



MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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FRIENDS OF MSH HONORS NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH LAYMEN MINISTRY

WHITFIELD—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 continued 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.”

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

For more information, call MSH Public Relations at (601) 351-8018.

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. Accredited by JCAHO, MSH is the largest hospital in Mississippi and the largest public psychiatric facility in the United States.

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PHOTO ATTACHED