



Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender: Your quality of life matters.

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JULY 2008 NEWSLETTER

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Other Services

- [Case Management](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Risk Reduction/Outreach](#)
- [SPRY Program](#)
- [HATCH](#)
- [Switchboard](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [GLBT Cultural Center Calendar](#)



Cheer the Comets for a Great Cause

Go Comets Go! Go Comets Go! Attend Montrose Counseling Center Friends & Family Game Night Out! Join us as we root for the **Houston Comets** to victory against the Los Angeles Sparks on **Saturday, July 19**. Click [here](#) to download a form to purchase your tickets and fax it back to the Comets. MCC will receive a portion of the sale of your tickets.



SPRY Goes Digital!

We are very pleased to introduce our new [SPRY website](#), created by Becky Holmes, CIWA. One of the challenges we face in trying to reach out to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender seniors is finding them. So many are isolated and never venture into Montrose or get involved with the community. We hope that this new website will get the attention of those internet savvy GLBT seniors. The [SPRY Social](#) calendar will be available online through web site. In other SPRY news, the drop-in center on the first floor is open every Thursday from 1-3 p.m. for GLBT seniors age 60 and older. There will be coffee and opportunities to



What's New?

- [July 19 Houston Comets Tickets Benefits MCC](#)
- [Job Openings](#)
- [2008 CEU Training Schedule](#)
- [Check out our New Website!](#) (Created by Becky Holmes, CIWA)



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Did you know?

HATCH became a program at Montrose Counseling Center in December 2002. Soon thereafter, we dropped the periods from the name. It is no longer an acronym for *Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals*, because the youth feel it is not inclusive enough.

Clients past and present, we want to hear your story! If you feel that MCC has touched your life, please tell us how. Email us at mcc@montrosecounselingcenter.org.

socialize with one another. You do not need to be a SPRY client to join in. As you look around the new website, be sure to check out our new [SPRY Videos](#)! One is for consumers, and the other is for senior service providers to let them know about our aging population and its needs.

Parcheesi Anyone?



If you have old board games or playing cards that are collecting dust on a shelf, why not donate them to the SPRY drop-in center? Games and decks of cards should have all pieces intact. Contact Ben at 713.529.0037 x350.

HATCH Expands to Tuesdays

Beginning July 22, **HATCH** is expanding its services to include another night of programming. On **Tuesdays from 5 - 9 p.m.**, HATCH will



offer a safe place for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth, along with their allies, to hang out, meet with a peer-led support group, and participate in a weekly activity. The structure is not the same as the regular HATCH meetings, which are on Fridays, 7 - 10 p.m. and Sundays, 6 - 9 p.m. The activities of weeknight HATCH are designed to help youth find their voice and realize their authentic selves. Tutoring also will be available by reservation. The first activity on July 22 will be the HATCH Writers' Group and will meet from 7 - 9 p.m. The group will work together using a variety of creative writing techniques including speed writing, journaling, found word poems, and sharing of individual work. Some of the work will be posted at the [HATCH website](#). All youth are welcome, and you do not have to be an experienced writer to join in the fun.

Transgender Youth Group



Also on July 22, from 6 - 7 p.m., **HATCH** will have both a female-to-male and a male-to-female transgender volunteers to facilitate a

transgender support group. The group will meet every Tuesday night during that time period, and is open to anyone who identifies as GLBT or Questioning, along with their friends and family members. You do not have to identify as transgender to attend. Topics will be introduced by the participants, along with the facilitators.

Calling Young GLBT Adults

HATCH is the sponsor of the first meeting of the "**New Leaders' Network: Meeting the future of the GLBTQ community,**" to be held on **Saturday, October 4** from 2 - 5 p.m. at Montrose Counseling Center, 401 Branard Street, Room 101. This is the first in what organizers hope to be an annual event offering networking opportunities for young adults, ages 16 - 24, to make connections with one another. Pamela Paige Palmer is the organizer of the New Leaders' Network, and one of her goals is for her peers to share information to strengthen their high school or college GLBT student organizations, as well as build relationships with community organizations. You do not need to be a member of HATCH to participate, and there's no need to Rsvp. Houston Rainbow Pages and the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring light refreshments.

GLBT Cultural Center Rooms & How to Book Them



The
GLBT



Montrose Counseling Center has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval™. If you have concerns about client safety or quality

of care at Montrose Counseling Center, you may report these concerns to the Commission at: One Renaissance Blvd.; Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181 or at <http://www.jointcommission.org/>



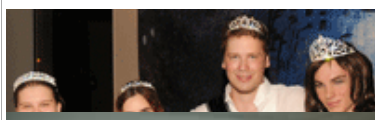
Cultural Center at MCC (First Floor) is now open. It is a multi-use and lease facility welcoming nonprofit organizations and community groups representing various facets of Houston's GLBT communities. Fully-accessible by elevator and stairs, the multi-use portion consists of three enclosed meeting rooms, one dividable meeting room and a large conference/event hall. The large community room is perfect for a commitment ceremony or a movie screening. The smaller spaces are ideal for board meetings or small workshops. Amenities include electrical, three nearby restrooms (one private), kitchenette availability, and optional beverage service (coming in Fall 2008). If you would like to **schedule a room** in MCC's GLBT Cultural Center, first check the [calendar](#) to see if a room is available for the date you want. [View the floor plan](#) for room numbers. [Download this Word file](#), complete all the blanks and fax the Room Use Agreement to our secure fax at 713.526.4367. Someone from our staff will call or email you to confirm. Questions that are not answered by our agreement and attachments may be emailed to mcc@montrosecounselingcenter.org.

Save the Date - New Year's Eve

We are very pleased that the **SPRY Program** has been selected as a beneficiary of this year's **Houston Black Tie Dinner**, one of the premiere fundraising events for Houston's GLBT community. This is the first time the SPRY Program has been chosen. This year's event, **BLACK TIES** and **BIG HEARTS** Charity Ball will be held on **New Year's Eve**, December 31, 2008 at Houston's new luxury hotel, Hotel ZaZa in the Museum District.



Photo Gallery



FAR LEFT:
This year's
Prom Court, as



chosen by their peers at "Hustle Down to Funky Town," the 16th Annual HATCH Alternative Prom. **LEFT:**



Marion E. Coleman, one of the founders of Montrose Counseling Center, looks on as Executive Director, Ann J. Robison, PhD, cuts the red ribbon at the MCC Grand Opening. Ralph Herring, OD, MHA, President of the MCC Endowment Board, displays a plaque recognizing the board members at the time the building was purchased.

Simple Ways to Support Us

Through
**Kroger's
Neighbor to
Neighbor
Program.**

MONTROSE COUNSELING CENTER, INC.



you can support MCC every time you grocery shop! **Print this bar code** or [download this letter](#), and ask your checker to scan it the next time you use your Kroger Plus card.

After that, share the barcode with someone else. Your Kroger Plus card will be linked with MCC's account. Every time you use it, you will help MCC earn its share of Kroger's \$1 million in annual giving. Unlike the Kroger SHARE cards of the past, you only have to scan the bar code once. Make it the next time you visit your neighborhood Kroger!

Use [Goodsearch](#) as your search engine of choice. Choose Montrose Counseling Center as



your charity, and we'll receive one cent for each search that you do online. Tell your coworkers, friends, and family to do the same. It's an easy way **you can donate to MCC without spending a penny!** Graduation season is here, and Father's Day is just around the corner. If you shop online, use Goodsearch as your starting point, and MCC will receive a portion of of the sale through **Goodshop**.



You've seen **The Bracelet™** with the ribbon. They are available through **Until There's A Cure®** Foundation, a nonprofit organization that raises funds and awareness about HIV/AIDS. Purchase your bracelet and be sure to mention Montrose Counseling Center with your order, and 25 percent of the sale will go to MCC.

SPRY Groups

In the June issue, we transposed the times in which the Monday Women's SPRY Group and the Men's SPRY Group meet. The **Women's SPRY Group** meets on **Mondays at 4 p.m.**, and the **Men's SPRY Groups** are on **Mondays at 1:30 p.m.**, and on **Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. or 4 p.m.** We sincerely regret the error.

Thanks 1,000,000!

Thank you to MCC Program Secretary Kim Ortiz for organizing Montrose Counseling Center's Pride Parade entry this year.

We'd like to thank [Houston Pride Band](#) for selecting Montrose Counseling Center as the beneficiary of the Pride Concert, *CELEBRATE! Thirty Years of Music, Visibility & Pride.*

Sponsors of the Open House and HATCH Alternative Prom Include:

- [Aluma Photo-Plate Co.](#)
- [Suzanne Anderson](#)
- Kirby Wellness Center/Kenneth W. Lester
- Liebman's Wine & Find

[Properties](#)

- Mike Ator
- A Christmas Songfest
- [Bayou City Performing Arts](#)
- The Carlson Family
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- Gordon Crofoot, MD & Donnie Harvey, PA-C
- Steven David
- [Dessert Gallery](#)
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- Jose McDonald Mortgage Corp./Jason Baca
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