



ST. FRANCIS
MEDICAL CENTER

*Franciscan Missionaries of
Our Lady Health System*

Press Release

Date: January 22, 2008
Contact Name: Stacy Temple
Contact Title: Public Relations Coordinator
Contact Number: Office: (318) 966-7348, Cell: (318) 376-7348

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kitty DeGree Breast Health Center Receives Designation for Excellence

Monroe, La.- St. Francis Medical Center is very proud to announce that the Kitty DeGree Breast Health Center has been designated a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence by the American College of Radiology (ACR). The Kitty DeGree Breast Health Center is the only center in North Louisiana and the second one in the state to have earned this honor. The ACR recognizes breast imaging centers that have earned accreditation in all of the college's voluntary breast-imaging accreditation programs and modules, in addition to the mandatory Mammography Accreditation Program. The ACR is a national organization serving more than 32,000 diagnostic/interventional radiologists, radiation oncologists, nuclear medicine physicians, and medical physicists.

"To be one of only two hospitals in the state to receive this prestigious designation is an honor," Louis Bremer Jr., CEO of St. Francis Medical Center, said. "We at St. Francis are committed to providing the highest quality of healthcare to the community and surrounding areas. Since the Kitty DeGree Breast Health Center opened in 2006, thousands of people have taken advantage of the life-saving services offered at the center. The demand was so great that St. Francis recently opened a second location to better serve the patients in our area."

Dr. John Davis, M.D., Radiology Director at the Kitty DeGree Breast Health Center said that the recent designation is indicative of the hard work continuously put forth by the staff at the breast center to provide quality breast healthcare in a caring atmosphere in northeastern Louisiana and southern Arkansas.

"Our staff has worked very hard to achieve this level of recognition set forth by the American College of Radiology," Davis said. "By undergoing rigorous voluntary evaluations by the ACR, we can be certain that our staff and equipment are exceeding national standards, and that we are delivering safe, accurate breast screenings and diagnostic services designed specifically for the needs of our patients."

The breast imaging services at the center are fully accredited in mammography, stereotactic breast biopsy, breast ultrasound and ultrasound-guided breast biopsy. Peer-review evaluations are conducted in each breast imaging modality by board-certified physicians and medical physicists who are experts in the field. Those experts have determined that this facility has achieved high practice

standards in image quality, personnel qualifications, facility equipment, quality control procedures, and quality assurance programs.

Please visit the ACR Web site at <http://www.acr.org/accreditation/AccreditedFacilitySearch.aspx> to view our Breast Imaging Center of Excellence designation by typing in Louisiana in the search field.

In June of 2006, St. Francis opened the Kitty DeGree Breast Health Center at St. Francis Medical Center-North. The Center offers services provided by an interdisciplinary team of healthcare professionals. Services include bone density testing, mammography, stereotactic biopsy, breast ultrasound and ultrasound-guided biopsy. The Lymphedema Clinic provides therapy and compression garments for lymphedema patients. Additionally, Breast MRI is available at St. Francis Medical Center-North. To date, the center has performed more than 24,000 mammograms, 2,800 bone density tests, 3,000 breast ultrasounds and 650 breast biopsies.

Through the vision of Mrs. Kitty DeGree, local philanthropist, the dedicated employees and medical staff of St. Francis work with various partner agencies such as the Susan G. Komen for the Cure and the American Cancer Society. The local chapter of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure has a resource room and affiliate office located at the center that provides educational materials to the public. The American Cancer Society provides a monthly "Look Good, Feel Better" Program at the center free of charge to breast cancer patients.

Providing the highest quality care in an atmosphere that is compassionate and attentive to the patient and their family is what sets the center apart from others. Recently St. Francis opened Kitty DeGree Breast Health Imaging in the P&S Building, located at 312 Grammont Street, Suite 401 in Monroe. This second location will allow St. Francis to provide screening mammography in another convenient setting.

We look forward to continuing the mission of extending our healing ministry to the mothers, daughters, sisters, wives and friends throughout the region. To schedule an appointment or for more information about the Kitty DeGree Breast Health Center and Kitty DeGree Breast Health Imaging, please call 812-7465 (PINK) or visit our Web site at www.stfran.com.

St. Francis Medical Center is Northeast Louisiana's only faith-based not-for-profit healthcare provider. As part of the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System, the mission of St. Francis Medical Center is to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ to those most in need in our community. St. Francis Medical Center is proud to be the largest medical center in Northeast Louisiana, as well as the largest private employer in Ouachita Parish.

#