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WELTY LIBRARY TO HOST PHOTO EXHIBIT BY JACKSON HOMELESS

WHITFIELD—An upcoming art show at the Eudora Welty Library will put a new twist on an old tune.

The lyrics to the old Peggy Lee tune “Is That All There Is” are a bit jaded and pessimistic about life, but “That’s Not All There Is: Snapshots and Stories of the Homeless,” will drive home the point that you can never tell a book by its cover. “That’s Not All There Is” will be hosted at the Eudora Welty Library in Jackson all through September, with a reception scheduled for 5-6:30 p.m. on September 15 in the Ellen Douglas Meeting Room at the library.

Sponsored through a partnership between the Mississippi State Hospital Community Services Stubbs Homeless Program and the Jackson-Hinds Library System, the show is coordinated by Gerry Printz, a Brandon business entrepreneur who began taking photos of the homeless through his involvement with Jackson Street Ministry, a group which attends to the needs of downtown Jackson’s homeless.

“There is a reason these people are homeless,” said Printz. “But they are human beings just like us. Some are very intelligent. Some have great senses of humor. Some have talents that belie their appearance. These are real people who just want to be treated with respect.”

In conjunction with Project Homeless Connect, a week-long schedule of events September 20-24, sponsored by the City of Jackson and Partners to End Homelessness, Printz hopes to show off the talents of the homeless. Funded in part by the Stubbs Homeless Program, Printz purchased disposable cameras and distributed them to homeless persons living on the streets. He asked them to take pictures of people and places that are important parts of their lives. These photos will be featured at the Welty show, along with Printz’s own haunting photos of the homeless.

Jackson Street Ministry will also exhibit videos of interviews with the homeless. And the Welty Library will introduce its new Homeless Information Center, a proactive effort to provide resource information to homeless patrons, as well as to educate the general public about homelessness issues

For more information, contact the Stubbs Homeless Program at (601) 351-8523.

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.