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GIFT OF HOPE IN ITS FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

LAFAYETTE - *Fertility & Women's Health Center of Louisiana, Women's & Children's Hospital, and Sheridan Healthcare* will once again join forces to offer **GIFT of HOPE 2010**, an annual collaboration created to help one infertile couple each year overcome the financial barriers to building their family through the gift of one *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) cycle.

Established in 2006, GIFT of HOPE seeks to ease the high costs, both financially and emotionally, of infertility treatments for one couple who demonstrates both financial and medical needs for IVF. According to Resolve, the National Infertility Association, only a quarter of healthcare insurers offer coverage for infertility care. Depending on individual circumstances, IVF typically costs between \$10,000 to \$15,000 per cycle. As a result, as many as 50 percent of American couples who fail to conceive do not seek treatment due to financial reasons.

GIFT of HOPE has secured donated services to provide one couple the chance of pregnancy through *in vitro* fertilization. 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** in Lafayette, LA, and **Sheridan Healthcare**.

Since 2006, the GIFT of HOPE has been awarded to six Louisiana couples: Laura and Terry Hughes of Lafayette, LA; Ryan and Bridgette Baudoin of Breaux Bridge, LA; Eric and Elizabeth McCleery of Rayne, LA; Rachel and Tony Bourque of Lake Charles, LA; Michele & Kip Trahan of Kaplan, LA; and Shane & Jesse Cayce of Lafayette, LA. Each couple was chosen from dozens of applications based on their medical needs for *in vitro* fertilization and their lack of financial means to pay for it. All six couples have completed their all-expenses-paid IVF cycle and five out of the six have conceived.

We are proud to report that three babies have been born as a result of the GIFT of HOPE program: Hope Elizabeth Hughes, the daughter of Laura and Terry Hughes, born on April 14, 2007; Grace-Ann McCleery, born April 7, 2009, the daughter of Beth and Eric McCleery; and Jagger Dean Bourque, born October 28, 2009, son of Rachel and Tony Bourque.

For additional information on the GIFT of HOPE, including eligibility requirements and stories about our past GIFT of HOPE recipients, please go to www.fertilityanswers.com or call 337/989-8795. An independent committee will review all submitted applications and select one couple to receive this gift. The deadline to receive applications is April 26, 2010. GIFT of HOPE will be awarded on May 3, 2010.

Fertility & Women's Health Center of Louisiana offers comprehensive treatment of infertility, including Assistant 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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