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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For information contact:

Kristie Young, Public Affairs Coordinator
(409) 833-3663

**“Gift of Life” and “Winners for Life”
Present Annual Health Seminar**

The **Julie Rogers “Gift of Life” Program** will present a Sidney “Chief” Dauphin breast health educational outreach meeting on **Saturday, April 22, 11:00 a.m.**, at the **Carl Parker Center, 1800 Lakeshore Drive in Port Arthur.**

Sponsored by **“Winners for Life,”** the informational session will teach the importance of yearly mammograms for women beginning at age **40**, as recommended by the American Cancer Society. Since **one third** of all breast cancer deaths occur in women over the age of **65**, mammograms should be continued annually through one’s lifetime. Younger women with a family history of breast cancer should begin receiving regular mammograms earlier.

Jamie Terry, MD, FACS, of Houston and Medical Advisor for the Sisters Network (an African American breast cancer survivors’ group), will address these and other critical breast health issues, give instructions for monthly breast self-exams, and stress the importance of yearly mammograms. Breast cancer survivors will share their stories of courage and triumph. Participants will receive breast cancer literature with valuable tips for preventative care. In addition, **door prizes will be distributed.** A delicious “Salad and Sweets” lunch will be provided following the program for only \$5 with proceeds benefiting the “Gift of Life.” **The public is invited to attend. For reservations,** please call **Winnie Frelow** at **(409) 963-2904.**

“Winners for Life,” formed in 2003 as a subcommittee within Sacred Heart Catholic Church’s education program, now represents several religious denominations. The organization of women provides the community with breast health information through free annual seminars. More than 150 guests attended last year’s program and helped “Winners for Life” raise over \$1,500 for the “Gift of Life.”

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Winnie Frelow, a breast cancer survivor and “Winners for Life” chair, said, “Our members are either breast cancer survivors or supporters of friends or family members who have been touched by the disease. Our primary goal is to show women that early breast cancer detection can save lives. The presence of numerous survivors at the presentation makes that fact evident. Additionally, our group serves as a support mechanism for anyone recently diagnosed with breast cancer or women with a recurring diagnosis in need of a little support.”

The “Gift of Life” will also conduct a breast health outreach program for the Hispanic community at **Queen of Vietnam Church’s St. Joseph’s Hall, 800 9th Avenue, Tuesday, April 25, 10:00 a.m.**

Other “Gift of Life” outreach programs conducted this year in Port Arthur have been hosted by the **Parent Involvement Group at Franklin School**; the parents of **Lee Elementary**; the **Port Arthur Citywide PTA**; the **Parent Involvement Group at Washington Elementary**; the **Port Arthur Independent School District Administration Staff**; **Cypress Glen Retirement Village**; and the **Parent Involvement Group at Dowling Elementary School**.

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** Sidney “Chief” Dauphin 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.

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** educational outreach programs since its inception.