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CHRISTMAS PARADE KICKS OFF CHRISTMAS SEASON

BY TIM DURR



MSH and JNH patients, residents and staff closed the year 2014 by participating in a variety of Christmas activities. The Christmas season was ushered in with the Annual MSH Christmas Parade on Dec. 5. More than 40 entries participated in the parade, including cars, trucks, motorcycles, floats, bands ROTC units, horses, community businesses, and local blues artists J-Wonn and Dave Mack. Several area high schools were represented, including Raymond, Northwest, Canton, Jim Hill, Forest Hill, and Ridgeland.

Each entry was judged and the winners received a certificate along with cash awards provided by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc. The winners of a certificate and \$50 certificate to Valley:

- Building 78, "A Christmas Story"
- Building 40, "Disco Wonderland"
- Building 87, "Rock and Roll Christmas"
- Buildings 31 and 48, "A Hippy Christmas"
- Oak Circle Center, "A Motown Christmas"
- Mid-South Rehabilitation Services, "The Therapist of Whoville"
- Adjunct Services, "Those Were The Days"
- Building 36, "A 70s Christmas"

These entries received a certificate and \$100 cash in the following categories:

- Best Representation of Theme – A tie between Whitfield Medical Surgical Hospital, and Buildings 201 and 203 for "A Soul Train Christmas"
- Most Hilarious – Building 63 for "An Awesome 80s Christmas"
- Most Creative Use of Materials, - A tie between Madison Inn (Buildings 28 and 34) and Jefferson Inn, Buildings 29 and 33
- Judges Favorite – Forensics (Building 43) for Scrooge

The Grand Marshal's Award went to Hudspeth Regional Center for their float, "An Old Fashioned Christmas".





SANTA DAY BRINGS LOTS OF SMILES

BY TIM DURR

The faces of MSH patients and JNH residents lit up Tuesday, Dec. 23 as a number of Santas descended on the MSH campus, passing out gift bags. As part of MSH's annual Santa Day activities, the patients and residents eagerly awaited the arrival of Jolly Ole St. Nick. The Santas were actually business leaders, government officials, and other members of the community who volunteered their time to make Christmas brighter for the individuals served at MSH and JNH.

"I just enjoy putting a smile on people's faces and making a difference in people's lives," said volunteer Santa Dustin Crum. A Vocational Training Instructor at North Mississippi Regional Center in Oxford, Crum volunteer for Santa duty at MSH while in town to visit his mother-in-law, MSH Public Relations employee Donna Brown. "I serve as Santa at our facility, and I am pleased to be able to serve at MSH as well. "It gives me a great joy to help other people and make someone else happy. It really means a lot to me to do

that especially during the Christmas holidays."

Daniel Elliott of Bancorp South said he also enjoys seeing the patients' and residents' reaction when he delivers Christmas goodies.

"I've done this for the past four or five years, and the smiles on the residents' faces is just priceless," Elliott said.

"I love serving as Santa," said Mike Harris, director of Hudspeth Re-





gional Center. “Last year was my first year to participate in Santa Day at Mississippi State Hospital and I am pleased to be able to come back. It is an opportunity to give back to individuals and the patients really enjoyed the gifts that they received.”

Independent insurance agent Patrick Fontaine said Santa Day gives him a sense of accomplishment.

“During this time of year, if I can do anything to help spread the joy, then I’m accomplishing a lot,” he said.

“This is probably my 23rd year of being a Santa here at the State Hospital,” said Carl Mangum, Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

“It’s very important for the patients because for many of them, this is the only Christmas they will have. Many times family will not come and visit for whatever reason. It’s just a joyous time of year and everyone deserves to have a Merry Christmas.”

MSH Director James G. Chastain thanked the volunteers for coming.

“We could not do this without you,” he told the crowd of Santas and their helpers. “This day happens because of you and your spirit of giving, and we want to let you know how much we appreciate your being involved in this event. It’s a lot of fun, and you bring in a lot of joy and fun to the individuals who are served here at Christmas.”

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MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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VISION
Mental wellness in every life, in every home,
and in every community.

MISSION
To help the individuals we serve achieve mental wellness by encouraging hope, promoting safety and supporting recovery while utilizing resources efficiently.

- OUR GOALS**
1. Accelerate the implementation of person-centered and recovery-oriented treatment and care.
 2. Improve clinical, physical, and environmental safety and quality for patients and residents.
 3. Minimize waste of resources and cost.

CORE VALUES
Respect – Relationships - Accountability -
Teamwork - Diversity

MEMBER OF
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American Hospital Association
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Southern States Psychiatric
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