



For Immediate Release

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SMH honors volunteers during National Volunteer Week

SLIDELL, La.—(April 20, 2010)—Slidell Memorial Hospital (SMH) joins organizations across the nation in celebrating National Volunteer Week, an annual observance of volunteerism, April 19 through 24. SMH will host an award luncheon catered by My Girlfriend's Kitchen to honor its dedicated volunteers, among other celebrations and treats throughout the week.

National Volunteer Week 2010, *Celebrating People in Action*, honors those who dedicate themselves to taking action and bettering their communities. This week, SMH recognizes its many volunteers, the compassionate, professional and knowledgeable men and women who donate their time to support the hospital's mission: to improve the quality of life in our community. More than 150 individuals volunteered at SMH in the past year, including Junior Volunteers (ages 15 and above), who helped in a variety of departments.

"At SMH, our volunteers are among our greatest assets," said Sam Caruso, Jr., SMH director of Government & Public Relations. "Thanks to their commitment to the hospital, we are able to improve the lives of those in our community. Please join me in thanking these hard-working volunteers not only this week, but also throughout the entire year."

To celebrate National Volunteer Week, SMH invites all volunteers to an awards luncheon Friday, April 23, at noon. Lunch will be catered by My Girlfriend's Kitchen, and awards will be presented to each volunteer. SMH also will host a Bingo party on Thursday, April 22, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., where volunteers will enjoy guest Bingo callers and prizes.

ABOUT NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Established in 1974, National Volunteer Week has grown exponentially in scope each year. National Volunteer Week 2010, *Celebrating People in Action*, presents an opportunity for individuals, families, nonprofit organizations and government entities alike to celebrate the ordinary people who accomplish extraordinary things through service. National Volunteer Week embodies the energy and power volunteers evoke on a daily basis as they lead by example—not only encouraging the people they help, but motivating others to serve as well.

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 is the third-largest employer in St. Tammany Parish, employing 1,100 full, part-time and pool employees. 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. It is located online at <http://www.slidellmemorial.org>.

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