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PRESS RELEASE

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CHILDREN FROM RANKIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT CREATE EASTER BASKETS FOR JAQUITH NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

WHITFIELD—Residents of Jaquith Nursing Home (JNH) were all smiles on Easter after receiving customized Easter baskets created by students in the Rankin County School District's Frontiers Extended Day Enrichment Program. The baskets came in all shapes and colors, based on the children's imagination.

“We have approximately twelve hundred children – kindergarten through sixth grade – at 13 schools across the district,” said Sherrye Thompson, director of Community Education Services for Rankin County Schools. “This project not only allows the children to express their creativity through art, but it also allows them to give something back to the community. I don't think that children can ever be too young to learn that they can actually do something for somebody else.”

JNH Director Marc Lewis said he is pleased that the students took time out to make Easter brighter for residents.

“Many of our residents don't have the opportunity to go home for the holidays,” Lewis said. “To have someone deliver Easter baskets to them is a special treat.”

“We are grateful for the generosity of the Frontiers Enrichment Program,” said Holly Haralson, director of Recreational Services for JNH. “Our residents especially enjoy receiving gifts from children in the area.”

Lewis said projects such as the Easter baskets lets residents know that someone cares.

Founded in 1976, Jaquith Nursing Home is a long-term care facility dedicated to serving individuals who are in need of nursing care in a safe and comfortable therapeutic environment. The nursing home is located on the 350-acre campus of Mississippi State Hospital at Whitfield.

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PHOTO ATTACHED [easter_baskets_2jpg]: Sherrye Thompson (from left), director of Community Education Services for the Rankin County School District; Holly Haralson, director of Recreational Services for Jaquith Nursing Home (JNH); and JNH recreation therapists Shanell Kettle, Lisa Campbell, Carolyn Guin, and Carol Winstead display Easter baskets created by Rankin County school children for JNH residents.