

**PRESS RELEASE
PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**

Tuesday, August 26, 2014, 6:00p.m.

****Lights of Life Gala Committee picture in The Gardens at Memorial Hospital***

Contact: Jackie Thornton, Director

Phone #: 214-549-8860 (cell); 903-438-4799 (office)

2014 – 2015 Lights of Life

“The Great Gatsby” Gala Committee Picture

Funds raised will go to purchase three additional telemedicine machines, Flex coils for the MRI machine, and a new 1st response vehicle for EMS

Tuesday, August 26, 2014 – The Gardens at Memorial Hospital - The 2014-2015 *Lights of Life*

Campaign & Gala chairs, **Brian and Leesa Toliver** and the gala committee will pose in the beautiful Gardens at Memorial for the traditional committee picture.

The committee has been working hard since May planning another unbelievable gala. Through the generosity of previous sponsors, who are given first right of refusals, the gala is already SOLD OUT! The exciting theme of “**The Great Gatsby**” has everyone talking and already planning their attire for the evening. At the August gala meeting, **Leesa Toliver**, announced with excitement to the committee that because of their hard work so far over \$175,000 in sponsorships has already been confirmed toward this year’s repeat goal of \$250,000.

“We are blessed every year to have extremely strong community leaders to serve as gala chairs. With **Brian and Leesa** leading the way we are on track again to reach our goal. Reaching the goal will allow the Foundation to present \$158,000 to the hospital for their use in purchasing three additional telemedicine machines, flex coils for the MRI machine and a new vehicle for EMS and still be able to add additional funds to the “Leaving a Legacy” endowment fund,” states Jackie Thornton, Foundation Director.

“We are overwhelmed and excited to have the opportunity to chair this year’s campaign and gala” stated **Leesa**. “Every year it just gets bigger and we’re working hard to keep with the tradition set by the great chairs of the past. We’re honored to be able to help the Foundation and the hospital” continued **Toliver**.

“With **The Great Gatsby**” theme for the 2015 Gala the guests will be encouraged again to dress in their “Gatsby” attire. Every year it’s fun to watch the guests arrive and for everyone to see what their friends are wearing. “Fancy dressing” has become as much fun as enjoying “fine dining” that will again be catered by Eddie Deen, dancing the night away to last year’s band, **Texas Unlimited** and bidding on unbelievable live and silent auction items that will be offered” said campaign chair, **Leesa Toliver**. “Also, we are excited to recognize **Wayne & Wanda Galyean**, who have served the community in so many ways over the years, as our **Honorary Chairs** this year” commented **Brian Toliver**.

“**NEW** this year is the addition of the Half Marathon; the first US Track & Field certified half marathon in Sulphur Springs. Because we wanted to do something a little different we approached Holly Ragan, who started the Turkey Trot and has coordinated many 5K runs, to serve as chair. Of course you don’t have to be a half marathon runner, we invite walkers as well. We’re offering 2-person relay team and 4-person relay team so everyone can participate no matter their level of training. We’re excited because the community is getting excited about getting involved. Carriage House and Wesley House are the Presenting sponsors, and several \$400 Endurance sponsors and many \$200 Sprint sponsors have joined in. We have businesses that have committed to provide water stations and many people who don’t walk or run have offered to be the “cheerleaders” along the route. The race is schedule for September 20th and we’re excited about it, continued **Leesa**. Early registration deadline is this Sunday, August 31st so call the Foundation office, 9 03-438-4799, to get registered.

If you cannot attend the gala, purchase a raffle ticket but still want to support the campaign and the hospital, you can donate to the *Lights of Life* Christmas tree lighting event. A \$25 donation given in “memory or honor” of someone special is represented by a light on the *Lights of Life* Christmas tree that will light up The Gardens at Memorial on Thursday, December 4, 2013, at 6 p.m.

The annual Lights of Life Campaign will officially kick-off on Tuesday, November 4th at 10a.m. in the hospital lobby.

Join us as we strive to make a difference for the community through your support of the 2014-2015 *Lights of Life* Campaign and Gala. For more information call the Health Care Foundation at 903-438-4799.

