



# ASPIRE

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## Friends Of Mississippi State Hospital 2023 Annual Meeting

By: Julie Cox

Friends of Mississippi State Hospital held its annual meeting on Wednesday, August 23. The meeting selects officers and approves projects for the upcoming year, and recognizes individuals who dedicate their time and resources to enhance the quality of life for our patients and residents.

Mr. Bill Bobbs, Friends of MSH President, welcomed guests to the meeting, with Mr. Gale Martin giving the invocation. Ms. Dee Payne, Treasurer, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Bobbs then recognized Board Members and special guests in attendance. Mr. James G. Chastain took the podium to present the Volunteer of the Year, the Nancy B. Foreman Award, the Vivian Shivers Award, and the Jerald D. Ball – Together We Make a Difference Award. He also shared two special presentations honoring two long-time Friends members and volunteers.

The first award was the 2023 Volunteer of the Year Award presented to Mr. Gale Martin. Mr. Martin has partnered with MSH, Friends, and the Department of Mental Health for more than 20 years on numerous projects, including “The Games Children Play” conferences, and the “What a Difference a Friend Makes”, “Shatter the Silence”, and “Think Again” suicide prevention and stigma campaigns. He has been involved in hospital special events such as MSH Day, Employee of the



*Friends of MSH Board - Seated (l to r) Marilyn Garth, Diane Croxton, Amy Walker. Standing (l to r) Bo Blanks, Ruth Walker, Dee Payne, Sheila Shows, Bobby Stephens, Kim Edwards, Tony Gomillion, James G. Chastain, Carolyn Trigg, Bill Bobbs*

Year Banquets, Friends of MSH Legislative Luncheon events, and has served for more than 10 years as a volunteer Santa. Mr. Martin was also instrumental in forging MSH’s relationship with the Rankin County Chamber Leadership Program, which had the bonus benefit of giving MSH an outlet to educate the public about mental illnesses and the services we offer. The Youth Leadership program also participated in the “I Don’t Know” suicide prevention skit for schools and a special performance for the legislative session. Gale has served on the Friends Board since 2012 and as its President for two terms, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

Outside of Friends and MSH, Mr. Martin also gives of his time to other worthy organizations, including the Cato Volunteer Fire Department, Mississippi 4-H Foundation, and Mississippi Future Farmers of America Foundation. He is married to the former Pam Jennings of Jackson and they have three daughters, Julie, Jamie, and Katie, and several grandchildren.

Mr. Martin is known for his smile, positive attitude, and cooking/grilling skills, and we are so thankful for his service to  
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# Serendipity 2023



Another awesome Serendipity Art Show and Silent Auction is in the books. Every piece of online art, Mystery art, and Calendar art was bid on and sold. We are thankful for each and every person that walked through our doors and bid online. You are what makes an event like this successful.

We spoke with three visitors attending the Serendipity show this year. This is what they had to say:

“This is my first day of work and I’m really impressed. I bid on Man with the Hat. It kind of reminds me of my husband when he puts on his hat. I’m really surprised by the amount of talent on display.” - Wanda Branson, MSH Accounts Payable

“This my first time at Serendipity. I bid on

three items and I’ll be going online to bid after I leave. Maybe I’ll acquire some new artwork. I like that this event was created for helping people that live with mental illness and the proceeds go back to the artists. The event as a whole is helping not only them but it allows the community see them more as a part of the community. Art is cathartic, I dabble in art as a hobby. When I get that creative bug, I paint or get out my sketch pad. Some of the work on display just blew me away, you never know what talent lies within people.” - Jas N. Smith, Department of Mental Health

“I’m very impressed with the talent on display. There are several pieces that I’ve bid on several times and someone has outbid me and I’m sad about it but I’m going to keep working

hard until 6:30 tonight. It’s very special because these are the patients that we take care of and love, and to see them show their talent this way is just remarkable – they’ve done a great job. I’m so glad they have frames because it helps them look finished. All of this is so beautiful. I’m just excited to be a part of it.” - Chassity Vanderford, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner

In MSH Director James “Bo” Chastain’s words, “Serendipity highlights and promotes everything that is good about Mississippi State Hospital. It just gets better and better every year and it brings so much joy to our patients and residents, our staff, and our community.”



## WRAP Seminar held at Mississippi State Hospital Campus

Representatives from the Mental Health Association of South Mississippi (MHASM) recently hosted a Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) seminar on the campus of Mississippi State Hospital. The attendees were professionals who hold a variety of positions in the mental health field throughout the State of Mississippi. The interactive workshop is for anyone who wants to learn about WRAP and begin to incorporate it into their lives to improve personal wellness and achieve an improved quality of life. Through participation, individuals can identify tools and action plans to counter the negative effects of life challenges and improve responses to disturbing thoughts and feelings to achieve improved states of wellness.

The seminar was led by Natalie Moore, Nicole Bedsole, and Bonnie Pettigrew. Natalie Moore serves as a Peer Wellness Coordinator. She assists the Mississippi Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Association of Mississippi Peer Support Specialists (AMPSS) with employing, training, and supporting Peer Support Specialists across the state. Natalie is a Certified Peer Support Specialist and a Certified WRAP Facilitator. She believes her purpose in life is to help others regain control of their lives by highlighting their strengths and focusing on their unique definition of recovery. Nicole Bedsole is a HUD Supportive Housing



*Representatives from the Mental Health Association of South Mississippi, (left to right) Nicole Bedsole, Natalie Moore, and Bonnie Pettigrew, present Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) Seminar.*

Case Manager. She assists individuals who live with mental illness and are chronically homeless get into housing. By providing the support they need, she helps them in a journey toward independent living as they become self-sufficient. She is a Certified Peer Support Specialist and a Certified WRAP Facilitator through The Copeland Center. She is a certified Adult and Youth Mental Health First Aid Facilitator. She also participates in homeless outreach in south MS. Bonnie Pettigrew serves as a Peer Support Specialist on a Program of Assertive Community

Treatment (PACT) team for Warren and Yazoo Counties. PACT teams are multidisciplinary teams that enable people to continue living in their own homes and communities while still receiving services they need. PACT is a person-centered, recovery-oriented mental health service delivery model for facilitating community living, psychological rehabilitation and recovery for persons who have the most severe and persistent mental illnesses and have not benefited from traditional outpatient services.



## ICE CREAM SAFARI

On Wednesday, August 16, patients and residents gathered in Building 38 to enjoy ice cream sundaes and a movie. The Therapeutic Recreation staff served up vanilla, chocolate, and strawberry ice cream and offered a variety of toppings, including fruit, nuts, flavored syrup, cookies, and sprinkles. It was a great way to beat the heat!

# CNA Recognition

## *Ross and Buckner Recognized for Over 25 Years of Service*

MSH Certified Nursing Assistants, Audrey Ross, Judy Buckner, and Jovita Noble, recently attended the Mississippi Health Care Association CNA Conference. During the Award Ceremony, 30 CNAs with over 25 years of service were recognized. Audrey Ross was recognized for 28 years of service. Judy Buckner was recognized for 29 years of service.

The MHCA is Mississippi's oldest and largest association of nursing homes, personal care/assisted living homes, and intermediate care facilities for the intellectually disabled and is the state affiliate of the American Health Care Association. The Association ensures the ongoing success of long-term care workers through workforce development, education, and training opportunities for all disciplines on the care team, and demonstrating an unwavering commitment to representing the long-term care providers' concerns to decision-makers at the state and national levels.



## Friends Of Mississippi State Hospital 2023 Annual Meeting

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MSH. It has been said, "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart," and that is certainly true of Mr. Gale Martin.

He was presented with a special Volunteer medal and an apron curated especially for him. Mr. Martin responded, "It's an honor to be recognized. Volunteering is something I was taught by my dad. You always give back; you don't take from. To be able to give back to an organization like this and to the patients out here in need just blesses my soul. I've been able to get my granddaughters involved – they're seeing a need to do the same thing in volunteer work."

The Nancy B. Foreman Award was presented to Church Women United (CWU), Greenville Washington County Unit. This award was established in appreciation of the dedication and service of Ms. Nancy B. Foreman, who was one of seven people to sign the charter to establish



the Friends organization in 1987. She served as President from 1989 to 1993 and remained an active Board member until her death. This award is given each year to an individual or group who has demonstrated through their service, their commitment to enhancing the quality of life for persons with mental illness.

Church Women United Greenville Washington County Unit continues to demonstrate this commitment year after year. Founded in 1941, CWU have held a vision of Christian unity and prayerful action. The organization was founded as a racially, culturally, theologically, inclusive Christian women's movement to celebrate unity and diversity and work for peace in

the world. The Greenville Washington County unit's relationship with MSH started with the local mental health services in Greenville, with CWU facilitating the effort, whereas civic organizations, social clubs, sororities, and churches would donate clothing and other items for The Christmas House at MSH. Not only did they transport the collected items, relatives of patients at the hospital were given a free ride to visit their family and friends with CWU providing refreshments for the one-day trip. As the world and the way many organizations changed in 2020, CWU's commitment to MSH did not. Instead of collecting items to be delivered, they shifted their focus and began collecting monetary donations in order to continue to provide support to the patients and residents of MSH.

A statement from the group reads, "Relationships we've formed and people we have met supporting the Mississippi State Hospital will last a lifetime. The Greenville/Washington County Unit of Church Women United are so thankful and grateful for the work that you do, and we will continue to support you." This has been true for nearly 30 years and counting. Mr. Chastain presented this special award to Mrs. Martha Bray, Ms. Leonia Dorsey, and Ms. Margaret Rushing.

Ms. Dorsey serves as the Greenville/Washington Chapter President, and shared that, "We support many projects and fund a scholarship program. Mississippi State Hospital is one of the major projects that we support. We strive to remain engaged throughout the year." Martha Bray serves as the Treasurer and Project Coordinator for the chapter and commented, "CWU has been supporting the State Hospital for over 30 years. Initially we brought supplies, like socks, but since Covid we've had to pivot from that, so now we are providing monetary donations. This is the highlight for our group to donate every year to Mississippi State Hospital because there are so many patients who may not have anyone else to think about them during the Christmas holidays. We're thankful to do our little part to help them have a



**2023 Volunteer of the Year Award – Mr. Gale Martin - Mr. Bill Bobbs, Friends of MSH President, Mr. Gale Martin, and Mr. James G. "Bo" Chastain**



**Special Presentation – Larry Swearengen (Janne Swearengen) - Mr. Bill Bobbs, Friends of MSH President, Ms. Janne Swearengen, and Mr. James G. "Bo" Chastain**



**Vivian Shivers Award – New Hope Baptist Church WMU - Ms. Debra Davis, Ms. Alma Miller, and Mr. James G. "Bo" Chastain**



**Jerald D. Ball Award – Brown Bottling Group - Mr. Fred Malone, Business Development Representative, Mr. Brent Hinton, General Manager of Brown Bottling's Vending/Micromarket Division, Refresh Sips & Eats, and Mr. James G. "Bo" Chastain**



**Nancy B. Foreman Award – Church Women United (CWU), Greenville Washington County Unit - Mr. Bill Bobbs, Friends of MSH President, Ms. Margaret Rushing, CWU State President, Ms. Martha Bray, Treasurer and Project Coordinator, Ms. Leonia Dorsey, Chapter President, and Mr. James G. "Bo" Chastain**



**Special Presentation – Judge Tom Broome (Paula Broome) - Ms. Patricia Broome White, Ms. Paula Broome, and Mr. James G. "Bo" Chastain**

wonderful Christmas. We are surprised to be recognized. We didn't expect any of this, we do what we can because this is what we do and we love doing it. We love helping others."

Ms. Margaret Rushing serves as the State President, and added, "CWU is an ecumenical non-profit movement. We have projects all over the US, and in Greenville, one of our major projects is Mississippi State Hospital. We are so honored to be given this award and these ladies here do all the work."

New Hope Baptist Church WMU was selected as recipients of the Vivian Shivers Award. Formerly the Helping Hands Award, this award was established in 2006 and renamed in 2009 to honor Ms. Vivian Shivers. Ms. Shivers began her career as a Registered Nurse at MSH in 1976 in one of the original tuberculosis wards, and later served in Jaquith Nursing Home. After her retirement in 1987, she remained an active volunteer and advocate for MSH until her death in 2009. She served as both President and Vice-President of the Friends organization and was active on numerous committees. She routinely attended and volunteered at special patient/resident events and activities. Ms. Shivers was selected as the MSH Volunteer of the Year for the Mississippi Hospital Association in 2001. In addition to her service at MSH, she was a loved and respected member of her community and church in Magee, MS.

This award was established to honor an individual or group who represents the volunteer spirit and sets the standard for future generations. New Hope Baptist Church WMU certainly fits that bill. For over 20 years, they have been dedicated to serving the Acute Adult Female patients at MSH. They visit with the ladies each quarter and provide a delicious meal and gifts, creating a special event each time. When Covid restricted visitors, this group was determined to continue their support of the hospital and patients. They delivered gift cards to the building quarterly to continue to provide a special lunch or to be used as needed for the patients.

Dominique Sutton, a Therapeutic Recreation Specialist on the unit, shared, "They are an awesome group of volunteers,



and a lot of fun to work with. They are always on time, bring great food and refreshments, and have a special program each time they come. The ladies are very interactive with them and really enjoy the special attention they receive." Though unable to attend the Friends annual meeting, Ms. Debra Davis and Ms. Alma Miller joined Leadership for their monthly meeting in August and accepted the award from Mr. Chastain.

Ms. Davis commented, "We thank you so much for recognizing us, but we've gotten way more out of coming here all these

years than we could ever express. It's a joy and a privilege for us to come and be a part of everything you guys are doing here. We love you and are looking forward to spending more of our time with you. Call us any time and the New Hope ladies will be on the way. To God be the glory!"

The Jerald D. Ball Award recognizes businesses or organizations in the community who have given exemplary service to MSH. This year, Brown Bottling Group was chosen for this recognition. Originally named the Together We Make a



scoreboard for the gym in Building 202. Other sponsorships and support have been in the form of event banners promoting MSH Day, the fireworks show, and other events. They are a company that puts into practice their commitment to community and that is evident from their support of our hospital and the Friends organization. We are very appreciative of the support from Brown Bottling Group and grateful for the opportunity to present the Jerald D. Ball Award to Mr. Brent Hinton, General Manager of Brown Bottling's Vending/Micromarket Division, Refresh Sips & Eats and Mr. Fred Malone, Business Development Representative.

Mr. Hinton responded, "It's an honor to represent Brown Bottling here today. There has been a special relationship between the Brown family and the hospital over the years." Both of these gentlemen have been instrumental in our partnership, and Mr. Malone has long-standing ties with the Farmer Jim Neal tournament.

Two special presentations were given to recognize two people we lost this year who were very active with the Friends organization and meant a great deal to MSH, Judge Tom Broome and Mr. Larry Swearengen.

Judge Tom Broome was known throughout the legal community for his service and leadership in the youth court. He was described by many, including staff from our child and adolescent unit, as a great man who was compassionate and caring in support of youth throughout Mississippi. He was also known as Santa! When Dr. Melinda Mullins brought him to his first Santa Day, he was hooked. He showed up year after year, always with a contingent of elves. His elves were family, friends, and other youth court staff. He had that special sparkle in his eyes and everyone knew he was in the house when you heard his "Ho Ho Ho." No one did it better. Mr. Chastain presented his wife, Paula Broome, with a Christmas bear with a voice recording that repeated Judge Broome's own "Ho Ho Ho" and a special portrait of him as Santa. We hope that these mementos will provide some comfort and a smile during the upcoming holiday season.

Ms. Broome reacted, "You couldn't have



Difference Award, the name was changed in 2018 to honor Mr. Jerald D. Ball. Mr. Ball began his career at MSH in 1984 when he became the Director of Volunteer Services. He immediately developed a plan to recruit and retain volunteers, provide needed clothing through a donation center, and provide for all patients/residents during the holiday season. He also developed "Santa Day" where business leaders, legislators, and others dressed as Santa Claus to personally deliver the bags to every individual served by the hospital.

Mr. Ball also sowed the seeds for Friends of MSH and was a charter member in 1987. This coming year, Friends will provide more than \$20,000 for projects. After his retirement in 2005, Mr. Ball remained an avid supporter and volunteer at MSH until his death in 2018.

Since its inception in 2001, they have been sponsors of the Farmer Jim Neal Golf Classic benefitting the Friends of MSH. They have provided all of the Pepsi products each year and fielded a team whenever possible. In 2005, they provided the new

done anything better today. Tom didn't like recognition and he would have hated every minute of this if he was here, but I know he's up there somewhere with a big smile on his face, ringing his cowbell. It was wonderful, the photo, the bear, I just couldn't be more honored."

Mr. Larry Swearingen had a long career in the mental health field. He retired from the Mississippi Department of Mental Health and served as Executive Director of NAMI twice. He continually championed improvements in the services for mental illness both on a state and national level. Larry was a staunch advocate of Mississippi State Hospital and the Friends organization. He served on the board of Friends until his health no longer allowed him to do so. He was also a member of the "wild bunch", a tag given to the group by Kathy Denton, our PR director. The gang included Larry, Bobby Stephens, and Ray Wallace, both long-time Friends Board members, and our current President, Mr. Bill Bobbs. They are all retirees from the mental health field, avid golfers, and football fans. Whenever and wherever they were together, usually on a golf course, you count on many tall tales and gales of laughter. One often told tale involved the MSU/Alabama game of 1963 where Larry intercepted a Joe Namath pass for an MSU pick six.

He had two major loves in his life, his family, Ms. Janne and his children; and his rescue dogs. Over the course of several years, he and Ms. Janne fostered and adopted a number of adult rescue dogs, many who had been abused and abandoned. His nickname, Big Solid, came about through his relationship with his first rescue, Amos. Known as the "Solid Boys", they were inseparable, Amos as Little Solid and Larry as Big Solid. Since Amos there have been many Little Solids, both boys and girls.

No matter what he was doing, he made it fun. The Friends organization wanted to celebrate Larry's life in a way that would support something he was passionate about. For that reason, the Friends organization made a donation in his memory to the Mississippi Animal Rescue League. But we also wanted Ms. Janne to have a special token in his memory as well. We took all the photos she has shared of the "Solids" and put them on a special blanket. It's in the

MSU colors and is printed with the words "Big Solid Love". We hope on those difficult days it will bring comfort and feel like a warm hug from the man himself. We also had a second one printed to share with all the "little solids" to come.

Ms. Janne replied, "Larry was the best man I ever knew in my life and I miss him. He would be very appreciative of all the things that were said about him today. The videos were great and it was great to see him again."

The annual meeting continued with committee reports from Sheila Shows for Finance, and Kathy Denton for Projects/Events and Nominations. Two new board members were elected, Ms. Kim Rayburn and Dr. Carolyn Trigg.

Ms. Rayburn received her bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts from the University of Mississippi where she majored in Biology and Spanish. She continued her education at Ole Miss where she pursued a Master of Science in Communicative Disorders. She has worked as a Speech Language Pathologist since 1990. Kim has served in a management position since 1994, where she was honored with several awards including Manager of the Year and Employee of the Quarter. She began working with Mid South Rehab in 2004 and is the Regional Clinical Director.

Dr. Trigg is the Director of Client Operations at Premise Health. She holds a doctorate in Management with emphasis in Project Management and Health Care Administration from Colorado Technical University, a master's degree in Business Administration from Belhaven University, and a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Jackson State University. This spring, Carolyn volunteered for the 2023 Farmer Jim Neal Golf Classic and fell in love with the mission of Friends. She commented, "I am so excited to serve on the Friends Board. They invited me to the golf tournament and I was hooked. I am honored and blessed to be here and excited to serve."

A reception followed the meeting, while guests got an opportunity to preview some of the artwork for Serendipity Art Show and Silent Auction.





# AKA Donation to Oak Circle Center



Members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Rho Lambda Omega Chapter and The Institute for Advancement of Minority Health partnered to make a generous donation to Oak Circle Center (OCC), which treats children and adolescents at Mississippi State Hospital. Amy Womble serves as the Service Administrator for OCC. She met with the two groups on Monday, September 18 to provide information about how the unit meets the mental health needs of the state's youth. She thanked the groups for their generous donation and explained how the items will be used as rewards for the Positive Behavior Incentive System (PBIS) at OCC.

Dr. Chelsea Crittle, President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Rho Lambda Omega

Chapter, stated, "Under our Empower our Families initiative, mental health awareness is of paramount importance. There is a critical need for improved access to care, treatment and services for those diagnosed with severe and persistent mental health disorders." The AKA/RLO organization has a strong history of supporting and servicing families, they understand a healthy family is the foundation of a healthy community. In reference to mental health, the organization vows to use their collective efforts to fight stigma and raise awareness related to depression, anxiety, and trauma.

The Institute for Advancement of Minority Health offers community-based strategies to increase awareness and reduce health disparities among disadvantaged and underserved minority populations in the

southern region. This is accomplished through program development and implementation, training and technical assistance, organizational capacity building, grant writing and evaluation. The areas covered by the Institute include all 82 counties of Mississippi. IAMH offers a full portfolio of health resources that provide a wide array of services, to help reduce health disparities within our community. IAMH strives to improve health outcomes for the underserved and disadvantage throughout the State of Mississippi.

# Environmental Services Week September 10th - 16th, 2023

The second full week of September is Environmental Services Week, a week set aside to simply say “Thank You” to our MSH and JNH staff that take care of things behind the scenes. Environmental Services is responsible for laundry, sewing, and pest services, coordinating unit operations, campus waste material removal and regulation, floor maintenance, and custodial services for all buildings. Everything they do is something we all take for granted, but definitely notice when they’re not done. Mr. Bobby Davis, Laundry Maintenance Technician II, agrees with that sentiment. He expressed that, “Sometimes people don’t realize how valuable Environmental Services is to the day-to-day operations at MSH.” He added, “It is essential to have the right people doing the right job to keep things running smoothly.”

Ms. Nieshia Taylor is the CUO for Buildings 201, 202, and 203. She has been employed at MSH since 2006, and has served in her current position for two years. She is responsible for directing the operating functions throughout the units, including building maintenance, orders, and supervising pantry and housekeeping divisions. Her goal is to make sure the patients are in a safe and comfortable environment. She shared, “In order to accomplish that goal, teamwork and communication are key so that any issues can be addressed in a timely manner.”

Environmental Services is essential to MSH and JNH because individuals within the department perform vital services of protecting patients, visitors, and staff from infectious pathogens. This is often the first line of defense (besides clean hands) against the transmission of germs and infections. Ms. Tiffany Jefferson has been with MSH for 13 years and currently serves as the Director of Environmental Services. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Jackson State University and a MBA from Delta State University. She has a passion for helping others and loves to see them succeed in accomplishing their goals. She values developing good relationships with individuals. Ms. Jefferson noted, “This department is filled with so many great individuals that hold up the MSH core values and daily display respect, teamwork, trust, communication, and commitment. I couldn’t ask to be part of a better team.”



*Environmental Services: Row 1 – Jennie Miner, Felicia Thompson, Betty Thompson, Vera Knight, Denisha Burch, Christine Dixon, M. Michelle Taylor, Cassandra Feazell, Pamela D. Henderson, Patricia Mahaffey, Alvin Thorton. Row 2 – Robert Hill, Christopher Lynn Michael, Marie Bingham, Regina Shaheed, Beverly Kyles, Bobby Davis, Ashanti Rogers, Mary Maxwell, Tiffany Jefferson. Row 3 – Peter Liddell, Robert Carter, Charles Spann, Bernie Smith, Tanika Dukes, Jessica Brown, Phillip Evans, Crisyatlle Worthy, Willie Fisher, Stephanie Bryant, Shanequa Sanders. Top Row – Gerome Hughes (CUO), Nieshia Taylor (CUO), Michelle Jackson (CUO), Janet Brown (CUO), Jeri Jenkins (CUO), Candice Larkin, Porsche Smith, Latonya Lewis.*



*JNH ES Photo: Front Row (l to r) - Ebony Minor, Desser Lockett, Bertha Hobson Back Row (l to r) - Joel Davis (CUO), Janet Maynor, Bernita Moore, Maria Putman, Shareone Green (CUO)*

Ms. Betty Thompson is proud to be part of such a close-knit group. She serves as a Custodian Supervisor and shared, “I consider this department to be one big family. I take pride in my day-to-day tasks in ensuring that all units are following proper housekeeping protocol to ensure that we meet all appropriate standards.”

We are thankful for our Environmental Services employees. They make an extraordinary contribution to our success at MSH and JNH. They ensure buildings and grounds across the MSH campus are clean, safe places for patients, residents, and other staff members.



*Tiffany Jefferson, Director of Environmental Services and Amanda Matson, Director of Support Services*

# National Pharmacy Week: October 15–21, 2023

National Pharmacy Week acknowledges the invaluable contributions pharmacists and technicians make to patient care in hospitals, outpatient clinics, and other healthcare settings. Our MSH pharmacists make sure our patients and residents get the right medication and provide information for safe and effective use to achieve optimal outcomes. Pharmacists play a vital role on the healthcare team. The MSH Pharmacy team consists of six pharmacists and four technicians. Pharmacy students participate in various rotations throughout the year.

We are so thankful for our team of dedicated pharmacists and technicians at MSH!



## MSH Pharmacy Team

Front row (l to r) – Michelle Blakely, Charlice Watkins, Polly Jackson Back row (l to r) – Betty Kendrick, Don Johnson, Lisa Thames-Payton, Angie Boles Not pictured – Vicki Veazey, Sheila Cantrell, Laura Adcock

## Therapeutic Recreation Fall Tailgate Party



Kicking off the football season and enjoying the beautiful “fake fall” weather, Therapeutic Recreation hosted the 2023 Fall Tailgate Party on Wednesday, September 20. Patients and residents enjoyed hot dogs, nachos, snow cones, games, music, dancing, and football.

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# 2023 August, September & October 20+ Years of Service Recognition

## August



**TAMMY JOINER KOPESKY**  
ADMIN SUPPORT ASSISTANT IV  
BUILDING 22, A-SHIFT

Tammy Kopesky of Brandon was recognized for providing 25 years of service to the hospital. Ms. Kopesky attended Pelahatchie High School where she was recognized as Who's Who Among American High School Students. She likes the staff and clients she has met at MSH. In her free time, she enjoys collecting Ole Miss memorabilia and frogs.

She is an Admin Support Assistant IV in Utilization Management and has been employed at MSH since 1998.



**REGINA MICHELLE CUSHMAN**  
APPLICATIONS DEVELOPER II  
BUILDING 64, A-SHIFT

Michelle Cushman of White Oak was recognized for providing 25 years of service to the hospital. Ms. Cushman attended Raleigh High School and Jones Community College. She likes working with the best co-workers and supervisors at MSH. In her free time, she enjoys spending

time with family and being involved in 4-H activities with her children. She is an Applications Developer II in Information Management and has been employed at MSH since 1998.

### MICHELLE MARIE CHMIELEWSKI

PEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST  
BUILDING 27, A-SHIFT

Michelle Marie Chmielewski of Madison was recognized for providing 20 years of service to the hospital. She is a Speech-Language Pathologist at Jaquith Nursing Home and has been employed at MSH since 2003.

### EDWIN J. STALLWORTH

BEHAVIOR HEALTH TECHNICIAN II  
BUILDING 203, A-SHIFT

Edwin J. Stallworth of Jackson was recognized for providing 25 years of service to the hospital. He is a Behavioral Health Technician II in the Psychology Department and has been employed at MSH since 1998.

## September



**PATRA WILLIAM ASKEW**  
NURSE CASE MANAGER II  
BUILDING 21, A-SHIFT

Patra Askew of Florence was recognized for providing 30 years of service to the hospital. Ms. Askew attended Purvis High School and Hinds Community College. She likes helping to ensure the safety of our patients at MSH. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family. She is a Nurse Case Manager II in Risk Management and has been employed at MSH since 1993.



**TOY A. LANDINGHAM**  
SOCIAL SERVICES TEAM LEAD  
BUILDING 203, A-SHIFT

Toy Lanningham of Clinton was recognized for providing 35 years of service to the hospital. Ms. Lanningham attended Ethel High School. She also attended Alcorn State University and the University of Southern Mississippi where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Sociology/Social Work Emphasis and a Master's in Social Work. She likes being able to

make a difference in the lives of patients who experience mental illness at MSH. In her free time, she enjoys reading, listening to music, and working outside. She is a Social Services Team Lead and has been employed at MSH since 1988.

### CHARMAINE WILLIAMS HENRIQUES

NURSE III  
BUILDING 201, B-SHIFT

Charmaine Henriques of Madison was recognized for providing 20 years of service to the hospital. She is a Nurse III in Nursing Services and has been employed at MSH since 2003.

**MARY R. HARGRAVE**

LICENSED NURSE PRACTICAL  
BUILDING 33, C-SHIFT

Mary Hargrave of Natchez was recognized for providing 20 years of service to the hospital. She is a Licensed Nurse Practical at Jaquith Nursing Home and has been employed at MSH since 2003.

**BOBBIE JEAN ELAM**

WAREHOUSE ASSOCIATE III  
BUILDING 80, A-SHIFT

Bobbie Jean Elam of Jackson was recognized for providing 20 years of service to the hospital. Elam is a Warehouse Associate III in Fiscal Services and has been employed at MSH since 2003.

**CORNELIA J. BROOKS**

NURSE III  
BUILDING 43, B-SHIFT

Cornelia Brooks of Pearl was recognized for providing 35 years of service to the hospital. She is a Nurse III in Nursing Services and has been employed at MSH since 1988.

October

**KESHA DAVIS WATERMAN**

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SPECIALIST II  
BUILDING 78, A-SHIFT

Kesha Waterman of Byram was recognized for providing 20 years of service to the hospital. Ms. Waterman attended Forest Hill High School. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Tougaloo College and her Master's degree from Delta State University. She likes interacting with the residents and staff at MSH. In her free time, she enjoys road trips and adventures. She is a Behavioral Health Specialist II at Jaquith Nursing Home and has been employed at MSH since 2003.

**TERESA W. RYALS**

NURSE CASE MANAGER II  
BUILDING 67, A-SHIFT

Teresa Ryals of Pelahatchie was recognized for providing 20 years of service to the hospital. Ms. Ryals attended Morton High School, Hinds Community College, East Central Community College, and Belhaven University. She likes the residents and her co-workers at MSH. In her free time, she enjoys reading, cutting the grass, and yardwork. She is a Nurse Case Manager II in Service Outcome and has been employed at MSH since 2003.

**BERNITA ANN MOORE**

LAUNDRY WORKER I  
BUILDING 34, A-SHIFT

Bernita Moore of Jackson was recognized for providing 20 years of service to the hospital. She is a Laundry Worker I at Jaquith Nursing Home and has been employed at MSH since 2003.

**ANGELA MICHELE CARTER**

WAREHOUSE TEAM LEAD  
BUILDING 93, A-SHIFT

Angela Carter of Jackson was recognized for providing 20 years of service to the hospital. She is a Warehouse Team Lead in Fiscal Services and has been employed at MSH since 2003.

# MSH August Employees of Month



**DIRECT CARE**  
**RHONDA LEE**  
**BUILDING 28, C-SHIFT**

Rhonda Lee has been named Mississippi State Hospital's August Employee of the Month for Direct Care.

Lee is a Ridgeland resident, but grew up in Jackson. She attended Callaway High School and Hinds Community College. She enjoys providing the best care for her residents at MSH. She serves as a Support Care Professional Team Lead at Jaquith Nursing Home and has been employed at MSH since 1999.

"Mrs. Lee is very respectful to residents and goes out of her way to handle any issues that arise. She has a strong relationship with her staff and administrative personnel to ensure residents are well taken care of and to provide a safe and functioning work environment. When a resident does wander from the building, Mrs. Lee initiates protocol, which helps campus police and staff locate the resident and safely escort them back to the building without incident," said Kenneth Collier, who nominated Lee. "Mrs. Lee's ability to inspire others to work as a strong, cohesive team to get things done in a timely and professional manner is key to their success in running an efficient and safe environment on Building 28."



**CLINICAL SERVICE**  
**JESTYNE MCGEE**  
**BUILDING 201/1, A-SHIFT**

Jestyne McGee has been named Mississippi State Hospital's August Employee of the Month for Clinical Service.

A Goodman native, McGee graduated from Williams-Sullivan High School. She also attended Jackson State University, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, with a minor in Therapeutic Recreation. She loves the people at MSH and enjoys the fact that no two days are the same, and she gets an opportunity every day to make a difference. She is a Therapeutic Therapist III in Recreation Services and has been employed at MSH since 1997.

"Jestyne always shows respect and dignity for her patients that she serves, as well as her co-workers and staff that she works with. She handles any problems that may come up with a positive attitude and a smile on her face. If there is help needed with anything outside her direct job duties, she is one of the first ones to volunteer to help. Jestyne very much embodies the MSH core values," said Robbie Rhodes, who nominated McGee.



**SUPPORT SERVICES**  
**TIM MCLAURIN**  
**BUILDING 64, A-SHIFT**

Tim McLaurin has been named Mississippi State Hospital's August Employee of the Month for Support Services.

McLaurin is a Taylorsville resident, but grew up in Raleigh. He attended Raleigh High School and Jones Junior College. He enjoys helping people at MSH. He serves as a Network Infrastructure Specialist III in Information Management and has been employed at MSH since 2016.

"Tim is dedicated to the MSH values of Respect, Relationships, Accountability, Teamwork, and Diversity through helping staff and co-workers accomplish their work duties, keeping telecommunications running smoothly, and is respectful to everyone he meets. Tim is always a team player and helps other co-workers with job duties when he is needed and offers help consistently. He is self-motivated to accomplish work goals and strives hard to provide staff with what they need and ask for in a timely manner. Tim is a pleasure to work with by keeping relationships with staff and co-workers professional and friendly. We are lucky to have Tim as a part of the Information Management team," said Kevin Frazier, who nominated McLaurin.

# National Healthcare Food Service Week October 1-7, 2023

National Healthcare Food Service Week is celebrated the first full week of October. This celebration is set aside to honor dietary professionals who help patients stay well-nourished and healthy, by bringing nutrition to the forefront of every meal. Proper nutrition is a vital element in patient care. Their work is an essential part of the healthcare system.

Paulette Jackson, Pantry Supervisor for Building 31, has served on the food service team her entire 22-year career at MSH. Her pantry staff serves breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks to the 42 residents of B31 every day. Outside of the routine duties of ensuring food is served at the proper temperatures, making sure everyone is fed each and every meal, and cleaning and sanitizing the kitchen, dining room, and dishes, pantry staff must also make sure that any dietary restrictions are strictly adhered to for the safety of patients and residents. Ms. Jackson explained, "Part of my responsibilities require me to be familiar with every resident's dietary needs and restrictions. If asked, I need to be able to explain to a resident why he/she might not have the same food as others. It's important for me to know and understand any behavior issues a resident might have, so that I can approach and communicate with them in a way that is helpful."

Tammy Carr has served at MSH for 30 years. She began her MSH career in housekeeping, serving in the pantry as needed. About five years ago, she made the change to food service full time and moved to Building 33. During meals and snack times, she enjoys visiting with the 42 residents in her building, getting to know them and learning their likes and dislikes. Ms. Carr shared, "I like to make them feel like they are at home when they come into the dining room to eat. I want to



serve them hot food that they like and enjoy. I always make a point to ask them if there is anything they need." She enjoys providing them with treats such as coffee, ice cream, Kool-Aid, and the special cookies they like when she can.

Cura Hospitality cooks and delivers approximately 1,875 meals a day to patient and resident buildings at MSH. They also offer a wide range of breakfast and lunch selections for our staff. Jeremy Allen, Cura General Manager, has been with the company since 2016. His main focus since taking over the role in early 2023 has been improving quality and consistency in each and every meal served. He meets monthly with the pantry workers on the buildings to hear their concerns and prioritizes making adjustments to meet the needs of our patients

and residents.

Just as it is with all front line healthcare work, filling pantry positions is difficult. Many of the pantry staff work more than one shift some days and handle all of the duties themselves, from receiving the food from Cura, to checking temperatures, to serving, to cleaning, mopping, and sanitizing. In between mealtimes, there are still tasks that have to be handled, such as ordering supplies, checking expiration dates on perishables, removing outdated food, rotating supplies, and maintaining logs.

We are so thankful for our Food Service staff and all they do to make sure our patients and residents are served delicious and safe meals and snacks every day of the year.

# Transportation Department Appreciation



## Transportation Department

*Michael Washington, Jenny Pittman, Herbert Coleman, Bobby Dawson, Barry Barnes, Lekindric Rideout, Willamena Jones, Keysha Mason, Kishelita Sparks, Qutonda Myers, Franklin Moore, Bobby Blanks, Cassandra Kitchens, Keeffe Pennymon*

On Thursday, October 4, 2023, an appreciation lunch was held for the MSH Transportation Department. The department currently consists of 13 drivers including the Director and Assistant Director. The transportation department is responsible for safely getting patients and their staff escorts to appointments and events both on and off campus, emergency medical transports

to WMSH, distributing campus mail, and delivering miscellaneous items such as labwork and charts. The transportation department responds to an average of over 1,700 calls for transport a month. Patients are transported in buses and vans and may be ambulatory or require transport by wheelchair or stretcher. The transportation department also manages the scheduling of a

pool of vehicles that MSH staff use to conduct official business.

We appreciate the awesome job our drivers do getting our patients and residents where they need to go safely. The MSH Transportation Department is an essential part of MSH and JNH daily functions.

## THERAPEUTIC RECREATION FISHING RODEO

The fish weren't biting, but that didn't keep 95 patients and residents from enjoying the Fishing Rodeo hosted by Therapeutic Recreation on October 11, 2023. Everyone gathered around the front lake for this on-campus outing. Fall has arrived, so the temperatures were just right to get outside to breathe some fresh air and socialize. Therapeutic Recreation Director, Stacey Davis, noted, "Our patients and residents enjoyed the leisure time, but they enjoyed the chicken lunch even more!"





# MSH September Employees of Month



**DIRECT CARE**  
**WANDA WALKER**  
**BUILDING 31, A-SHIFT**

Wanda Walker has been named Mississippi State Hospital's September Employee of the Month for Direct Care.

Now a Jackson resident, Walker grew up in Biloxi and attended Biloxi High School. She enjoys the residents at MSH. She serves as a Certified Nurse Assistant at Jaquith Nursing Home and has been employed at MSH since 2021.

"Wanda Walker comes in greeting residents each morning and they gravitate towards her because of the care she gives them. She cannot stand for residents to be unclean, unshaven, or ill-groomed. She loves our residents and it shows. She bathes, shaves, and cuts their hair and makes sure they are dressed nicely and clean," said Mabel Tillis, who nominated Walker. "Ms. Walker goes above expectations in caring for our residents. She shows care and dedication to them daily and they flock to her upon her arrival."



**CLINICAL SERVICE**  
**BARBARA FLOWERS**  
**BUILDING 201, A-SHIFT**

Barbara Flowers has been named Mississippi State Hospital's September Employee of the Month for Clinical Service.

Born in Philadelphia, PA, Flowers attended Carver High School in Gadsden, AL. She attended Kent State University (AS), Hinds Community College (AA, AS, LPN), William Carey University (BS Psychology/Biology), and Mississippi College (NBCC-BC Marriage and Family Counseling). She loves being able to assist patients at MSH in their everyday challenges. She is a Behavioral Health Specialist in IPS and has been employed at MSH since 2020.

"If there was ever a "cheerleader" working on B201, it would be Barbara Flowers. Every encounter with her begins with a cheerful hello, sincere compliment, or an encouraging word. Be it a patient, fellow co-worker, or visitor, she extends the courtesies to one and all. During a patient's darkest moments, Ms. Flowers can be counted on to comfort them and guide them through it. The respect and caring she has for those entrusted to her care is unmistakable. Her group sessions are legendary and often-times the best attended," said Mike Shaw, who nominated Flowers.



**SUPPORT SERVICES**  
**LINDA EVANS**  
**BUILDING 21, A-SHIFT**

Linda Evans has been named Mississippi State Hospital's September Employee of the Month for Support Services.

Born in Harrisville, Evans grew up in Pearl and attended Pearl High School. She enjoys the people at MSH and is thankful for Deena Mullins and all she has taught her. She serves as an Accounting Tech II in Fiscal Services and has been employed at MSH since 2018.

"Linda has wonderful customer/client relationships. She always greets them with a smile and kind words. She is always willing to pitch in and help out with daily tasks above her own. She has brought many years of accounting experience with her to MSH and her co-workers speak highly of her. She exemplifies MSH core values each day and is a pleasure to work with," said Deena Mullins, who nominated Evans.

# MSH October Employees of Month



**DIRECT CARE**  
**CASSANDRA COLEMAN**  
**BUILDING 46, A-SHIFT**

Cassandra Coleman has been named Mississippi State Hospital's October Employee of the Month for Direct Care.

Coleman is a resident of Brandon. She attended Brandon High School and Hinds Community College. She enjoys the patients and staff at MSH. She serves as a Support Care Professional Team Lean in IPS and has been employed at MSH since 2011.

"Cassandra Coleman has a dynamic personality with the patients and staff. She is friendly and helpful," said Casey Brown, who nominated Coleman. "She is also versatile. She can do anything on the building. She knows all the patients well and has appropriate boundaries. At the same time, she never fails to make us laugh at some point during the day."



**CLINICAL SERVICE**  
**CHARLICE WATKINS**  
**BUILDING 50, A-SHIFT**

Charlice Watkins has been named Mississippi State Hospital's October Employee of the Month for Clinical Service.

Watkins serves as a Pharmacy Technician in the Pharmacy Department and has been employed at MSH since 2019.

"It is clear that Charlice Watkins is a committed MSH employee. I witnessed a random act of kindness where she helped a goose that was hot and couldn't walk without falling. She picked him up and set him under a tree with other geese. This world could use more people like her," said James Quinn, who nominated Watkins.



**SUPPORT SERVICES**  
**NIESHIA TAYLOR**  
**BUILDING 203, A-SHIFT**

Nieshia Taylor has been named Mississippi State Hospital's October Employee of the Month for Support Services.

A resident of Brandon, Taylor attended Brandon High School and Hinds Community College. She enjoys being a part of the overall functioning of the unit to ensure the proper patient care of the residents at MSH. She serves as Program Specialist II/CUO in IPS and has been employed at MSH since 2006.

"Nieshia Taylor is a treat to have in our department. Other facilities dream of having an employee like Ms. Nieshia Taylor. Ms. Taylor's work performance consistently amazes me, she has been a great inspiration to the department. The smiles and positive attitude that Ms. Taylor has brought to the team, always boosting our spirits when we need it the most has made a huge difference within the department. Ms. Taylor is always the first to volunteer a helping hand in any situation and it has not gone unnoticed. We are so grateful to have someone like Ms. Taylor as part of the team. She goes above and beyond to achieve our organization's mission. Thank you for doing your best every day," said Tiffany Jefferson, who nominated Taylor.

# August 2023 Service Awards



*L to R: Natasha Harris, Tammy Kopesky, Polly Ross, Michelle Cushman, Taneka Moore, Lesli Atkinson, and Allen Johnson.*

# September 2023 Service Awards



*L to R: Patra Askew, Robin Bolton, Toy Landingham, and Loretta Franklin.*

# October 2023 Service Awards



L to R: Front Row – Teresa W. Ryals, Kesha Davis Waterman, Moira Taylor, Betty Jo Thompson, Bernita Ann Moore. Back Row – David Bishop Putnam, Robert Maddux, Mark Alphonzo Griffin

## August, September, October-2023 Service Award Lists

### AUGUST

NAME	YRS
ASHELY NECHOLE BUTLER	1
CHRISTINE MCDUGLE	1
ROCHELLE SHAUNA JACKSON	1
TANEKA MOORE	1
JOHN A WALKER	1
KAREN BARBARA VAN WINKLE	1
LESLE SHERREE ATKINSON	1
NATASHA TYRA LAVONTAE HARRIS	1
POLLY J ROSS	5
TINEKA MAYO SILK	5
JASMINE A EZAGUI	5
KATHRYN ELIZABETH OLSON	5
DAWN MONESICA TRAXLER	5
GABRIEL WINSTON HORVATH	10
ALLEN KEITH JOHNSON	10
MIKE G. SHAW	15
MICHELLE MARIE CHMIELEWSKI	20
REGINA MICHELLE CUSHMAN	25
EDWIN J. STALLWORTH	25
TAMMY JOINER KOPESKY	25

### SEPTEMBER

NAME	YRS
BILLY DARRYL REED	1
WILLIAM RUSSELL DAYTON VAUGHN	1
BEVERLY JEAN KYLES	1
ROBIN L BOLTON	1
LITANE ANTOINETTE LUCKETT	1
BRUCE M MILLER	1
LAURA GARDNER ADCOCK	1
JESSICA TERESA CLARK	1
EMONI VICTORIA PRICE	1
AMANDA MORGAN BENNETT	5
CLINTON R ROBINSON	5
KEYSHA L MASON	5
LORETTA J. FRANKLIN	10
HERSEY LAVELLE PURVIS	15
MICHAEL P. ADAMS	15
ROBERT FINLEY MADDUX	15
BOBBIE JEAN ELAM	20
MARY R. HARGRAVE	20
CHARMAINE WILLIAMS HENRIQUES	20
PATRA WILLIAMS ASKEW	30
TOY A. LANDINGHAM	35
CORNELIA J. BROOKS	35

### OCTOBER

NAME	YRS
BETTY JO THOMPSON	1
THOMAS G SMITH	1
MICHELE HARPER-SMITH	1
CASSANDRA T EUBANKS	1
MOIRA TAYLOR	1
SHANNON ELIZABETH CARSON	1
DAVID BISHOP PUTNAM	1
BYRON TRAMIEL LEMOCK	5
MARCO LORENZO GADDIS	10
TRALECIA A. ROLLINS	10
DREW LONG	15
MARK ALPHONZO GRIFFIN	15
NICHOLAS LIONEL JOHNSON	15
VERTIS MARIE FLETCHER	15
ANGELA MICHELLE CARTER	20
KESHA DAVIS WATERMAN	20
BERNITA ANN MOORE	20
TERESA W. RYALS	20