



MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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PARADE KICKS OFF HOLIDAY SEASON AT MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

WHITFIELD—The Christmas season at Mississippi State Hospital officially kicked off last week with the annual Christmas parade.

Friends, family members and volunteers celebrated the holiday season at MSH with classic cars, marching bands, floats and, of course, Santa Claus, all of which made their way through the Mississippi State Hospital campus. The grand marshal for the parade was Ms. Mary Crossman, director of medical records at the hospital. She has worked there since 1951, and entries in the parade were decorated with themes from the 1950s in her honor.

The parade was just the beginning of a busy season at the hospital. Throughout the month of December, volunteers will be visiting the campus to provide holiday parties, lunches and dinners for patients and residents of Mississippi State Hospital and Jaquith Nursing Home.

The holiday season will culminate on Dec. 22, known as Santa Day. Another annual tradition at the hospital, Santa Day sees hospital staff, volunteers and other community leaders gather at the hospital dressed as Santa to deliver gift bags to each and every patient or resident. All gifts for Santa Day are donated by the public through the MSH Christmas House, located on Building 71 on the campus.

Individuals can bring new clothing items, personal care items, books, games, puzzles, or art supplies to the Christmas House in Building 71, or make monetary donations by mailing checks to MSH Volunteer Services, P.O. Box 157-A, Whitfield, MS 39193. Checks should be made payable to Mississippi State Hospital.

For more information or to learn more about volunteering at the hospital, visit www.msh.state.ms.us or call 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. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.

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PHOTOS ENCLOSED

1 – The annual Christmas parade kicks off the holiday season at Mississippi State Hospital, during which volunteers from all over the state will visit the hospital to contribute their time to patients and residents. Hundreds of people took part in the parade this year on Friday, Dec. 3, 2010.

2 – Santa Claus was just one of the sights in the parade. Floats were decorated in a 1950s theme and portrayed the music, movies and people of the decade. While Santa was pulled in a wagon, there were also plenty of classic cars on display.

3 – The Raymond High School band was just one of several that performed during the MSH Christmas parade. Other bands included Pearl Junior High, Northwest Middle, Powell and Hardy Middle School.