

# 'A beacon of light'

Volunteers are  
the air beneath  
Head Start's wings.

Its goal is a noble one — with a track record of success that's nearing a half-century.

Head Start is a poverty-fighting program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that provides a wide range of services to level the academic playing field for low-income pre-school children.

On March 11, the Child Development Council of Brazoria

County Head Start lauded the efforts of volunteers. The organization's 27th annual banquet — held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Angleton — also celebrated the national organization's 45 years in the U.S.

Roszeta Norris spent 39 years with New Orleans' Head Start chapter and now works as a consultant. She was on hand to give the keynote speech at the banquet. Norris compared the volunteers, teachers and leaders of the county's Head Start program to

## ACCLAIM AND A SHAME

Acclaim and a shame is a collection of quick hits of praise and comments on local, state and national issues compiled by Facts staff.



HOLLY PARKER/Facts file photo

**Brazoria County Head Start President and CEO Evelyn Moore, left, laughs with Marilyn Monroe, a Head Start teacher, right, during the recent Head Start banquet at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Angleton. Shown in the center are Maria Arechiga, left, and Debora Johnson, Head Start directors.**

eagles.

"The eagle flies high," Norris said. "They're always looking higher. The chicken is on the ground and he always has his head down. This agency is like the eagle. It's always moving. Your agency is a beacon light to the communities you serve."

Brazoria County Head Start CEO Evelyn Moore thanked those who help the 569 children served in the seven county centers.

Receiving special honors were Wyatt Jones, named the Angleton center's volunteer of the year; Wanda Tolbert, volunteer of the year in Brazoria; Sara Gomez, volunteer of the year in Freeport; Stacey Hall, Lake Jackson; Claudette Franco, Pearland; Joe Ramirez, Sweeny; and Rudy Sanchez, Alvin.

The winners of three \$500 scholarships also were announced: David Johnson, a senior at

Angleton High School; Tiffany Nicole Jenkins, a senior at Columbia; and Sweeny's Sandra Martinez.

In addition, Sweeny ISD, Alvin ISD, Angleton ISD and Columbia-Brazoria ISD were honored as "Friends of Head Start."

"We are living in a wonderful country — America," Norris said. "America is richer today for having people like you. Texas is richer today for having people like you."