



MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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MARGO HEMPHILL TO SPEAK AT MSH EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR PROGRAM

WHITFIELD— More than 30 Mississippi State Hospital employees will be honored for their hard work and dedication at next week's Employee of the Year program, but only three will walk away with top honors.

The 2009 Employee of the Year program will be Friday, Feb. 5 at 1:30 in the Albert Randel Hendrix Treatment Center on the MSH campus. All of the Employees of the Month from 2009 will gather to be recognized for their services, but one employee each from Licensed Clinical Services, Direct Care Services and Support Services will be named Employee of the Year and receive a cash prize and a plaque recognizing their achievements.

Margo Hemphill will be the guest speaker. Author of "They're Only Teenagers, What do you Expect?!", the Florence resident is well-known for her mix of down-home humor and thought-provoking insight and guidance.

Her book has been praised for her trademark humor, which she uses to relate stories about her experiences raising her three children. A graduate of Millsaps College, Hemphill has a degree in chemistry, and has also done chemistry research and graduate work at Mississippi State University and Mississippi College.

In 1997, she started her own graphic design and promotional firm. She has also founded Woggle, a women's apparel line, and is the founder and director of Margo's Cargo Softball, a tournament softball program for female athletes based on Christian principles that has posted three national championships.

Her recognitions and awards from the community are just as numerous and varied as her work has been. In 1999, she was recognized as a "Hometown Hero" by a local television station, she was the 2005-2006 recipient of Woman of Distinction Award presented by the Central MS Council of Girl Scouts and just this year, the Mississippi Business Journal recognized her as one of the state's Top 50 Women in Business.

The Employee of the Year program is sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc. Founded in 1987, Friends is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the work of Mississippi State Hospital and informing the public of mental illness and the needs of the mentally ill.

More information about Friends can be found online at www.msh.state.ms.us.

MSH, a facility of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, was founded in 1855 and facilitates improvement in the quality of life for Mississippians who are in need of mental health, chemical dependency or nursing home services, by rehabilitating to the least restrictive environment, utilizing a range of psychiatric and medical services, which reflect the accepted standard of care and are in compliance with statutory and regulatory guidelines. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.

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PHOTO ATTACHED: Margo Hemphill