



**Press Release**

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**Photo included**

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### **CPRIT Grant Puts Navigator On The Road**

**SOUTHEAST TEXAS** -- “On the Road Again” would make a great theme song for Stephanie Wehring.

In the newly created position of Community Patient Navigator for The Rose, Wehring is helping extend the nonprofit breast cancer organization’s emphasis on access to care to Waller, Liberty, Chambers and Brazoria counties. With two facilities serving the Greater Houston area and two mobile units, The Rose already reaches 15 counties and is one of the leading breast cancer diagnostic providers in Southeast Texas. With Wehring’s attention and focus, that “outreach” is even more of a hug.

A Brenham resident, Wehring is charged with connecting women in the surrounding counties with critical breast cancer services. Made possible by the Navigating Rural Highways grant from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, the focus of the role will be outreach and education – letting medical providers in those areas know about The Rose and the screening and diagnostic services available.

“My job will be to set up new mobile sites, to reach uninsured patients and help navigate those needing diagnostics through what can sometimes be an overwhelming and confusing process,” explained Wehring.

“Navigation” is a familiar role for the graduate of Texas A&M who admits she couldn’t have predicted her destination but has been on the path of connecting “the ones who fall through the cracks” to needed health care for much of her career. Her studies in nonprofit management eventually led her to the role of Deputy Executive Director for Health for All in Bryan where she was in charge of the oversight of day-to-day operations at the clinic for uninsured and working poor.

At Health for All, she often sent patients to The Rose for diagnostic services. While there, she also served on the board of Breast Health Collaborative of Texas (BHCT), a soon-to-be 501(c)(3) that Dorothy Gibbons, CEO and Co-Founder of The Rose helped to initiate. In fact, the annual educational summit sponsored by BHCT was where Wehring first learned of the new initiative that would soon have her traveling some familiar territory.

“There’s no coincidence. Everything that’s happened in my professional career truly seems to have been leading me to The Rose,” she shared.

Wehring and her husband Matthew are avid campers and often take their dog Katie on trips along the familiar and sometimes not-so-familiar rural routes that Wehring will now serve. Ensuring that women along those routes know they have options, receive critical information regarding breast health, and have access to care is important to Wehring for reasons beyond a professional commitment.

Her mother, Patricia Crabtree, is a two-time breast cancer survivor. First diagnosed in 1987 when she was 43, Crabtree was prompted to do a self-exam after reading an article about actress Jill Ireland’s breast cancer. Cancer free for 23 years, an annual mammogram discovered a recurrence.

“I cannot stress hard enough the importance of regular mammograms and self-examination,” said the mother of five. “It WILL save your life!”

Because of her family history, Wehring has been scheduling her own annual screenings since she turned 35. She is now eager to spread the word that early detection can make a difference.

“I’m committed to bridging the gap in care. It’s hard enough for insured women to understand all their options for prevention, detection, and treatment,” Wehring acknowledged. “I can’t imagine being uninsured with no help, no sense of what direction to go.

“The Rose has a great reputation as a place where a woman knows they can come and somehow, some way they will get help. I’m proud and very excited to be here.”

Wehring is available to speak and provide educational workshops to small and large groups. For more information or to book a presentation to civic or church groups, contact her at 979-203-0610 or [swehring@therose.org](mailto:swehring@therose.org).

*Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas was launched when Texas voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment in 2007 establishing CPRIT and authorizing the state to issue \$3 billion in bonds to fund groundbreaking cancer research and prevention programs and services in Texas. CPRIT’s goal is to expedite innovation and commercialization in the area of cancer research and to enhance access to evidence-based prevention programs and services throughout the state. For more information, visit [www.cprit.state.tx.us](http://www.cprit.state.tx.us).*

*The Rose is celebrating 25 years as a nonprofit breast cancer organization offering a full range of breast cancer screening and diagnostic services. Key to The Rose’s sustainability is the model of insured patients helping to offset the costs of services for uninsured men and women. Last year The Rose delivered nearly 80,000 services.*

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CAPTION: Stephanie Wehring (left), the new Community Patient Navigator for The Rose, is available for education and outreach presentations in Waller, Liberty, Chambers and Brazoria counties. Stephanie is picture with her mother Patricia Crabtree of Brenham, a two-time cancer survivor and one of the major reasons Stephanie is such an advocate for breast health care.