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Children’s Hospital Child Life Program Receives $75k Donation

**Jackson, Miss. – Feb. 8, 2022:**  Mississippi’s only children’s hospital today received a sizeable donation from the Sidney P. Allen and Friends of Children’s Hospital Child Life Endowment Fund.

At this morning’s Friends of Children’s Hospital board meeting, a check in the amount of $75,645 was presented to the hospital. The endowment fund is named in memory of longtime Friends of Children’s Hospital Chairman Sidney P. Allen, who died in 2018 after a brief battle with cancer. The endowment fund recognizes Allen’s exceptional life and genuine compassion for others, as well as the immeasurable impact he had on the lives of Mississippi children and their families.

“Sidney Allen served the children’s hospital for decades,” said Friends of Children’s Hospital Executive Director Rochelle Hicks. “Whether spearheading a fundraiser, presiding over the board of directors or co-chairing the Trustmark Pro-Am Golf Tournament, Sidney always answered the call to help. He was more than a volunteer–he was family, and the thousands of sick and injured children coming through our doors each year continue to benefit from his unfailing generosity and commitment to Children’s of Mississippi.”

The proceeds from the donation are earmarked specifically for pediatric programs that help families cope with the stresses of hospitalization. One of the donation beneficiary’s is the Child Life program, a program that enables hospital staff to meet the psychosocial, emotional and developmental needs of children and their families. This program employs certified specialists who are educated and clinically trained to help infants, children and youth cope with a variety of stressful and traumatic events, acute and chronic illnesses, injuries, disabilities, loss and bereavement. These specialists’ services include providing therapeutic play, preparation for procedures and education to help reduce fear, anxiety and pain. To learn more about these services, visit [www.umc.edu/Childrens/Child-Life.html](http://www.umc.edu/Childrens/Child-Life.html).

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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