



***Friends of THA* Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) 2017**

1. What is *Friends of THA*?
 - a. *Friends of THA* is the political action committee (PAC) for the Tennessee Hospital Association (THA). The PAC raises funds that are pooled together and contributed to the campaigns of candidates running for state office who are sensitive to healthcare issues of concern to Tennessee hospitals and their patients.
2. What is the 2017 *Friends of THA* fundraising goal?
 - a. This year's goal is \$125,000.
3. What are the dates of the campaign?
 - a. The dates of the 2017 campaign are Jan. 1 to July 31.
4. Why should I contribute to *Friends of THA*?
 - a. Contributing to the PAC is an excellent way to have a positive impact on legislative and regulatory decisions that affect patients, hospitals, health systems and home health operations. In addition, without financial assistance from supporters, few candidates can afford the cost of a campaign. Because of this, it is essential that hospitals be a part of the political process.
5. Why should I contribute to *Friends of THA* instead of just to candidates I support?
 - a. Pooling funds together creates one solid, powerful voice that can successfully represent Tennessee hospitals in the political arena. Contributing to *Friends of THA* gives hospitals a united voice and the greatest chance to be successful. There is strength in numbers.
6. Why is *Friends of THA* so important to the hospital community?
 - a. *Friends of THA* ensures hospitals' expertise and knowledge on healthcare issues are used to develop guidance and recommendations to legislative leaders. It also helps protect the economic future of hospitals.
7. Why is it important for hospital board members to participate in *Friends of THA*?
 - a. Board members have a responsibility to support the hospital and community in every way possible. Contributing to the PAC is one way to support the community hospital at the state level. Instead of giving to legislators

individually, board members should consider contributing to *Friends of THA* because there is a greater impact when all hospitals in Tennessee are focused on the same issues in a unified way. Board members want to represent their hospitals in the best way possible and give them the greatest chance to be successful. Contributing to *Friends of THA* is one way to accomplish that task.

8. Who can contribute to *Friends of THA*?

- a. Anyone can contribute. Board members, executive staff, volunteers, physicians and other hospital employees are encouraged to contribute to *Friends of THA*. Anonymous donations cannot be accepted.

However, *Friends of THA* can accept contributions from corporations. This allows enormous opportunities for growth. Hospitals are encouraged to ask their vendors to contribute to the PAC in support of their institutions. Remind them that the decisions being made at the state and federal levels also impact them. A vendor contribution flier is available for hospitals to use in this fundraising effort.

9. What are some ways to motivate vendors to contribute to the PAC?

- a. Hospitals are strongly encouraged to ask their vendors to contribute to the PAC in support of their institutions. If a hospital is losing money and is forced to close its doors, the vendors for that institution will lose money as well as a client. They should do everything they can to support the hospitals' political activities.

10. How much should I contribute?

- a. Any amount is accepted. *Friends of THA* has set up club levels for recognition purposes.

Capitol Club: \$1,000+
Hermitage Club: \$500-\$999
Volunteer Club: \$250-\$499

11. Where can I contribute?

- a. A [contribution card](#) is available for individuals who would like to mail in their checks. You also can make contributions via credit card online by going to <https://secure.tha.com/friends/>.
- b. If you would prefer to contribute by check, print and fill out the contribution form and mail it to the address below, along with your personal check.

Friends of THA
Attn: Accounting
5201 Virginia Way
Brentwood, TN 37027

12. Who do I make my check out to?

- a. Everyone except THA board members should make their checks out to *Friends of THA*. If you are a THA board member, please make your check out to HOSPAC.
13. What is HOSPAC?
- a. HOSPAC is the Tennessee Hospital Association's political action committee for funds going to the American Hospital Association PAC (AHAPAC) in support of candidates for federal office.
14. I'd like my contribution to count towards my hospital's goal. How do I do that?
- a. If contributing online, please indicate what hospital to credit the contribution to in the box labeled "Give credit to" on the contribution form.
15. Are contributions tax deductible?
- a. No, they are not. Contributions to *Friends of THA* are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.
16. Can I contribute outside the campaign dates?
- a. Yes. Contributions can be taken at any time and will be credited towards the calendar year in which they are received.
17. How can I obtain additional copies of the *Friends of THA* contribution card?
- a. Additional copies of the contribution card can be downloaded and printed from the *Friends of THA* web page. You also can obtain copies by contacting THA at 615-256-8240.

Have additional questions? Contact Beth Atwood at THA, batwood@tha.com, 615-256-8240.