



MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

P.O. Box 157-A, Whitfield, MS 39193
Phone (601) 351-8018 Fax (601) 351-8364
www.msh.state.ms.us

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Contact: Adam Moore (601) 351-8262, adam.moore@msh.state.ms.us

FRIENDS OF MSH HOSTS FARMER JIM NEAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

WHITFIELD—Friends of Mississippi State Hospital is getting ready for its biggest fundraiser of the year, the 9th Annual Farmer Jim Neal Golf Tournament.

Scheduled for Friday, April 16 at Whisper Lake Country Club in Madison, proceeds from the charity event will go towards Friends of MSH, a non-profit group dedicated to educating the public about mental illness, the work of Mississippi State Hospital and enhancing the quality of life for MSH patients and Jaquith Nursing Home residents.

“BankPlus is thrilled and honored to sponsor the Farmer Jim Neal Golf Event again this year. This is just another way of giving back to our community and those in it who are working to serve others,” said Joel C. Ross, president of the Rankin County division of BankPlus, the title sponsor for the Farmer Jim Neal tournament.

“We're pleased to know that our sponsorship can help Mississippi State Hospital serve the needs of the people of this state.”

The charity event is named in honor of Farmer Jim Neal, who passed away in 2006. Neal was a popular radio personality in Jackson for decades who dedicated his life to community service, volunteerism and charity. Also a member of the Mississippi Legislature for 20 years, Neal was an avid supporter of Friends of MSH, and cared deeply for the hospital's patients and nursing home residents.

Valley Services Inc. is also a major sponsor of the tournament.

Tee times for the tournament are 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. The individual player's fee is \$125 and all players will receive breakfast, lunch, dinner, a gift bag and a tournament cap.

Several levels of sponsorship are available:

- Tee Sponsor – a contribution of \$250. Sponsor receives a tee sign at the tee box.
- Par Sponsor – a contribution of \$650. Sponsor receives one team (4 players)/2 mulligans per member; a tee sign at the tee box; and recognition at the tournament and in the program.
- Birdie Sponsor – a contribution of \$2,000. Sponsor receives two teams (8 players)/2 mulligans per player; a booth display; a tee sign at the tee box; and recognition at the tournament and in the program.

- Eagle Sponsor – a contribution of \$3,500. Sponsor receives two teams (8 players)/2 mulligans per player; a booth display; recognition in MSH’s anti-stigma campaign booklet (5,000 circulation); a company/individual vinyl banner; a banner on MSH’s website; a banner in MSH’s 2010 quarterly newsletter *Mental Outlook*; a cap logo; and recognition at the tournament and in the program.

Winners will be recognized and awarded special prizes during an awards ceremony at the end of the day. Prizes will also be awarded to winners of longest drive and closest-to-the-hole competitions – and one lucky person will receive the chance to shoot for \$1 million.

Friends of Mississippi State Hospital dedicates 100 percent of its funds to support a variety of programs and activities that cannot be funded with state dollars. The organization sponsors such activities as the annual patient fishing rodeo, an annual Independence Day celebration and the patient Job Placement Program. The Friends organization also funds patient outings to local restaurants, retail stores and ballgames, and sponsors MSH employee recognition programs.

For more information or to sign up for the tournament, call Sheila Shows at (601) 351-8377.

MSH, a facility of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, was founded in 1855 and facilitates improvement in the quality of life for Mississippians who are in need of mental health, chemical dependency or nursing home services, by rehabilitating to the least restrictive environment, utilizing a range of psychiatric and medical services, which reflect the accepted standard of care and are in compliance with statutory and regulatory guidelines. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.