

OPPORTUNITY

Would-be parents have 'Hope'

Try as they may, some couples aren't able to conceive a child without medical help, which can be expensive and exhausting. Soon, thanks to three area health care companies, one lucky Acadiana couple will win the gift of new life — or at least get a helping hand — through the gift of one in vitro fertilization (IVF) cycle.

"Gift of Hope 2006" is a charitable project created to help one infertile couple overcome barriers to building their family. The project is designed to ease the high financial and emotional costs of infertility treatments for a couple demonstrating both financial and medical needs for IVF. According to Resolve, the National Infertility Association, only a quarter of healthcare insurers offer coverage for infertility care, meaning as many as 50 percent of American couples who fail to conceive on their own do not seek treatment.

Gift of Hope has secured donated services from John M. Storment, M.D., a board certified reproductive endocrinologist with Fertility & Women's Health Center of Louisiana; Women's & Children's Hospital; and Sheridan Healthcare of Louisiana. The combined value of these donated services is estimated at \$15,000.

An independent committee will review all submitted applications and select one couple to receive this gift. The winning couple will be awarded May 1. For additional information, including eligibility requirements, visit www.fertilityanswers.com or call (337) 989-8795.

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