

Anti-cancer group raising funds

By **DAN SCANLAN**
Staff writer

Southside-based RITA (Research Is The Answer) Foundation has a few more fall fundraisers set up to support breast cancer research at the Baptist Cancer Institute and other programs, including one that is a fund-raising opportunity for other non-profit organizations:

■ Area Longhorn restaurants are holding a "Raise A RITA" margarita promotion in October, and will pass on a portion of the price of each margarita sold to the agency. The program raised \$2,400 for RITA last year.

■ Beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22, the SeniorRITAs at Sawgrass Party and Silent Auction will be held at the Sawgrass Country Club, 10034 Golf Club Drive in Ponte Vedra

Beach. Admission is \$30. The women's tennis tournament also begins Oct. 22 and continues Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 23 and Oct. 24. Proceeds from these events will be given to the breast cancer programs at Mayo Clinic and Baptist Medical Center Beaches.

■ RITA and 1st Place Sports join Merrill Lynch, The Main Street America Group, Lexus of Jacksonville and Longhorn Steakhouse to present the Third Caring And Sharing Hope 5-kilometer Walk/Run at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, at Metropolitan Park, plus a 1-mile Fun Walk starting at 9:30 a.m.

The event offers a fund-raising opportunity for all non-profit organizations, which can form teams, partake in the event and collect 100 percent of the money raised by their team members. Local companies can

form teams and designate which non-profit organization would receive money raised by them. Event costs will be covered by entry fees and sponsors.

Registration costs \$15 before Friday, Nov. 12, and \$20 day of race for the 5K run, and \$10 for the fun run.

The Southside non-profit agency's Lexus Champions for Charity Golf event Monday at the Hidden Hills Country Club is sold out.

The RITA Foundation has raised more than \$1 million to date and hopes to raise an additional \$275,000 from its 2004 events.

For more information on the events, call Charles Jantz at The RITA Foundation at 363-1493.

Submit information for a Southside school and community event or award