



# Who Is Protecting Our Children From The Pitfalls of Society? Bacoda Helps Keep Them Aware of The Harmful Effects of Alcohol and Drug Use

United Way places great emphasis on the welfare and safety of children and youth in our community. Their goal is to help each child develop to his or her full potential. This is achieved by community efforts of those who create new youth programs, after-school care, provide mentors, parenting classes, resources for teens in crisis pregnancies, and alcohol and drug counseling, treatment, and prevention.

Bacoda, Bay Area Council on Drugs and Alcohol calls itself “the light at the end of the tunnel.” This non-profit organization seeks to help individuals, families and communities put an end to alcohol, drug abuse and addiction. It is amazing what this agency has been able to accomplish with little manpower and limited resources.

Every Monday and Wednesday the hallway leading to Bacoda’s doors are lined with walk-in clients desperately seeking their last hope. Bacoda is that hope, because unlike many facilities they have designated these two special days specifically for walk-ins while most agencies operate on an appointment only basis.

Daniel Garza, direct or CORE services, believes if nothing else you must give a client hope. He and the other individuals who work at Bacoda operate under the philosophy that each client is treated as if he or she were someone’s brother, sister, daughter, mother, or parent – someone who is deeply cared for. This thinking pattern enables them to seek all resources necessary to help clients.

What is so special about Bacoda? They don’t turn clients away who are seeking help, and they exhaust every possible option available to help even if it means relocated them to other counties, or nearby cities with necessary resources. They network with other agencies and act as a referral service as well as receive referrals.

They treat adolescents who have been mandated or conditioned to seek help as well as the 5% or so who seek treatment on their own. They also provide education to the community about drug and alcohol abuse with emphasis on prevention.

Monique Connor, special projects coordinator and Vanessa Ayala, Coordinator for the Southeast Coalition discussed in great detail some of their past and present projects regarding youth in the battle against drugs and alcohol.

Vanessa wanted to emphasize that it takes many sectors in a community to get things done. Their department does not focus on individuals like Daniels, but instead focuses on the whole which is determined by a needs assessment in the community.

They have put together many successful media campaigns to get their point across, and work closely **with the police, churches, local retailers and schools to bring the harmful effects of drinking and drug use to light.**

For more information on their programs e-mail Monique Connor at [monique.connor@bacoda.com](mailto:monique.connor@bacoda.com) or visit their website at [www.bacoda.org](http://www.bacoda.org).

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# Hurricane Season Is Upon Us.

## Disaster Preparedness - Are You Ready?

United Way of Greater Houston - Bay Area would like to make sure its community is prepared for the 2010 hurricane season. Already we have been graced with the presence of two storms which thankfully passed us by, but we might not be so lucky the next time. In case we are once again in the path of a storm it is best to plan ahead of time for you and your family so that you will be safe.

This is such an important community issue that the National Weather Service hosted a 2010 hurricane Workshop on June 19, at the George R. Brown Convention Center to educate families about hurricane safety.

The best preparation is to have a Family Disaster Response Plan in place in the case of emergency. This plan entails paying close attention to flash flood, storm watches, and storm warnings in your area. It is also helpful to be aware of the forms a warning will take.

In the case of hurricanes initially there is the mention of a tropical depression that has formed in the Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic Ocean or Caribbean. If the depression becomes a tropical storm there is a high likelihood that it a hurricane will be formed.

Although tropical depressions and storms do not usually pose as high of a threat as hurricanes, The National Weather service reports that they can still be deadly due to winds, heavy rains, flooding, severe weather, and tornadoes.

A hurricane is categorized based on its intensity which estimates potential property damage and potential for loss of life. The scale is from 1 - 5 with 5 being the most destructive. To date the last Category 5 hurricane to hit the Gulf coast was Camille in 1969. For detailed category information, go to [www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutshs.html](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutshs.html).

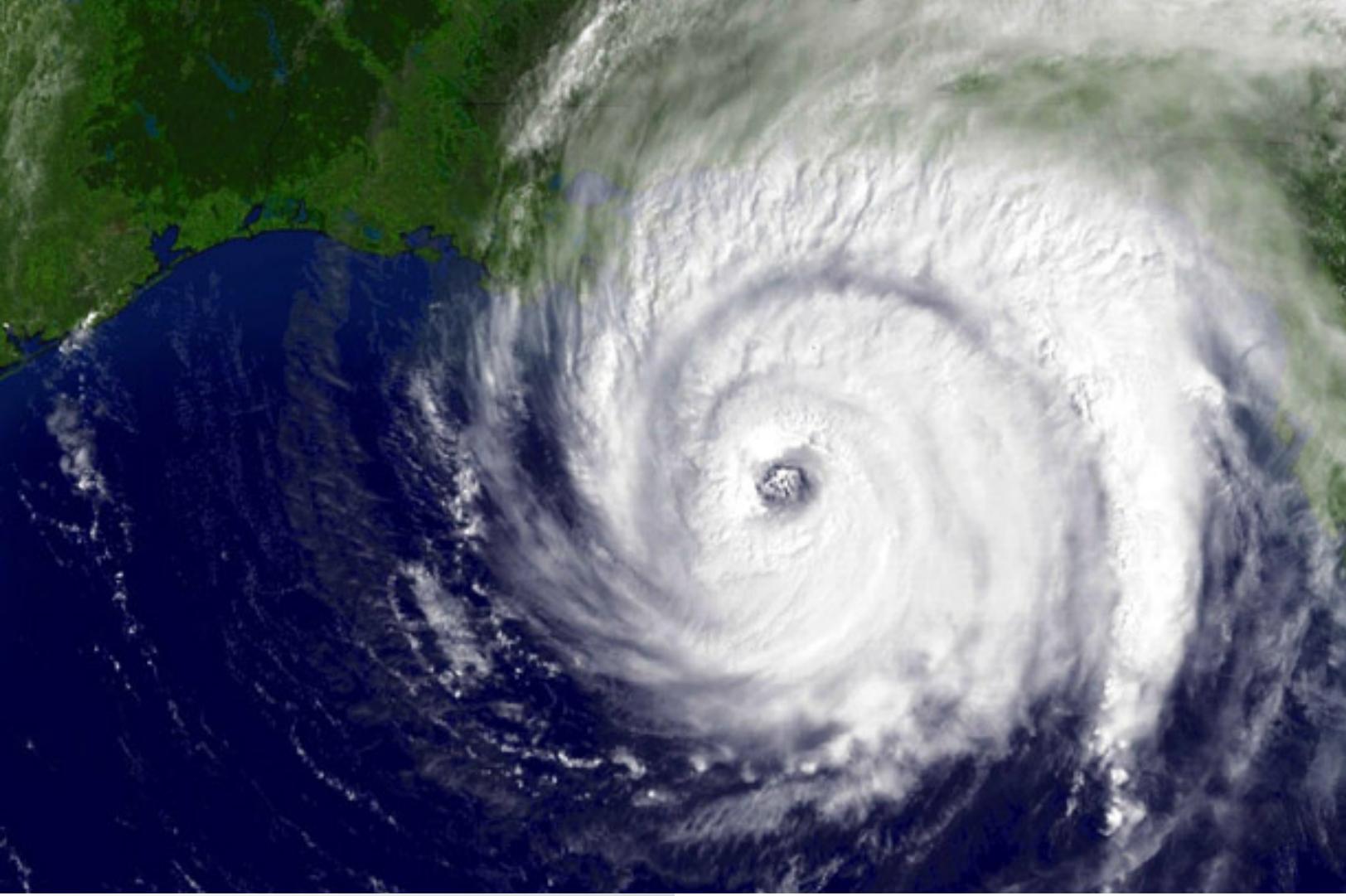
Another major part of your Family Disaster Response Plan should include designating two meeting spots outside of the home, as well as choosing an out-of-state contact to be the check-in for everyone in case of separation. Make sure to discuss evacuation plans, and make sure you family is aware of phone numbers and rules of safety.

Finally, make sure you have a disaster supply kit on hand. It should include the following items:

- A 3-day supply of water (one gallon per person, per day)
- Non-perishable food
- At least one change of clothing and shoes for each person
- Prescription medicines
- One blanket or sleeping bag per person
- First-aid kit
- Battery-powered NWR and a portable radio
- Emergency tools
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Extra set of car keys and a credit card, cash
- Special items for infant, pets, elderly or disabled family members

Make sure to use the United Way 2-1-1 Texas HELPLINE. Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, it will provide up-to-the-minute information before, during and after any disaster.

For more helpful tips on disaster preparedness visit <http://unitedwayhouston.org/?NewsID=478>



## Storm Facts

- The Galveston storm of 1900 to date has been the deadliest storm due to the more than 8,000 people killed from the storm tide.
- Hurricane Camille in 1969 produced a 24-ft storm tide, brought 27 inches of rain and 150 deaths.
- Tropical storm Allison was the most costly tropical storm in U.S. history with more than \$5 billion in flood damage to southeast Texas and southern Louisiana. It resulted in a total of 24 fatalities.
- Hurricane Ike of 2008 was the third costliest hurricane to make landfall in the United States. Due to its huge size damages estimated at \$29.6 billion in the United States. Ike is the third costliest Atlantic hurricane of all time behind Hurricane Andrew of 1992, which estimated \$27 billion, and Hurricane Katrina of 2005. Hurricane Ike resulted in the largest evacuation of Texans, and had the largest search-and-rescue operation in United States history.

**Sound Wayves** is published quarterly by:  
**United Way of Greater Houston - Bay Area Service Center**

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## Computer Classes

### August 2010

Mon 2	Excel 2007 Basics
Wed 4	Word 2007 Basics
Thu 5	PowerPoint 2007 Basics
Mon 9	Excel 2007 Basics
Tue 10	Access 2007 Basics
Wed 11	InDesign Basics
Thu 12	Digital Photography
Tue 17	Excel 2007 Intermediate
Wed 18	PowerPoint 2007 Advanced
Thu 19	Windows 7 Basic
Tue 24	Word 2007 Intermediate
Wed 25	Access 2007 Intermediate
Thu 26	HTML Basics

### September 2010

Wed 1	Excel 2007 Basics
Thu 2	Access 2007 Basics
Wed 8	PowerPoint 2007 Basics
Thu 9	Word 2007 Basics
Mon 20	Excel 2007 Intermediate
Tue 21	Word 2007 Intermediate
Wed 22	QuickBooks Basics
Thu 23	QuickBooks Intermediate
Fri 24	PowerPoint 2007 Advanced
Mon 27	Excel 2007 Advanced
Tue 28	Access 2007 Intermediate
Wed 29	InDesign Advanced
Thu 30	Dreamweaver Basics

## Registration Information

Select the class you want to take and choose the date you are available. Most class hours are from 9am - 4pm, with an hour break for lunch. The cost of each class is \$70 per person. Please contact Robert Chitty at 713-685-2328 if you would like to schedule a custom class for your organization.

Classes are open exclusively to volunteers and staff of 501(c)3 non-profit organizations. Class size is limited to 15 students to enable hands on, personalized instruction.

All computer classes will be held at the United Way Building, located at 50 Waugh Dr., Houston, TX

Registration forms may be completed online at <http://www.unitedwayhouston.org/?id=140> online payment options are also available. All checks should be made payable to the United Way. Credit cards are accepted.

If you have questions or need more information please call 713-685-2787 or e-mail [map@unitedwayhouston.org](mailto:map@unitedwayhouston.org).

**Note: Anyone arriving to class after 9:15 a.m. will not be admitted to class and will forfeit the entire registration fee.**