



**Press Release**

**01/05/12**

**Photo included**

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### **The Rose Pays It Forward with Toys for Texas Children's Hospital**

**HOUSTON --** In the nonprofit world, sometimes it's better to both give AND receive.

The Rose, a nonprofit breast cancer organization, received a sizeable donation at its annual Shrimp Boil live auction as a bid on a collection of toys. The donor, after his first-time introduction to The Rose, amazed the organization by gifting the items back so that they could be shared with Texas Children's Hospital.

Walter and Martha Tutor, the philanthropic donors, recently joined The Rose in delivering the collection of pink items (valued at \$2000 and including a kid-sized Pink battery powered H2 Hummer, Princess 20" Huffly Bike with Princess Helmet, Pink John Deere Stake Wagon, and a wide array of Barbie dolls) to the Clinical Care Center of Texas Children's Hospital.

The annual Shrimp Boil is a 22-year tradition benefitting The Rose and in 2011 the food, auction, and raffle activities raised more than \$110,000 for the breast cancer organization. Breaking a donation record for the second year in a row, the gifts included two winning bids from Walter Tutor, owner of Tutor Security, Inc., and his wife Martha. The Channelview residents took home United Airline tickets from the live auction travel package but immediately gave back the toy package in order for the toys to be shared with Texas Children's Hospital. (Toys were initially donated by Joe Brown and Yvonne Fiest, Millburn's Paint & Body, The Rose Mobile Mammography Team and Patient Navigation.)

Tutor received the tickets to the event when one of his employees and a patient of The Rose was unable to use the tickets that had been distributed to clients. After receiving the gift of the tickets, he in turn extended his generosity to The Rose and ultimately Texas Children's Hospital. Tutor's mother was a five-year breast cancer survivor before succumbing to leukemia in 2010. He credits his fun-loving and generous spirit to his mother, "I love cheering people up and my nature is based on her. She believed the good Lord gave her what she had and she should give it away. I aspire to be half as good as she was. He blesses us and we're supposed to help other people as we can."

Dorothy Gibbons, CEO and Co-Founder of The Rose, applauded the Tutors' sense of legacy. "What a great testament to his mother and model for his children and grandchildren," she noted

after hearing Tutor’s story. “The Rose is indebted to supporters like the Tutors, people who hear of our mission and invest not only their finances with us but their passion as well.”

Texas Children’s Cancer and Hematology Center is the largest pediatric cancer and hematology research and treatment center in the country, specializing in treating patients with pediatric cancer and blood disorders—from infants to 21 years of age. The Cancer Center treats over 1,900 new patients and conducts 33,000 outpatient visits annually with a focus on treating and curing the whole child with the latest advancements in treatment and research. The Center provides comprehensive psychosocial support through unique arts, music, counseling and recreational programs.

“On behalf of Texas Children’s Cancer Center, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to The Rose for their in-kind-donation of toys,” said Dana Swan, child life specialist at Texas Children’s Hospital. “Their generosity will help make our patients’ experiences at the hospital more enjoyable.”

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CAPTION: Dana Swan, child life specialist at Texas Children’s Hospital (left) received the generous donation of toys made possible after Walter and Martha Tutor (right). The Tutors secured the highest bid on the “pink package” at The Rose’s annual Shrimp Boil live auction. The Tutors never took receipt of their prize, instead they immediately asked Dorothy Gibbons (second from left) as CEO and Co-Founder of The Rose to arrange for delivery to Texas Children’s Hospital.