



MENTAL OUTLOOK

A Publication of Mississippi State Hospital Fall 2013 Volume 22 Number 3

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MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL READIES FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Fall has arrived, and along with shorter days and cooler weather, Mississippi State Hospital employees know what to expect in the coming days – preparation for a busy holiday season that will be here before they know it.

Volunteers have already begun hosting dinners and parties for patients and residents, and there will be many, many more to come before the end of the year. Each year at the hospital, the holiday season is marked by celebrations ranging from a Christmas parade and musical program to dozens of volunteer-hosted parties, lunches, and dinners. Holiday decorations will go up on the campus, the Public Relations Conference Center will become known as “The Christmas House,” and employees will be gearing up for the hundreds of volunteers who will be spending time with patients and residents at the hospital.

“For many people, the holidays are a special time of year filled with fellowship and memorable times spent with friends and families. We want to make sure this time of year remains a special time for those individu-

als who are being served through the hospital during this time as well,” MSH Volunteer Services Director Sheila Shows said.

“We are grateful to have volunteers who come from all over the state to spend time with our patients and residents to help make that happen. Visitors who bring home cooked meals, small gift bags, or even just take the time to visit can mean the world to the people we are serving while they are away from their family and loved ones during this time of year.”

Mississippi State Hospital and Jaquith Nursing Home are fortunate to have people who are more than willing to do those things. During this season, visitors and volunteers often bring traditional Thanksgiving or Christmas meals, bring donations, or even come to share music or sing Christmas carols at the hospital. They are individuals coming on their own, Sunday school classes and church groups, civic clubs, and others who take up the banner of volunteerism and service for their community.

Of course, volunteers are welcome to visit and do visit the hospital

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MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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MISSION

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

VISION

To help the individuals we serve achieve mental wellness by
encouraging hope, ensuring safety, supporting recovery.

CORE VALUES

Respect – Relationships
Accountability - Teamwork - Diversity

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American Hospital Association
Mississippi Hospital Association
Southern States Psychiatric Hospital Association

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A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR...

Welcome to the Fall issue of Mental Outlook. We're nearing the end of the year, and those of us who have been around Mississippi State Hospital for a few years know what that means – a busy several weeks as our hardworking staff members and dedicated volunteers strive to make sure the holiday season is happy and memorable for everyone we serve. You can read in this issue about all the work they'll be up to over the next

few weeks as the holidays help us bring the year to a close. We'll have two days we want to make sure everyone marks on their calendars. Our annual Christmas parade is Friday, December 6, and our annual Santa Day is Friday, December 20. The parade is always a highlight, with marching bands, classic cars, motorcycles, and some incredibly creative floats. Santa Day closes out the season for us, and we'll have several dozen volunteers put on fluffy red Santa suits as they deliver gifts to each and every patient, resident, and client we are serving during that time. I would like to invite you all to join us for both of those celebrations.

Also in this issue you'll be able to read about some of the major events we have had over the past few months. This year's Serendipity art show and silent auction was another great success, and the pictures don't even do it justice. If what you read about in this issue gets your interest, make sure to mark your calendar for the first Thursday of September next year.

Members of our volunteer organization, Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, gathered late this summer for their annual meeting, and you can read about that in this issue as well. We took this opportunity to thank some of those volunteers who help enrich the lives of the individuals we serve at the hospital. Their dedication to serving others is a huge part of what enables us to make sure the coming holidays are a happy and joyous time here. Remember that we always welcome anyone with a spirit of volunteerism who would like to volunteer here and make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Sincerely,

James Chastain

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throughout the year, but November and December see a flurry of activities with the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Many volunteer groups have been coming for years, and often hold longstanding dates they know they will attend. For Public Relations and Volunteer Services staff members, the holiday season unofficially begins the first Sunday of each November, which marks the date when several of those long-time groups schedule their visits.

The season officially kicks off the first Friday each December, which is the annual day for the Mississippi State Hospital Christmas parade. A hallmark of the holidays at Mississippi State Hospital, the annual Christmas parade will be Dec. 6 at 10 a.m. on the hospital campus and it is open to anyone who would like to attend.

The lineup is still being finalized, but it will likely have some antique cars, local marching bands, and all kinds of floats. The theme for this year's parade is "A North Pole Fantasy," and entrants are charged with designing their floats around all the fantastic goings-on they imagine to be taking place at the North Pole in the weeks leading up to Santa's big day.

By that time, the MSH campus will have been festively decorated and more than ready for the weeks of fun and fellowship to come. There will be trees, banners, wreaths, and all manner of decorations inside and outside the buildings. It will all make for a fitting backdrop for the dozens of parties volunteers will be hosting for patients and residents during the season. It is during this time that The Christmas House will open on Building 71.

While part of Building 71 is designated as the hospital's Clothing and Donation Center, during this time of year it transforms into The Christmas House to not only extend the festive holiday atmosphere, but also to handle the generous influx of donations that pour into the hospital in support of those individuals who are there receiving treatment.

Staff members will work hard and diligently during this time to organize all the donations and prepare gift bags. Monetary donations will also be accepted and used to purchase items that will go into gift bags. Small, simple gifts – a new pair of slippers, a nice sweatshirt, or a book – may not be the most exciting things for kids on Christmas morning, but they can go a long way towards bringing some happiness to people who are away from their friends and family during the holidays.

All of these gifts will be delivered on Santa Day, another annual tradition at the hospital that has been going on for more than two decades. Set for Friday, December 20, it will see more than 20 volunteers – local elected officials, hospital employees, and others – come to the campus to dress as Santa and deliver all of those gift bags to each and every individual being served through the hospital.

They will make their way through the campus on a fun and festive day that marks the end of the holiday activities at the hospital, but the weeks leading up to Santa Day also have plenty of opportunities to visit the hospital and brighten the holidays for those people who are away from home during this time. The Volunteer Services staff members are scheduling times for groups and volunteers to host those parties, dinners, and other events for patients and residents.

"Anyone with the heart to volunteer is welcome to host a party at the

hospital," Shows said. "We enjoy the chance to meet new friends and visit with old ones during this time of year, but of course it really means the world to the patients and residents our volunteers are serving."

For more information about volunteer opportunities at the hospital, visit the Volunteer Services web page at <http://www.msh.state.ms.us/volunteerservices/vshome.htm>, or call Mississippi State Hospital Public Relations at 601-351-8018.



MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL CELEBRATES 24TH ANNUAL 'SERENDIPITY' ART SHOW AND AUCTION



Mississippi State Hospital celebrated its 24th annual Serendipity art show and silent auction on Thursday, September 5, and hundreds of visitors went home from the show with unique and stunning pieces of work.

The show is an annual highlight at the hospital. All of the work on display is up for bid, and all of the work is created by patients and residents at the hospital who take part in the Art Services program there. Work on display included ceramics, pencil drawings, paintings in various styles and formats, and other mixed media. Around 350 visitors attended the showing, and nearly all of the pieces – more than 200 were in the show – went home with someone.

“We’re very excited and glad at the turnout we had for this year’s show,” Mississippi State Hospital Art Services Director Evelyn Bates said. “This is a great showpiece for the very impressive work created by the individuals we serve, and seeing how much value people place on that work does a great deal of good for our students.

“We hope everyone remembers the show is always on the first Thursday of September and comes back to join us next year, when we celebrate our 25th anniversary.”

It’s assured that many people will come back for that silver anniversary. Serendipity plays host to many longtime visitors who enthusiastically look forward to the show each year, marking their calendars to make sure they don’t miss it.

Art Minton and Janice Pearson were two visitors who said they have

been coming for several years now. They were able to get most of the pieces they bid on and hoped to win.

“There’s interesting insight here, looking at the different creations and seeing what gets put down on paper or in the pottery,” Pearson said.

Minton said he was an artist himself. He got three of the four pieces he bid on, including a piece he planned to present to a friend of his.

“I think this is the cutting edge of healing art,” he said.

Another visitor who was returning this year was Gayera Trabont. Her first visit to the show was last year, but it made enough of an impression that she was set on returning this year.

“I was amazed at the quality of the work,” she said. “I can get these and keep them for myself, or give them as a happy or a gift to someone. They’re so unique, and the story behind them makes them special.”

She won a stack of paintings she was taking home with her, and she bid on several more that she didn’t end up winning.

“There are several more pieces I would love to have, but someone else got those,” Trabont said.

One piece that was admired by many visitors actually ended up being purchased by a group – Friends of Mississippi State Hospital. The group buys one piece each year to place on permanent display in the hospital.

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This year, the Friends group bought a ceramic bowl created by a resident, the first time Friends has bought a ceramic piece. It will be displayed on Building 22, a clinical services and administrative office building.

“It’s always been very rewarding to see the responses to the delightful ceramic work our students have made, and I’m thrilled Friends decided to buy this piece to keep it on display here at the hospital,” ceramics instructor Teresa Sheppard said.

She plans on retiring soon, but she has made a mark on the Art Services

Program at Mississippi State Hospital. In recent years, ceramics pieces made under her instruction have been some of the most sought-after pieces of Serendipity. They have included functional bowls and purely decorative pieces like log cabins and Christmas trees. This year, one highlight was a ceramic sculpture of a man fishing off of a bridge.

“I’m retiring, so this will be my last Serendipity here as an instructor,” Sheppard said, “but I will always remember the extraordinary work I have been lucky enough to see through the years here.”



FRIENDS OF MSH CHOOSES BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2013-2014



Pictured are Friends of MSH board members and officers, (front row, l to r) Mike Kimbrell, Secretary Sheila Shows, Mary Crossman, Jessie Buckley, Jerald Ball, Kathy Denton (back row, l to r) Dr. Marc Lewis, Vice President Bridget Lowery, Bobby Stephens, Treasurer Dee Payne, President Joel Ross, and Gale Martin.

Friends of Mississippi State Hospital voted in its Board of Directors for the 2013-2014 year at its annual meeting on Wednesday, August 28.

The non-profit, volunteer organization is dedicated to supporting the individuals served at Mississippi State Hospital (MSH), promoting the work of the hospital and increasing public awareness of mental illness. Members include present and former MSH employees, friends and family members of those receiving services at the hospital, and other community leaders. Membership is open to all.

Pictured are Friends of MSH board members and officers, (front row, l to r) Mike Kimbrell, Secretary Sheila Shows, Mary Crossman, Jessie

Buckley, Jerald Ball, Kathy Denton (back row, l to r) Dr. Marc Lewis, Vice President Bridget Lowery, Bobby Stephens, Treasurer Dee Payne, President Joel Ross, and Gale Martin.

Not pictured are Tim Durr, Steve Lesley, Larry Swearengen, Bill Bobbs, Gladys Jackson, and Miriam Hollens.

For more information about volunteer and service opportunities with Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, contact Mississippi State Hospital Public Relations at 601-351-8018.

FRIENDS OF MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL THANKS ERGON FOR SUPPORT

Friends of Mississippi State Hospital took time at its annual meeting on August 28 to thank a longtime supporter of the volunteer organization.

Friends members gave special thanks to Ergon, Inc. for its longtime support and advocacy of the nonprofit group, which is dedicated to supporting Mississippi State Hospital and promoting public awareness of mental illness and mental health issues. Mississippi State Hospital Director James G. Chastain thanked the company and recognized Keith Clair, Vice President of Management and Leasing at Ergon, who was in attendance at the meeting. Chastain noted that Ergon has been a strong supporter of the Farmer Jim Neal Golf Classic, the biggest fundraiser of the year for Friends of MSH.

“They have been a part of the Farmer Jim Neal Golf Classic since its inception more than 10 years ago,” he said. “Their support of the golf tournament and the Friends organization helps us to fulfill the mission of this group and to improve the lives of the individuals Mississippi State Hospital serves.

“On behalf of the Friends group, I would like to thank Ergon for their support. It is greatly appreciated, and they are a valued friend of the hospital.”

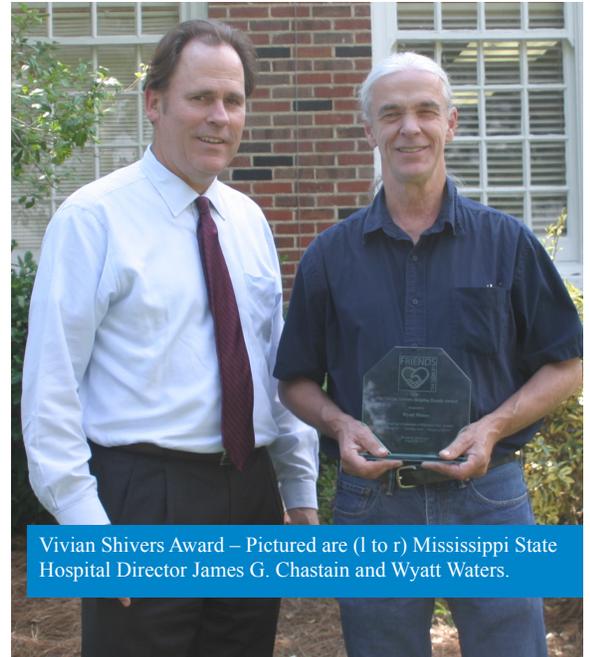


Pictured are (l to r) Ergon Vice President of Management and Leasing Keith Clair and Mississippi State Hospital Director James G. Chastain.

FRIENDS OF MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL HONORS VOLUNTEERS IN ANNUAL MEETING



Nancy B. Foreman Award – Pictured are (l to r) Mississippi State Hospital Director James G. Chastain, Quota Club members Rita Purser and Fairra Green, Friends of MSH board member Jerald Ball and Quota Club member Brandy Joiner.



Vivian Shivers Award – Pictured are (l to r) Mississippi State Hospital Director James G. Chastain and Wyatt Waters.

Friends of Mississippi State Hospital used its annual meeting on Wednesday, August 28 to recognize and honor some volunteers whose service to the hospital has made an enormous impact on the individuals served there.

The volunteer group, a non-profit dedicated to supporting the hospital, used its 26th anniversary to honor artist Wyatt Waters and the Quota Club International of Jackson for their dedication to the hospital. Waters has been an avid supporter of the Mississippi State Hospital art program and has often visited the campus during events like the annual MSH Day celebration to provide face painting for children and visitors. The Quota Club has likewise volunteered at the hospital for many years, giving their time and attention to provide personal visits, parties, and other donations to patients.

“The Friends organization established these awards to recognize significant contributions to its mission, and I am honored to be able to present those awards today,” Mississippi State Hospital Director James G. Chastain said. “These individuals have given selflessly of themselves and demonstrated a commitment to enhancing the quality of life for people who are living with mental illness. I am honored to be able to present these.”

Chastain presented the Quota Club with the Nancy B. Foreman Award and he presented the Vivian Shivers Award to Waters. Both awards are named after early members of the Friends group who were known for their steadfast devotion to the organization.

The Nancy B. Foreman Award is given each year to an individual or group whose service has shown a commitment to improving the lives of those served at the hospital. She was one of seven individuals to sign the charter that established the Friends organization, and she traveled throughout the state at her own expense to speak to other clubs and groups, educating them about mental illness and advocating for the hospital. Her grassroots efforts also helped make legislators

aware of the hospital’s needs and services it provides.

“The services and support the Quota Club has provided through the years are incredible,” Chastain said. “In addition to their personal visits and the activities they host, they have a special affinity for our child and adolescent unit and have routinely made donations or taken on projects, like purchasing special gifts for children who were not able to go home during the holidays so they would have something to open on Christmas morning.”

The Vivian Shivers Award is given each year to a person or group who represents an outstanding volunteer spirit and sets the standard for future generations. Mrs. Shivers began her career as a nurse at MSH and served in numerous committees and roles in Friends, even after her retirement in 1987. She remained an active volunteer and advocate until her death in 2009.

“Mr. Waters has supported the art program here since its inception, and his patronage and support of the annual Serendipity art exhibit has helped bring the program to the attention of the public, bringing visitors from throughout Mississippi and many other states,” Chastain said. “He has also used his talent and expertise in the art world to garner attention for special programs and activities, and has given selflessly of his time and talent for all of us here at Mississippi State Hospital.”

Chastain said that spirit of volunteerism is what brings together the members of Friends of Mississippi State Hospital.

“These people make a difference in their communities with each person they reach and each time they visit the hospital,” he said. “That’s why they do what they do, and we are thankful and grateful they have chosen to do that. They exemplify the spirit of volunteer service.”