



# MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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## For Immediate Release

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### **SAM'S CLUB NAMES MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL MEMBER OF THE YEAR**

WHITFIELD—Sam's Club of Pearl named Mississippi State Hospital its Member of the Year on Tuesday, March 30, greeting hospital representatives with a plaque of recognition and a check for \$1,000 made out to the Friends of Mississippi State Hospital volunteer organization.

“We want to get more involved, not just from a business perspective, but from a volunteer perspective as well,” said Mark Herring, Membership Assistant Manager for Sam's Club. “We just want to be good neighbors.”

Many MSH employees are often able to visit the nearby store for lunch and shopping, while Sam's Club encourages volunteer efforts among its employees. Its “Volunteerism Always Pays” program will award \$250 to organizations for every 25 hours a Sam's employee volunteers there.

“We're still new in Rankin County, and we're trying to get established and involved with the community,” Herring said. “We're going to kick it off with the hospital.”

Sam's Club employees will be volunteering for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Farmer Jim Neal Golf Event, a fundraiser for Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, a group dedicated to promoting the work of the hospital and informing the public of mental illness and the needs of the mentally ill.

For more information on Friends of the Farmer Jim Neal Golf Event, contact 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.*

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**PHOTO ATTACHED: Sam's Club of Pearl recently named Mississippi State Hospital its Member of the Year and presented a \$1,000 donation to Friends of MSH. Pictured are (l to r) MSH Development Director Paula Eure, Friends President Ray Wallace, Sam's Membership Assistant Manager Mark Herring, MSH Director James G. Chastain, Sam's Benefits Coordinator Sharon Duckworth, Sam's Marketing Team Leader Derek Powell and MSH Volunteer Services Director Sheila Shows.**