



# ASPIRE

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A PUBLICATION OF MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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## MSH DAY LAUNCHED IN 1982, STILL REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

BY MIKE CHRISTENSEN



*Following the success of the first MSH Day, the 1983 festival also was held at Pearl Park. It moved to the MSH campus in 1992.*

**Y**ou could test your tobacco-spitting skills, try to tame a mechanical bull and take a whack at an old car with a sledge hammer. Or you could just eat and listen to the music.

The main idea behind the very first MSH Day back in 1982 was to have some fun and generate some community awareness for Mississippi State Hospital.

May 1 marks the arrival of the 33rd annual MSH Day, which has changed a little and grown a lot since the inaugural event but carries the same mission.

“It’s still about providing a fun day for patients, residents, staff and visitors along with raising awareness of mental health issues,” said Public Relations Director

### IN THIS ISSUE

GOLF TOURNAMENT  
PAGE 4 & 5

TRAINING CLASSES  
PAGE 6 & 7

FISH RODEO  
PAGE 10

AUTOMATED MED SYSTEM  
PAGE 11

# ASPIRE

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## MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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Mental wellness in every life, in every home,  
and in every community.

### MISSION

To help the individuals we serve achieve mental wellness by encouraging hope, promoting safety and supporting recovery while utilizing resources efficiently.

### OUR GOALS

1. Accelerate the implementation of person-centered and recovery-oriented treatment and care.
2. Improve clinical, physical, and environmental safety and quality for patients and residents.
3. Minimize waste of resources and cost.

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Kathy Denton. “We have raised a significant amount of money through MSH Day, and that has allowed us to use those funds to provide free activities with prizes and free concessions for patients and residents. It makes the day that much more enjoyable for them.”

May is National Mental Health Month, an initiative which began in 1949 as a means of educating the public about the importance of mental health and the reality of mental illness.

The first MSH Day was held on May 1, 1982, at Pearl Park. Bobby Stephens, the hospital’s Activities Director at the time, coordinated the event, which was the brainchild of the late Cheryl Sasser, a recreation supervisor.

“Cheryl came to me one day and said we should do some kind of a festival and we should do it at Pearl Park as a way to get the community involved,” Stephens recalled. “So we did it, and we had it out there for several more years.”

That first MSH Day included dunking booths, pony rides, a space walk, two shooting galleries, a crafts sale, a cakewalk, a magic show, a gymnastics exhibition and a tug o’ war contest. Live musical entertainment was provided by several performers.

“I don’t think we had a specific project in mind (for the proceeds),” Stephens said of the inaugural MSH Day. “We were trying to grow the recreation fund at that time. Really, the whole thing wasn’t about making money. It was more to get public interest in MSH and what we were doing out there.

“That’s why we used Pearl Park.”

The rec department did most of the heavy lifting in those early days.

“We did it all back then,” Stephens recalled. “We borrowed vehicles from Maintenance and Property to take all the chairs and tables over to the park. All the rec folks pitched in. We loaded and unloaded stuff, set everything up, then took it all down.

“Gradually we got other departments involved. Property was a big help, and then Maintenance and Public Relations started playing a bigger role.”

Denton now plans and coordinates MSH Day, and it involves many MSH departments, including Valley Foods, Transportation, MSH Police, Recreation, Maintenance, Psychology, Human Resources, Pastoral Care, Nursing Services, Employee Health and many more.

From its rather humble beginnings, MSH Day has become a major fund-raising event. Proceeds have gone to a variety of hospital projects. The wrought iron benches around campus were purchased with MSH Day funds, as well as the sound system and the stage curtain in the auditorium. The stage at MSH Park was built using money raised at MSH Day. Occasionally, some funds go to meeting specific patient needs.

“We did make some money,” Stephens said of the first few MSH Days. “It was always late when we finished everything up, too late to take the money to the bank. I remember us taking it home and counting it on my living room floor. I think we made a couple thousand dollars the first year. I’m just guessing at that.



“It wasn’t a lot of money, but we considered it a success. We wouldn’t have done it again if it hadn’t been successful.

“It was always a fun day. For the rec department, it gave us a break from the routine of the everyday. It was work, too, but we had a good time doing it.”

Mary Crossman, who worked at MSH for 60 years before her retirement in 2011, did not attend the first MSH Day but has made it out for many others over the years.

“Every year, you grow it,” said Crossman, the former Director of Health Information Services. “Once it got going, more people came to display stuff and donate things. There are so

many activities that they offer now, it has really gotten to be a big thing.”

As MSH Day grew, a change in venue seemed in order. It was moved to campus in 1992.

“It was getting bigger and bigger, and one day, we just finally said, “This is a lot of work. We should do it on campus,” Stephens said. “We were having to bus the patients over and back. We were moving all that stuff, and it wasn’t bringing in a lot of community involvement, so we decided it would be just as good to get (the community) to come to campus.”

Stephens, who hasn’t worked at the hospital for several years, said he always tries to attend MSH Day.

“I’ve judged the talent (competition) in the past,” he said. “I try to come out and do something.

“It’s changed a lot over the years. It’s bigger and they’ve got some different events now. The raffle has gotten pretty big. That’s always been a money-maker. We did a car one time. We had to buy the car -- it wasn’t donated. We didn’t make a lot off of it.

“Over time (33 years), MSH Day has raised a lot of money.”

It has also engendered a lot of fun and goodwill, which was the idea from the start.



# 14TH ANNUAL FARMER JIM NEAL TOURNAMENT AN EXTRA SPECIAL OCCASION FOR BRADLEY

BY MIKE CHRISTENSEN



*Golfers wait to hit the course.*

The Farmer Jim Neal Golf Classic, a major fundraiser for Mississippi State Hospital, is always a marquee event on the calendar for Janna Neal Bradley, daughter of the late broadcaster and state legislator.

The arrival of the 14th annual tournament, held April 10 at Whisper Lake Country Club in Madison, was particularly special.

A few weeks after last year's tournament, Bradley was diagnosed with breast cancer.

"I was floored," she said. "All my life I had done everything you are supposed to do. I went for my checkups and did my self-exams. They found I had Stage 3 in 13 lymph nodes. It was very serious."

Bradley went through 16 rounds of chemotherapy. "God blessed me the whole time," she said. "I never thought I would die. Never." On Jan. 9 of this year, she had a dou-

ble mastectomy. The surgery was followed by 30 rounds of radiation, the last of which came on April 9.

The next day was tournament day, and Bradley was there, as usual, with many others from the extended Neal family. Bradley, still feeling the effects of the radiation treatments, apologized for not being her usual buoyant self during the event, promising to make up for it next year.

"That's our favorite time of year," she said. "We're giving back to people who are in need, and it's such a good time. It's a hoot."

"My whole family comes, my daughter, my two granddaughters, my son when he can. My husband played (in the tournament), and my daughter's husband played. My son has played. It's like a family reunion for us."

"It's awesome that we're doing it in my father's name and for the State Hospital."

"Farmer Jim" Neal's involvement with MSH traces to the 1950s. Bradley said she remembers as a little girl watching her father play golf at the Harry O'Steen course on campus with Hospital Director William Jaquith.

"My daddy liked to give back," Bradley said. "He had a charmed life. He had a God-given talent and he got to use it every day on the radio."

Proceeds from the tournament benefit Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc., a volunteer, non-profit organization that promotes awareness of mental health issues and raises funds for projects that enhance the quality of life for patients and residents at the hospital.

The winning team in this year's scramble was the Bank Plus foursome of Leigh Brannan, Dave Clements, Michael Kimbrell and Scott Rhodes.



Presenting the check to Friends of MSH are: (front, holding check, from left) Ava Walden, Anne Neal, Janna Neal Bradley, Savanna Walden; (second row, from left) Bridget Lowery, Tommy Bradley, Anna Lauren Hatchett, Inga Braswell; (back, from left) James Chastain, Jeff Hatchett, Austin Peeples, Michael Kimbrell and Joel Ross.

The second-place team was from Bank of Yazoo and included Mike Love, Wesley Rogers, Joel Ross and Hunter Travis. The Whisper Lake team of Stephen Lum, Joe Stapleton, Terry Taylor and Woody Theeck took third place.

Individual prize winners were:

- Longest drive, Hole 18:  
Stephen Lum
- Closest to the hole, Hole 14:  
Ryan Harrington
- Closest to the hole, Hole 11:  
Andy Wogoman

- Closest to the hole, Hole 3:  
Wesley Rogers
- Drive the middle, Hole 1:  
Del Morris
- Longest putt, Hole 1:  
Scott Reese



Farmer Jim Neal's wife, daughter and granddaughters have some fun at the tournament.



Valley Services staff provided a smorgasbord for golf tournament participants.

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## TRAINING SERIES HELPS DIRECT CARE WORKERS TO ADVANCE

BY TIM DURR



Mississippi State Hospital is revitalizing a program to help direct care workers advance in their careers. The Staff Education and Training Services Department is now conducting a series of classes designed to prepare direct care workers for leadership/supervisory positions. These classes are being offered quarterly so more employees can take advantage of these professional growth opportunities. The

classes are offered over three consecutive days.

“This program helps the hospital by equipping individuals with leadership skills and ensuring that employees are available and qualified to apply for supervisory positions once positions are available,” said Shircell Massey, Training Director and Director of the Staff Education and Training Services Department.

Tyrone Frazier, Active Treatment Technician on Male Receiving, agrees.

“After completing the Direct Care Alternate Supervisor Class, I have become a better supervisor,” Frazier said. “It gives you a different perspective on supervising staff, and I learned how to become a better communicator, which is very important.”

When someone moves into a supervisory position, they accept more responsibility. That increased responsibility results in a pay increase. Below is the Direct Care (DC) series and the starting salary for these positions, along with the requirements for applicants:

- DC Advanced: \$19,108.56  
Requirements: Minimum of 1 year as a DCW and completion of DCA/ATT training (3 days)
- DC Alternate Supervisor: \$20,949.88  
Requirements: Minimum of 6 months as a DCW and completion of DCAS training (3 days)
- DC Supervisor: \$23,003.60  
Requirements: Minimum of 6 months experience as a DCAS and completion of DCS training (3 days)

“The unique thing about this program is that the participants are actually recommended by building supervisors and Nursing Home Administrators,” said Ronnie Harris, Continuing Education Coordinator. “This means that we are getting the best of the best, and they can in turn go back and utilize their knowledge, skills and expertise to help others excel in their jobs.”

Massey added that among the things taught in the classes are conflict management and proper documentation.

“Another unique thing about this program is that our Employee Assistance Program Coordinator has been added to the list of presenters,” Massey said. “She, Ms. Louise Coleman, is often privy to patient supervisor challenges. The goal is to offer solutions before challenges are born.

“Without divulging personal information, Ms. Coleman has sculpted her training around the most frequently observed and reported employee/supervisor complaints. She has given herself to researching best practices, but her greatest asset is her heart for the employees of Mississippi State Hospital.”

Below are the upcoming dates for the DC classes offered through Staff Education:

Direct Care Advanced/Active Treatment Technician Training  
June 17-19  
September 23-25  
December 16-18

Direct Care Alternate Supervisor Training

July 22-24  
October 21-23

Direct Care Supervisor Training  
May 20-22  
August 19-21  
November 18-20

If a flexible training schedule is needed to meet the needs of the trainee’s building, the trainee’s supervisor can contact Massey. For example, if a building finds it difficult to schedule staff off of the building for three consecutive days, Staff Education would be willing to offer the class three consecutive Wednesdays.

Pictured is the most recent Direct Care Alternate Supervisor Class which was held April 22-24 and taught by Ronnie Harris. The participants were: Donte Adams, B-69; Clara Burrell, B-78; Ashonda Coleman, B-29; Casandra Coleman, B-45; Rashonda Franklin, B-31; Shaquita Givens, B-31; Lula Green, B-48; Toni Johnson, B-41; Natasha Lenoir, B-78; Willie Jean Logan, B-48; Stephanie Magee, B-69; Jessica McDonald, B-34; Krystal Parker, B-33; Shirley Parker, B-78; Audrey Ross, B-41; Remington Smith, B-34; Monique Spires, B-78; Tammie Thompson, B-31; and Shamekia Williams, B-69.

Friends of MSH, Inc. would like to say

*Thank You* to our CORPORATE SPONSORS.








## GAYDEN BECOMES NURSE ADMINISTRATOR FOR JNH

BY TIM DURR

Chandra Gayden's inspiration to become a nurse was derived from her mother. "She was a CNA (certified nurse's assistant) at Jaquith (Nursing Home) in the '80s," Gayden said. "She wanted all of her girls to go into nursing. She taught us how rewarding it is to take care of people and provide a service that people need."

Three of the six sisters did indeed become nurses. Chandra (pronounced CHAN-dra), who has been at Mississippi State Hospital for over 15 years, became a nurse administrator for JNH on March 9. She works on Building 78.

Gayden was born in Braxton and has lived most of her life in Mississippi, though her family did stay in Long Beach, N.Y., for a time when Gayden was in kindergarten.

"It's funny, I can still remember my street address, going to the boardwalk and the snow," Gayden said.

Gayden received her nursing degree from Hinds Community College in 1988 and started working that year at University of Mississippi Medical Center as an OB/GYN nurse.

She moved to MSH to become a JNH nurse in 2000, and she says she couldn't be happier with that decision.

"When I first got my nursing degree, I didn't want to work in a nursing home," Gayden said. "But once I got here, I found out that these people need a lot. They need love. They need hugs. They need attention. So many of our residents don't have a lot of family to visit them. ...

"It's a matter of taking care of that

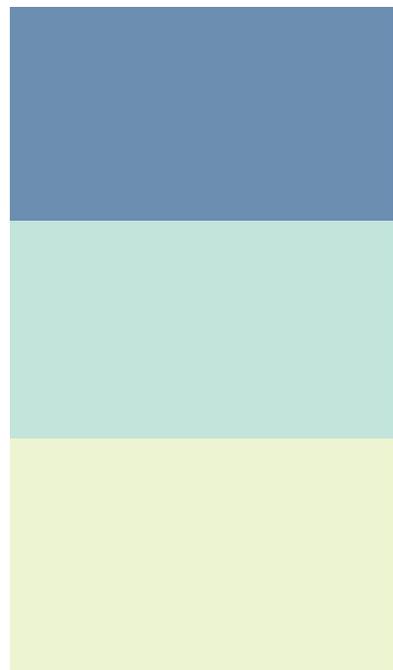


*Chandra Gayden*

generation of people who built this country, showing them that we care."

Gayden's husband, Reece, is a retired U.S. Army veteran, and they have a daughter, Amanda, who attends the University of Southern Mississippi.

"My philosophy is 'treat people the way you want to be treated, with dignity and respect.' If we can do this, everything else falls into place. At JNH, it is a privilege and an honor to provide care to our 'Greatest Generation.'"





The MSH Police Department includes: (first row, left to right) Brittney Bailey, William Kornegay, Roy Nichols, Unekia Oatis, Derrick Berry, Assistant Chief DeWayne West, Police Director James Blackwell, Assistant Chief Anthony Kinnard, Michael Watson, Cardaryll White, Nathan Craft, George Mullins, (back row, left to right) Byron Robison, Justin Harper, Billy Cotton, James Spann, Darrell Robinson, Chuck Harris, Michael Riley, Autery Dunbar, Gary Roberts, Marcell Burns, and Jimmy Greene.

## TO SERVE AND PROTECT

BY TIM DURR

The MSH Police Department is committed to serving and protecting the patients, residents, staff and visitors of Mississippi State Hospital and Jaquith Nursing Home 24 hours per day, seven days per week. According to MSH Police Director, Chief James Blackwell, each MSH police officer must complete 12 weeks of basic law enforcement training in order to become a certified law enforcement officer.

“Our officers have the same training as officers on any city or county police force,” Blackwell said. “In addition, all of our new officers must complete a 3-day per week physical fitness program which prepares them for the rigorous requirements they will have to go through upon enter-

ing the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Training Academy.”

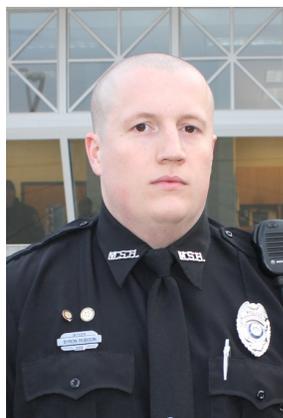
Blackwell said MSH police officers have numerous duties they perform, and they frequently attend classes designed to help them become better law enforcement officers.

“Our police officers are vital to the operation of Mississippi State Hospital by providing services, protection and assistance to our patients, residents, employees and visitors,” said MSH Risk Management Director and Staff Attorney Jody Donald.

“Having worked as an officer for the MSH Police Department for 10 years prior to becoming SAIS Director, I can say without a doubt, that our offi-

cers are some of the most professional, dedicated and caring officers in the state,” said Jenny Pittman, MSH Safety and Investigative Services (SAIS) Director. “They put their lives on the line each day to protect the patients, residents, employees and visitors of MSH.”

In order to show officers how much they are appreciated for doing a good job, the police department has a recognition program where an Officer of the Quarter is chosen, and out of those four officers, an Officer of Year is chosen. The most recent honorees were: Derrick Berry, Marcell Burns, Roy Nichols and Byron Robison. Berry was chosen Officer of the Year for 2014.



Byron Robison



Roy Nichols



Marcell Burns



Derrick Berry

# ANGLERS HAUL IN THE BIG ONES (AND NOT SO BIG ONES) DURING FISHING RODEO

BY TIM DURR



*One of the first catches of the day was this catfish caught by a patient.*

Mississippi State Hospital (MSH) and Jaquith Nursing Home (JNH) patients, residents and staff surrounded the front lake Friday, April 24 to participate in the annual Fishing Rodeo hosted by the Department of Therapeutic Recreation.

Recreation staff along with other MSH and JNH employees assisted patients and residents as they engaged in a friendly competition to see who could catch the largest fish.

“This is a great opportunity to experience nature and the peace and tranquility of being on the lake,” said Randall Norwood, Recreation Therapist for Jaquith Inn. “The patients and residents are able to sit out here and socialize with each other, and staff members are able to engage them in a different way off the building. It’s just a great environment for the patients and residents, and we’re happy to be out here and we’re happy that the Therapeutic Recreation Department continues to host this each year. We look forward to catching the biggest one.”

Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc. provides prize money each year for the patients and residents who catch the largest fish. This year’s winners were:

- 1st Place, \$30 – M.S., B-43, 3 lbs. 15 oz.
- 2nd Place, \$25 – G.C., B-43, 3 lbs. 14 oz.
- 3rd Place, \$20 – C.S., B-78, 2 lbs. 9 oz.
- 4th Place, \$15 – R.M., B-63, 2 lbs. 1 oz.
- 5th Place, \$10 – M.H. B- 81, 1 lb. 15 oz.



*MSH Campground Coordinator Larry Hardy displays one of the “not so big ones”.*

# AUTOMATED MEDICATION SYSTEM INCREASES EFFICIENCY OF PRESCRIPTION PROCESS

BY MIKE CHRISTENSEN

**P**yxis might be tough to spell and tricky to pronounce, but the automated medication system is making things easier for nurses, pharmacists and prescribers at Mississippi State Hospital.

Five new Pyxis (pik-sis) machines were installed in August of 2014 as part of a Rapid Improvement Event centered on the Pharmacy Department. An RIE is designed to expose waste and inefficiencies in a work environment.

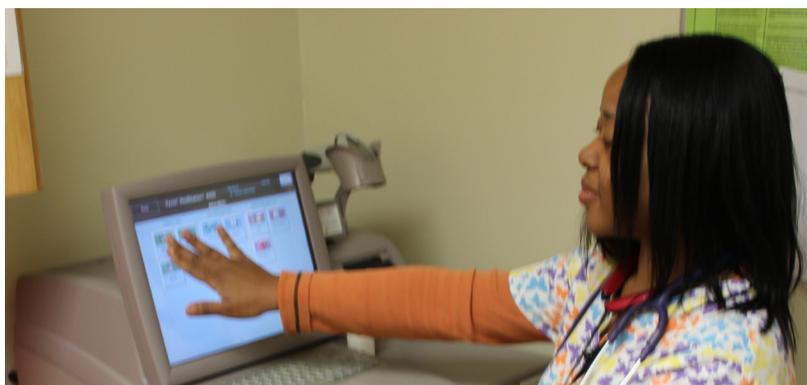
The MSH pharmacy, which opened at its current location on Building 50 in 2003, handles approximately 18,000 prescriptions a month, said Pharmacy Director Vicki Veazey. “That’s for the whole campus, patients and residents.”

Pyxis machines have been installed on Buildings 46, 87 and all three units of Building 23. Buildings 201 and 203 and Whitfield Medical Surgical Hospital had the machines before the August RIE was implemented.

There are currently nine operational Pyxis machines at MSH.

Pyxis could not be installed on Building 63 because it lacks a sufficient generator. However, if or when Female Receiving moves to B-90, Pyxis should be approved to be installed soon after the move.

Pyxis “is working really well,” Veazey said. “One of the pharmacists on our staff, Michele Blakely, programmed the machines. She helped install them, she trained the nurses on using them ... she was the implementation specialist for all of that. She put a lot of hours into this project.”



*Building 87 Nurse Kina Woods demonstrates how the Pyxis machine works.*

Programming the machines for all the various medications is a meticulous process, Veazey said.

“Pyxis allows for meds to be readily available for a nurse once a pharmacist has reviewed and approved the prescription,” Veazey said. “We get the prescribers’ order once it’s faxed to the pharmacy. We review and enter it into our pharmacy computer system. Once this is done, it will show up on the Pyxis screen for the nurse to retrieve the medication.”

The nurse chooses the patient’s name from the screen, then selects the medication and a drawer opens for the nurse to retrieve it.

Rhonda Potter, the charge nurse on Building 201, said the Pyxis system has worked well on her building.

“There have been no complaints about it at all,” Potter said. “The only problem in the very beginning was that it seemed to be more time-consuming, but everybody got the hang of it pretty quickly. Even the new nurses have come in and learned it pretty fast.”

Veazey said that nurses sign into the system using their fingerprint as a

password, which makes all of their activities trackable.

“Pyxis promotes safety, accuracy and makes medications readily available to the nurses, and it decreases waste,” Veazey said. “All of the nurses are trained on it, and I think they like it.” Veazey notes that not every medication is in Pyxis but all controlled meds are.

“It helps us keep accurate counts,” she said. “It’s a more efficient method than what we were using before.”

Several actions had been taken previously by the Pharmacy Department as part of the RIE, including:

- Making extra deliveries in between normal delivery schedules to get “stat” medications (and others) to nurses when they are needed. Nurses rarely have to visit the pharmacy, Veazey said. “We make sure that the nurses have what they’re looking for before we leave for the day.”
- Monitoring the daily admission list from Profiler, a patient information program, to ensure that admission orders have been received in the pharmacy before it closes. “It’s a double-check within the system,” Veazey said.

- Announcing via the operator that “pharmacy is here if you need something” when the on-call pharmacist is called back after hours. This enables the pharmacist to take care of other needs that might arise while on campus.

- Sending a list each Friday morning to the buildings to notify nurses and prescribers when narcotic prescriptions will be expiring over the next week. “That’s one of the best things to come out of (the RIE),” Veazey said. “It’s worked really well. Prescribers and nurses can use this as a tool for knowing when new controlled orders are needed.”

Veazey said the pharmacy is also

monitoring and assisting in the dosing of aminoglycoside antibiotics, which are mainly used at Whitfield Medical Surgical Hospital. “And we have a coumadin monitoring program where we’re monitoring lab and recommending dosages to the prescribers,” she said.

Some projects implemented under the RIE are still in progress or are being refined.

Nurses found during a pilot project using STOP signs on medication room doors that the signs needed to be larger to be more readily noticeable. The new, larger signs went out to the buildings in early April.

The STOP signs are used to signal that a nurse is preparing medications for administration and should not be disturbed.

“We’ve just started with the signs,” Potter said, “but it seems to be going OK.”

A plan is still in the works to provide user names and passwords for access to Lab and X-ray to nurses who have use of a computer. Since thin clients cannot access all of this information, it was determined that more computers and expansion of electronic health records will be necessary to make all of the information available all the time.

## CONGRATULATIONS APRIL EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



**Alan Means** of Pearl was named MSH’s April Employee of the Month for Support Services. He works in Grounds Maintenance and has worked at MSH for 11 years. Means was nominated for Employee of the Month after he alerted MSH Police to an individual facing a potential life-threatening medical condition near the hospital’s campus.

Means’ supervisor, Tommy Bodker, said he is an all-around good employee who is selfless and willing to help others at any time.

“He’s a guy who doesn’t want to stand out,” Bodker said. “He does his job quietly, without any fanfare. He always wants to help out, but he likes to blend in, and he’s always willing to help get the job done and he never complains.”

Bodker said Means is always willing to go the extra mile without any recognition for it.



**LaToya Dixon** of Jackson was named MSH’s April Employee of the Month for Direct Care. A certified nursing assistant, she works at Jaquith Nursing Home on Building 41. Dixon has worked at Jaquith for nearly 10 years, and is well respected by her peers and the nursing staff on her building.

Dixon’s coworkers describe her as always willing to help when the need arises.

“She is willing to work overtime to assist with shortages on other shifts, and enjoys caring for her residents,” said Leslie Allen, a registered nurse on the building. “In addition, you never have to ask her to do anything more than once and she always does it without hesitation.”

Allen said Dixon is a problem solver, a team player with a positive attitude, and is always willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done.



**Raquel Barrett** of Pearl was named MSH’s April Employee of the Month for Clinical Service. Barrett is a social worker on Oak Circle Center and has been employed at MSH for eight years.

According to her coworkers, Barrett is a very hardworking and dedicated individual who takes great pride in her job.

“She has an outstanding work ethic and is a true asset to not only Oak Circle Center, but to the social work profession as well,” said Jeane Dillon, Charge Nurse for Oak Circle Center. “She goes above and beyond the call of duty to take care of everyone’s needs. She never complains despite having an enormous case load.”