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Cancer Survivors, friends join in Celebration of Life for SMH's National Cancer Survivors' Day community event

(Slidell, La.—May 27, 2010)—Slidell Memorial Hospital (SMH) will host a community event celebrating National Cancer Survivors' Day on Thursday, June 3, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The event takes place at the SMH Founders Building Conference Room, 1150 Robert Blvd., and will feature a Celebration of Life with cancer education and conversation, featuring guest speakers, music and refreshments provided by Todd Schaeffer's Restaurant.

Guests will be able to meet other cancer survivors and SMH's new Oncology Patient Navigator Michelle Perry, who joined SMH after working with the American Cancer Society as a health initiatives representative for the Northshore. In this position, she will guide patients through their treatment process, working with SMH Regional Cancer Center staff to help patients with cosmetic, emotional and treatment issues.

National Cancer Survivors' Day is a day to honor cancer survivors who are living with and beyond cancer, as well as those professionals who are helping to fight the battle against cancer. Now in its 23rd year, National Cancer Survivors' Day is observed in more than 700 communities throughout the United States and Canada.

The SMH Cancer Resource Center offers a variety of seminars and free or reduced-cost screenings providing the opportunity for early detection and treatment of cancer. Cancer support groups and programs provide information and emotional encouragement from others who have walked the same path.

- Life with Cancer Support Group meets at 1 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month.
- Breast Cancer Support Group meets at 6:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of the month.
- Yoga classes for Cancer patients & caregivers, funded in part by the Leonard C. Thomas Hematology & Oncology Specialists Foundation, meets Wednesdays from 4:45-5:45 p.m.

SMH cancer services have been accredited by the American College of Surgeons since 1992. SMH's Cancer Program includes inpatient cancer care, an outpatient infusion center, radiation oncology services using the most advanced radiation therapy in the world, plus support groups, social services, nutritional and pastoral care. A leading supporter of the annual East St. Tammany Relay for Life and sponsor of the event's Survivors Tent, SMH has earned the Company of Excellence Award from the American Cancer Society in 2006, 2007 and 2008. Information is available by calling (985) 649-8582.

ABOUT SMH

Slidell Memorial Hospital is a full-service 182-bed acute care not-for-profit community hospital located at 1001 Gause Blvd., in the heart of Slidell. Founded in 1959, SMH serves as a primary healthcare resource for families in St. Tammany Parish, La.; Pearl River County, Miss.; and the greater Mississippi Gulf Coast region. SMH has received the **Platinum Level 2009 Louisiana Hospital Quality Award**, presented by eQHealth Solutions, the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for Louisiana. It is located online at <http://www.slidellmemorial.org>.

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