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Memorial Volunteer Auxiliary Exceeds One Million Dollars in Donations

LUFKIN, TEXAS (June 22, 2009)... One million dollars! The Memorial Volunteer Auxiliary recently surpassed this amount in donations of equipment to Memorial Health System of East Texas and scholarships for students pursuing careers in health care. Since 1974, when the Auxiliary was organized, it has raised and donated more than 1.2 million dollars.

The Volunteer Auxiliary made its first donation to Memorial Health System of East Texas in 1979 with an Auto Respirator worth \$12,000. Since then, the group has donated items such as Cardiac Monitors in 1983, a Video Security System in 1995, 14 Dinamap Monitors in 2002, beds for the ICU in 2006 all totaling more than \$1 million dollars. The Volunteer Auxiliary raises money throughout the year by hosting special jewelry and book sales as well as through Memorial Gift Shop sales.

“We are not here to just help patients and visitors find their way through the halls at Memorial,” said Don Newland, president of the Memorial Volunteer Auxiliary. “We feel we can make a lasting difference by raising funds that we can use to purchase equipment to help the hospital give the best care possible.”

In addition to equipment for the hospital, the Volunteer Auxiliary started a scholarship fund in 1987. The program, which was spearheaded by Ms. Daisy Wadsworth, has awarded over 250 scholarships totaling more than \$245,000. The first year only 2 scholarships for \$500 were awarded. In 2009, 12 one thousand dollar scholarships were awarded. Scholarship money is raised through popcorn sales in the main lobby of the hospital.

In 1974, the Memorial Volunteer Auxiliary began by staffing the front desk at Memorial Health System. Flora O’Quinn and Virginia Winston eventually started the Memorial Gift Shop, “basically in a closet” according to Joan Duncan, the first president for the Auxiliary. Through the years, the group incorporated fundraisers as a way to help the hospital in providing patient care.

“The Volunteer Auxiliary is a vital part of the circle of care we provide our patients,” said Bryant Krenk, President and CEO of Memorial Health System of East Texas. “This group has donated items that help to increase the level of care available to the people of this community. Memorial would not be the same place without our Volunteers.”

For more information on becoming a volunteer, visit www.memorialhealth.org or call 936-639-7237.

Cut line: Naomi Curry (left) and Lela Richard (right) of the Memorial Volunteer Auxiliary work at the annual Masquerade Jewelry sale presented by the Auxiliary. This is one of many fundraisers the Volunteer Auxiliary sponsors throughout the year to raise funds for scholarships and equipment donations to Memorial Health System of East Texas. Recently the Memorial Volunteer Auxiliary surpassed \$1 million in donations.

About Memorial Health System of East Texas

As the largest health care system in the deep East Texas area, Memorial Health System of East Texas is a private, not-for-profit hospital that provides care to almost a quarter of a million patients each year. Since its inception in 1949, Memorial Health System has paved the way for quality, innovative health care in East Texas. In fact, Memorial consistently ranks among the nations best for exceptional health care and patient satisfaction.

Memorial Health System of East Texas is comprised of four hospitals—Memorial Medical Center—Lufkin, Memorial Medical Center—Livingston, Memorial Medical Center—San Augustine, and Memorial Specialty Hospital, the only rural long-term acute care facility within the area. Memorial offers a wide array of services, including the newly renovated Arthur Temple, Sr. Regional Cancer Center, which has earned a three-year seal of approval with commendation from the Commission on Cancer. Additionally, Memorial is a regional cardiac care center affiliated with the Methodist-DeBakey Heart Center in Houston. The hospital also is known for providing the area's only comprehensive diabetes center—The Horace C. Polk Regional Diabetes Center. Other centers of excellence include the Temple Imaging Center that offers some of the most advanced procedures in the area, including PET/CT scanning for cancer and Alzheimer's, 64 Slice CT scanning, Open Bore MRI, 4D Ultrasound, and digital mammography. Other specialty areas include Orthopedic care, Women's Services, Inpatient and Outpatient Rehabilitation, Homecare, Wound and Hyperbaric Therapy, Kidney & Diabetes Treatment, Sleep Disorders Treatment, and Express Lab. Memorial Health System of East Texas—founded and funded by the people it serves.