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Friends of Children’s Hospital presents check to children’s of mississippi

**Jackson, Miss. – January 18, 2022:**  Friends of Children’s Hospital presented more than $280k to Children’s of Mississippi for the MyChart Bedside and Child Life programs at an event held Tuesday, Jan. 18, at 10 a.m.

The check presentation, which took place at the Friends of Children’s Hospital office in Flowood, included the bestowal of two separate checks–$124,913 to the children’s hospital Child Life program and $156k to MyChart Bedside.

“Every day, Friends of Children’s Hospital sponsors and supporters rise to the occasion to meet the extraordinary needs of Mississippi’s sick and injured children,” said Friends of Children’s Hospital Executive Director Rochelle Hicks. “The presentation of $280,913 to these two invaluable programs is another example of this incredible altruism.”

“These substantial donations will have a permanent impact on the lives of the hundreds of thousands of Mississippi children who seek specialized care and treatment each year,” Hicks said. “By outfitting our hospital with the tools and resources it needs to provide patients and their families with quicker, more accessible answers to their most pressing healthcare questions, we are doing our part to lighten the burden, and make our patients’ time in the hospital more comfortable and less stressful.”

Of the $280,913 being awarded, $124,913 has been earmarked for the hospital’s Child Life program. The money will fund two Child Life Assistant positions, as well as one Child Life Specialist position. The Child Life program enables the hospital to meet the psychological, emotional and developmental needs of children and their families. The program also provides therapeutic play, preparation for procedures and education that reduces fear, anxiety, pain and suffering for patients and their families. Child Life Specialists have many responsibilities, which include assisting with pediatric imaging and overseeing the process that determines patients’ anesthesia needs. By using kid-friendly language and creating a positive first impression, Child Life Specialists have significantly reduced anesthesia requirements for children, resulting in more children receiving MRIs quicker and more easily.

The remaining $156k will benefit MyChart Bedside. The University of Mississippi Medical Center utilizes MyChart Bedside for easy online access to scheduled appointments and visit summaries, as well as for billing and contact information for providers. Upon admission to the hospital, patients receive an iPad with MyChart, where they have around-the-clock access to user-friendly, clinical information about their stay–including pictures of information from their assigned care team. Patients also have the ability to send messages through MyChart directly to their care team. To help further reduce stress, educational materials are assigned to the patient and family, and entertainment options, like music and movies, will be available through the technology.

Friends of Children’s Hospital, founded in 1989 by a group of dedicated volunteers from across the state, supports Mississippi’s only children’s hospital by driving fundraising, growing voluntarism and building awareness. Since its inception more than 30 years ago, the nonprofit organization has raised nearly $20 million to purchase state-of-the-art equipment, construct new facilities and provide vitally important services for all pediatric patients. For more information about Friends of Children’s Hospital, please visit [www.friendsofch.org](http://www.friendsofch.org) or email [friends@friendsofch.org](mailto:friends@friendsofch.org).

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