

**Greenville County Medical Society Alliance report
on Alliance Health Education Initiative Grant**
Submitted by Jean Scott, 2017-2018 GCMSA president

The Alliance Health Education Initiative awarded a grant of \$350 to the Greenville County Medical Society Alliance (GCMSA) in April 2017 for its Patient Pouch-a-Thon project. GCMSA President Jean Scott organized the project in coordination with the T&B Foundation, a nonprofit organization that creates “patient pouches” filled with toys and activities for young people to enjoy during hospital visits or stays for serious illnesses or surgeries.



Many GCMSA members donated items for the pouches, which are being distributed to the Children’s Hospital of Greenville. Donated items ranged from play dough for younger children to highlighters and word-search books for older patients.



One GCMSA member, Donna Frazier, invited her daughter’s Girl Scout troop to join in the effort to assemble the pouches. Other GCMSA members joined the effort as well on March 11, 2018, along with some of their children and their children’s friends, who wanted to exercise their volunteer spirit while also fulfilling community-service requirements as members of the National Junior Honor Society. It was truly a family affair as volunteers of all ages gathered at Hillcrest Memorial Hospital, which allowed use of one of its

community rooms free of charge for the afternoon.

T&B has created a sort of recipe list for bags for various age ranges. GCMSA chose to create bags for children ages 6-8 and for children ages 9 and up, as T&B Co-Founder Sabra Bateman said those age groups were the two for which the charity most needed patient pouches. Each pouch for a 6-to-8-year-old included an activity book and crayons, a small craft, a card game, a bracelet for girls or a small board game for boys, play dough, tissues, and a puzzle. Pouches for

children ages 9 and up included a puzzle book, two highlighters, two pens, a notebook, tissues, playing cards, and a small board game for boys or a craft for girls.

GCMSA created a total of 56 pouches for young patients in the Greenville County area. There were some leftover items, as some items were bought in bulk in varying quantities. Those extra materials were passed on to T&B and will eventually be used in additional patient pouches.

The effort was publicized at monthly GCMSA meetings, in the GCMSA's quarterly newsletter, through email blasts to members, and on the GCMSA's Facebook page, and credit was given to AHEI for its part in making this dream a reality.

The GCMSA is proud to have helped the T&B Foundation in its mission of "helping little patients have a little patience" and is thankful to AHEI, Alliance members, and community volunteers for their support in this collaborative effort.

