



MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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11TH ANNUAL FARMER JIM NEAL GOLF TOURNAMENT IS APRIL 13TH

WHITFIELD— Friends of Mississippi State Hospital is getting ready to enter the second decade of the Farmer Jim Neal Golf Tournament.

The 11th annual golf tournament and fundraiser will be Friday, April 13 at Whisper Lake Country Club in Madison. Golfers will be teeing off in support of Friends of MSH, a non-profit group dedicated to educating the public about mental illness, the work of the hospital and enhancing the quality of life for MSH patients and residents. This tournament is their largest fundraiser of the year.

"We're thrilled that the Farmer Jim Neal Golf Tournament is now entering its second decade," Friends of MSH President Bill Bobbs said. "It's taken a lot of hard work and support from our volunteers and sponsors to get us to this milestone.

"We're fortunate to have the support of a community that understands the needs faced by so many people, and that's what makes this tournament special. All of the funds raised will help Friends of Mississippi State Hospital as they strive to educate the public and provide for those in need."

The charity event is named in honor of "Farmer" Jim Neal, a former radio personality in Jackson who was popular across the state. On the airwaves for decades, he was a strong advocate of community service, volunteerism and charity. In addition to his radio work, Neal was a member of the Mississippi Legislature for 20 years.

During his career, Neal was an enthusiastic supporter and champion for Friends of MSH, and he sincerely cared for the patients and residents at Mississippi State Hospital and Jaquith Nursing Home. He passed away in 2006, but the golf tournament named in his honor continues on with the support of his family.

There will be two tee times for the event, a morning flight at 8 a.m. and an afternoon flight at 1 p.m., and there is still time for players to register. The individual player's fee is \$125, but there are several levels of sponsorship available.

The following sponsorships 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 2012 quarterly newsletter *Mental Outlook*; a cap logo; and recognition at the tournament and in the program.

Winners will be recognized at the end of the tournament, and prizes will also be awarded to winners of longest drive and closest-to-the-hole competitions. One lucky person will receive the chance to shoot for \$1 million.

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.