



MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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KIWANIS CLUB DONATES TO MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

WHITFIELD—Children at Mississippi State Hospital’s Oak Circle Center gained a new avenue for recreation and therapy on Wednesday, September 08, 2010, thanks to a donation from a Clarksdale Kiwanis Club and Rep. John Mayo.

Tom Jones, Mississippi Division 2 Lt. Governor of Kiwanis, donated a Nintendo Wii and a Wii Fit game to the child and adolescent unit at MSH after Mayo, a personal friend, told him Oak Circle Center represented an opportunity for service. Mayo has been a longtime supporter of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health in the Legislature and had recently visited the hospital.

“He was the catalyst,” Jones said of Mayo. “He made the need known and went around to the community. We said we wanted to support something like that. We just got everything together and here we are.”

Oak Circle Center Unit Director Regina Lacking said the Wii and the Wii Fit game will provide a lot of entertainment for children on the unit, which serves children as young as four and as old as 17.

“It is a lot of fun for them, and just because they’re here doesn’t mean they can’t have the same fun that any other kid or any other teenager has,” she said.

The benefit of the Wii, though, goes beyond just entertaining the children, she said.

“There’s the fitness component of this game, where it keeps them active and healthy while they are still playing the game. They don’t see it as really exercising; they just see it as a game. They’re going to really enjoy it.”

Jones and Mayo visited the hospital to personally donate the game to Oak Circle Center. While it was the first time for Jones to visit the hospital, he said it wouldn’t be the last.

“The whole point is to give back a little bit of what we’ve earned throughout our lives and help out the children if we possibly can,” he said. “This is just a small token, but we want to do what we can.”

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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PHOTO ATTACHED: Pictured are (l to r) Mississippi District 25 Representative John Mayo, Oak Circle Center Service Chief Dr. Carol Tingle, Kiwanis Mississippi District 2 Lt. Governor Tom Jones, Oak Circle Center Unit Director Regina Lacking, Oak Circle Center Director of Nursing Billy Walton, and Inpatient Services/Service Outcome Division Director Paula Kleeb. At the urging of Rep. Mayo, Jones and his fellow Kiwanis Club members donated a Nintendo Wii to Oak Circle Center, Mississippi State Hospital's child and adolescent unit. Kiwanis is an international organization dedicated to serving the children of the world.