



# MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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## **For Immediate Release**

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### **NWR BASKETBALL TEAM DONATES TO MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL**

WHITFIELD—Patients and residents at Mississippi State Hospital will be getting some essential items thanks to the generosity and support of the Northwest Rankin High School basketball teams.

Coaches and players gathered at the McAlister's Deli at Dogwood on Monday, Dec. 13 to help gather donations of important pieces of clothing that most people don't think twice about – socks. After a week of taking donations at school, they capped off their sock drive by taking donations at the local restaurant. The socks will be among gift bags distributed to each and every patient and resident at Mississippi State Hospital during the holiday season.

“Anything at the hospital is a good cause,” NWR boys coach Jason Greer said. “We try to give back to the community as much as possible. We've got a few other projects lined up, and some community service ideas we want to get the kids involved in.”

“The kids didn't mind giving, the basketball players didn't mind giving and the student body didn't mind giving because this is a worthwhile cause.”

Their good deed also ended up returning back to them. The McAlister's at Dogwood is turning over a portion of the profits taken in Monday night to the basketball team, said that location's general manager, Frank McCool.

“Anything we can do local, with the schools and community, we like to support them,” he said. “We enjoy doing it and like to be part of the community. They support us and we want to be able to give back,” he said.

MSH patients will be given gift bags on Dec. 22, an annual tradition known as Santa Day, when staff, volunteers, community leaders and elected officials all dress as Santa and meet on the MSH campus to deliver gifts to every patient and resident at the hospital.

*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.*

**PHOTO ATTACHED: Pictured are Friends of Mississippi State Hospital president Bill Bobbs, NWR coaches Jason Greer and Angela Reynolds with NWR basketball players at McAlister's at Dogwood on Monday, Dec. 13. They have taken donations of socks over recent weeks to donate to Mississippi State Hospital.**