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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Julie Rogers “Gift of Life” Program to Present Breast Health Awareness to Kountze Senior Girls**

**The Julie Rogers “Gift of Life”** will conduct a **Sidney “Chief” Dauphin** breast health awareness program for senior girls at **Kountze High School, Monday, April 24, at 11:30 a.m.** Though breast cancer in teenagers is not as common as in older women, it can and does occur. While mammography is generally not recommended for teens, it is important for them to adopt healthy habits while they are still young. According to the American Cancer Society, women should begin monthly breast self-examinations at age 20.

The outreach program will include a short video explaining self-examination, which will be reinforced by medical professionals, **Gay-Lynne Jones, RN**, and **Irene Ramirez, RN**, of the **Julie & Ben Rogers Cancer Institute**. The question and answer segment provides answers to inquiries and attempts to dispel any misconceptions. All students are given literature and encouraged to share the message of early detection with friends and family. Door prizes will be given. **Family members are invited to attend.**

This initiative is modeled after the Hadassah women’s organization’s “Check it Out” program, an educational endeavor to teach specific self-examination and health awareness skills to teenagers.

Last month, the “Gift of Life” conducted a testicular cancer presentation for Kountze High School senior males. The organization also conducts breast and prostate cancer presentations at community centers, churches, businesses, and housing complexes. To arrange an awareness program, contact **Pat Willard** at **833-7366**.

**As one of the largest cancer screening initiatives of its type in the state**, the “Gift of Life” serves more than **5,000** recipients annually. Several thousand individuals are provided cancer awareness education and information at over **50** outreach programs and area health fairs; more than **750** medically underserved women receive free mammograms at Memorial Hermann Baptist Hospitals in Beaumont and Orange; an additional **750** women are provided free mammograms and clinical breast exams on the UTMB mobile van at strategic locations throughout Southeast Texas twenty times each year; and approximately **450** free prostate cancer screenings are conducted annually. Also, the “Gift of Life” minivan is available for clients who require transportation to and from the program’s cancer screening tests and exams. UTMB-Galveston provides follow-up care for individuals who need additional testing and treatment following their screenings.

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A cooperative effort of Memorial Hermann Baptist Hospitals, the Julie & 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 **10,600** free mammograms and more than **3,600** free prostate cancer screenings, and has conducted nearly **350** Sidney “Chief” Dauphin educational outreach programs since its inception.