# Honoring Jack Jackson this St. Patrick's Day

Although we lost one of our best friends, Jack Jackson, to complications of pneumonia in 2006, our 21st Annual *Bringin' in the Green* wouldn't be complete without his presence. Every year at the St. Patrick's Day celebration, Jack dressed as the party's mascot leprechaun, soliciting funds for MCC's programs and distributing shamrock stickers to donors. If you attend the party on Friday, March 12, you'll no doubt notice the (almost) life-size poster of his likeness that we display every year in his honor.

Jack will forever be remembered as a friend who lent his time and talents to the organization as a volunteer, fundraiser, and Honorary Board Member. In addition to his work for Montrose Counseling Center, Jack organized Houston's first care team for persons with AIDS in 1982, initiated America's first safe-sex pamphlet in 1983, participated in the Walk for Unity in 1984, and co-founded the Stone Soup project of AIDS Foundation Houston in 1985. Over the years, he received multiple community awards, including the Diana Foundation's Award for Service to the Community in 1986, the Mayor's Award for Outstanding Community Service from Kathryn J. Whitmire in 1990, Grand Marshal of the Pride Parade in 1991, EPAH's Community Service Award in 1992, Houston Black Tie's Humanitarian Award in 1995, MCC's Stella Scott Community Service Award in 1998, and EPAH's Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999. "The bottom line," said Jack, "you've got hands. They might as well be helping hands."

Even in the years since his death, Jack's service to Houston's GLBT communities continues. His life and experiences were the inspiration for MCC's Seniors Preparing for Rainbow Years (SPRY) program. As Jack grew older and his health started to deteriorate, Jack was hesitant to accept services. Afraid that as an openly gay man he wouldn't receive quality care, Jack was reluctant to bring help into his home and he refused to enter a convalescent hospital, unwilling to spend the last years of his life back in the closet.

Witnessing Jack's struggles, it became clear that Houston's GLBT seniors were being underserved. SPRY was begun to keep our communities' seniors healthy, active, and social, providing them with peer support, counseling, and case management services when appropriate. SPRY also works with local senior service providers to train them to better meet the needs of the GLBT individuals they serve. When this training began, some service providers had never considered that some of their patients were GLBT. One said, "We don't have anyone gay here. Our patients are too old to be gay." The need for SPRY was never more apparent.

SPRY began in October 2005 with a three-year grant from the United States Department of Health and Human Service's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Now that the grant funding has ended, the program is able to continue uninterrupted because of the generous support of donors like *Bringin' in the Green* hosts John Danielson, who opens his beautiful home to attendees, and Dwane Todd, who donates and prepares the delicious hors d'oeuvres. Because of their donations, 100 percent of the funds raised at the event goes directly to client services. Their support, and that of the event's sponsors and attendees, allows us to continue providing services not covered by government grants.

Please join them in sustaining programs like SPRY by supporting *Bringin' in the Green*. Tickets are $30/$25 for seniors and may be purchased at the door or [online](https://www.networkforgood.org/donation/ExpressDonation.aspx?ORGID2=742050245&vlrStratCode=SUjEkXZEhcTFFtL%2fj5G%2fc70JTx2e3lAxMUHcNhezB%2blSWTTHco8PYtyi8z%2fccUco), with "BITG" as your designation. Sponsorship opportunities range from $50 - $5,000 and include tickets to the event. For more information, click [here](http://www.montrosecounselingcenter.org/2009/bitg.html) or call 713.800.0872.

At the party, be sure to visit the poster of Jack, where you can pick up a shamrock sticker in his honor for a cash donation.

To read the 2005 *Outsmart* article about Jack Jackson's work as a super volunteer of Houston's GLBT communities in honor of his 80th birthday, click [here](http://www.outsmartmagazine.com/cms-this_issue/200503--Just+Jack.html).

# Join Us at 6 p.m. at City Hall the Day the Prop 8 Verdict is Announced

The day the Supreme Court of California announces its ruling to uphold or strike down Proposition 8, join us at 6 p.m. at City Hall. Whether we are celebrating a victory for our communities' rights, or a defeat, let us stand united.

The Day of Decision Rally will be held as a *speak out*. Attendees are encouraged to bring signs and to speak in three-minute increments, sharing their own thoughts and experiences or leading the crowd in chants.

In addition to Montrose Counseling Center, the rally is being sponsored by Equality Across America Houston, Impact Houston, Queer Voices 90.1 KPFT, OUTSA Student Organization - Houston Community College, GLBTA Student Organization - Lone Star College-CyFair, International Socialist Organization, Student Feminist Organization, Students for a Democratic Society - University of Houston, and Harris County Green Party. MCC is co-sponsoring the event because the elimination of our brothers' and sisters' rights in California can have a negative effect on the mental health and wellbeing of GLBT individuals throughout the nation.

For 31 years, MCC has been a safe, affirming place for Houston's GLBT communities. We value you, your relationship, and your family. If you ever need us, we are here for you. For more information about our services or to schedule an intake appointment, please call 713.529.0037.

To read MCC's response to the passing of Prop 8, click [here](http://www.montrosecounselingcenter.org/newsletter/newsletter_0609.html#cali).

# $15 Gift Card for Women’s Focus Group Participants

If you have a few hours to spare, we want to hear from you. For your time and input, you will receive a $15 gift card to a local supermarket. Montrose Counseling Center is looking for women between the ages of 20-40 to participate in a focus group to be held on Wednesday, April 14 at 6 p.m. You do not need to be a client in order to participate. If you would like to join us, please email mcc@montrosecounselingcenter.org. The deadline to register is Monday, April 5.

# Is Your Resume Up-to-Date? Free! Computer Lab for Houston's GLBT Communities

According to recent figures from the Texas Workforce Commission, the Houston area experienced a 3.9 percent loss in jobs last year. If you are currently looking for a job and need to create or update your resume, please feel free to make use of the David Bohnett Cyber Center at the GLBT Cultural Center. The Cyber Center is available to all members of the GLBT communities Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. and Tuesdays & Thursdays from 3 - 5 p.m. The Cyber Center consists of state-of-the-art computers and color printer. Come by whenever you need to pay a bill online, conduct research, check email, surf the internet, etc.

There is no cost to use the center, and you do not have to be a client of MCC or participant in SPRY or HATCH. Cyber Center shifts are staffed by volunteers, who are able to provide assistance as needed. The Cyber Center is located in Room 101 of the GLBT Cultural Center on the 1st floor of MCC at 401 Branard. Please bring your own portable device to save documents and a headset to listen to audio or video. For more information, please call 713.800.0872.

# Need CEUs? Four Hours Cultural Diversity on March 19

What are the variables that influence cultural identity? That is the topic of the MCC's Continuing Education class, to be held 1 - 5 p.m. on Friday, March 19. Race, ethnicity, gender, culture, ability, religion, age, HIV status, body type, sexual orientation and gender identity will be discussed. The class will take place in the GLBT Cultural Center on the 1st floor of MCC and is open to everyone. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available for LMSWs, LBSWs, LCDCs, and LPCs. The class costs $40 if prepaid. There will be an additional $10 fee if paid at the door.

For more information about upcoming Continuing Education classes and how to register for them, click [here](http://www.montrosecounselingcenter.org/2010/?p=675). For more information, please call the Education Department at 713.529.0037.

# Upcoming SPRY Socials: Potluck & Movie Afternoon

Loneliness and isolation are two issues that GLBT seniors face that may lead to depression. If you are age 60 or older and want to stay active with your peers, please join us at a SPRY Social.

From 4 - 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 11, you are invited to our monthly potluck in Room 101 of the GLBT Cultural Center. The center is located on the 1st floor of MCC at 401 Branard. MCC will provide lasagna, so bring side dishes and desserts with that in mind.

The following week is movie Thursday on March 18. While Washington currently debates the U.S. Military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, we will be watching *Serving in Silence*, the story of Army Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer, starring Glenn Close. Come to Room 101 to watch the movie from 1 - 3 p.m.

If you have any suggestions for a movie or themed potluck, please call us at 713.529.0037. For more information about SPRY, check out the [website](http://www.spryhouston.org) or watch [this video](http://spryhouston.org/videos.html).

# Self-Help Group Begins Meeting at GLBT Cultural Center

SMART (**S**elf **M**anagement **A**nd **R**ecovery **T**raining) Recovery meets Mondays from 8 – 9 p.m. in the GLBT Cultural Center on the 1st Floor of MCC. SMART Recovery is an alternative to the 12-step model, helping individuals change behavior that is self-defeating, harmful or unhealthy. Its goal is to help participants learn tools to manage or end addictions, such as alcohol, drugs, gambling, sexual behavior, overeating or internet use. Montrose Counseling Center strongly urges people in its outpatient treatment program to work closely with an outside support system like SMART Recovery or a traditional 12-step group.

# Undergraduate Summer Internship

Sponsored by the ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program, Montrose Counseling Center will offer a paid full-time internship from June 7 through July 30 to one aspiring undergraduate interested in learning more about nonprofit fund development, volunteer management, and public relations. To be considered, candidates must be an undergraduate sophomore or junior, currently enrolled and taking at least 12 semester hours. Applicants should have a strong desire to work in a GLBT-affirming environment, and possess strong communication and organizational skills. Strong volunteer experience a plus. The deadline to apply is March 17. For more details, please click [here](http://www.montrosecounselingcenter.org/2010/?p=1140).

# Support MCC's Programs by Attending One of These Upcoming Events

## ERSICSS's March Madness, March 5

Emperor and Empress XXVI Falcon and Sheri Anne Bouton and the members of the Empire of the Royal Sovereign Imperial Court of the Single Star, Inc. ([ERSICSS](http://www.ersicss.org)) will kick off a year of fundraising for Reign XXVI's charities, including Montrose Counseling Center, at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 5, at George Country Sports Bar, 617 Fairview. The "March Madness" show is hosted by Imperial Prince XXVI Scott Kenyon. Join us for an evening of colossal comedy and camp.

## Bunnies on the Bayou's Bunny Bar Bash, March 7

Join Bunnies on the Bayou from 3 - 6 p.m. on Sunday, March 7, at Guava Lamp, 570 Waugh, as they begin raising money for this year's Easter party beneficiaries, which include HATCH. There is no cover to attend, and the "Hare Raising Event" will include a raffle of bunny baskets, which promise to be large and full of surprises.

## MCC's Bringin' in the Green, March 12

Montrose Counseling Center's 21st Annual St. Patrick's Day celebration *Bringin' in the Green* will take place from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the beautiful and historic home of John Danielson at 3618 Burlington Street. Hors d'oeuvres are provided courtesy of Dwane Todd, Attorney. Due to their generous underwriting, one hundred percent of the funds raised at the event will go to direct client services. Tickets are $30/$25 for seniors and may be purchased at the door or [online](https://www.networkforgood.org/donation/ExpressDonation.aspx?ORGID2=742050245&vlrStratCode=SUjEkXZEhcTFFtL%2fj5G%2fc70JTx2e3lAxMUHcNhezB%2blSWTTHco8PYtyi8z%2fccUco), with "BITG" as your designation. Sponsorship opportunities range from $50 - $5,000 and include tickets to the event. For more information, click [here](http://www.montrosecounselingcenter.org/2009/bitg.html) or call 713.800.0872.

## Bayou City Boys Club's Jungle Houston, April 1 - 4

Support MCC's HIV/AIDS programs by attending Bayou City Boy's Club's Jungle 18. The festivities begin with a Kick-Off Party at Meteor from 10 p.m. - 2 a.m. on Thursday, April 1, and continuing at RICH's from 10 p.m. - 4 a.m. on Friday, April 2. It all leads up to Saturday night's big "Coming of Age" event at WAREHOUSE LIVE! from 10 p.m. - 4 a.m. on April 3. If you’re still going strong after that, there’s the Sunday morning afterparty from 3 a.m. - 10 a.m. at House of Dereon. A weekend pass costs $100, and tickets to Saturday's main event are $50 if purchased in advance/$60 at the door. For more information or to purchase tickets, click [here](http://www.junglehouston.com/events/).).

## Bunnies on the Bayou, April 4

Since 1979, Houston's GLBT communities have been celebrating Easter Sunday with Bunnies on the Bayou. Join them for this year's 31st annual event as they continue raising money for local HIV/AIDS and GLBT service providers, including HATCH. The outdoor party starts at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 4. The party will take place at the Wortham Center, Fish Plaza, at 501 Texas Ave. Tickets are $25/$125 for VIP passes. For more information or to purchase tickets, click [here](http://www.bunniesonthebayou.org/main.htm).

## Third Annual Church Ladies Bake Sale & Revival

The Bouton sisters are planning the third annual Church Ladies Bake Sale & Revival and are looking for your baking talent! Donated baked goods will be sold to benefit ERSICSS’s beneficiaries, AssistHers and Montrose Counseling Center. If you have an old family recipe for cupcakes, pie or cookies, and you want to show off your culinary skills, contact Mother Morgan Fairview Bouton at Morgan.fairview@yahoo.com. The Church Ladies Bake Sale & Revivial will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 10 at George Sport Bar, 617 Fairview. There is plenty of time to perfect a recipe, or just make chocolate chip cookies or marshmallow treats – we’re not picky!

# Thanks a Million

First and foremost, we'd like to thank ERSICSS for their support. Throughout 2009, ERSICSS raised money for HATCH at multiple weekly fundraisers, and their hard work culminated in a donation of more than $17,000! In addition, Emperor and Empress XXV J.P. and Marcia Mink Anne Gill and the members of ERSICSS attended HATCH special events, presented a How-to-Do-Drag presentation before HATCH's annual prom, and thoughtfully incorporated the youth into their activities, opening their annual Fire & Ice Ball early for the youth, allowing them to run carnival games at the car wash during IPR weekend, and asking the youth to decorate teddy bears for an auction. We look forward to continuing our relationship with ERSICSS throughout the coming year. We are honored that Emperor and Empress XXVI Falcon and Sheri Anne Bouton have chosen MCC as one of their reign's charities. We'd like to thank them for their trust and investment in our organization!

Huge thanks go out to Joy De La O for making HATCH the beneficiary of her New Year's Eve Party. Thanks to her generosity, and that of the event's attendees, $500 was donated to HATCH.

We are delighted to announce Montrose Counseling Center's continued partnership with Southwest Airlines, Co. The community partnership, which began in 2009, will continue throughout 2010. Thank you, Southwest Airlines, for your ongoing support!

Our upcoming *Bringin' in the Green* would not be possible without the generosity of John Danielson, Dwane Todd, Holiday Inn Houston Medical Center, Silver Eagle Distributors, Southwest Airlines, and the following event sponsors:

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# Employment Opportunities

## [Risk Reduction Specialist](http://www.montrosecounselingcenter.org/2010/?p=1033)

Posted 1/21/2010  
Description: Specialist needed to provide street outreach, HIV/TB testing, education, referrals and distribution of risk reduction items, primarily to the GLBT, HIV, and substance abusing population.

## [Staff Therapist (Part Time)](http://www.montrosecounselingcenter.org/2010/?p=715)

Open Listing  
Description: Experience working with or personal knowledge of the defined target populations. Chemical Dependency treatment experience a plus. Bilingual a plus.

## [Staff Therapist](http://www.montrosecounselingcenter.org/2010/?p=708)

Open Listing  
Description: Experience working with or personal knowledge of the defined target populations. Chemical Dependency treatment experience a plus. Bilingual a plus.

## [Clinical Case Manager](http://www.montrosecounselingcenter.org/2010/?p=710)

Open Listing  
Description: Clinical Case Manager to work with HIV+ clients with behavioral health needs to assist them in identifying and accessing resources to meet needs of daily living, including medical, legal, counseling, food, clothing and shelter. Empower clients to handle their needs and life issues independently.

## [Community PROMISE Specialist](http://www.montrosecounselingcenter.org/2010/?p=705)

Posted 9/30/2009  
Description: HIV prevention worker needed to recruit African American Men who have Sex with Men indigenous peer advocates, provide HIV testing, educate and assist potential clients to access substance abuse treatment and HIV services, and reinforce behavior change to reduce the risk of HIV transmission.