



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE

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First Lady Columba Bush Visits Children at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital

*~Friends of Mission San Luis Inc. Donates Gift Bags
to Pediatric Patients~*

TALLAHASSEE, FL — Florida's First Lady Columba Bush delivered gift bags to children in the Tallahassee Memorial Hospital Pediatric Unit on Tuesday afternoon. Mrs. Bush, the honorary chair of the Mission San Luis endowment campaign, delivered the presents on behalf of the Friends of Mission San Luis Inc. The organization will contribute 25 bags each month to pediatric patients at TMH. The gift bags include a puzzle, stuffed animal, coloring book, crayons and activity sheets.

"Hospital stays are usually dreary, scary and lonely, especially for children," said Mrs. Bush. "Bringing laughter and joy to hospital patients is something many of us can do, but often neglect to do. I'm hopeful these gift bags will cheer up the children at TMH while educating them on Mission San Luis, one of Tallahassee's greatest treasures, and also set an example for others to find their own way to brighten a patient's day as well."

Pediatric Services at TMH features all private rooms including 23 pediatric inpatient beds and a 10-bed Pediatric Intensive Care Unit providing highly-skilled care to critically ill children. It also includes Kid's Korner, a four-bed area in the Pediatric Unit for children who are in the hospital for outpatient procedures and special treatments.

Mission San Luis, a National Historic Landmark, is located at 2021 West Mission Road in Tallahassee, Florida. It is the only reconstructed Spanish mission in Florida. Visitors can explore the past through costumed living history, hands-on exhibits, and archaeology

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demonstrations. The site is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and admission is free. It is managed by the Florida Department of State's Bureau of Archaeological Research. The Friends of Mission San Luis, a 501(c)(3) corporation, was established in 2001 as a citizen support organization. Its mission is to support and enhance research and education programs at Mission San Luis. For more information on Mission San Luis, please visit www.missionsanluis.org.

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