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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Gift of Life” Breast Cancer Awareness Month Activities Postponed

Due to Hurricane Rita, the **Julie Rogers “Gift of Life” Program** is postponing Breast Cancer Awareness Month activities until after January 1, 2006.

Women who had an appointment on the UTMB mobile mammography van during October will be rescheduled. “Gift of Life” representatives will be contacting clients with the new appointment times. If you have any questions about your mammogram appointment, you may call (409) 860-3369.

“In order to give Southeast Texans a chance to focus on rebuilding efforts, the ‘Gift of Life’ has decided to postpone all of our October activities,” Regina Rogers, program chair, stated. “We look forward to celebrating with our survivors, volunteers, and supporters in the New Year.”

“Gift of Life” Activities to be Rescheduled:

Breast Cancer Awareness Month Kickoff
All Mobile Mammography Van Sites
Sidney “Chief” Dauphin Educational Outreach Programs
7th Annual Health Forum: Smoking Cessation and Prevention
Curl Up for the Cause
Pink Ladies

(Dates and times to be determined.)

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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.