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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**VILLE PLATTE COUPLE CHOSEN FOR THE GIFT OF HOPE**

**LAFAYETTE** – Dr. John Storment and Fertility & Women's Health Center of Louisiana, Women's & Children's Hospital, and Sheridan Healthcare are pleased to announce the selection of **Robin & Dion Carter**, of Ville Platte, LA, as recipients of the *Gift of Hope 2010*. The Carters were selected from a pool of 59 applications received from Louisiana couples seeking to be granted a free *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) cycle in their efforts to conceive a child.

Additionally, two couples were also chosen to receive free intrauterine inseminations. They are **Courtney & Kevin Menard** of Breaux Bridge, LA; and **Faith & Joshua Garbett** of Lafayette, LA.

The *Gift of Hope* selection committee, composed of Karen Alleman, staff nurse at Women's & Children's Hospital; Kevin Caswell, vice president of commercial banking at Teche Federal Bank; Najwa Dibbs psychologist; and Jaci Russo, senior partner of Russo Ad Group, selected the Carters to receive the gift of a free *in vitro* fertilization cycle based upon their financial and medical needs and personal situation.

The Carters have been battling infertility for over five years due to Robin's endometriosis, a condition that can cause both pain and infertility. Thirty to forty percent of patients with endometriosis are infertile, a rate two to three times that of the general population. Although the causes of endometriosis are unknown and there is no cure for this disease, a variety of treatment options exist, including pain management, hormonal treatment and laparoscopic surgery.

In Robin's case, extensive endometriosis has blocked both her fallopian tubes preventing the sperm and egg from uniting. She has undergone two laparoscopic surgeries to remove endometriosis and cysts, but is still struggling with infertility. *In vitro* fertilization offers the best chance for her to conceive, a procedure not covered by the couple's health insurance.

The Carters join six other couples who have received the *Gift of Hope* since its inception in 2006. To date, the *Gift of Hope* has proudly been responsible for the birth of three babies, Hope Elizabeth Hughes born in April 2007, Grace-Ann Elizabeth McCleery born in April 2009, and Jagger Dean Bourque, born in October 2009.

The *Gift of Hope* was created to ease the high costs, both financially and emotionally, of infertility treatments for one couple who demonstrates both financial and medical needs for IVF. Donors include John M. Storment, M.D., a board certified reproductive endocrinologist with Fertility & Women's Health Center of Louisiana, Women's & Children's Hospital, and Sheridan Healthcare, anesthesia providers.

The combined value of donated services for the Carters to receive the *Gift of Hope* is estimated at \$10,000 to \$15,000. According to Resolve, the National Infertility Association, only a quarter of healthcare insurers offer coverage for infertility care. As a result, as many as 50 percent of American couples who fail to conceive do not seek treatment due to financial reasons.

**John Storment M.D. with Fertility & Women's Health Center of Louisiana** offers comprehensive treatment of infertility, including assisted reproductive technologies and *in vitro* fertilization, treatment of

multiple pregnancy loss, endometriosis, and all other reproductive endocrine disorders, routine gynecologic care and menopause management.

**Women's & Children's Hospital** offers quality cost-effective healthcare services for the women and children of Acadiana.

**Sheridan Healthcare** offers the finest, most consistent teams of physicians and healthcare specialists to hospitals, ambulatory surgical facilities and healthcare providers.

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