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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**“Gift of Life” and Stark Foundation to Provide Free Mammograms,
Appointments Still Available**

The **Julie Rogers “Gift of Life” Program** and the **Nelda C. and H. J. Lutcher Stark Foundation** have partnered once again to provide free mammograms on UTMB-Galveston’s mobile mammography van, the *Oleander*, **Thursday, March 30**, at the **Orange Public Library, 220 N. 5th, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

Nearly **40** free mammograms and clinical breast exams will be made available for medically underserved women on the van. Mammogram recipients will receive educational materials and gifts.

The “Gift of Life” provides mammograms for women of limited financial means who do not have insurance, Medicare, or Medicaid. **A limited number of appointments are still available.** To find out if you qualify or to make an appointment, please call **(409) 860-3369 today.**

This year, the Stark Foundation’s generosity will provide approximately **150** free mammograms, **100** free prostate cancer screenings, and numerous educational outreach programs for residents of Orange County. “Gift of Life” Chair **Regina Rogers** stated, “We are very fortunate to have the Stark Foundation’s benevolent participation in our program. Hundreds of medically underserved Orange County residents benefit from our partnership each year.”

The American Cancer Society guidelines state that women age **40** and older should obtain an annual mammogram. Younger women with a family history of breast cancer should begin receiving regular mammograms earlier.

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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 **500** 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 more than **10,400** free mammograms and **3,600** free prostate cancer screenings, and has conducted nearly **350** educational outreach programs since its inception.