



MENTAL OUTLOOK

A Publication of Mississippi State Hospital Fall 2011 Volume 20 Number 3

Highlights
Serendipity Page 4
Friends of MSH Honors... Page 6
Paint it Purple Page 9

COMMUNITY SERVICES CELEBRATES NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH



For an untold number of Americans, September meant much more than the end of summer or the first few twinges of fall in the air.

As National Recovery Month, September represents hope and health for those individuals who live with mental illnesses. In its 22nd year, National Recovery Month is a national observance that educates Americans on the fact that it is possible for those in need of addiction treatment or mental health services to live a healthy and rewarding life. The observation helps spread the message that good mental health is an essential component of complete health, and that people can recover from addiction and mental illness.

Mississippi is joining others across the country in celebrating recovery and proclaiming that prevention works and treatment is effective. The process is different for everyone, but recovery – each individual’s unique and ongoing journey to have a meaningful and productive life – is possible.

“Ask your friend or neighbor if they have been touched by substance abuse or mental illness in any way and the answer is almost always yes,” Department of Mental Health Executive Director Ed LeGrand said. “Substance abuse and mental health issues are serious public health problems in Mississippi.”

Last year alone, an estimated 199,000 Mississippians needed treatment for alcohol and drug use, and more than 165,000 people needed treatment for a mental health issue. Unfortunately, not all of those people may seek help. While most people won’t think twice about seeking help for a physical illness, the negative attitudes and thoughts

surrounding mental illness can often keep someone from seeking the help they need.

“We must continue to educate our policymakers, friends, family members, health care providers, and businesses that substance abuse and mental health issues are treatable. Behavioral health is an essential part of overall health,” LeGrand said.

That’s the message that was spread throughout the country during September. Thousands of clients and all kinds of programs shared their successes and celebrated their recovery with their friends, families and communities.

Mississippi State Hospital Community Services recognized the day on



continues on page 3



OUTLOOK

MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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MISSION

Mississippi State Hospital 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.

VISION

We will be a customer-driven organization.

CORE VALUES

Respect - Teamwork - Trust
Communication - Commitment

MEMBER OF

Mississippi Department of Mental Health
American Hospital Association
Mississippi Hospital Association
Southern States Psychiatric Hospital Association

ACCREDITED BY
The Joint Commission

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A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR...

Welcome to another issue of Mental Outlook. Summer has wound down and fall is here. Something we can always count on during this time of the year is the influx of visitors and volunteers we'll have on the Mississippi State Hospital campus as we head into the holiday season. It's a busy time of year for us as we prepare for all it takes to make the holidays a special time of year for those patients and residents we serve. You can read

about all of the effort our faithful volunteers give to the hospital during that season later in this issue. Our Friends organization recently honored several groups and individuals for their outstanding support throughout the years, and I hope you'll consider ways you can be of service as well. Whether you visit our patients, offer gifts or monetary donations, or even just help spread word of the service opportunities here, your support is always appreciated.

Also in this issue is a story about National Recovery Month, which was September. If you've read past issues of Mental Outlook, you will be familiar with the concept of recovery-based services. As Mississippi continues to move to this system of care, it is vital that we educate our communities about mental illness and the needs of the mentally ill. Recovery – an individual's unique and ongoing journey to have a meaningful and productive life – is possible for everyone who lives with a mental illness. Let's do our best to help get that message out to those who don't know.

Sincerely,

James Chastain

Friends of MSH, Inc.
would like to say

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continued from page 1

the last day of the month, September 30, at Capers Avenue. Dozens of clients gathered to celebrate their recovery and encourage one another along their journey to recovery.

Clients and staff also planted a “Tree of Recovery,” in a symbolic gesture representing the growth individuals are able to make on their journey of recovery. They also read a poem in remembrance of all those friends who had passed away over the past year, saying that the chain may be broken, but it will link together again. They placed ribbons on the newly-planted tree in remembrance of their friends.

They also placed ribbons on the tree to symbolize some of the tenets that make up the idea of recovery – dreams, patience, hope, determination, a journey, courage, faith, goals, and support.

As that closing part of the ceremony was taking place, the gathered group read aloud a statement that could act as a good summary of recovery:

“This is true, this is me, this is my situation, and I have the opportunity to build from here,” they said. “This is my starting point, and I will succeed.”



FRIENDS OF MSH NAMES 2011-2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

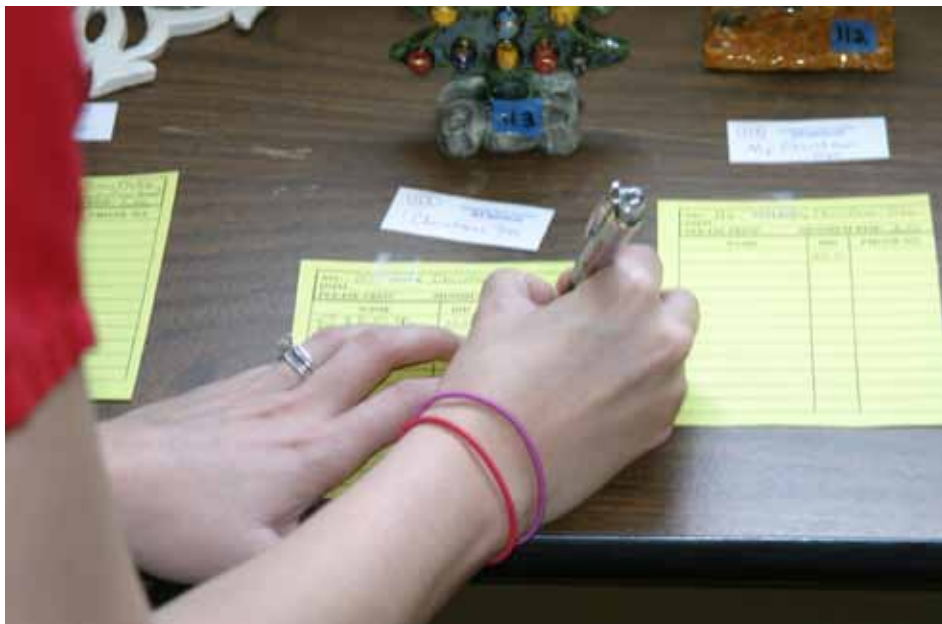


Pictured are the 2011-2012 Friends of the Mississippi State Hospital Board of Directors (front row, l to r) Sheila Shows, Miriam Hollens, Mary Crossman, Marilyn Garth, Jerald Ball, Bobby Stephens, Ray Wallace, (back row, l to r) Gale Martin, Steve Lesley, Dee Payne, Joel Ross, and Marc Lewis. Not pictured are Bill Bobbs, John Overby, Jeannie Pittman and Benny Hubbard.

Friends of the Mississippi State Hospital voted in officers and board members for the 2011-2012 year at its annual meeting on Wednesday, August 24. Founded in 1987, Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the work of Mississippi State Hospital (MSH) and informing the public of mental illness and the needs of the mentally ill.

Friends donates 100 percent of its funds to support events and programs that enrich the lives of MSH patients, individuals served in the community, Jaquith Nursing Home residents and employees. Their annual events include a fishing rodeo, an Independence Day fireworks celebration and monthly recognition for MSH patients and employees. Friends is made up of MSH staff members, local civic groups, businesses and patients’ family members.

SERENDIPITY



Cars, wagons, gas stations, tractors, and even old log cabins were all on display in the conference room on Building 71 on Thursday, September 1.

Instead of being the full-sized antiques, though, they were just small ceramic replicas, just a few of the 300 pieces of art on display in Mississippi State Hospital's 22nd annual Serendipity art show and silent auction. As usual, this year's show featured a large variety of art styles and subjects, ranging from the ceramics to pencil drawing portraits and landscapes in watercolor. The ceramics, though, proved popular with seemingly everyone who visited the show.

"There was almost three times more ceramics this year than there was last year," ceramics instructor Teresa Sheppard said. "We had some real strong interest from some of the buildings, and those patients came to class, and it made a big difference in the show."

During Serendipity, the public is invited to come to the campus to view and bid on work created by MSH patients, Jaquith Nursing Home residents, and Community Services clients. This year, there were 316 total pieces on display.

Proceeds from the winning bids on those pieces went back to the individual patients who created the artwork. More importantly than that, though, is the recognition and appreciation of the accomplishments made by those receiving services through the hospital.

Their work represents the varied lessons taught by MSH Art Services to patients and residents for therapeutic or cognitive lessons. Art Services instructors can teach in group or individual lessons, helping to increase creative processes and self-expression in addition to fostering an understanding of art materials and methods.

The end result is that patients often enhance their self-esteem as they learn new abilities, increase their motor skills, and develop new communication skills.

Shortly before Serendipity, a client at the Opportunity House program in Community Services wrote down some thoughts about how meaningful Art Services has been.

"The weekly meeting of the art class is extremely valuable for an outlet of expression for the mentally ill clients of Opportunity House. Both as an expression of creativity and as a medium to relieve pent-up frustrations, the class is significant to class members," the patient wrote.

"The arts are one valuable outlet for even mentally healthy individuals, but are of paramount need for mentally unhealthy individuals who every day experience a greater amount of stress dealing with day-to-day problems. As a means to release built-up tensions, and way to foster hidden talents, our art class is a supremely valuable need for the members of the various group homes."

Clare Dale was just one of the visitors who came to Serendipity this year. She first heard about it last year after seeing a special preview of some of the artwork that was displayed in a local department store. She bought several things at last year's show and said she had been trying to keep her eyes open for when the next show would be.

"I think I was probably surprised. I wish I wasn't, but I was surprised at how very talented the work was. It had a real depth, and there were some real different things you normally don't see," Dale said.

Dale taught children with learning problems for years, and said she often saw that they were some of the smartest, most talented children she knew.

"I think this probably proves it," Dale said.

She had been out of town and hadn't seen any notice of this year's show when she unexpectedly – serendipitously, even – noticed something.

"Then I saw it in the paper this morning," she said.



She came out with a friend of hers who is not only an artist herself, but who used to work at the hospital in the 1970s. They took home several pieces, with Dale winning a ceramic gypsy wagon and a portrait in the silent auction.

“I got this to go with what I got last year,” Dale said. “I think they’ll go great together.”

Impressed by the work she saw, she thanked the individuals for their work and said she would be sure to come back next year. She might possibly be even more impressed if she knew all of the stories behind the pieces. For instance, some of the ceramics were created by individuals who only had the use of one arm, and even in one case, an individual who did not have the use of either arm.

Sheppard says some people tend to forget all about their physical limitations once they start creating something.

“They don’t place limitations on themselves,” she said. “They just excel.”

Knowing the effort put into creating all of the ceramic pieces at the show,



Sheppard said it was immensely gratifying to see all of the attention that her students’ work got during Serendipity.

“Words can’t describe it. It feels so good, because I know how much work went into it,” she said.



FRIENDS OF MSH HONORS NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH LAYMEN MINISTRY



Pictured are (l to r) MSH Director James G. Chastain, Ron Hill, and Friends of MSH board member Ray Wallace.

Friends of Mississippi State Hospital presented the third annual Vivian Shivers Award to the New Hope Baptist Church Laymen Ministry during the Friends annual meeting on Wednesday, August 24.

The award honors the individual or group who represents the volunteer spirit and sets the standard for future generations. It is named in honor of the late Vivian Shivers, who began her career as an RN at MSH in 1976. She went on to serve in the Jaquith Nursing Home, and con-

tinued volunteering with the Friends of MSH organization after her retirement in 1987. She remained an active volunteer and advocate for Mississippi State Hospital until her death in 2009.

Members of the New Hope Baptist Laymen Ministry have been as consistent and faithful as Shivers was. They began their volunteer service to Mississippi State Hospital 27 years ago during the Christmas holidays in 1984, and have continued their service ever since. Ron Hill accepted the award on behalf of the ministry.

“Early on they became known for a special program of song and fellowship,” MSH Director James G. Chastain said.

“An a cappella version of ‘Sweet Little Jesus Boy’ by Mr. Thomas Moman, Jr. was always a highlight for many patients. Their visits also include individual gift bags for all of the patients who attend their programs.

“Please join me in congratulating New Hope Baptist Church Laymen Ministry as recipients of the 2011 Vivian Shivers Award.”

FRIENDS OF MSH HONORS HEROINES OF JERICHO

Friends of the Mississippi State Hospital honored Heroines of Jericho T.C. Almore Court #35 with the Nancy B. Foreman Award during its annual meeting on Wednesday, August 24. The award is given each year to an individual or group whose volunteer service has demonstrated a commitment to enhancing the quality of life for persons with mental illness.

The Heroines of Jericho group has shown that commitment for more than 25 years. Each year they are one of over 100 Christmas party groups that give of their time and talents for Mississippi State Hospital patients and residents. They routinely arrive with a full holiday meal to share with groups on the MSH campus. Last year, they brought enough for 75 people.

“For their dedication to volunteerism, their exceptional cooking skills and, most importantly, their willingness to spend their time in fellowship with our patients, we congratulate the Heroines of Jericho T.C. Almore Court #35 as recipients of the 2011 Nancy B. Foreman Award,” MSH Director James G. Chastain said.

Ida Guice, Ancient Matron of the group, accepted the presentation on behalf of the group.



Pictured are members of the Heroines of Jericho group

WARREN-YAZOO AND TIMBER HILLS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES HONORED

Friends of the Mississippi State Hospital presented its Together We Make a Difference Awards during its annual meeting on Wednesday, August 24. MSH Director James Chastain presented the awards to Region 15 Warren-Yazoo Mental Health Services and Region 4 Timber Hills Mental Health Services.

Both organizations are part of Mississippi's public mental health system, but are not part of the Department of Mental Health. Instead, they are part of the Community Mental Health Centers, a network of 15 regional centers across the state that make available a range of community-based mental health services to all 82 counties in Mississippi.

Steve Roark accepted the award for Region 15 and Charlie Spearman accepted for Region 4.

"Both of these organizations are leaders in the state in the provision of quality community mental health services, and are key players in the development and continuing expansion of community based services throughout the state," MSH Director James G. Chastain said.

"These examples demonstrate their desire and commitment to make community based services more readily available. They are vital to the citizens they serve as primary providers of the necessary resources, treatment and support needed to live successfully in the community."

Chastain said Region 15 was one of the first community mental health centers in the state to offer crisis stabilization services, and added that it is known for brainstorming and implementing innovative ideas and services to meet the changing needs of their community. Region 4, which includes Tippah, Alcorn, Tishomingo, Prentiss, and Desoto Counties, was a pioneer in establishing in-house pharmacy services for their clients. Both of the centers have been a partner in the annual Farmer Jim Neal Golf Tournament, the largest fundraiser for Friends, since its inception in 2002.

"These organizations are staffed, operated and led with service in mind. It is with great honor I present the Together We Make a Difference Award to Warren-Yazoo Mental Health Services and Timber Hills Mental Health Services. Thank you for your leadership in providing mental health services in Mississippi and your support of Mississippi State Hospital and the Friends organization," Chastain said.



Friends of Mississippi State Hospital presented one of two "Together We Make A Difference" awards to Region 15 Warren-Yazoo Mental Health Services on Wednesday, August 24. The organization was honored for outstanding service in the mental health field, including being one of the first community mental health centers to offer a crisis stabilization service. Pictured are (l to r) Friends board member Ray Wallace, Department of Mental Health Executive Director Ed LeGrand, Region 15 Director Steve Roark, Department of Mental Health Deputy Executive Director Diana Mikula, and MSH Director James G. Chastain.



Friends of Mississippi State Hospital presented one of two "Together We Make A Difference" awards to Region 4 Timber Hills Health Services on Wednesday, August 24. Region 4 pioneered establishing in-house pharmacy services for their clients, and has greatly expanded the availability of mental health services in DeSoto County. Pictured are (l to r) Friends board member Ray Wallace, Region 4 Director Charlie Spearman, Department of Mental Health Executive Director Ed LeGrand, Department of Mental Health Deputy Executive Director Diana Mikula, and MSH Director James G. Chastain.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

VOLUNTEERS BRING JOY TO MSH DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

The weather may have just taken the first turn for cooler days, but Mississippi State Hospital is already looking towards the deep of the winter.

That's because November and December are the busiest months of the year for Volunteer Services. Holiday activities begin in November, with parties, dinners or other events scheduled for patients and residents almost every day from then until Santa Day – when dozens of volunteers visit the campus, get dressed in the traditional red garb, and make special deliveries to every patient and resident at the hospital.

Santa Day this year is scheduled for Thursday, December 22. While that may be the culmination of the holiday season at the hospital, the previous two months will be packed with opportunities for anyone who would like to volunteer their time, energy or talents to others.



“We have people come all year round, but the holidays are a very special time for us,” MSH Volunteer Services Director Sheila Shows said. “We have volunteers come from all over the state to spend time with our patients and residents. They do everything from preparing a home-cooked meal and singing Christmas carols to just bringing some snacks and spending time with the patients, but every bit of it means the world to those they’re serving.”

The holiday season officially starts the first Sunday of every November, when there are two church groups who visit on that day. It's a tradition Shows said has been going on for as long as she can remember.

Those two groups certainly won't be the last to visit during the season. Last year, 137 groups came to MSH to volunteer during the holidays, and many of them have been volunteering for years, coming back year after year.

It also marks the time of year when Building 71 transforms into what's become known as The Christmas House. Wreaths, ribbons, and other holiday decorations adorn the building as it plays host to hundreds of the volunteers who come through it during the season to bring gifts and donations.

Those gifts are all sorted in The Christmas House, and they're eventually distributed to patients and residents all over the campus on Santa Day. Everyone will receive a personal gift bag that can contain some needed items like slippers or personal care products, along with some fun items and like puzzles and tabletop games.

Other groups of volunteers always guarantee that everyone at the hospital gets a share of fresh fruits and cakes in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Anyone with the heart to volunteer is welcome to host a party at the hospital. Some parties may be hosted in The Christmas House, but many of them are in other buildings around the MSH campus.

“A lot of our groups want to go to the same building each year. They look forward to seeing those they've gotten to know,” Shows said. “Of course, the patients and residents are just as happy to see them too, so it's a great time for everyone.”

Donations and gifts are accepted at The Christmas House. MSH patients and Jaquith Nursing Home residents particularly enjoy table games, portable radios, batteries, sunglasses, socks, slippers, gowns and pajamas. They will all be given out in the gift bags on Santa Day.

MSH employees also volunteer their time throughout the season, often helping to personalize gift bags for those they know, making sure the patients and residents will be getting something they need or have been wanting.

Another hallmark of the holidays at Mississippi State Hospital is the annual Christmas Parade, held the first Friday of every December. Open to the public, the parade will be at 10 a.m. on Dec. 2.

“Everybody has a great time at the parade, and it's something you don't want to miss out on, even though it's usually pretty cold,” Shows said. “We always have antique cars, bands, winners from beauty pageants and all kinds of floats in the parade,” Shows said. “Patients, residents and staff members all get to take part in it, and it's fun for us all.”

Only after Santa Day do things begin to wind down for everyone.

“We work on scheduling these groups and organizing these events all year long, but it's more than worth it,” Shows said. “The work of our volunteers and staff helps spread joy to everyone here, and we're glad to be a part of that.”

**MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL 'PAINTS IT PURPLE'
TO SUPPORT ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION**

Paint It Purple

Mississippi State Hospital employees showed up to work on Wednesday, September 21 ready to "Paint It Purple" in support of the Mississippi Alzheimer's Association.

The event was a part of the run up to the Walk to End Alzheimer's, the largest fundraising event of the year for the Alzheimer's Association. Mississippi State Hospital and Jaquith Nursing Home staff members are participating in the walk, helping to put together a team and raise funds. As part of Alzheimer's Action Day on Sept. 21, they wore purple, donned Alzheimer's Association wristbands, and pinned buttons on their uniforms to show their support.

The day was especially poignant as Jaquith Nursing Home, located on the MSH campus, also held its annual senior citizens' banquet that day. In addition to the purple bows up around the campus and all the staff dressed in purple, the banquet was adorned with purple balloons and other decorations showing the united efforts employees have been putting up to help the Alzheimer's Association in their quest to end the disease, which is the fifth leading cause of death for those over age 65.

While at the banquet, JNH residents all had a portrait taken, with one special lady and one special gentleman crowned the king and queen of the banquet.

They also got to enjoy some unique entertainment courtesy of some of the Mississippi State Hospital chaplains, who dubbed themselves "Not Your Mama's Chaplains" for a special performance. They sang some old-timey songs that had the crowd clapping, humming, and singing along with such favorites as "Hello My Darling."

Even after JNH residents returned to their buildings, the purple decorations remained up on campus, helping to remind everyone that JNH staff members were still welcoming to their team anyone and everyone who would like to make a difference.

Their efforts to promote the Walk to End Alzheimer's were successful, as more than 30 people showed up to the walk on Oct. 1, and the team raised more than \$1,000 to donate to the Alzheimer's Association.





JNH

Jaquith Nursing Home

HAPPENINGS

Highlights

The Entertainer
Page 11

Balloon Room
Page 12

Art
Page 13

JNH PREPARES FOR MEMORY WALK ON OCTOBER 1

Jaquith Nursing Home is going “casual for a cause” in a couple of weeks, right before they get on the move to help end Alzheimer’s disease with the annual Memory Walk, the country’s largest event to promote awareness and raise funds for defeating the disease.

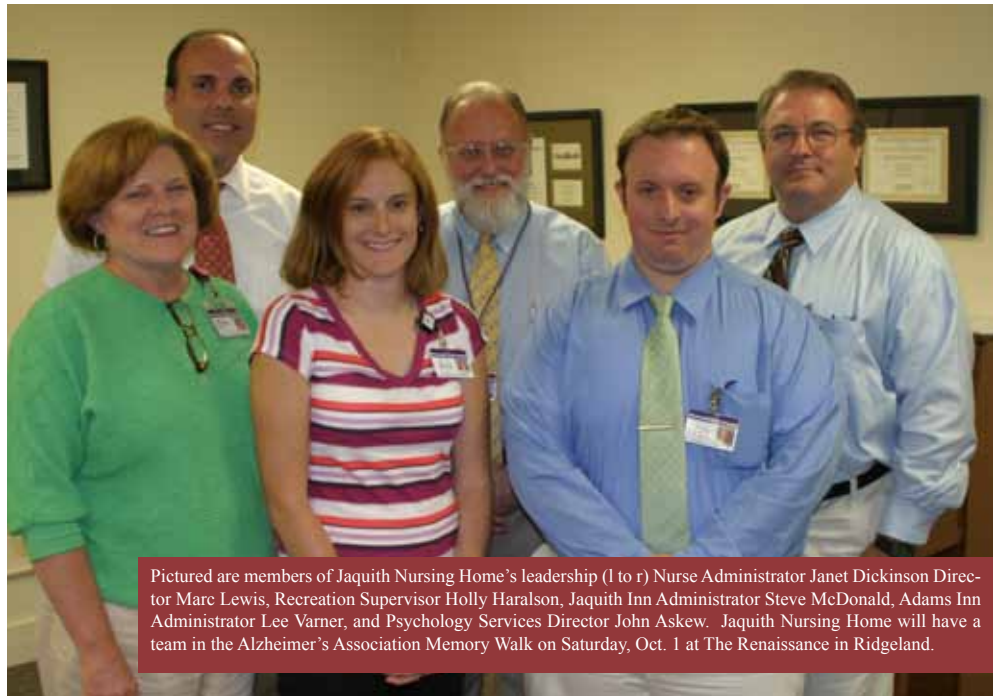
Mississippi State Hospital and Jaquith Nursing Home employees were encouraged to buy a purple “Casual for a Cause” t-shirt they’ll be able to wear on September 21, with proceeds going to the JNH Memory Walk team. All employees are encouraged to join the team, urge their friends and family to join with them, and to come support the Alzheimer’s Association when they join the hundreds of others for the walk at The Renaissance in Ridgeland at 9 a.m. on October 1.

“This is a great fundraiser every year and a great way for us to show our support,” JNH Recreation Supervisor Holly Haralson said. “Alzheimer’s is a devastating disease, and that’s something we can see up and close and personal.

“We want to do our part to end this disease, and we hope plenty of people at Mississippi State Hospital and Jaquith Nursing Home join us to help do that.”

Those who do join the team will be among the hundreds who come to the central Mississippi walk and among the thousands who come out to support the Alzheimer’s Association all across the nation. Events are held annually in the fall in nearly 600 communities nationwide. Since 1989, the walk, open to anyone and everyone who would like to show their support, has brought out millions of people to join the fight against Alzheimer’s disease. During that time, it has raised more than \$347 million for the cause.

As of September 1, the Mississippi Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association had raised almost \$9,000. It’s a good start, but there is a huge need to help fight the disease.



Pictured are members of Jaquith Nursing Home’s leadership (l to r) Nurse Administrator Janet Dickinson Director Marc Lewis, Recreation Supervisor Holly Haralson, Jaquith Inn Administrator Steve McDonald, Adams Inn Administrator Lee Varner, and Psychology Services Director John Askew. Jaquith Nursing Home will have a team in the Alzheimer’s Association Memory Walk on Saturday, Oct. 1 at The Renaissance in Ridgeland.

What many people may not realize is that the disease is not simply memory loss; it is degenerative and a terminal illness. It is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States, and the fifth-leading cause of death for Americans older than 65. From 2000 to 2008, deaths from Alzheimer’s increased 66 percent, while deaths from other major diseases decreased.

Besides the obvious, heart-wrenching effects on individuals and families, the disease has an enormous impact on our communities. It is estimated that the cost of caring for those with Alzheimer’s disease will be \$183 billion in 2011, underscoring why it is so necessary to raise funds, awareness, and support for the disease.

One person who was moved to take part in the walk is Deborah Talton, a licensed practical nurse at Mississippi State Hospital. She started her own team before she ever heard about the Jaquith Nursing Home team. Her family, friends, and church members all said they would support her if she decided to walk, so she went ahead and signed up to do just that.

“This is my first year to walk,” she said. “I just thought it would be nice to do something to show my support for the Alzheimer’s Association.”

That was around the beginning of August, and in a month, she was able to get six people to join her team. When she found out that JNH had its own team, they decided to have a little friendly competition to see who would have the biggest show of support at the Memory Walk.

Anyone can visit www.alz.org and click on the Mississippi link to join or donate to either team. Haralson’s team is the official Jaquith Nursing Home team, while Talton and her supporters called their team the Memory Chasers.

“I just hope that between the two of us we can get really get out there, raise some funds, and spread the word about this walk,” Talton said.

ADMINISTRATOR JIM DEDEAUX ALWAYS ENTERTAINING FOR MONROE INN RESIDENTS

It may not be the norm on every Jaquith Nursing Home inn, but on Monroe Inn, it’s not unusual to hear someone belting out old gospel or blues songs, with some boogie-woogie piano pounding accompanying it and everything.

That’s because the residents there often ask Administrator Jim Dedeaux to entertain them with some of the tunes he’s become known for playing, and, as a lover of all music, he’s more than happy to oblige his residents. It all started several years back when a New Orleans musician would take to playing the piano while visiting some of her relatives here.

“She’d say ‘Come on Jim, can’t you play?’” Dedeaux said. “I said I could play a few chords, and so she’d play and sing something, and I’d play a little something, and all the residents would come see us.

“Then whenever they’d see me, they’d ask me to play, but I can’t read a word of music.”

What he can do is play chords, sing plenty of old-time “boogie-woogie” and “honkey tonk” tunes, and, as he put it, sing every hymn in the Methodist hymnal. And don’t forget gospel.

“Even some of Elvis Presley’s best music is his gospel stuff,” Dedeaux said.

There are pianos on both Building 40 and Building 41, and one of them is there because of Dedeaux. He found it at an old pawn shop, and while it may have been a little out of tune, it was still in good shape. He knew how much it would be enjoyed on the building, and it was his for only \$100. He’s happy to play it when he has a chance, and the residents of Monroe Inn are happy to hear it.

Jim Dedeaux has been employed at Mississippi State Hospital since the 1990s, first working as a unit coordinator, and later moving on to become a nursing home administrator. Before that, he spent years as an attorney with the Attorney General’s office.

A Gulfport native, he originally came to the Jackson area with



the Attorney General’s office to help set up legal services for senior citizens through the Mississippi Council on Aging. He eventually became general counsel for the Department of Human Services, where he supervised eight staff attorneys and 10 state investigators and auditors.

He’s got plenty of stories to tell about his time there, ranging from shenanigans where his coworkers helped their opposing lawyers inadvertently run awry of a strict judge’s courtroom rules to an eventful hunting trip with a federal judge.

Eventually though, he felt it was time for a change, and he had the opportunity to come to the hospital. It was quite a change from what he does now, but he’s had one thing in common through several of the jobs he’s held; he’s worked with senior citizens for much of his career.

“I’ve always loved older people and the experience they have,” he said. “They could tell you stories about the past that are interesting no matter what. I used to listen to stories about the Depression and how they got through that. It’s a learning experience. The knowledge they have is unbelievable if you take the time to listen to them.”

That’s how he learned to play piano – an older neighbor taught him while he was a kid growing up in Gulfport. He not only learned how to bang out chords and songs on piano, he also learned how to build hot rods and airplane engines.

And while it wasn’t a senior citizen who helped him not long after he came to work at MSH, it was a friend who had been here longer than him. One of the nursing home administrators was a preceptor who could oversee Dedeaux while he was an administrator-in-training. At that time, Jaquith Nursing Home wasn’t even made up of the five, separately-licensed inns like it is today, so needless to say that Dedeaux has been around for a

while and seen plenty of change on the MSH and JNH campus.

He’s proud to work at Jaquith Nursing Home, even though he said many people don’t realize the state has such a facility. In contrast to many private nursing homes, Dedeaux pointed out that JNH has full-time doctors, social workers and nurses, where private facilities often have a smaller clinical staff, much of it contracted.

“Our professional medical staff is here full time and they come to the buildings every day,” he said. “So our residents really have better care than they do in the private homes.”

He may not be learning how to rebuild engines from his elders anymore, but he said he still enjoys being around seniors and the residents on Monroe Inn and the rest of Jaquith Nursing Home.

“They’re just a joy to be around,” Dedeaux said. “I’ve learned that there are things you can’t just learn on your own. You need to have someone to learn from.”

‘BALLOON ROOM’ BEING PUT TO FUN USE FOR JNH RESIDENTS

The “Balloon Room” on Building 38 is often used to host parties and volunteer groups who visit the campus, but Jaquith Nursing Home residents are getting some regular use out of it with a classic American pastime.

The room is being used to host a bi-weekly “Let’s Go to the Movies” event in which residents get together for some snacks, refreshments, and some time well-spent with a classic movies or TV shows that they almost-assuredly enjoyed in the past. The first event was held to a packed room on Tuesday, August 23.

“The first ‘Let’s Go to the Movies’ event in the Balloon Room was a great success. I appreciate everyone so much for coming over & enjoying some classic TV episodes from the 1950s, popcorn and punch,” Special Activities Coordinator Paula Eure said. “We’ll be doing this a couple of times a month, so I hope we keep having such a great turnout every time we host one.”

Eure and other members of the recreation staff prepared for the classic movie marathon by setting up enough chairs for everyone to enjoy it, of course, but the centerpiece is the big-screen television that dominates the room. Along with the collection of classic movies, the screen will offer plenty of entertainment for everyone who wants to come enjoy and reminisce with some silver screen favorites.

The collection in the Balloon Room includes everything from John Wayne westerns to Funniest Moments of the 20th Century, so there is plenty to like. Eure will keep the themes of the movies and shows changing each time they host an event to keep things new and interesting for the residents.

“I don’t mind bringing some of my own or renting something if there is a movie that our residents would like to see but we don’t have,” Eure said. “It’s fun for them, but it’s fun for the staff to get to enjoy these classics right alongside them.”

If the response goes as she hopes it does, Eure said that JNH could end up having some more activities on the weeks when they’re not hosting “Let’s Go to the Movies.”

“I’m delighted to put the Balloon Room to some real fun use and am looking forward to doing more with our Jaquith residents here,” she said.



MADISON INN ENJOYS 'ARTFUL CREATIONS'



While Serendipity took place on the MSH campus earlier this month, some Jaquith Nursing Home residents had their own art show recently, "Artful Creations."

Residents on B-28, Madison Inn, spent July working on several different kinds of art projects, and after several weeks of hard work, they had a reception and show to display all of their completed artwork. B-28 was filled with paper craft, colorful depictions of summer beaches and more as residents enjoyed refreshments and relaxed around their accomplishments.

Though residents have been able to take part in art classes through Art Services, the reception on Madison Inn was new. Recreation Therapist Deborah Bland said the art has become a favorite activity of residents.

"This is one of their favorite leisure activities," she said. "We've just been trying to do some new ideas, so we had this art exhibit. They really enjoy it, so we're going to be doing it again."

