GUARDIAN ANGEL PROJECT
AT MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

A large grassy field sets just off Highway 468 in Rankin County. In this lovely field, over 4,000 people from Mississippi State Hospital are buried. Most of those buried in the cemetery had no family to come and take them "home."

The burials began in 1936. Instead of headstones, people were laid to rest with only a number as a marker. In the 1960s, small, flat headstones with names and dates of birth and death began to be used. Unfortunately, no plat was kept showing where people were buried. Over the years, the heavy markers sank deeper and deeper into the earth. Most markers are no longer visible.

Friends of Mississippi State Hospital wants to restore the cemetery and bestow dignity to the thousands of anonymous people buried there. Mississippi State Hospital was fortunate enough to have a dozen AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) members come from South Carolina to help with preservation of the cemetery that the hospital could not afford. These corps members began work restoring the cemetery during their three-week stay in Mississippi. They uncovered and realigned grave markers and reconstructed the small outdoor chapel on the grounds.

Funding is essential to continue what the NCCC members have begun. The money will be used to finish the restoration of the cemetery. After the ground work is completed with landscaping, a large monument will be placed in the cemetery in memory of those buried there. Your help is needed. If you or your organization would like to contribute to this worthwhile project, please send your donation to:

Friends of Mississippi State Hospital
P.O. Box 75
Whitfield, MS 39193
Please enclose the form below with your donation.

For further information, please contact Kathy Denton, coordinator for development, dentoka@msh.state.ms.us, 601-351-8170.

Friends of Mississippi State Hospital is a qualified nonprofit charitable organization under provisions of the Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3).

Name_____ Date_____

Address_____

Phone (   )_____ Email_____

Amount of Donation $_____