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**For Immediate Release**

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**JAQUITH NURSING HOME RESIDENTS GET IN HALLOWEEN SPIRIT**

WHITFIELD —Jaquith Nursing Home (JNH) residents are getting into the Halloween spirit with a pumpkin decorating contest at each of the five inns that make up the home.

The Halloween tradition has become an annual event at JNH, with winners being chosen for four categories – best presentation, most creative pumpkin, scariest pumpkin and most residents involved – giving nursing home residents the opportunity to celebrate the season and to exhibit their creativity.

“The thing that impressed me the most was the resident involvement,” said JNH director Marc Lewis. “We try to create a home-like environment that everyone enjoys and takes part in. We had this with this event. There was a lot of participation and it was a lot of fun.”

Jaquith Inn won the award for most resident involvement. They transformed the building into “Crossbones Inn,” complete with foreboding signs and a ghoulish greeter awaiting visitors at the front door. Building 48, Adams Inn, received the best presentation award for becoming “Ghosts and Goblins Ranch.” The most creative award was given to Building 33, Jefferson Inn, whose residents turned their pumpkin into a spooky white ghost. The scariest award went to Building 34, Madison Inn, which featured a ghastly pumpkin with grisly tastes.

The pumpkins for this year’s event were graciously donated by the North Delta Produce Growers Association. They got in touch with Mississippi State Hospital and Jaquith Nursing Home through their work with Alcorn State University.

“This is just something good we can do. It lets other growers see what’s going on out in the community,” said Charles Houston, president of the organization. “We do want to run a successful business, but we want to be good friends to the community, too.”

Elizabeth Myles, marketing specialist for Alcorn’s Mississippi Small Farm Development Center, said partnering with local organizations was good for everyone involved.

“It’s very important, because it’s a win-win for everyone,” Myles said. “You can get farmers working with local organizations, who will see how important it is to buy local and buy fresh. It’s good to build these relationships and exchange ideas.”

*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. JNH is accredited by The Joint Commission.*

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**PHOTO ATTACHED:**

Photo 1: Pictured are (l to r) Jaquith Nursing Home Recreation Supervisor Holly Haralson, President of North Delta Produce Growers Association James Houston, Alcorn State University Marketing Specialist Elizabeth Myles and MSH Development Director Paula Eure. The donated pumpkins were used in a Halloween pumpkin decorating contest by residents of Jaquith Nursing Home.

Photo 2: This pumpkin-turned-ghost was named the most creative entry in Jaquith Nursing Home’s pumpkin decorating contest. Awards were also given for the best presentation, the scariest and most resident involvement.