

From the University of Mississippi Medical Center Division of Public Affairs

**CHARITABLE FOUNDATION DONATES \$1 MILLION TO THE  
BLAIR E. BATSON HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN**

JACKSON, Miss. – For James “Joc” Carpenter, helping make possible the \$1 million gift to the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children at the University of Mississippi Medical Center was a little bit like playing Santa Claus. Carpenter, who lives in Port Gibson, is one of a handful of members serving on the board of the Madison Charitable Foundation, a private organization created and funded by his long-time friend Wiley Hatcher of Houston, Texas.

Carpenter said Hatcher’s motivation for giving the money away was that he wanted to help people in need. “That was the instruction. It was that simple,” Carpenter said.

And so it will. The \$1 million will help support the renovation of the Pediatric Emergency Department at Mississippi’s only children’s hospital, the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children. In addition to the gift made to Children’s Hospital, an additional gift of \$500,000 will create the Madison Foundation Ole Miss First Endowment.

“It is clear that the Madison Foundation has a sincere desire to help people in need,” said UM Chancellor Robert Khayat. “We are profoundly grateful for this gift and for the dedication and support of all those involved with the organization, especially Joc Carpenter. This gift will help us improve trauma care for children and provide scholarships for deserving students.”

Dan Jones, vice chancellor for health affairs, said, “We are grateful to the Madison Foundation for their support of the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children. We appreciate the thoughtful consideration of the trustees, especially Joc Carpenter. This gift provides the margin of excellence we need to meet the needs of Mississippi’s children.”

Carpenter feels it’s personally rewarding to be involved with the Madison Foundation, especially after touring the Children’s Hospital. “It makes you realize how many giving people there are in this world,” he said.

“We are supporting several organizations in Mississippi,” he added. “It’s a lot of fun. We’re not looking for publicity or recognition. We just want to help.”

Suzan Thames, chairman of the Friends of Children’s Hospital, greatly appreciates that help. “I had the opportunity to meet with Joc and Leigh

Anne for a tour of the hospital,” she said. “Both their personal dedication and financial commitment to improving the quality of life of children in Mississippi was most evident in their caring and sharing of information and ideas. I felt an immediate kindred spirit with these special friends. The Madison Foundation’s generous donation to our children’s hospital will greatly enhance the quality of medical care for the sick and injured children of our state.”

Hatcher, the man behind the Madison Foundation, is a Mississippi native who lived in Port Gibson for more than 25 years before relocating to Houston. It was there that he developed a pipeline engineering company, which he recently sold. The proceeds from the sale are funding his charitable foundation. “He wanted the money to be put to work now,” Carpenter said. “He wanted to be able to see it help people right away.” Carpenter and his wife, Leigh Anne, also recently made a personal gift to support the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children. The gifts are part of the university’s MomentUM campaign, a four-year initiative to raise \$200 million. For more information on making a gift to the University of Mississippi of Medical Center, visit <http://www.umc.edu>

####

Please forward this message to colleagues who might be interested. If you wish to be removed from this list or know of a colleague to add, send an e-mail message to: [LAGriffin@pubaffairs.umsmed.edu](mailto:LAGriffin@pubaffairs.umsmed.edu).

The University of Mississippi Medical Center, located in Jackson, is the state’s only academic medical center. UMMC encompasses five health science schools, including medicine, nursing, health related professions, dentistry and graduate studies, as well as the site where University of Mississippi pharmacy students do their clinical training. The Medical Center’s threefold mission is to educate tomorrow’s health-care professionals, conduct innovative research to improve human health, and to provide the highest quality care available to the state’s citizens. A major goal of the Medical Center is the improvement of the health of Mississippians and the elimination of health disparities. For more information, contact the Division of Public Affairs at 601-984-1100 or visit us on the Web at <http://info.umc.edu/>.