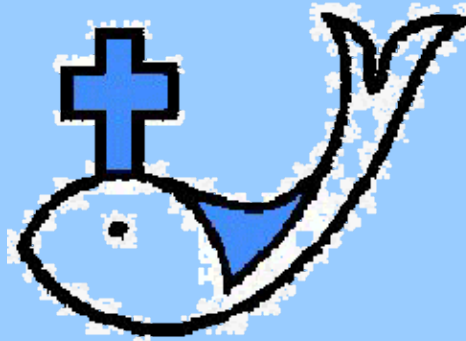


Bayou Grace Community Services



WEEK OF APRIL 29—MAY 5, 2007

A GOOD STEWARD AMONG US!

Each year the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana recognizes six individuals or organizations which have made a significant contribution to the preservation and restoration of Louisiana's coastal wetlands. Bayou Grace's Program Director Courtney Howell has been recognized with and honored by one of these awards!

The storms of 2005 provided opportunity for people from around the nation to visit the Louisiana coast. Courtney recognizes that in addition to thanking these out-of-state volunteers with a dinner, Bayou Grace's Coastal Land Loss Project educates the volunteers and lets them carry the message back to their states and their federal delegations. As of last Tuesday, more than 1,740 people from 31 states and Canada have attended these Tuesday night events. At least 50 bayou residents and local people have come to help prepare meals and share their stories.

Another winner is a Plaquemines group that built a wooded trail where the experts said trees would never grow again. Another is the artist that did Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program's educational art. Congratulations!

BAYOU COMMUNITY WELLNESS ENHANCED!

Wheat Ridge Ministries of Itasca (suburban Chicago), Illinois has awarded Bayou Grace a \$32,487 grant to supplement BG and other resources so that a full-time community wellness advocate can be hired to further enhance our holistic approach to disaster relief by providing medical services. Bayou Grace was one of only 9 awardees from over 70 projects submitted!

The five bayou communities south of Houma are areas that the state of Louisiana considers to be medically underserved. These areas have a history of isolation, often being referred to as an island rather

than as an extension of Terrebonne Parish. Accordingly, people live in generational poverty and medical services have not been accessible because of transportation issues, medical insurance costs, and availability.



BAYOU GRACE PROGRAM DIRECTOR COURTNEY HOWELL AND
REV. BILL GEIS, PASTOR OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH OF
LA GRANGE, IL AT MONTEGUT LIONS & LIONESSES CLUB-HOSTED DINNER

During the term of this grant, and beyond, we anticipate that the addition of a community wellness advocate will extend and expand upon the provision of medical services to the people of the bayous. Furthermore, we hope that improved medical services will result in reduction of the many physical, mental, and emotional ailments which contribute to a lack of personal and community cohesion and organizing. We also pray that individuals and families who to a large degree do not have access to or do not take advantage of medical services will utilize the services available through the community wellness advocate.

If all goes according to plan, the project will begin on July 1.

PROVIDING HOPE & SUSTAINABILITY TO PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH LOUISIANA BAYOUS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
THE SOUTHERN & EASTERN DISTRICTS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LUTHERAN CHURCH CHARITIES • LSS DISASTER RESPONSE • ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN
PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE • LOUISIANA SPIRIT • MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE
WEEK OF COMPASSION/DISCIPLES OF CHRIST • LOUISIANA DISASTER RECOVERY FOUNDATION