



**Contact:**

Shay Nanke  
Marketing Coordinator  
(870) 239-8031 shay.nanke@arkansasmethodist.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 6, 2009**

**PARAGOULD COUPLE DONATES GENEROUS GIFT ANNUITY TO  
AMMC FOUNDATION**

*Gift Annuities May Be a Wise Investment in Tough Economic Times*

**PARAGOULD, AR** – Mr. Earl and Mrs. Jean Bennett Batton of Paragould recently made a donation of a \$16,000 gift annuity to the Arkansas Methodist Medical Center (AMMC) Foundation. The annuity comes from the proceeds of the sale of property donated to AMMC by the Battons. Jean Batton is a long-time employee of Arkansas Methodist’s nursing department.

A gift annuity, sometimes called a charitable gift annuity is a contract under which a charity, in return for a transfer of cash, marketable securities or other assets agrees to pay a fixed amount of money to one or two individuals for their lifetime.

“We are immensely grateful to the Battons for this very generous donation to The Foundation, which will help to further its mission of caring, strengthening the medical center’s efforts in meeting the healthcare needs of the people in our community,” Shane Carter, Director of The Foundation and Marketing said.

Carter noted that gift annuities can be a beneficial investment in a number of ways, particularly in these tough economic times. In addition to the personal satisfaction of helping a worthy cause, for older donors and those with substantial estates, a gift annuity can help provide a higher investment rate as well as a lower tax rate.

Further, Carter explained that a portion of each annuity gift payment is tax-free. The tax-free portion of the annuity payment is considered “return of principal” and continues through the donor’s life expectancy.

**-more-**

## **Gift Annuity Donated to AMMC Foundation/Page 2**

He added, because a charitable gift annuity is in part a gift, as well as an investment in an annuity contract, the donor who itemizes on their tax return is entitled to a deduction for the gift portion of their annuity. The deduction is available for the tax year when the annuity is established. If the deduction cannot be used entirely, the donor has up to five years to carry forward the unused amount.

Finally, Carter noted that donors who contribute a gift annuity to The Foundation can count on a specific payment amount regardless of trends in the financial markets. The annuity payments will not change and are backed by the full assets of the AMMC Foundation for the donor's lifetime.

“In addition to the financial benefits, a charitable gift annuity given to AMMC can make a real and lasting difference in the lives of those in our community by supporting the ongoing healthcare mission of the medical center,” Carter said.

For more information about gift annuity contributions, please contact The Foundation at (870) 239-7077.

The AMMC Foundation works to raise funds to support and strengthen Arkansas Methodist Medical Center's efforts in the areas of financial development, the quality delivery of healthcare and greater public awareness through education and community relations. It is a mission of caring. The Foundation was formed in 1992, by a group of dedicated, community-minded individuals to provide a means of philanthropic support to meet the present and future needs of the medical center.

A recognized healthcare leader, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould is a state-of-the-art nonprofit institution providing world-class medical services and compassionate care to residents throughout the Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri region. Additional information about AMMC is available at: [www.arkansasmethodist.org](http://www.arkansasmethodist.org).