

Hinson, 57, president of the league team for the ministry.

The Office of Black Catholic Ministry, started in 1991, and among its activities plans events and programs throughout the year, including an ecumenical prayer service honoring the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., a Black Cultural Awareness Mass, Kwanzaa activities, HIV/AIDS education and diversity workshops.

"At the Black Catholic Ministry, our interest is in creating opportunities and offering guidance to the black community," said **Robert Andre Dumas**, of Boca Raton, an advisory board member. "We focus on youth who do not have role models or who are disadvantaged and try to expand their horizons by exposing them to

Where: Wellington Golf & Country Club, 1900 Aero Club Drive, Wellington

Cost: \$40 adults, \$20 for children younger than 12

Information: Call 561-775-9568.

people who can help them. We wanted to have a fund-raiser that could bring people together of all ages and backgrounds."

Hinson said the black ministry also serves as liaison to Bishop **Gerald M. Barbarito**.

"We're an ear to the bishop. We bring him issues of concern and tell him about the good things as well," Hinson said. "It's important to know that the ministry reaches out not just to

our lives," he said. "All in the Diocese of Palm Beach appreciate the example of faith, hope and love that these men so willingly share with so many."

Dumas, who will move to Valencia Lakes west of Boynton Beach later this month, said he hopes the event will draw people from outside the black community.

"We want it to be a unifying force, so that the youth can see that people across racial and ethnic barriers can come together and enjoy the same things," said Dumas, 75, who served as an American diplomat for 22 years, living in Africa, and was an international adviser to the Catholic bishops for African and western European affairs. "Life is all about helping and being involved."

Unsung Heroes

COMPILED BY TINA DE LA FE

Keeping family courts fair, just

Name: Lisa Macci

Residence: West of Boca Raton

Birthplace: Philadelphia

Career: Attorney, family law

Charitable organization: Courtwatch

Family: Daughters: **Ginger Macci**, 6, **Lisa Macci**, 9, **Farrah Macci**, 8, and **Devon Saccomanno**, 18; sons **Brandon Saccomanno**, 13, and **Brian Saccomanno**, 15.

Q. Describe your volunteer role.

A. I went through a horrendous divorce that lasted three years, five years including appeals. It wiped out every dime of money and almost every asset that I had. I felt that as if someone like me, an experienced family law attorney, could experience so much injustice, imagine what other women who are not familiar with the laws and rules would have to go through. As a result, I've done a lot of volunteer work to try to get reforms in the family court system.

I helped start the Courtwatch program. We have volunteers going into the courts to sit, watch and make notes of what's going on. If they see bias from the judge or other people involved in a lawsuit, they typically send letters to the governor, indicating which judges are doing a good job, and which judges are not.

Over the years, Courtwatch has been contacted by and has assisted more than 100 women who have been victims of illegality, unfairness and injustice by the



Macci

family court system and various government agencies.

I have a radio show, *The Justice Hour* (9-10 a.m. Mondays on WPBR 1340 AM), that brings these issues to light. I speak with judicial candidates, and [mostly] discuss legislation and different problems in family court.

Q. Are you involved in any other organizations?

A. As the president of the Contemporary Federated Republican Women's Club, I feel that reform within the judicial system is best represented by the Republican ideals of individual liberty and limited government. I work to get qualified people elected to office who stand for these ideals.

Q. What results do you hope to achieve?

A. I'm trying to educate people on the election of judges.

Who that judge is on the bench is more important than who gets elected governor and legislator. Judges can take your assets away, your children away and your freedom away. It's very important to find out how judges are ruling on different issues. Voters need to make a conscious vote whether they want to retain these judges or not retain them.

Q. What have you gained?

A. I think that it is a process that is not going to happen overnight, but certainly I feel satisfaction in helping others. Not only those currently involved in the court system, but also others.

Q. Aside from money, what does your cause need the most?

A. Volunteers to do court watches, to help in writing legislation, to advocate for and against certain legislation in Tallahassee.

Q. What advice would you give to others who want to volunteer?

A. They would find that the satisfaction of being able to help far outweighs any lost time or lost money that may be affected in their volunteering.

To get involved with Courtwatch, call 561-338-9280 or visit <http://factscourtwatch.org>.

If you know a Palm Beach County resident who deserves recognition for volunteer work, fax the information to 561-272-3189, or mail to: *Unsung Heroes*, c/o Minerva Romo, South Florida Sun-Sentinel Delray Beach newsroom, c/o 333 SW 12th Ave., Deerfield Beach, FL 33442. Nominations should include volunteer's name, city of residence, a contact name and phone number, and a brief description of why this person deserves special recognition. For questions, call 561-243-6614.