

# **PRESSRELEASE & PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **"Gift of Life" and Miracle Match for Life to Provide Free Breast Cancer Screenings**

(Beaumont, Texas) – July 31, 2006 – **Miracle Match for Life** representatives **Pat Avery** of **TOTAL Petrochemicals, Inc.**, and **Marshall Williams** of **BASF FINA Petrochemicals, LP**, will attend a Julie Rogers "Gift of Life" breast cancer screening event at the **Golden Triangle Community Health Fair** on **Saturday, August 5** at **Cathedral of Faith Baptist Church**, 3755 Fannett Road. (A photo opportunity will be available at 9 a.m.)

**Miracle Match**, a collaborative effort of **BASF** and **TOTAL**, will sponsor "Gift of Life" clinical breast exams from **9:00 a.m. to Noon** at the health fair. More than 35 women will receive the free exams with mammograms to be scheduled for a later date at **Memorial Hermann Baptist Hospitals**. Medical professionals **Jane Angel, MD**, **Ruby Holloway, MD**, **Norma Cowart, PA**, and **Angie Cricchio, APRN**, will serve as volunteer examiners.

**Health fair participants will also be able to pre-register for "Gift of Life" prostate cancer screenings held annually in September.**

Over the past three years, **Miracle Match** has contributed more than **\$55,000** to the "Gift of Life," enabling the program to provide hundreds of free mammograms and PSA screenings to uninsured and underinsured women and men across the community.

**Charlotte Simoneaux**, "Gift of Life" Mammography Services Coordinator, stated, "BASF and TOTAL's **Miracle Match for Life** sponsorship has enhanced our program services and enabled us to reach thousands of Southeast Texans."

"Once again, we are very pleased to be a part of this program that is helping reach the medically underserved in our community," **Avery**, TOTAL Administrative Manager, said.

**Williams**, BASF Security Supervisor, added, "Our company is always proud to be associated with the 'Gift of Life,' an organization that provides comfort and hope for so many people."

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. The “Gift of Life” offers mammograms free of charge for women of limited financial means who do not have insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, or are underinsured. Appointments are necessary. To find out if you qualify or to make an appointment, please call **(409) 860-3369**.

The “Gift of Life” provides free prostate cancer screenings to eligible men **45** years of age, or **40** if African American. Younger clients may be screened if there is a history of prostate cancer in the family. For more information on prostate screenings, please call the “Gift of Life” at **(409) 833-3663**.

**Attached is a description of the “Gift of Life” mission and annual programming.**



### *Mission and Annual Programming*

The “Gift of Life” is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization located in Beaumont, Texas, serving all of Southeast Texas. Operating for nearly 12 years, the agency is dedicated to **decreasing the incidence of death associated with breast and prostate cancer**. Its mission is accomplished through (1) **provision of free mammography and prostate cancer screenings** for people of limited financial means who are uninsured and underinsured, along with **access to treatment and follow-up care** through a **referral link with the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) at Galveston**; and (2) conducting **extensive community educational outreach**. This mission has recently been expanded to include **smoking cessation and prevention activities and testicular cancer education**.

A cooperative effort of **Memorial Hermann Baptist Hospitals, the Julie & Ben Rogers Cancer Institute, the Dauphin Cancer Screening & Prevention Center, 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 **11,300** free mammograms and **3,600** free prostate cancer screenings, and has conducted nearly **400** educational outreach programs since its inception.

As one of the largest cancer screening and awareness organizations of its type in Texas, the “Gift of Life” directly serves more than **6,000** recipients annually (in addition to publishing a program newsletter several times a year that is distributed to over **15,000** people in Southeast Texas and beyond and conveys the important message of early detection). Each year, cancer awareness information is disseminated to **several thousand** individuals at over **50** educational outreach presentations and area health fairs; approximately **450** men receive free prostate cancer screenings; **750** medically underserved women receive free mammograms at Memorial Hermann Baptist Hospitals in Beaumont and Orange; and **750** additional women are given free mammograms and clinical breast exams on the UTMB-Galveston mobile van at **20** Southeast Texas van sites. Access to follow-up care for eligible individuals who need testing and treatment following their screenings is also provided. Further, the “Gift of Life” minivan is available for clients who require transportation to and from the program’s cancer screening tests and exams.

The “Gift of Life” also offers multiple yearly programs including a **Survivors’ Celebration** honoring breast and prostate cancer survivors and a **Health Forum** for medical professionals, with approximately **650 attendees** (this year’s event will focus on smoking cessation and prevention). Program services were expanded in 2004 to include the following initiatives: (1) **ASPIRE, A Smoking Prevention Interactive Experience**, featuring M. D. Anderson-developed curriculum introduced into Beaumont Independent School District 9th grade health classes; (2) the **Prostate Cancer Support Group**, created in association with the American Cancer Society, which meets monthly and now includes more than 50 members; (3) the **Testicular Cancer Outreach Program** presented to senior males at area high schools; and (4) a **Heightened Cancer Awareness Campaign** during both Prostate and Breast Cancer Awareness Months. **“Don’t Smoke Your Life Away,”** a community-wide anti-smoking campaign targeting both adults and adolescents, was launched in 2005.

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