

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SouthGroup Sponsors 5K Run/Walk for Blair Batson Children's Hospital

February 1, 2014

SouthGroup Insurance Services has again joined with Friends of Children's Hospital to present the *SouthGroup Make a Difference 5K Run/Walk* on February 15, 2014 in Ridgeland. Last year's event attracted over 500 runners and walkers and raised \$23,000 for the Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital at The University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. The run/walk, which has raised \$115,000 for the hospital over the past 5 years, will begin at 8:30 AM at the SouthGroup headquarters offices in The Woodlands Office Park at County Line Road and Woodlands Parkway in Ridgeland. Pre-registration is available at www.southgroup.net.

According to Glenn Galey of SouthGroup on West Pine in Hattiesburg, the Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital treats over 150,000 children from every county in Mississippi each year for everything from cystic fibrosis and juvenile diabetes to pediatric heart disease, neurological disorders and other childhood illnesses. "Many of us are blessed with healthy children and this is one way we are able to make sure those less fortunate receive the world-class medical treatment they need," Galey said.

Jim Ford of SouthGroup on Hardy Street said the event will also include a one-mile fun run as well as activities for children. "Runners and walkers came from all over Mississippi last year and we are, again, looking for over 600 participants and hope to raise \$25,000 for the treatment of our children," Ford said. "We would love to see participants from Hattiesburg join us in Ridgeland the morning of February 15 either competing in the race for medals or just walking to support the children's hospital," he added.

For more information, call the local SouthGroup office on West Pine at 601-544-2122 or on Hardy Street at 601-545-1643.

Photo Attached—Caption: Over 500 runners and walkers break from the starting line at the SouthGroup Make A Difference 5K Race for Blair Batson Children's Hospital last February.

Contact:

Emily Murphy
Emily.murphy@southgroup.net

###