



MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL CELEBRATES SANTA DAY

WHITFIELD—Mississippi State Hospital got a visit on Thursday, Dec. 22 from Santa Claus, who stopped by the Whitfield campus and the Jackson Community Services location to offer gifts for all.

Each MSH patient, Jaquith Nursing Home resident and individual served in the community received a gift bag with personal items like clothes, fruits and candies. A longstanding tradition at the hospital, “Santa Day” sees volunteers, elected officials and employees dressed as the holiday gift-giver visit each and every patient and resident building on the campus to personally deliver holiday gifts.

This year, there were 2,043 volunteers who visited the hospital campus and provided 115 Christmas parties for more than 1,100 patients, residents and clients. Santa Day is the culmination of those holiday activities.

“These are civic groups, church groups, Boy Scout troops and others who provide these parties,” MSH Director James Chastain said. “It’s a lot of fun, and it makes for a wonderful Christmas season for the folks who are in the hospital during Christmas time.”

Before the volunteers made their rounds as Santa, Chastain gave his thanks for the service of all those volunteers who donated to or visited MSH patients during the holiday season.

“I know there are other places where want you to be, but you choose to come to Mississippi State Hospital for Santa Day, and we couldn’t be more thankful,” Chastain said. “It’s just fantastic. We ask for support from the community, and we’re very grateful for the response we get every year. It’s always generous, and it always helps make sure Santa Day is great for everyone.”

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.

PHOTOS ATTACHED:

Santa Day 1: Twenty-two volunteers gathered to deliver gifts to Mississippi State Hospital patients, Jaquith Nursing Home residents, and clients served through the community on

Thursday, Dec. 22. The volunteers were MSH employees, community leaders, and elected officials from the area.

Santa Day 2: Friends of MSH President Bill Bobbs (left) displays a handmade Christmas ornament that was given to volunteers who participated in Santa Day while MSH Director James G. Chastain (right) looks on. Friends of MSH is a volunteer organization dedicated to promoting the work of the hospital and educating the public about mental illness.

Santa Day 3: Senator Hillman Frazier, D-Hinds County, delivers gifts to Joe Rutledge, a resident of Jaquith Nursing Home, located on the hospital campus. Senator Frazier is a longtime participant in Santa Day and has delivered gifts to patients and residents for years.