



# Messenger

---

Hill Country Community Ministries •

www.hccm.org •

January 2008

---

## Greetings for the New Year!

2007 was a challenging year for HCCM — one filled with change and the opportunity to move our organization forward. To those who contributed their time, effort, and resources, we are truly grateful.

Here are some of the highlights for 2007 and a look forward into 2008.

## 2007 Wrap-Up

### *Becoming Better Governed*

Under the leadership of Past President David Chapman and the bylaws committee, the HCCM Board of Directors undertook the task of revising the bylaws to improve governance and accountability. The process spanned several months and included, most notably, changes in board governance and the process for electing board members.

A team of board members and Executive Director Sherry McDonnell visited churches to roll out the new bylaws, obtain feedback, and request continued support. Altogether, the team visited 42 churches, 33 of which signed on as Member Churches.

Member churches were then asked to nominate qualified candidates for service on the board of directors. A slate of 12 nominees was presented and elected at the Annual Meeting of the Membership in October.

### *Thank you past board members for your hard work and dedicated service*

David Chapman, President; Bob Pettit, Vice President; Rachel Deaton, Secretary; and Jan Albers, Wayne Childers, J Dick, Jerry Edwards, John Evans, Dorothy Malcom, Roger Mommaerts, Fred Morgan, Janice Service, Jack Stueber, and Mary Wilson.

## *Welcome Aboard, New Board!*

### **2007-2008 Board of Directors**

**Dan Goodin**, President

**Roger Mommaerts**, Vice President

**Rick Pulliam**, Secretary

**Kelly Linder**, Treasurer

### **Board Members**

Linda Cagle

Jay Cruz

Dorothy Malcom

Fred Morgan

Shirley Murphy

Chuck Smith

Eddy Trevino

Mary Wilson

### *Ex-Officio*

David Chapman

Past President

## *And thank you, Member Churches, for your support & participation*

Austin Church of God, Bethany United Methodist Church, Cedar Park First United Methodist Church, CedarRidge Church, Central Baptist Church, Christ Episcopal Church, Christ our Savior Lutheran Church, Church of the Savior, First Baptist Church Georgetown, Good News United Methodist Church, Grace Community Church, HighPoint Fellowship, Hill Country Bible Church NW, Hill Country Nazarene Church, Hope Presbyterian Church, Leander Presbyterian Church, Legacy Fellowship, Living Water Lutheran Church, Northview Community Church, Northwest Fellowship, Peace Lutheran Church, Pond Springs Baptist Church, Rolling Hills Community Church, St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, St. Mary our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Shenandoah Baptist Church, St. Thomas More Catholic Church, The Church at Canyon Creek, The Rock United Methodist Church, Triumphant Love Lutheran Church, Unity Church of the Hills, Victory Baptist Church, and Whitestone Assembly of God.

---

*Help for people in crisis, hope for the future*

---

## ***Viva Volunteers!***

### **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner**

One hundred volunteers and their guests attended the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in November hosted by Hill Country Bible Church NW. A delicious Italian dinner was donated by Cedar Park Regional Medical Center and prepared by CPRMC Chef Tim Kroft. Dessert was provided by Shaune Haas and Cedar Perk Coffee Company.

### **Congratulations Volunteers**

Congratulations are in order for volunteers who were recognized for their outstanding volunteer service: Pete Testone, Carol Browning, Kathleen Tully, Jack Stueber, and Sharon Fitzpatrick. The Youth Award was presented to Arrowhead District Boy Scouts of America. And, drum roll, please . . . Jeanne Bryan was honored as Volunteer of the Year.

### **Viva Sponsors!**

Event sponsors included Cedar Park Regional Medical Center; Cedar Perk Coffee Company; Action Propane; Davies Group Architects; Lone Star Dermatology; Judge Edna Staudt; DFD Architects; Michael J. Bushkuhl, CPA; Cedar Park Wrecker Service; Tokai Japanese Hibachi; and Cedar Park Signs and Banners.

Because volunteers are the heartbeat of our organization, we appreciate everyone who helped us celebrate their service and contributed to the success of the event.

## ***Giving Thanks***

### **Thanksgiving Food for Needy Families**

Thanks to the generosity of 31 area churches, businesses, organizations and individuals, 223 needy families were provided Thanksgiving food boxes — everything needed to prepare a nourishing and delicious dinner for their family, including turkey and pie! And cheers for the 55 volunteers who participated by registering clients, and packing and distributing food boxes.

### **Community Thanksgiving Service**

The annual Community Thanksgiving Service sponsored by St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Hope Presbyterian Church, Bethany United Methodist Church, and Peace Lutheran Church was held on Tuesday before Thanksgiving. The service was hosted by St. Thomas More. HCCM is grateful for the hospitality of those who attended and the generous love offering that was collected to help us assist people in need. *Many thanks!*

## **The Path Forward in 2008**

### ***A Message from Dan Goodin***

#### ***President, Board of Directors***

I am tremendously excited about the opportunity to serve as your board president and I look forward to working with you as we carry out our mission to help people in need. Your 2008 board members and I are energized about our future. Together, we are committed to growing HCCM into a premier non-profit and passionate about improving the plight of under-resourced families in our community.

Our goals for 2008 include defining the strategic direction for the organization, improving board governance, and addressing several infrastructure initiatives to improve program delivery, internal operations, and fund development. We will share our progress with you as we move forward with these initiatives.

HCCM faces a number of challenges this year, chiefly financial. Donations have remained fairly static, while needs in our community continue to increase. After several years of operating costs exceeding donation levels, the board has adopted a zero sum budget philosophy for 2008. We are committed to good stewardship and sound fiscal practices. Our plan is to carefully manage expenses, identify and cultivate additional sources of revenue, and maintain current client service levels.

The 2008 budget reflects reductions in expenditures that affect several areas of the organization, including staff. Two positions, receptionist and communications assistant, will be shifted from paid to volunteer positions. We will rely on volunteer support for these two important positions until we are able to improve our financial condition. These actions are essential to restore financial soundness and best position HCCM to serve our clients.

As “*people of faith cooperating in the love of Christ and neighbor,*” we must dedicate ourselves to excellence as an organization. We can strive for nothing less if we are to fulfill our mission, contribute to our community, and hold ourselves accountable to our partners and supporters.

In spite of the challenges, it's going to be an exciting year! October will mark our 25th anniversary. Thanks to those who laid the groundwork for this organization and sustained it over the years, we have a great legacy on which to build.

Thank you for your continued financial support, your volunteer service, and most of all, your prayers.