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**December 12, 2011**

**LOUISIANA HEART HOSPITAL IS FIRST ON NORTHSHORE FOR LIFE-SAVING HEART PUMP IMPLANT**  
Tiny Impella Device credited with saving lives at Northshore cardiac facility

(LACOMBE, LA) – The Louisiana Heart Hospital in Lacombe, LA is the first hospital on the Northshore to implant the world’s smallest heart pump called the Impella.

81-year old Bill Massey of Picayune, Mississippi says he would not be alive today if it were not for the tiny device that was implanted in his heart at the Louisiana Heart Hospital.

Louisiana Heart Hospital cardiologist, Ali Amkieh, M.D., Massey’s doctor who performed the facility’s first Impella procedure, says, “The Impella implant device is most important for a patient who is at high risk. Without the implant, a medical procedure may not be possible.”

In the past, cardiac patients typically had only two options to treat their blocked arteries and restore blood flow to the heart: either open heart surgery or angioplasty. In 2008, the FDA approved the use of the Impella 2.5 by Abiomed. The tiny device is a minimally-invasive, catheter-based cardiac assist device designed to directly unload the left ventricle in the heart, reduce the heart’s workload and oxygen consumption, and increase blood flow to other parts of the body.

Just one month after his surgery, Massey, a retired employee from Winn Dixie, says he is feeling fine. “When I had a heart attack in 2009, the doctors said I would need to have a bypass, but the bypass soon become blocked, the Impella device was what saved my life,” Massey said. “It’s been eight weeks since my Impella surgery at the Heart Hospital, and I feel better every day.”

Steve Blades of the Cardiovascular Care Group, the new owners of The Louisiana Heart Hospital, says, “The Impella device is an example of our commitment to state-of-the-art technology for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases.”

**Louisiana Heart Hospital** opened in 2003 in the heart of St. Tammany Parish. LHH is a 137-bed general acute care facility noted nationally for excellence in the diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease. The hospital also provides comprehensive inpatient and outpatient care including urology, orthopedics, gastroenterology, general surgery and a full-service Emergency Department that is a nationally accredited Chest Pain Center, the only one on the North Shore. The LHH serves patients from Tangipahoa, Washington and St. Tammany Parishes in Louisiana and from southern Mississippi counties.

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