JAQUITH NURSING HOME RESIDENTS ENJOY WEEK-LONG CELEBRATION

WHITFIELD—The residents of Jaquith Nursing Home (JNH) are probably taking a well-deserved rest after participating in a busy week of activities designed to celebrate National Nursing Home Week May 11-17. Activities began with a Chapel Service Sunday, May 11 and continued Monday, May 12 with a fashion show featuring several residents.

On Tuesday, May 13, the residents danced to 1950s music during a Sock Hop, viewed a classic car show, and participated in quilting demonstrations.

“It makes you feel good to be able to come out here,” said Jack Cox a member of the Mississippi Street Rodders Association Classic Car Club. “We really enjoy doing it. This gives the residents the opportunity to see something different. They can’t go to car shows, so we brought the car show to them.”

Paul Webb of Pearl brought his 1957 Chevrolet to the show.

“I’ve heard several residents say ‘I remember those cars when I was a boy’,,” Webb said. “This takes them back. It makes me feel good to be able to come out for a couple of hours and make someone’s day a little brighter.”

Pamela Howell, coordinator of unit operations for JNH’s Washington Inn, joined members of The Brandon Quilters in demonstrating their craft to residents.

“Many of them have quilting in their past,” Howell said. “Either they used to quilt or their mother or grandmother used to quilt. This brings back reminders.”

On Wednesday, May 14, residents attended a Mississippi Braves baseball game at Trustmark Park in Pearl, and participated in an ice cream social.

On Thursday, May 15, some residents took a train ride to McComb. The residents left Jackson’s Union Station aboard an Amtrak train at 12:20 p.m., ate lunch at a local McComb restaurant and returned to JNH by bus at approximately 7 p.m. Other residents spent the afternoon viewing a movie while snacking on popcorn.

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“This is something we do annually,” said Lavonne Ott, recreation therapist for JNH’s Madison Inn. “They look forward to the train ride. It’s a treat for them.”

In addition to all the activities, the Mississippi State Hospital Gift Shop gave each nursing home resident either a slice of cake or a pudding cup with a helium balloon and a note attached that read “Just Wanted You To Know That You Are Important To Us.”

Dr. John Teal, a psychologist for JNH’s Adams Inn, said the National Nursing Home Week activities were very beneficial for the residents.

“This helps keep the residents active,” he said. “It’s a good opportunity for all of us, staff and residents, to get together and have a good time.”

National Nursing Home Week, established by the American Health Care Association (AHCA) in 1967, is an opportunity for the profession and individual nursing homes to bring into focus the residents who mean so much to the community and their families, as well as caregivers who give so much of themselves to help those less able to help themselves. This year’s theme was “Love Is Ageless.”

Founded in 1976, Jaquith Nursing Home is a 479-bed long-term care facility dedicated to serving individuals who are in need of nursing care in a safe and comfortable therapeutic environment. The nursing home is located on the 350-acre campus of Mississippi State Hospital at Whitfield.

PHOTOS ENCLOSED

Photo 1 [021.jpg] Classic car enthusiasts show off their vehicles to Jaquith Nursing Home residents and staff during National Nursing Home Week.

Photo 2 [017.jpg] Jaquith Nursing Home residents board an Amtrak Train Thursday May 15 on their way to McComb. The train ride was part of National Nursing Home Week celebrations.

Photo 3 [029.jpg] Lorene Parris, left, and Joan Alliston right, of The Brandon Quilters, look on as Pamela Howell, coordinator of unit operators for Jaquith Nursing Home’s Washington Inn demonstrates to residents and staff how to make a quilt during National Nursing Home Week.