



MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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OAK CIRCLE CENTER THANKS JUNIOR AUXILIARY FOR SERVICE PROJECT

WHITFIELD—Children at Mississippi State Hospital’s Oak Circle Center are enjoying a newly-decorated activity room thanks to the efforts of a local volunteer group.

The Junior Auxiliary of Rankin County has spent their free time over the past weeks painting a mural on the walls of an activity room in the child and adolescent unit at the hospital. The children’s day room is now adorned with a bright sky, green grass, colorful flowers, a sandy beach and a blue ocean to give the children there an enjoyable play area. The Oak Circle Center staff had a reception to thank them for their work on Tuesday, Nov. 9.

“We’re so appreciative of the Junior Auxiliary and the hard work and countless hours they’ve put in here,” Oak Circle Center Unit Director Regina Lacking said. “We appreciate the extra things they’ve done, like being here to spend time with the kids. We appreciate friends like them, and we’re looking forward to working with them and seeing the difference they make in the lives of those we serve.”

Tina Berryhill is a member of Junior Auxiliary and an employee of the hospital. She said the group’s high school arm, the Crown Club, also contributed to the project by rolling newspapers, and that this won’t be the last time Junior Auxiliary works at Oak Circle Center.

“Because of this unit, we’re going to try to expand what the Junior Auxiliary does for Oak Circle, and these rooms are just the beginning. We love what we do,” she said. “If they have care for today, they’ll have care for tomorrow.”

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.

- 30 -

PHOTO ATTACHED: Pictured are Junior Auxiliary members at the reception Tuesday afternoon. They are (seated, l to r) Karen Ruffin, Kathy McDill, Brook Adkinson, Tori Liberto, Allison Dallas, (standing, l to r) Tina Berryhill, Chris Link, Kelli Nicholson, Susan Stringer and Beth Ingram.