



# MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

P.O. Box 157-A, Whitfield, MS 39193  
Phone (601) 351-8018 Fax (601) 351-8364  
www.msh.state.ms.us

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## **For Immediate Release**

August 26, 2010

Contact: Adam Moore (601) 351-8262, adam.moore@msh.state.ms.us

### **FRIENDS OF MSH HONORS HILL OF ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

WHITFIELD—Friends of the Mississippi State Hospital honored Hill of Zion Missionary Baptist Church with Nancy B. Foreman Award during its annual meeting on Wednesday, August 25. The award is given each year to an individual or group who has demonstrated through their service a commitment to enhancing the quality of life for persons with mental illness.

Hill of Zion Missionary Baptist Church has shown that commitment for decades. Each year, they visit the hospital on the first Sunday in November to bring home-cooked food, singing, fellowship and gifts to patients. They are known for arriving in their Sunday best, and have been described looking as if they are going to attend a ball at the Governor's Mansion.

“This one small, and one would think insignificant, note sends a message,” MSH Director James G. Chastain said. “It shows they dressed in their best to visit and to bring joy to our patients.

“They also include youth from their organization in an effort to teach them the value of volunteerism and the rewards of giving yourself to others. It is an honor to present this award to Hill of Zion Missionary Baptist Church.”

Lillie Stewart accepted the award for the group. She has been president of the Missionary Society for the 25 years the church members have been volunteering at Mississippi State Hospital. Friends of MSH is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the work of Mississippi State Hospital and informing the public about mental illness and the needs of the mentally ill.

Pictured are (l to r) Friends of MSH President Bill Bobbs, Lillie Stewart, and MSH Director James G. Chastain.

For more information, call MSH Public Relations at (601) 351-8018.

*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. Accredited by JCAHO, MSH is the largest hospital in Mississippi and the largest public psychiatric facility in the United States.*

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**PHOTO ATTACHED**