



MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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FARMER JIM NEAL GOLF TOURNAMENT CELEBRATES A SUCCESSFUL 11TH YEAR

WHITFIELD—Twenty-nine teams teed off in support of Friends of Mississippi State Hospital on Friday, April 13 as they played in the 11th Annual Farmer Jim Neal Golf Tournament.

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.

This year's tournament grossed \$45,000 in donations and in-kind contributions. 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. Major sponsors of this year's tournament were BankPlus, Valley Services and Johnson Controls.

For more information about Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, 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:

FARMER JIM NEAL - Members of the Neal family are pictured with Mississippi State Hospital Director Bo Chastain, Friends of MSH President Bill Bobbs, Michael Kimbrell of BankPlus and George Ardelean of Valley Services. The Farmer Jim Neal Golf Tournament benefitting Friends of Mississippi State Hospital was held Friday, April 13 at Whisper Lake Country Club. Major sponsors of the event were BankPlus, Valley Services and Johnson Controls. The tournament is named in honor of former legislator and Mississippi radio personality Farmer Jim Neal.