



MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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FARMER JIM NEAL GOLF TOURNAMENT CELEBRATES A SUCCESSFUL 12TH YEAR

WHITFIELD— Dozens of people teed off in support of Friends of Mississippi State Hospital on Friday, April 12 as they played in the 12th Annual Farmer Jim Neal Golf Classic.

The tournament is the largest fundraiser of the year for Friends of Mississippi State Hospital. It is named after Farmer Jim Neal, a popular radio personality and Mississippi legislator who was dedicated to community service. Before passing away in 2006, he was a longtime supporter of Mississippi State Hospital. With the support of his family, the tournament continues in his name each year.

The funds raised through the tournament benefit the Friends organization, a volunteer organization that supports the hospital's mission of educating the public about mental illness while also sponsoring events and activities that help improve the lives of the hospital's patients.

Friends of MSH was founded in 1987, and has grown into a large organization of employees, families, community leaders and sponsors that enable it to educate others about mental illnesses and the needs of the mentally ill. Title sponsors of this year's event were BankPlus and Valley Services, birdie sponsors were Mississippi Hospital Association and Ergon, and the cart sponsor for the tournament was Brentwood Behavioral Healthcare.

For more information about Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, contact Mississippi State Hospital Public Relations at 601-351-8018.

MSH, a program 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 and utilizing a range of psychiatric and medical services that reflect the accepted standard of care and are in compliance with statutory and regulatory guidelines. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.

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PHOTO ATTACHED: Farmer Jim Neal Golf Classic - Members of the Neal family are pictured with Mississippi State Hospital Director Bo Chastain, Friends of MSH President Joel Ross, Michael Kimbrell of BankPlus, Steve Lesley of Mississippi Hospital Association and George Ardelean of Valley Services. The Farmer Jim Neal Golf Tournament benefitting Friends of Mississippi State Hospital was held Friday, April 12 at Whisper Lake Country Club. The tournament is named in honor of former legislator and Mississippi radio personality Farmer Jim Neal and is the largest fundraiser of the year for Friends of Mississippi State Hospital.