



# MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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## **For Immediate Release**

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## **SANTA CLAUS TO VISIT MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL NEXT WEEK**

WHITFIELD—Santa Claus will visit the Mississippi State Hospital campus on Wednesday, Dec. 22, when dozens of MSH staff, community leaders and elected officials dress up as the jolly old elf to give out hundreds of gifts at the hospital.

Each MSH patient, Jaquith Nursing Home resident and individual served in the community will receive a gift bag with personal gifts, clothes, fruits and candies. The Santas will visit each and every patient and resident building on the campus to personally deliver the holiday gifts. All of the gifts given to patients have been graciously donated by hundreds of caring people from communities, civic and service organizations, churches, businesses and scouting troops throughout the state.

The Santa Day program will begin in the Building 71 Conference Center at 9:30, when MSH Director James G. Chastain will welcome all the participants and thank them for their contributions in the annual event, and a group of clients from the hospital's Community Services Division will sing some traditional holiday carols before the participants head out to deliver their gifts to patients.

Santa Day marks the end of Mississippi State Hospital's Christmas season, which began with a parade on Dec. 3 and has been marked by holiday parties for patients and residents, caroling, a musical Christmas program and more.

*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.*