

From the University of Mississippi Medical Center Division of Public Affairs

## **Children's Hospital Patient Grant Wilcher Announced as BankPlus' Orlando Dream Giveaway Winner**

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JACKSON, Miss. –This year's Thanksgiving dinner is going to be a little different for twelve-year-old Grant Wilcher of Union, Miss. and his family. Instead of aunts and uncles and cousins, they'll be hanging out with Mickey and Goofy and Donald.

"We're going to Disney World!" Grant said yesterday after his family was announced as the winner of BankPlus' Orlando Dream Giveaway.

Wilcher and his family were presented a vacation package worth more than \$10,000 that includes roundtrip airfare, ground transportation, five days/four nights' accommodation at Walt Disney World's Polynesian Resort, tickets to Walt Disney World parks and a \$1,000 BankPlus Visa gift card. They plan to take the trip over the long Thanksgiving holiday.

"My daughter thought it was a scam," said Lori Wilcher, Grant's mom.

Once they realized they had in fact won the contest, Wilcher said they all got a little emotional.

"It's just really exciting," she said.

The Wilchers qualified for the contest because of his stay at Batson Children's Hospital for a neurological condition that causes headaches and other symptoms.

The Orlando Dream Giveaway contest was open to any family that had a child stay at Batson Children's Hospital for at least one night between March 15, 2013 and June 30, 2014. Eligible families participated through Facebook and mail.

In addition to the Batson patient family, any holder of the BankPlus Friends of Children's Hospital Visa CheckCard who used the card between March 15, 2014 and June 30, 2014 was automatically entered into the contest for a second, identical grand prize. DeDe Franciskato of Madison won that prize.

First issued in 2011, BankPlus has issued more than 8,400 Friends of Children's Hospital Visa CheckCards. In that short time, the cards have been swiped more than one million times. With each swipe, five cents is donated to Friends.

Rob Armour, BankPlus chief marketing and business development officer, who also sits on the Friends of Children's Hospital board, said the CheckCard has established itself as a great fundraiser for the Friends organization.

“What this means is that in those short three years, we’ve been able to donate right at a half-million dollars to Friends to help Batson Children’s Hospital,” Armour said.

**Cutline Photo #1:** Batson patient Grant Wilcher, 12, of Union, Miss. excitedly tells the crowd gathered in the lobby of Batson Children’s Hospital that he’s headed to Disney World after his family won BankPlus’ Orlando Dream Giveaway.

**Cutline Photo #2:** After announcing the Wilcher family as the winners of the Orlando Dream Giveaway, Rob Armour, left, BankPlus chief marketing and business development officer and Friends of Children’s Hospital board member, presents twelve-year-old Batson patient Grant Wilcher with a Disney-themed gift basket and a \$1,000 Friends of Children’s Hospital CheckCard in his family’s name. Other members of the Wilcher family are, from left, sister Alex, dad Jimmy and mom Lori. Older brother Bo is not pictured.

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### **About Batson Children’s Hospital**

Batson Children’s Hospital, part of Children’s of Mississippi, is located at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. It is the only hospital in the state devoted exclusively to the care and treatment of sick and injured youngsters. Batson houses the state’s only Level I pediatric trauma unit, pediatric intensive care and cardiac intensive care units and our pediatric surgical suite is the only one of its kind offering inpatient clinical care for a wide range of specialty surgeries. The spectrum of care ranges from well-child care for healthy newborns to comprehensive care for cancer, epilepsy, cystic fibrosis, sickle cell anemia, allergies, diabetes and numerous other childhood illnesses.

### **About Friends of Children’s Hospital**

Friends of Children’s Hospital was created to raise funds and awareness for the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children. Batson Children’s Hospital is the only hospital in the state of Mississippi devoted exclusively to the care of sick or injured children. Friends of Children’s Hospital has created a statewide support system of donors and volunteers that assist Batson Children’s Hospital in giving each child the very best in treatment when they need it most. For more information, please visit [www.foch.org](http://www.foch.org).