

# MEDCO annual meeting

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The Morehouse Economic Development Corporation held its annual breakfast meeting on October 26, 2011 at the Visitor Center in Bastrop. Mike George of Northeast Tel was presented with MEDCO's Parino Award, given annually to a Morehouse Parish resident who exemplifies an entrepreneurial spirit to promote and create jobs for residents of Morehouse Parish.



## Cooperation creates employment opportunities

*Mark Rainwater  
Bastrop Daily Enterprise*

Kay King grows weary of hearing people say local leaders need to work together to bring jobs to Morehouse Parish. More than 300 jobs created when DG Food chose Bastrop as the site to expand its poultry processing operations is proof positive it can and does happen. "The city sought a \$1.3 million grant to provide sewer service to the company. [MEDCO] worked with Peoples Water and Entergy to get them information about services they would need. Our legislators were working with the state to secure funding to make it all possible," King said. "It was a project that shows how well we all work together."

King's comments came during MEDCO's annual membership breakfast Wednesday at the Visitor Center. In addition to government leaders and economic development representatives, King gave two specific examples of how community leaders have worked to create successful projects in the parish. She cited the Historic Bastrop High Apartments, a \$14 million project that started with work eight years ago by the Friends of Main Street. "Friends of (Morehouse Activity Center) worked on that for 10 years before anything happened," King said. "Those kind of projects happen when leadership and people in the community work together."

The organization recognized outgoing board member Ivory Smith for 20 years of service to the organization. MEDCO's Parino **Award**, given annually to a parish resident who exemplifies a spirit of entrepreneurship, was given to Mike George of Northeast-Tel. The Collinston company, of which George serves as president, is currently in the midst of a \$12 million project that will offer broadband services - telephone, Internet and television - to 2,000 customers in rural parts of the parish.

Prior to receiving the **award**, George addressed the three dozen people attending the meeting, offering a brief history of how the company started as a family-owned business. "Our families have invested a great deal in the company, but we wouldn't be where we are without standing on the shoulders of our community and our employees," George said.

