

St. Tammany

# 

Minimally Invasive Surgery Brings Relief to Celebrated Outdoorsman





### A Team Approach to Lung-Cancer Care

Multidisciplinary Team Collaborates in Care

St. Tammany Parish Hospital's multidisciplinary team approach to the prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer is key to the best possible prognosis for patients facing a diagnosis at any stage.

The Lung Cancer Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) coordinates all aspects of lung cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment along with ensuring support and survivorship care after treatment. The team's purpose is to

develop and implement patient centered processes and needed clinical procedures, as well as review of patient treatment and outcomes to ensure the highest quality diagnosis and therapeutic care to the lung cancer patient.

Members of the Lung MDT reflect the array of treatment modalities available to patients and include thoracic surgeons, pulmonologists, medical and radiation oncologists, diagnostic radiologists, pathologists and palliative care.

Allied health professionals contribute to the quality of life for patients during and after a cancer diagnosis and treatment. Oncology nurse navigators provide guidance and coordinate care for patients along with dieticians and social workers who collaborate with other team members at each phase of care, including early detection, survivorship care plans that guide a patient to life after a cancer diagnosis and treatment, and end-oflife care when appropriate.

The team is headed by Charles J. DiCorte MD, a thoracic surgeon for Ochsner Health Center, an

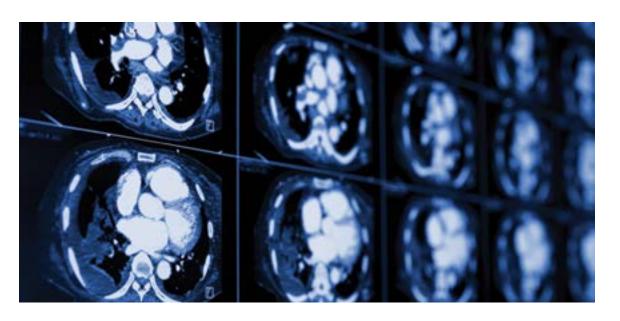
Since the team's inception in early 2014, it has been responsible for the implementation of lowdose computerized tomography screenings to diagnose lung cancer in its earliest stages when more treatment options, such as surgery, are available.

-Charles J. DiCorte MD, thoracic surgeon

innovative lung-cancer treatment center in the U.S., who states "The Lung MDT has had a significant impact on the way we diagnose and treat lung cancer. Most lung cancers are diagnosed in advanced stages, minimizing treatment options and limiting survival. Since the team's inception in early 2014, it has been responsible for the implementation of low dose computerized tomography screenings to diagnose lung

cancer in its earliest stages when more treatment options, such as surgery, are available. The group also identified the need for Endobronchial Ultrasound (EBUS), a minimally invasive surgical technique that allows us to diagnose more centrally located cancers at earlier stages. This, in combination with the use of SuperDimension<sup>TM</sup> Pulmonary Navigation System which provides a minimally invasive approach to accessing difficult-to-reach areas of the lung, aid in the diagnosis of lung disease and thereby lead to earlier and more personalized treatment. The availability of clinical trials for the prevention and treatment of lung and other cancers provides patients in our community access to cutting edge treatment options and is an asset in a comprehensive community hospital setting."

The team approach reflects an additional way in which STPH's strategic partnership with Ochsner Health System and Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center benefits cancer patients on the Northshore through improved access to specialists and services.



# LONG-DISTANCE LOVE for Babies in the NICU

**Cameras Help Parents Feel Close To Newborns** 

New video cameras in St. Tammanv Parish Hospital's neonatal intensive care unit allow parents to see real-time images of their baby when they can't be at their newborn's bedside.

St. Tammany Hospital Foundation provided the hospital with funding to purchase 10 of these secure cameras, using a dedicated fund for pediatric advancement at STPH.

Small, wireless cameras mounted near the baby's bed show only that infant. Password-protected technology permits parents to log in any time to watch streaming video of their baby on any device with an Internet connection, including a smartphone.

Parents may choose to share the unique password with grandparents and friends to give them secure access to the images as well.

Being able to see their newborn in the NICU eases stress and promotes bonding for parents who don't expect to leave the hospital without their baby and can't be there all the time, said Nicole Norris, NICU department head.

"It's hard for moms to go home without their babies, so this is a big deal."

- Nicole Norris, NICU department head

The cameras are expected to be installed and in use in the STPH NICU this spring.



"It's hard for moms to go home without their babies, so this is a big deal," Norris said. Shannon Lewko of Bush used similar technology to watch her daughter after the baby, born at 28 weeks gestation, underwent surgery at Ochsner Health System in New Orleans.

Although she drove every day to see her baby in New Orleans, Lewko returned to Bush each day to care for an older child.

"The nights were hard, and it was reassuring to see her," Lewko said.

The NICU's new cameras have special meaning for then STH Foundation Executive Director Charley Strickland, whose twin grandson spent time in the NICU at Ochsner Baptist after his birth last year.

"It was truly exceptional for my daughter and son-in-law to keep a watchful eye on their son, Colin, in the NICU, while tending to their daughter, Charlie, in the hospital room," Strickland said.



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#### **Our Mission**

The St. Tammany a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization established to sustain the healing and staff of St. Tammany

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### Eat Fit Northshore: Delicious & Good for You Too!

New Initiative Expands Nutritious Restaurant Options



#### PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

Abita Roasting Co. **Coffee Rani Copeland's Restaurants** The Dakota Fazzio's Garcia's Famous Mexican Food **George's Mexican** Restaurant Gio's Villa Vancheri La Carreta Live Fit Smoothies **Rusty Pelican** Sweet Daddy's SWEGS Kitchen **STPH Cafeteria Times Grill Trey Yuen Cuisine of China** Zea Rotisserie & Grill



The small changes

don't compromise

the wonderful taste

of the already healthy

Mediterranean cuisine

that we serve at my

restaurant.

- Chef Giovanni "Gio" Vancheri.

Gio's Villa Vancheri

A St. Tammany Parish

Hospital community initiative that kicked off in March expands nutritious menu options at Northshore restaurants. Through Eat Fit Northshore, STPH partners with local restaurants to promote healthy entrees and other dishes that meet the program's nutritional requirements. Participating

eateries span traditions from Chinese to Italian, a range of prices and atmospheres from family-friendly to fine dining.

"The point is to give people more options for delicious foods that are also good for them," said STPH Joey Skinner, the program's coordinator. Eat Fit Northshore items are generally

established favorites that have been modified to

boost their nutritional content The idea is to substitute ingredients like fat and oils for healthier alternatives without sacrificing taste and texture. The process involves

creativity on the part of local chefs. Chef Giovanni "Gio"

Vancheri of Gio's Villa Vancheri Italian restaurant in Mandeville switched to

whole wheat flour and adjusted some of his dishes such as Pasta Norma to accommodate program requirements.

"Everything is still delicious," said Sicilianborn Chef Vancheri. "The small changes don't compromise the wonderful taste of the already healthy Mediterranean cuisine that we serve at



my restaurant. It's just better for you."

Eat Fit Northshore is about good food, with the larger goal of better health. The program is one of five initiatives funded through a National WIC Association Community Partnerships for Healthy Mothers and Children grant to reduce chronic disease through improved local access to nutritious foods.

New community gardens and expanded STPH breastfeeding education for WIC recipients are other efforts supported through the national grant, which was secured for the Community Wellness Center by the St. Tammany Hospital Foundation.

Civic leaders from across the Northshore, including the mayors of Covington and Mandeville, worked with STPH and other stakeholders to develop ways to expand community access to healthier food options through Eat Fit Northshore.

"Eat Fit Northshore is designed to help people make healthier choices when they eat out, including for people with chronic diseases such as diabetes," said Sandy Matthews, Community Wellness Center director.

Eat Fit Northshore is modeled on Eat Fit NOLA, a program developed by Ochsner Health System dietician, Molly Kimball. More than 70 New

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> Orleans-area restaurants, including eateries with Northshore locations such as The Dakota, Zea and Copeland's participate in Eat Fit NOLA.

Eat Fit Northshore is included in a free smartphone app that shows menu choices and nutritional analyses of each dish. Customers simply search FIT NOLA in their smartphone app store. All Eat Fit Northshore participants are in the Eat Fit NOLA list, which filters results by current location.

Restaurant-goers will see the Eat Fit Northshore logo on local menu items that meet program nutritional criteria, which includes less than 800 mg of sodium and less than 5 grams of added sugar.

Entrees must have less than 600 calories and derive no more than 10 percent of total calories from animal-based saturated fat.

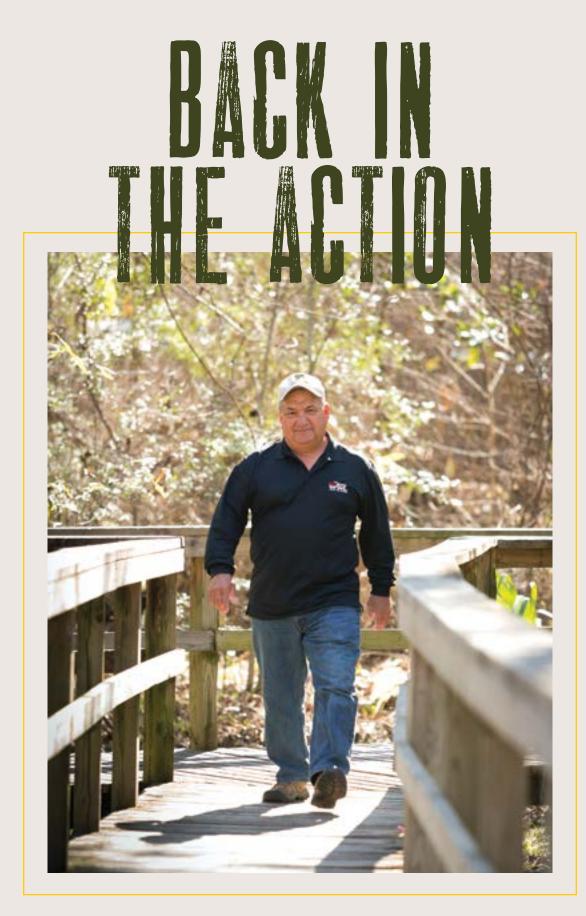
STPH Executive Chef Abry Crosby developed or modified three entrees for Eat Fit Northshore and will continue to create more.

Even five or six years ago, customers shied away from low-fat or lowsalt options in the cafeteria, said Crosby, who uses herbs grown on a plot near the hospital kitchen in four dressings he has developed for his dishes.

"Now people want this and ask for it," he said. "The idea that food can taste good and be good for you has grown exponentially."

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Minimally Invasive Surgery **Brings Relief to Celebrated Outdoorsman** 



South Louisiana outdoor writer and journalist Don Dubuc's Thursdays go something like this: Get up at 3 a.m. Feed dogs and horses. Drive to Grand Isle. Climb into a boat before daybreak and head into the Gulf of Mexico in search of fish and good footage.

And that's only the beginning of a marathon workday that requires Dubuc to drive to a New Orleans television studio and write, edit and file a broadcast report by 6 p.m.

"It's a hectic day," said the longtime Northshore resident.

Dubuc, 65, has been a fixture in Louisiana sports journalism for three decades, including 30-plus years in radio and more than 20 years in television. It's a job that requires hunting and fishing every week throughout the year.

But severe lower back and leg pain once threatened to sideline Dubuc from the work he loves and destroy his quality of life. Successful, minimally invasive spine surgery at St. Tammany Parish Hospital corrected the source of pain and required Dubuc take only a brief hiatus from the woods and water.

A spinal disc is a cushion-like shock absorber between two vertebrae, the specialized bones of the spinal column. Discs lose elasticity and flexibility with normal aging, thereby becoming less effective "cushions" between the vertebrae. Injury to the discs or abnormal movement of the vertebrae can cause debilitating pain in the back and legs.

In Dubuc's case, pain in his lower back was the result of a series of problems at the same point in his lower spine, including degenerative disc disease, spondylolisthesis (Greek for "slipping spine"), a herniated disc and a narrowing of the opening in the spine, a condition called stenosis.

Dubuc got some temporary relief from the pain by way of an outpatient procedure called a laminectomy that removed the portion of vertebral bone that was compressing the nerve roots.

But within a year, the pain had returned. An MRI revealed the cause: the same disc was again protruding from the space between

"People talk about back pain, but until you've felt it, you don't understand it. This was a real success for me. I feel great."

- Don Dubuc

his vertebrae and the bones were moving abnormally and slipping forward.

New Year's Eve 2014, spine surgeon K. Samer Shamieh MD removed the damaged disc from Dubuc's spinal column in a minimally invasive approach to a procedure known as lumbar fusion.

Using tiny surgical retractors, Dr. Shamieh first removed the damaged disc from Dubuc's spinal column through a small incision. The Covington-based

surgeon then replaced the disc with a cage-like support structure that stabilized the two vertebrae and eliminated the source of Dubuc's pain Bone grows or "fuses" around and through the medical-grade plastic device in the months after the procedure.

The procedure provided immediate relief for Dubuc, and got him back in the Louisiana marshes and forests in just a little more than a week.

Dr. Shamieh, a fellowship-trained orthopedic surgeon who specializes in minimally invasive spine surgeries, noted that the smaller incisions required for minimally invasive procedures result in faster healing and less pain. Less bleeding and post-operative discomfort, shorter recovery and lower risk of infection are other advantages, he said.

Further, while a traditional lumbar fusion might also require a three to five-day stay in the hospital, Dr. Shamieh noted that Dubuc went home the day after his procedure.

Dubuc concurred that his down time for recovery was brief. He missed a single televised broadcast before his return to fishing, hunting and, before long, climbing trees. He said he kept himself on "light duty" for a couple of weeks, but was surprised by how good he felt.

"I avoided heavy lifting, but I wasn't laid up in bed," Dubuc said. "I was back outside in just over a week."

Dubuc takes ibuprofen once in a while these days, but the pain in that part of his back has not returned.

"People talk about back pain, but until you've felt it, you don't understand it," he said. "This was a real success for me. I feel great."



## New Waiting Areas and Treatment Rooms Complete

THE TYPE OF CARE YOUR CHILDREN DESERVE and the PEACE OF MIND PARENTS DESERVE

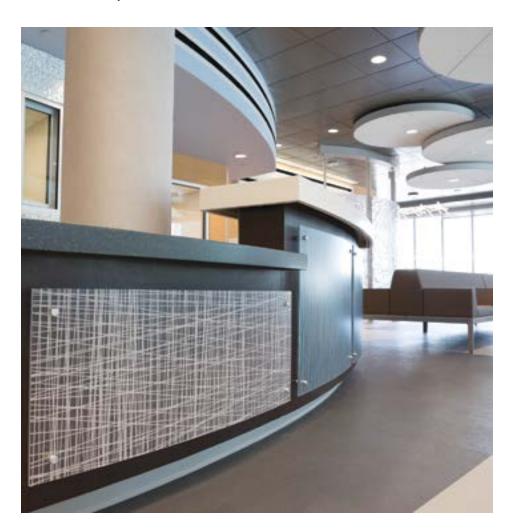
In 2013 St. Tammany Hospital Foundation embarked on a capital campaign to support pediatric emergency care. The foundation's Board of Trustees, led by capital campaign co-chairs Greg Pellegrini and Allyson Sanderson, spent the next 3 years sharing the vision of a dedicated pediatric emergency area within the hospital's emergency department with the community. And the community responded.

As of April 2016, the foundation is pleased to announce that they have met and surpassed their goal of raising \$3 million, presenting a check to Patti Ellish, STPH President & CEO and John Evans, STPH Board of Commissioners Chairman at the ribbon cutting for the newly expended emergency department.

"It never ceases to amaze me what combining time, talent, passion and dollars can accomplish. The new pediatric emergency room is truly a testament to that." Nicole Suhre, Executive Director, St. Tammany Hospital Foundation. Phase three of the \$21 million expansion of inpatient and emergency services is now complete. This is the largest phase of the Emergency Department expansion, and includes a new waiting area, walk-in entrance and pediatric waiting and treatment areas. It also includes a new "results pending" area for patients who have received emergency care and are awaiting physicians' orders, prescriptions or non-emergency test results. This ensures that beds are available sooner for other patients in need.

When completed, the Emergency Department will have a total of 30 beds, 10 more than prior to the project. It will include specialized care settings to accommodate, pediatric, geriatric and mental health emergencies.

On March 3, STPH held a ribbon cutting and open house for this phase of the Emergency Department to show the community the new space before it opens for patients. The final phase of construction will occur in interior portions of the new emergency department footprint and is scheduled to be completed at the end of 2016.









### Golfers Can Get Lucky! on Friday the 13th



Get your lucky clubs ready! This year's Get Lucky! Golf Tournament benefitting St. Tammany Hospital Foundation is on Friday the 13th. The fifth anniversary of this not-to-miss day of fun on the course will be held on Friday, May 13 at Tchefuncta Country Club in Covington. The 2015 tournament raised over \$45,000 for the foundation's mission of supporting the healing work of the staff and physicians of St. Tammany Parish Hospital and the 2016 event is poised to raise the bar for fundraising. Highlights of this year's tournament, sponsored by Canteen Vending Services, will include delicious food on the course, specialty drink stops, gifts for every golfer, raffle prizes and the chance to win a new car. Sponsorships, corporate foursomes and individual spots are available.

For more information, contact Nicole Suhre at 985-898-4171 or visit sthfoundation.org/golf.



"I walked in crying and then I walked out telling myself I was going to do this. There is support out there if you look for it." - Stacey Dennis



### BEST PRACTICES for BREASTFEEDING SUCCESS

Educating Moms before Delivery is Key

Skin-to-skin contact between mother and baby a few minutes after delivery makes the new mother more likely to try breastfeeding and more likely to succeed at it.

Keeping the baby in a crib near her bed throughout her hospital stay, a practice called rooming in, likewise promotes breastfeeding success among new mothers by helping them quickly learn when their baby is hungry.

Highlighting such evidence-based best practices that promote breastfeeding is an increasingly visible element of prenatal education and breastfeeding classes at St. Tammany Parish Hospital through the New Family Center and Community Wellness Center.

A National WIC Association Community Partnerships for Healthy Mothers and Children grant enables the Community Wellness Center to provide additional education and support to local mothers about the significant health benefits of breastfeeding.

"The Healthy Mothers and Children grant will make a huge difference in the lives of mothers and children in our community," said Charley Strickland, then executive director of the St. Tammany Hospital Foundation, which secured the grant.

Breastfeeding has been identified by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists as a best practice in the care of newborns. The goal of the expanded breastfeeding-education initiative at STPH is to help more mothers try breastfeeding their babies and breastfeed as long as possible.

"We want mothers to be prepared and educated so they can make well-informed choices about caring for their babies," said Sandy

Matthews, director of community wellness.

Misinformation about breastfeeding and frustration with early attempts often discourage mothers from trying. Exploring best practices during prenatal and breastfeeding classes helps moms-to-be develop a full understanding of them well before they head to the hospital for delivery.

For instance, skin-to-skin contact is about more than just bonding. Such contact stabilizes the baby's breathing and heart rate and allows the mother to transfer illness-preventing antibodies to her baby, explained Jan Waddell RN, one of five internationally board certified lactation consultants at STPH.

Research also shows that extended, uninterrupted skin-to-skin contact must take place within the "magical hours" after birth to realize maximum benefit to mother and child, Waddell said.

Discussing best practices with expectant parents also provides the opportunity to counter misinformation about breastfeeding.

For example, mothers whose babies room-in with them sleep as well or better than those who send their babies to the hospital nursery to sleep, Waddell noted.

During classes focused on preparation, Waddell encourages moms to recruit the baby's father or a friend or relative to serve as a member

#### **DROP-IN HOURS**

The STPH Community Wellness Center has added drop-in hours for breastfeeding support from 1 to 2 p.m. on Fridays that are open to WIC recipients and all members of the community.

of their "breastfeeding support team" before the baby's arrival. The team member should attend prenatal and breastfeeding classes with the mother so he or she can provide meaningful support after the baby's birth.

"It's important for the mom to have someone who supports her decision,"Waddell said.

Stacey Dennis understands the role of support in breastfeeding success. She hoped to continue breastfeeding her baby after returning to school when he was four months old. Her decision would mean pumping breast milk and juggling commutes from Mandeville to a nursing program in New Orleans.

"People told me I shouldn't even try," she said. A visit to the Community Wellness Center gave Miss Dennis the shot of confidence she needed. Of course, she could succeed, lactation

counselor Sharon Insalaco LPN told her. Insalaco talked the young mother through her worries, which included the fact that she had never used a breast pump.

"I walked in crying and then I walked out telling myself I was going to do this," said Miss Dennis, who breastfed her younger son, Austin, almost exclusively until shortly before his first birthday. "There is support out there if you look for it."

Visit stph.org/breastfeeding for more information.



### STPH CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

As the Northshore's community health network, St. Tammany Parish Hospital hosts events, meetings and opportunities for you to improve and maintain your physical and emotional well-being. We've provided a short sample of the many upcoming events below. Please check stph.org/calendar and your local newspaper for additional learning opportunities for individuals of all ages.

#### For New Parents

#### New Family Center Tours New Family Center Tours

1st and 3rd Saturdays | 10 a.m. to noon STPH New Family Center | Free

Learn about our private birthing suites, rooming in, skin-to-skin program and more. 985-898-4436

#### Prepared Childbirth

Tuesdays, June 7 and June 14 | 7-9 p.m. STPH Conference Room | Free

Learn the physical and emotional changes that occur, how your baby develops throughout pregnancy, the signs and stages of labor, what to expect during childbirth and the breathing and relaxation techniques used during labor. Anesthesia options will be discussed. 985-898-4083

#### **Baby Care Basics**

Tuesdays, April 26, May 24 and June 28th | 7-9 p.m. STPH Conference Room | Free Learn helpful hints and what to expect when caring for your new baby. 985-898-4083

#### **Boot Camp for New Dads**

### Saturday, May 7 and July 16 | 9 a.m. to noon STPH Conference Room | \$10

New dads learn from veteran dads about the realities of fatherhood, including caring for baby and mom. ksupan@stph.org or 985-898-4435

#### Art of Breastfeeding

Mondays, May 2 and 9 | 6:30-8:30 p.m. STPH Parenting Center | Free

Discuss benefits of breastfeeding as well as common concerns of the early breastfeeding period to create a positive and successful breastfeeding experience. 985-898-4083

#### New Baby Support Group

#### Every Thursday |11:15 a.m. to noon STPH Parenting Center | Free

Join other mothers and their little ones to discuss child development and parenting tips with professionals as well as other parents. ksupan@stph.org or 985-898-4435

#### For the Kids

#### Play and Learn

Tuesdays, May 10 and 17; June 7, 14 and 21; July 5, 12 and 26 | 9:30-10:15 a.m. STPH Parenting Center | \$15/members, \$24/nonmembers ksupan@stph.org or 985-898-4435

#### Ballet

Wednesdays, May 4, 11 and 18; June 8, 15 and 22; July 6, 13 and 27 | 9:15-10 a.m. STPH Parenting Center \$21/members, \$30/nonmembers ksupan@stph.org or 985-898-4435

#### **Cuddle Buddies**

May 5, 12 and 19; June 9, 16 and 23; July 7, 14 and 28 | 10:30-11 a.m. STPH Parenting Center \$6/members, \$12/nonmembers ksupan@stph.org or 985-898-4435

#### Baby Chat for Siblings

Saturday, May 7 and July 16 | 10 a.m. to noon STPH Conference Room | Free 985-898-4435

#### Children in the Middle

Mondays, June 13 and 20 | 10 a.m. to noon STPH Parenting Center \$10/per child 985-898-4435

#### **Toddling Time**

Wednesdays, May 11 & 18; June 8, 15 & 2; July 6, 13 & 27 | 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. STPH Parenting Center \$15/per child ksupan@stph.org or 985-898-4435



#### For the Grown-Ups

#### Living Tobacco Free

Wednesdays, July 27 - August 31 | noon to 1 pm. or 5:30-6:30 p.m. STPH Conference Room | Free Gain the tools and resources you need to quit smoking for good. 985-898-4468

#### **Co-Parenting Classes**

Mondays, June 13 and 20 | 6-8 p.m., STPH Parenting Center

#### \$30/members, \$35/nonmembers

For divorcing parents to learn methods and communication skills that help keep children out of a divorce. Children's version available to help them as parents go through divorce. ksupan@stph.org or 985-898-4435

#### Sister Survivors Support Group

1st Tuesday of each month | 7 p.m. Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center at St. Tammany Parish Hospital | Free Support group open to any female cancer survivor, whether currently receiving treatment or has completed treatment for any cancer diagnosis. jfreudenberger@marybird.com or 985-276-6832

#### **Grief Support Group**

**1st Wednesday of each month | 3 p.m. STPH Madisonville Conference Room** *For adults who have suffered loss. dvanek@stph.org* 

#### 1 in 4 St. Tammany

2nd Tuesday of each month | 6 p.m. STPH Women's Pavilion Conference Room Supports mothers, fathers and their families that have experienced a pregnancy or infant loss. jsims@stph.org

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2016 TCHEFUNCTA COUNTRY CLUB 11:30 am registration 12:30 pm shotgun start