center. Anyone interested in helping coordinate this event is welcome.

The Event is scheduled for 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, have refreshments, listen to

Speakers or visit booths pertaining to Teen Health issues including: diabetes, eating disorders, chemical dependency, Health risks and screenings, etc. Social issues including: gang awareness, local availability of services, and Community service opportunities to name a few.

If you have speaker, topic, or other suggestions, need more information, or to get on the mailing list contact the Matagorda County United Way office at 245-5852.

MCUW Vision Statement
*“Created to Serve,
 Committed to Care”*

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.

AI-Non Support Group (979) 245-6499

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

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 support group meets at the United Methodist Church from 2:30-3:30 pm the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month.

*Palacios domestic violence support group meets at Solid Rock Fellowship from 11:00-12:00 noon every 1st & 3rd Thursday.

*Wharton domestic violence support group meets at The Work Source 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) 245-7800

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 Church at 9th & Nichols in Bay City at 6:30 pm the 2nd Monday of the Month. (Babysitting is available).

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 fencing in a playground for their toddlers. 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** 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** 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 is currently working on several collaborative events, committees, and projects.

- **Needs Assessment Survey**—The Regional Outreach Center of the University of Houston at Victoria is collaborating with us on the production of the Countywide needs assessment survey results that have been completed. Final copy should be ready by late summer.
- **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.
- **Health Services Advisory Committee**—The local Head Start Health Services Advisory Committee of Matagorda County met April 23rd to collaborate for the benefit of children and families to help them meet basic health needs.

- **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.
- **Grant Collaborations**—We are currently collaborating with several agencies in writing grant proposals, support letters, etc. If these come to fruition it will bring outside dollars back into the County for much needed services.

- **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 and Campaign Chairman.
- **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, etc.

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

Recent HELPLINE success stories:

1. A Bay City resident received 20 hours of free legal work and consultation.
2. A battered woman received two weeks of child care while job searching.
3. A child received medication while waiting for Medicaid and Chip processing.
4. A local family received partial burial assistance.

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

WISH LIST

- Walk-In Freezer for Caring & Sharing Food Pantry
- Tablecloths, plants, and cloth napkins for special events
- Any building materials for senior home repairs

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!

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.)

Upcoming Events

—TISD DARE—

Markham DARE Graduation **May 3rd** 1:30-3:30 pm Markham Elementary. Call 361-588-6685 for info.

—MC Assoc. for Retarded Citizens—
Field day to the Shriner Circus **May 4th**.

—Boys & Girls Club-Palacios—
Cinco de Mayo celebration **May 4th**.

—Sea Masters —

Boaters Safety Course May 4-5th. Call 245-4100 for details.

—CASA —

Regional Directors Meeting Bay City Museum **May 7th**. Call 245-4958 for details.

—Robert Duran Caring & Sharing Food Pantry—

Seeking **May/June** donations to help offset purchase of walk-in freezer.

—Teen Health Fair—

Planning Meeting **May 9th** at 10:00 am at the Bay City Service Center. All welcome. Call 245-5852, 245-3056, or 323-8273 for information.

— Sandra Kimball Farewell —

A retirement reception for Sandra Kimball Services will be held **May 10th** from 2:30-4:00 pm at the BCISD Multipurpose Room at 520 Seventh St.

—Boy Scouts—

Pack 845 Bake Sale at Wal-Mart **May 11th**.

—Girl Scouts—Bay Pals Unit—

May 11th Court of Awards covered dish dinner. Call 244-2949 for more details.

— Interagency Council Meeting —

May 15th at 8:30 am at City Hall in Bay City featuring James Engbrock—Matagorda County's Emergency Management Coordinator. This meeting will be an informational meeting about the new state mandated Donations Management Council which has to be formed to handle donations during and after a disaster of any magnitude. Call 245-5852 for more information.

—MEHOP—

May 15th Health Fair at Palacios Community Medical Center 9 am-3 pm.

—Red Cross Golf Tournament—

Friday, **May 17th** marks the date of the Red Cross Second Annual Golf Tournament. Tee-off time is set for 12:30 at Rio Colorado. Call 245-3056 for more information.

—TISD DARE—

Blessing DARE Graduation **May 17th** 1:30-3:30 pm at Blessing Elementary. Call 361-588-6685 for info.

—MEHOP—

May 18th the Medical unit at Market Days on the Bay City Court House Square for free blood pressure checks and vitamins.

—Teen Court Cake Walk—

May 18th Market Day Cake Walk fundraiser Bay City Court House Square. Call 245-1401 for details.

—Boy Scouts—

Cub Scouts Pine Wood Derby Races at Tom O'Brien Dealership 2:00 pm **May 19th**.

—Salvation Army Bag Sale—

\$5.00 Bag Sale **May 20-31st** & **June 17-30th**. All clothing priced under \$3.00 that will fit in a bag is \$5.00.

—Matagorda County United Way—

Quarterly Board Meeting **May 21st**. 6:30 pm IBC Bank Second Floor Board Room.

—CASA Volunteer Training—

Volunteer Training set for **May 21st**. Call 245-4958 for info.

—Friends of Elder Citizens—

Annual Meeting **May 21st**. 11:30 am Palacios Senior Citizen Center. Call 361-972-9921 for information.

—MEHOP—

May 23rd Volunteer Appreciation Dinner call 245-2008 for info.

—SOAR 2002—

Summer Ocean Awareness Retreat 4-H members explore the beaches of Matagorda Island & learn about fragile ecosystem. **June 4-7th**. Call 245-4100 for more info.

—Teen Court—

Car Washes at O'Reilly Auto Parts in Bay City **June 1st, 8th, & 29th**. Call 245-1401 for information.

—Boy Scouts—

Cub Scout Day Camp **June 3-6th** 8:30 am El Campo American Legion Hall. For Matagorda, Wharton, & Colorado counties.

—Literacy Volunteers of America—
Annual Members Meeting **June 6th** at 6:30 pm at the Presbyterian Church's Robbins Hall

—Boy Scouts—

Summer Camps **June 9th** Troop 219 at Camp Strake, Troop 45 at El Rancho Cimo, Cub Scout Pack 4545 at Camp Bovay. For more information contact 245-9265.

—MEHOP—

Market Days vitamin program **June 15th**. Bay City Court House Square.

— Interagency Council Meeting —

Hazel Johnson of Economic Actions will present at the **June 19th Meeting**. How does the deregulation of Utility companies has affected our citizens.

—Crisis Center Golf Tournament—

June 22nd at 1:00 pm at Rio Colorado. Call 245-9109 for info.

—Girl Scouts—Bay Pals Unit—

Girl Scout Day Camp at Bay City scout house. Open to girls 5-17. Call 244-2949 for more details.

—Teen Round-Up/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.

Rolling Again!

MCUW office has given out more than 35 free ride passes through R-Transit's latest promotion. These passes are good for a ride around the Bay City/Van Vleck area or around the Palacios area until August 1st, 2002.

Free transportation vouchers have been provided to the following clients.

1. An individual in the Van Vleck area whose vehicle was requiring extensive repairs who needed to get to the Doctor, Hospital and Grocery Store in Bay City.
2. A disabled senior citizen and her Grandson who needed to make a Parent conference at school, and for her Doctor appointment.
3. A senior citizen needing to go several place around town to pay bills, buy groceries, and medication.
4. An individual wanting to visit a loved one at the Legacy.
5. An individual wanting to attend a special service at Church.
6. A Client needing transportation to a job interview.

Organizations wishing to obtain free ride vouchers for their clients should contact RTransit director, Sharon Huffman at 979-245-6800.

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 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!