

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Memorial Hermann Baptist Hospitals, Linda and Joe Penland Honored with “Spirit of Love” Awards Board Members, Officers Elected**

The Julie Rogers “Gift of Life” Program honored corporate sponsor **Memorial Hermann Baptist Hospitals** and leading philanthropists **Linda** and **Joe Penland** at its recent annual **Board Meeting** attended by more than 175 guests at the **Beaumont Country Club**.

The Corporate “Spirit of Love” Award is given annually to pay tribute to organizations that exhibit outstanding community leadership and share the “Gift of Life’s” mission to provide quality healthcare for the medically underserved. “Gift of Life” President **Nell McCallum Morris** presented the award to the Hospitals’ Chairman of the Board **Bo Crawford**.

Also recognized for their unparalleled dedication and commitment to the fight against cancer were **Linda and Joe Penland**, who received the **Julie Rogers “Spirit of Love” Award**.

In addition, **Celestial “Guardian Angel” Charline Dauphin** was recognized for her benevolent support in underwriting the “Gift of Life” educational outreach programs named in memory of her late husband, Sidney “Chief” Dauphin.

Honored as “**Volunteers of the Year**” were **Gay-Lynne Jones, RN**, and **Irene Ramirez, RN**, registered nurses from the Julie & Ben Rogers Cancer Institute. Gay-Lynne and Irene participate in many of the “Gift of Life” educational outreach programs as medical professional speakers, entertaining the audience while imparting lifesaving information. Together, they contributed almost **100** hours of volunteer service in 2005.

Board Officers reelected for the year are: **Nell McCallum Morris, President; Paige Windham, Vice President; Marty Craig, Vice President; Dora Nisby, Treasurer; Donna Harris, Secretary; and Paula O’Neal, Parliamentarian**.

**New board members** joining the Board are: **Jamie Applebach, Vesta Brandt, Bettye Cook, Charles Cox, Gina Crenshaw, Stephanie Daleo, Pat Downing, Mayor Guy Goodson (Advisory Board), Kevin Herrington, Vicki Holcombe, Alfred B. Long (Advisory Board), W. L. Pate, Jr., Heather Petkovsek, Barbara Phillips, Kurt Ploeger, Phyllis Sellers, Gale Simmons, and Harold Steward**.

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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. Each year cancer awareness information is disseminated to several thousand individuals at over **50** Sidney “Chief” Dauphin educational outreach presentations and area health fairs; **750** medically underserved women receive free mammograms at Memorial Hermann Baptist Hospitals in Beaumont and Orange; **750** additional women are given free mammograms and clinical breast exams on the UTMB-Galveston mobile van at **20** Southeast Texas van sites; and approximately **450** men receive free prostate cancer screenings. Access to follow-up care for individuals who need testing and treatment following their screenings is also provided at UTMB-Galveston. Further, the “Gift of Life” minivan is available for clients who require transportation to and from the program’s cancer screening tests and exams. 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.

A cooperative effort of the Julie & Ben Rogers Cancer Institute, Memorial Hermann Baptist Hospitals, local physicians, the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) at Galveston and its local clinics, the UTMB Cancer Stop Program, and The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, the “Gift of Life” has funded over **10,000** free mammograms and **3,500** free prostate cancer screenings, and has conducted nearly **350** educational outreach programs since its inception.