

WWW.LSUHOSPITALS.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Bogalusa Medical Center Opens Special Beginnings
Family Center**

New Labor and Delivery Unit Anticipates 300 Births Annually

Baton Rouge (November 11, 2008) – Bogalusa Medical Center (BMC) will hold the ribbon-cutting for Special Beginnings Family Center, its new state-of-the-art labor and delivery unit, on Tuesday, November 11, 2008, at 2:00 p.m., at BMC, 433 Plaza Street in Bogalusa.

The new unit will have an estimated 300 births annually and OB/GYN admissions and surgery, filling a ten-year void in labor and delivery services for this area of the northshore. It will also fulfill requirements for the BMC Rural Family Medicine Residency Program, allowing residents to receive invaluable, high-quality OB/GYN training.

With 10,782 square feet, the unit has six labor-delivery, recovery, post-partal (LDRP) suites, two dual-purpose rooms for obstetrics and LDRP when the unit is at capacity, and a state-of-the-art newborn nursery. In a completely renovated wing of BMC with the latest equipment and furnishings, the unit is designed so that a mother can labor, deliver, and recover in the same room and have nearly continuous contact with her family. The unit will also have a complete Cesarean-section suite.

“Special Beginnings Family Center will strengthen the already high-quality health care that the residency program provides to the community,” said Kurt Scott, BMC hospital administrator. “It will also attract residents to the Family Medicine program who may establish roots in Bogalusa after they complete their training.”

Studies indicate that a physician will likely remain within a 50- to 100-mile radius of where the physician completed residency training, providing health care and an economic stimulus to the region.

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) gave accreditation to the BMC Family Medicine Residency Program with the understanding that BMC would soon have the unit open. In its May 2007 site visit, the ACGME Residency Review Committee indicated that BMC rural family medicine residents needed delivery and obstetric continuity-of-care experience and a birthing center. The new OB/GYN unit will allow the program to meet these criteria.

The unit gives a triple boost to the Bogalusa area: it provides much-needed health care, residency training, and a significant economic stimulus. Besides construction spending, the \$6 million dollar project will continue to infuse money into the local economy since it is responsible for 30 new jobs and will generate spending related to health care since women will not have to travel elsewhere.

The Bogalusa community has given strong support to the development of the unit. The Bogalusa Community Medical Center Foundation, which owns the facility, secured funding for the unit.

Special Beginnings medical staff includes OB/GYN physicians, Drs. Whit Gallaspy, Rojina Jasani, and Felton Winfield; a nurse practitioner, Monica Smith, RN; and pediatricians, Drs. Kathleen Beatty, Raghbir Mangat, and Douglas McBride.

After the ribbon cutting, tours of the unit will be given.

The LSU Health System Health Care Services Division is one of the largest public health care delivery systems in the country. It has over 31,000 admissions, 180,000 patient days, 981,000 outpatient visits, and over 270,000 emergency department visits. Each year 1100 residents and fellows from the LSU and Tulane Schools of Medicine and Ochsner Health System and 2,200 nurses and allied health students from many colleges and universities are trained in LSU facilities.

LSU is the largest single provider of uncompensated inpatient care in Louisiana. LSU HCSD hospitals have an economic impact of over \$1.4 billion in asset business activity, \$568 million in personal earnings, and generate over 12,000 jobs.

For more information, contact Marvin McGraw, Director of Communications and Media Relations, LSU Health Care Services Division, 225.922.1424 or mmcgra@lsuhsc.edu or Michael Higgins, Coordinator, 225.922.0798 or mhiggi@lsuhsc.edu.