

The Facts

COVERING BRAZORIA COUNTY ★ WHERE TEXAS BEGAN

Freeport LNG gives \$500,000 to hospital

By **BRITTANY LAMAS**
brittany.lamas@thefacts.com

LAKE JACKSON — Freeport LNG donated \$500,000 to the Brazosport Health Foundation's Cornerstone of Caring capital campaign, and joins other area industry in adding its name to the hospital's halls.

Surrounded by community leaders and fellow campaign contributors Thursday at The Local in Lake Jackson, Freeport LNG Chairman and CEO Michael Smith said the decision to give made sense to the company because every employee and their families need quality health care.

"We are experiencing a tremendous expansion of our facility and there will be thousands of contractors at our site

in the next few years. Our community needs quality care for our employees, their family and friends," he said.

Supporting the hospital also shows Freeport LNG's dedication to the communities that make up the company, Smith said.

"Freeport LNG is proud to be an integral part of this community," Smith said. "This represents Freeport LNG's long-term commitment to the quality health care that our community deserves and expects."

With the donation, the Intensive Care Unit inside the Brazosport Regional Health System will be renamed the Freeport LNG Intensive Care Unit, said Al Guevara, CEO/



SARAH RENCURREL/The Facts

Freeport LNG CEO Michael Smith, left, helps Al Guevara, Brazosport Regional Health System president and CEO, reveal a \$500,000 donation from the company during a reception Thursday.

■ See **HOSPITAL**, Page 3A

Hospital

CONTINUED FROM COVER

president of the hospital.

The funds donated will go in part toward the campus upgrades, which include moving the ICU from the third to the first floor and adding two beds to the eight-bed unit, he said.

"Really the hospital is honored and very humbled to see the support from all sectors. It's philanthropy, but it's also an investment in something that touches the lives of everyone in the community," Guevara said.

The Dow Chemical Co. donated \$500,000 in October to the campaign and had the lobby of the new emergency services pavilion named for the company. BASF gave a donation of the same amount in April and the second floor of the patient tower is named the BASF Medical Surgical Unit.

Adding Freeport LNG's name to the hospital will be something that withstands time, but also reminds people of the company's commitment to being a community



SARAH RENCURREL/The Facts

Freeport LNG Development Chairman and CEO Michael Smith, and Brazosport Regional Health System President and CEO Al Guevara reveal the naming of the Freeport LNG Intensive Care Unit during a reception Thursday at The Local in Lake Jackson.

partner, Smith said.

"I think it's great that when someone is in need of critical care, they see Freeport was there to help when the need was critical," he said.

Freeport LNG's contribution brings the Capital Campaign total to \$4.377 million and is a huge boost toward the foundation's \$5 million goal, Guevara said. The campaign began in August 2013.

"We can see the finish line," he said.

The foundation's next push will be to bring in about \$200,000 before

April 1 to receive a challenge grant set out by the Mabee Foundation last year. If accomplished, the Mabee Foundation will award the campaign \$500,000, campaign co-chair Jacque Cundieff said in a short speech Thursday.

"We're still working to raise this money. So think about, consider giving a donation. Arrangements can be made, believe me," she said, with a laugh.

Brittany Lamas is a reporter at The Facts. Contact her at 979-237-0151.