

October 17, 2005

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For information contact:

**Kristie Young**, Public Affairs Coordinator  
(409) 833-3663

**“Gift of Life” Port Arthur Prostate Cancer Screening Postponed**

Due to the devastating effects of Hurricane Rita, the **Julie Rogers “Gift of Life” Program** is postponing the prostate cancer screening event that was originally scheduled for Saturday, September 24 at the Carl Parker Center, Lamar State College in Port Arthur. “Gift of Life” representatives will announce the new screening date as soon as possible. For questions or to schedule an appointment, you may call **(409) 833-3663**.

“Our thoughts and prayers go out to our neighbors in the Port Arthur area,” **Regina Rogers**, “Gift of Life” Chair, said. “We look forward to returning to Port Arthur to provide free prostate cancer screenings for those who are medically underserved in the near future.”

The “Gift of Life” conducts free prostate cancer screenings for Southeast Texas men who have no medical insurance, Medicare or Medicaid, and those who are underinsured. Prostate cancer will affect **one in every six men** during his lifetime. To be eligible for the screenings, **men must be at least 45 years of age** or **40 if African American**, or younger if there is a family history of prostate cancer.

## “Gift of Life”

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As one of the largest cancer screening and awareness programs of its type in Texas, the “Gift of Life” serves more than **5,000** recipients annually. Implemented in 2000, the prostate cancer screening initiative has conducted over **3,450** free tests, annually screening over **400** medically underserved men. Further, each year **750** women without medical insurance receive free mammograms at Memorial Hermann Baptist Hospitals in Beaumont and Orange. Also, **750** additional women are given free mammograms and clinical breast exams on the UTMB-Galveston mobile van at **20** Southeast Texas van sites. At over **50** Sidney “Chief” Dauphin educational outreach presentations and area health fairs, cancer awareness information is disseminated to several thousand individuals. Other recent endeavors include the formation of a prostate cancer support group, a smoking prevention and cessation initiative, and testicular cancer awareness for area high school students.

Access to follow-up care for eligible individuals who need testing and treatment following their screenings is also provided at UTMB-Galveston. For clients who require transportation to and from the program’s cancer screening tests and exams, the “Gift of Life” minivan is available.

A cooperative effort of Memorial Hermann Baptist Hospitals, the Julie and Ben Rogers Cancer Institute, the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) at Galveston and its local clinics, the UTMB Cancer Stop Program, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center and local physicians, the “Gift of Life” has funded over **10,000** free mammograms and **3,450** free prostate cancer screenings, and has conducted more than **300** educational outreach programs since its inception.