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JNH Artist: Virgil Bynum Artwork on Building 78

By: Julie Cox

In 2004, after an automobile accident left him in a wheelchair, an amputated left arm, and limited use of his right arm, Virgil Bynum struggled with depression. Art has been a positive creative outlet to help him work through his depression and create something beautiful in the process. It allows him to express himself and gives him something to focus on besides his physical body. Art is therapeutic for him physically, mentally, and emotionally. June McCafferty serves as Bynum’s Social Services representative and observed, “Mr. Bynum uses his ability to paint and express himself through his art as a way to handle the stressors that come with being in his situation. It is very therapeutic for him.”

Originally from Magee, Bynum has been a resident of Jaquith Nursing Home for the past 11 years. He enjoys participating in many recreational activities at Mississippi State Hospital (MSH), but art is his favorite. His love of art goes back to high school, with Bob Ross being his icon for as long as he can remember. He likes to mimic his painting style and techniques to create multidimensional paintings. Bynum says he used oil-based paints for many years, but since his accident he prefers acrylic paint because it dries faster, which is more conducive of



painting while utilizing the hand brace that his paintbrush clicks into.

Bynum does not sketch out his paintings beforehand. He begins with a vision in his mind and works quickly to get it down on canvas. He has a knack for blending colors to create the exact hue he is visualizing. He also has good depth perception, which helps him create paintings that have texture and dimension. Bynum uses a variety of brushes and techniques in his painting process. Despite his skills and years of experience, Bynum considers himself a novice artist.

He enjoys creating multiple pieces of artwork each year for the annual

Serendipity Art Show and Silent Auction at MSH. But most recently, he created a large piece of artwork for display on Jaquith Nursing Home, Building 78. Bynum said the painting took him about five hours to complete and it was a scene that he visualized in his mind and brought to life on canvas.

Ceci Whitehurst, Art Services Supervisor, noted that, “Virgil is very dedicated to attending art classes, he also enjoys painting in his room on his own time too. He is always open to trying new things with his art, even if it is something he’s not familiar with, he will try it. Despite his physical challenges, he doesn’t let it

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JNH Artist Continued from Page 1

hold him back. He is very talented and his artwork is unique. We are very proud of Virgil and his beautiful artwork and love that he enjoys sharing his talent with others.”

Bynum has a unique and identifiable style that makes him a sought-out artist in the annual Serendipity Art Show and Silent Auction. Serendipity is an annual exhibit and auction featuring artwork created by participants in art classes at Mississippi State Hospital. It is an opportunity for patients and residents to see their art framed and on display, and earn some money when their art is sold during the auction. Serendipity is always held the first Thursday in September. In 2024, it will be held on September 5. Bidding will open online August 1 at www.myminiauction.com/serendipity.

Former MSH Art Instructor, Ron Lindsey reflected, “I taught Art on Building 78 for 14 years. Virgil was the anchor of the group. He almost never missed a class. His talent and imagination was very evident. In between classes, during the week, he would produce impressive amounts of work. He was always well represented at Serendipity. Virgil is a true artist and a gentleman. I very much enjoyed working with him.”

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In 2023, the Serendipity Art Calendar made a return appearance to the event and was well-received. It featured artwork created by residents of Jaquith Nursing Home. Many JNH artists have their artwork listed as part of the Serendipity Art Show, but it was a special honor to have a piece selected to be featured in the calendar. Bynum was among those honored artists.



Mississippi State Hospital Hosts Mississippi Board of Mental Health

By: Julie Cox

Mississippi State Hospital was pleased to host the February meeting of the Mississippi Board of Mental Health and Department of Mental Health Program Directors.

Prior to the meeting, board member Dr. James Herzog toured the current renovation and construction site on Building 63 to get a first-hand look at progress on the new Forensic Services Building. Once complete, forensic services capacity at MSH will increase to 120 beds, a significant increase from the current capacity of 65 beds. The tour was led by Dr. Tom Recore, Clinical and Forensic Psychiatrist and DMH Forensic Liaison, and Ms. Amanda Matson, Director of Support Services. Codaray representatives were on hand to answer any questions about construction.

Dr. Herzog currently serves as the clinical psychologist representative on the board. He has more than 40 years of experience in community mental health through several community mental health centers, Catholic Charities, and in the VA Medical Center in Jackson. His private practice is located in Oxford and provides consultation for the Department of Rehabilitation Services in the Office of Disability Determination Services. He has served on the board for several years, both as a member and Chair.



Ryan Ables (Codaray Construction), Dr. Tom Recore (DMH Forensic Liaison), Dr. James Herzog (DMH Board Member), Amanda Matson (MSH Support Services Director), J.P. Burke (Codaray Construction)



Dixie National Wagon Train

A 2024 Dixie National Wagon Train from Smith County rolled through the MSH campus on Friday, February 9. The Smith County Wagon Train is led by Kenneth and Jennifer Jernigan and travels from Taylorsville to Jackson each year.

The wagon train tradition was initiated by former Mississippi Agricultural Commissioner, Jim Buck Ross. After seeing a wagon train arriving while attending a livestock show and rodeo in Texas, Ross implemented this tradition as part of the Dixie National Rodeo in 1980.

Currently, there are eight wagon trains that travel the backroads and highways of Mississippi for the week leading up to the Dixie National Parade and Rodeo held at the fairgrounds in Jackson.



February was National Recreational Therapy Month!

When a lot of people hear the word “recreation” they think it’s all fun and games. However, as part of the MSH treatment team, there is a purpose behind each activity that is specifically targeted for each patient to help them improve or maintain physical, cognitive, social, emotional, and spiritual functioning in order to help them participate in daily life.

February was National Recreational Therapy Month, so we took an opportunity to let our therapeutic recreational professionals at MSH tell you their stories about what therapeutic recreation really is and why it is important to them.

We asked our recreational therapists to tell us one thing they wish people knew about their job in therapeutic recreation at MSH. Also, to share about one challenge or moment in their career in therapeutic recreation at MSH that was a pivotal moment and made it all worthwhile.



One thing I wish people knew is that lives can be changed from just one activity provided through therapeutic recreation. We provide support for individuals to achieve leisure participation and an increased quality of life.

-Jayhron Alexander, Recreational Therapist I

“Play is powerful...and for people living with physical, emotional, and mental conditions, therapy in the form of recreation can be considered some of the strongest medicine there is.”

- Advocate Recreational Therapy



I would want everyone to know that our job is not always about fun and games. There are days when we wear many different hats depending on the situation. We are often here for our patients to encourage them when they get down, calm them when they get upset, laugh with them when they are happy, and listen to them when they need to talk. Every day that I come to work and see and work with patients and see them smile, that makes my job worthwhile.

-Robbie Rhodes, Therapeutic Therapist III



As a Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor, I encourage each member of the Jaquith Nursing Home recreation staff to strive each day to enrich our residents lives through meaningful activities that are therapeutic and to improve/maintain residents’ quality of life. Just being with the residents each day makes it all worthwhile. The residents think of us as their family. No matter what medical, physical, cognitive, emotional, and/or social challenges these residents are facing they always find ways to think about staff and our well-being. The residents might simply just ask, “How are you? Are you okay?” A female resident said to me the other day as I passed out Valentine happies, “Thank you for always thinking about us.” If I don’t remember anything else, I remember that they are people first and residents second.

-Cintarrio Palmer, Therapeutic Recreation Specialist Supervisor



JNH Celebrated Black History Month

By: Julie Cox

Recently, JNH staff put together a program in celebration of Black History Month. Participants modeled beautiful Dashiki outfits in an array of colors and patterns. The dashiki symbolizes affirmation and a return to African roots. Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history.

Carter G. Woodson was a scholar whose dedication to celebrating the historic contributions of Black people led to the establishment of Black History Month, marked every February since 1976. Black History Month was created to focus attention on the contributions of African Americans to the United States. It honors all Black people from all periods of U.S. history, from the enslaved people first brought over from Africa in the early 17th century to African Americans living in the United States today.



Pictured left to right – Cheryllyn Smith, Kymoi Noray, Ralencia Pickens, Cintarrio Palmer, Valeria Grim, Melony Anderson, Evelyn Madiebo, Quenora Smith, Marshay Robinson, Sharon Knight, and Gina Franklin

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National Doctors Day – March 30

National Doctors Day is observed on March 30th each year to honor the contributions of physicians across America. The day was officially designated in 1990 by President George H.W. Bush, but its origins trace back to its initial observance on March 30, 1933.

Thank you MSH Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, and Dentists!



STAFF PHYSICIANS

- Marshall Belaga, MD
- Karen Page Branam, MD
- Edward Brewer, MD
- Reese Bulmash, DO
- Scott Carlton, MD
- Stephen Comminskey, MD
- Dan Coughlin, MD
- Salaahuddin Dakhllalla, MD
- Paul Dare, MD
- Kirtida Desai, MD
- Derrick Edwards, MD
- David Floyd, MD
- Vincent Herrin, MD
- Karen Holloway, MD
- Jon Corey Jackson, MD
- John Kennedy, MD
- Zinat Khandekar, MD
- Robert Maddux, MD
- Reb McMichael, MD
- John Norton, MD
- Ardarian Pierre, MD
- Thomas Recore, MD
- Stephen Shoop, DO
- Gary Smith, MD
- Stephen Smith, MD
- Nazmul Talukdar, MD
- Marlee Wadsworth
- Mack Woo, MD
- Kevin Young, MD

RESIDENT PHYSICIANS

- Alex Hutchison, DO
- Deewan Bulchandani, MD
- Michael DePasquale, MD
- Zachary Robinson, DO
- Sarah Pierce, MD
- Andrew Foret, MD
- Bilal Qureshi, MD
- Jonathan Sadler, MD
- Kirolos Adly, MD
- Nicholas LaCivita, MD
- Richa Gautami, MD
- Gerri Wilson, MD
- Hannah Richard, DO
- Holden Lee, MD
- Mariah Bohl, MD
- Patrick Fitz-Gerald, MD
- Patrick White, MD
- Tyler Menzies, DO

NURSE PRACTITIONERS

- Beth Bragg, FNP
- Robin Brinson, PNP
- Shonna Davis, PNP
- Jackie Dyess, PNP
- Laura Johnson, PNP
- Caryn Alison Johnson, FNP, PNP
- Sarah Leath, PNP
- Virginia Perry-Lewis, PNP
- Sarah Marshall, FNP
- Jordan Reed, FNP
- Mike Shaw, PNP
- Megan Slade, FNP
- Chassity Vanderford, PNP
- Melodie Vick, FNP

DENTISTS

- Sonja Stiff, DMD
- Duncan Stone, DMD



By: Julie Cox

Mark Griffin was selected earlier this year as the Coordinator of Unit Operations (CUO) for Buildings 43 and 90, both Forensics units. Griffin has been part of the MSH family for nearly 16 years. He

MARK GRIFFIN IS CUO FOR BUILDINGS 43 & 90

began his MSH career in 2008 as a Mental Health Technician on Building 203, then moved to the position of Release of Information and Health Records in Health Information Management, working in that department for nine years. Ms. Tiffany Jefferson, Director of Environmental Services, stated, "I'm so excited to have Mr. Griffin as part of our team. He has extensive knowledge of procedures and protocols here at MSH." Griffin says he enjoys the family atmosphere at MSH and has built many lasting relationships over the years.

Griffin is originally from Chicago, IL. His family moved to Jackson when he was around 12 years old. He attended Murrah High School and Tougaloo College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in History. He currently lives in Madison with his wife of 11 years and their three

children. In his free time, Griffin enjoys sports, especially baseball and basketball, in which his children participate.

In his new position, Griffin's responsibilities will encompass overseeing everything on the two buildings, including housekeeping, pantry operations, maintenance and inspection issues, safety, and ensuring everything is safe and up to code. Griffin says he is looking forward to learning about Forensics and observing it in practice in his new position. Another highlight for him will be contributing assistance with the operations of Building 63, which is currently being renovated. Building 63 will house patient beds from Building 43 when it closes and allow for the expansion of Forensic beds in the state.

2024 January, February & March 20+ Years of Service Recognition

January



LESLIE M. MCKENNY

SUPPORT CARE PROFESSIONAL III
BUILDING 45, A-SHIFT

Leslie M. McKenny of Jackson was recognized for providing 20 years of service to the hospital. Ms. McKenny attended Crystal Springs High School where she participated in band, track, basketball, and tennis, winning awards in band, tennis, and track. She attended Hinds Community College in Raymond on a music scholarship. She likes meeting and helping people at MSH. She also enjoys learning new things. In her free time, she enjoys music, cooking, and making people laugh. She is a Support Care Professional III in IPS and has been employed at MSH since 2004.

February



MARY FRANCES TUTOR

ADMIN SUPPORT TEAM LEADER
BUILDING 24, A-SHIFT

Mary Frances Tutor of Brandon was recognized for providing 20 years of service to the hospital. Ms. Tutor attended McLaurin Attendance Center and Hinds Community College. She likes the staff at MSH and values everything she has learned about medical billing in her position. In her free time, she enjoys activities with her children, including baseball, camping, and riding horses. She is an Admin Support Team Leader in Fiscal Services and has been employed at MSH since 2004.



TERRY NORWOOD-STEVENS

ADMIN SUPPORT ASSISTANT III
BUILDING 24, A-SHIFT

Terry Norwood-Stevens of Pearl was recognized for providing 30 years of service to the hospital. Ms. Norwood-Stevens attended Brandon High School and Hinds Community College. She likes helping the patients at MSH. In her free time, she enjoys traveling. She has two children and two grandchildren. She is an Admin Support Assistant III in Fiscal Services and has been employed at MSH since 1994.

**SHEILA A. CANTRELL**

*PHARMACIST II
BUILDING 50, A-SHIFT*

Sheila Cantrell of Brandon was recognized for providing 20 years of service to the hospital. She is a Pharmacist II and has been employed at MSH since 2004.

SHAUNA DEONDRRA HARRIS

*SUPPORT CARE PROFESSIONAL TEAM LEAD
BUILDING 23, C-SHIFT*

Shauna Harris of Pearl was recognized for providing 20 years of service to the hospital. She is a Support Care Professional Team Lead at Oak Circle Center and has been employed at MSH since 2004.

March

**CASSANDRA S. MYLES**

*VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTRUCTOR II
BUILDING 32, A-SHIFT*

Cassandra S. Myles of Byram was recognized for providing 25 years of service to the hospital. Ms. Myles attended Hinds AHS, Hinds Community College, and the University of Southern Mississippi. She likes that all of her co-workers are with one accord and the teamwork atmosphere at MSH. In her free time, she enjoys listening to music, creating things, and traveling. She is a Vocational Training Instructor II in Service Outcome and has been employed at MSH since 1999.

MAURICE DERRELL WOODS

*SUPPORT CARE PROFESSIONAL III
BUILDING 45, B-SHIFT*

Maurice Derrell Woods of Jackson was recognized for providing 20 years of service to the hospital. Mr. Woods attended Murrah High School. He enjoys his co-workers at MSH. In his free time, he enjoys riding his bicycle. He is a Support Care Professional III in Direct Care and has been employed at MSH since 2004.

**LEROY EVANS**

*SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM COORDINATOR I
BUILDING 203, A-SHIFT*

Leroy Evans of Jackson was recognized for providing 35 years of service to the hospital. Mr. Evans attended Canton High School, Hinds Community College, and Jackson State University. He likes assisting patients with discharge placement at MSH. In his free time, he enjoys traveling, skydiving, and spending time with his grandchildren. He is a Social Services Program Coordinator I in Social Services and has been employed at MSH since 1989.

MSH January Employees of Month



DIRECT CARE
JESSIE WILLIAMS
 BUILDING 203/W4, B-SHIFT

Jessie Williams has been named Mississippi State Hospital's January Employee of the Month for Direct Care.

A lifelong Jacksonian, Williams attended Forest Hill High School, Hinds Community College, and the Career Development Center where he earned technology certifications. He enjoys seeing our patients at MSH become better and our staff being able to retire happy. He serves as a Support Care Professional Team Lead and has been employed at MSH since 2018.

"Jessie always offers helpful advice for handling patients based on his past experiences with them. He is very helpful with patient needs," said Dr. John Wilkaitis, who nominated Williams.



CLINICAL SERVICE
VALERIA GRIM
 BUILDING 28/34, A-SHIFT

Valeria Grim has been named Mississippi State Hospital's January Employee of the Month for Clinical Service.

A lifelong resident of Florence, Grim attended Florence High School, the University of Southern Mississippi where she earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology, and Jackson State University where she earned a master's in Guidance and Counseling. She enjoys caring for her residents at MSH. She serves as a Behavioral Health Specialist II at Jaquith Nursing Home and has been employed at MSH since 1992.

"With over 30 years of service, Valeria is an excellent clinician and a hard worker. She is selfless and always willing to help others. She is very trustworthy, an excellent employee, and a great team member," said Michael Gordon, who nominated Grim.



SUPPORT SERVICES
LADONNA PROCTOR
 BUILDING 90, A-SHIFT

LaDonna Proctor has been named Mississippi State Hospital's January Employee of the Month for Support Services.

A lifelong resident of Brandon, Proctor attended Brandon High School. She likes her co-workers at MSH and believes the staff help make her job the best. She serves as Mental Health Technician in Forensics and has been employed at MSH since 2019.

"LaDonna treats all her patients and staff with dignity and respect and is always willing to help anyone in need. She works well with all disciplines and has an infectious laugh and bubbly personality. She does whatever is asked of her, always has a smile on her face, and never complains. She always embodies the Core Values of MSH and exhibits teamwork with everyone. She is deserving of Employee of the Month," said Robbie Rhodes, who nominated Proctor.

CELEBRATING OUR SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Honoring Their Dedication and Compassion - March was National Social Work Month

During March, we embraced the promise of spring and the opportunity to celebrate National Social Work Month. Throughout the month, we recognized the incredible work of our Social Services Department at Mississippi State Hospital.

In the complexities of mental health care, our social workers serve as guiding lights to our patients, offering empathy, support, and advocacy to those in need. They are the heroes who work in the background to pull all of the different pieces of the puzzle together, touching lives with their kindness and understanding.

At the heart of their mission lies the belief that every individual deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. Whether it's assisting patients in accessing essential resources, providing emotional support, or advocating for their rights, our social workers go above and beyond to ensure that each person receives the care and services they need.



Their role extends far beyond the confines of our hospital walls. They are partners in community outreach programs, collaborating with local organizations to bridge the gap between mental health services and the broader community. Through their efforts, they not only provide crucial support to our patients but also work towards destigmatizing mental illness and promoting mental wellness.

Behind every success story, there is a social worker offering guidance and support, empowering individuals to reclaim their lives and embark on the path to recovery. Their impact reverberates through the halls of our

hospital, inspiring hope and resilience in those they serve.

In honor of Social Work Month, members of our MSH Social Services Department were treated to a delicious lunch from Primos Café, courtesy of Matt Word of Neurocrine Biosciences. Michelle Hearn planned a fun afternoon of trivia and games where participants could win prizes. Each employee also received personalized notecards as a token of appreciation from Social Services leadership, Elaine Sendelweck, Social Services Director, and Rhonda Bufkin, Assistant Director.



MSH Psychiatry Residents have Exciting Doctor of the Day Experience at the Capitol

When Mississippi State Hospital (MSH) Psychiatry Residents, Dr. Hannah Richard (PGY 1) and Dr. Zac Robinson (PGY II), signed up to be Doctor of the Day at the MS Capitol on Wednesday, March 20, they had no idea what the day would bring. Several groups had planned press conferences throughout the week to focus attention on Medicaid expansion. But Wednesday's press conference hosted by religious leaders around the state turned into a secondary healthcare event. The Mississippi Psychiatric Association (MPA) featured these two healthcare heroes in their weekly E-Update.

Serving as the Doctor of the Day at the Capitol is an honor and opportunity provided by the Mississippi State Medical Association (MSMA). It is usually spent helping people with allergies or minor aches, with an occasional medical emergency. It is an opportunity to get to know elected officials and advocate for patients and the medical profession. This week a pastor taking time to talk with representatives about Medicaid went unresponsive during a press conference.

Dr. Richard, Dr. Robinson, and a nurse were in the clinic when they heard a loud commotion down the hall. After investigating, the nurse returned to the clinic and alerted the doctors that a man was down on the floor and needed assistance. Grabbing the AED and vitals machine, they all rushed to the second floor where the man was completely unresponsive and not breathing. After confirming with a bystander that 911 had been called, another bystander, who happened to be a nurse, began performing chest compressions. As the first round of chest compressions were being performed, Dr. Richard opened the AED and placed the pads on the man's chest. The AED did not recommend shock but indicated that chest compressions should be resumed. During that round, the man let out a big breath and



Pictured left to right - Dr. Zac Robinson, Senate Pro Temp Dean Kirby, and Dr. Hannah Richard

his eyes started tracking movement. Using the vitals machine, it was determined that his heart rate and blood pressure were stable. Shortly thereafter, the man became more alert and began verbalizing one-to-two-word phrases. Dr. Richard and Dr. Robinson stayed with the man until the paramedics arrived to carry him to the ambulance, during which he waved and gave a thumbs up to the crowd.

Dr. Richard shared, "The entire time we were surrounded by a prayer circle led by the other local pastors there for the press conference. We later learned the good news that the man was recovering well with his family by his side at Baptist. It's an experience I will not soon forget."

Dr. Robinson added, "It was a day that demonstrated the value of having rapid access to medical professionals. Luckily, the pastor was able to recover and should be back to preaching in no time. I look forward to future opportunities to serve as Doctor of the Day, though hope for much less excitement."



Pictured left to right - Mr. James G. "Bo" Chastain, Dr. Zac Robinson, Dr. Hannah Richard, and Dr. Jon Jackson. Recently, two of our Psychiatry Residents were serving as Doctors of the Day at the Capitol and were part of saving a local pastor's life. The MSH Psychiatry Residency Program has an award called the 'Top Flight Award' that has only been given out a couple of times before this event.

MSH February Employees of Month



DIRECT CARE
MICHAEL ROBINSON
BUILDING 203, A-SHIFT

Michael Robinson has been named Mississippi State Hospital's February Employee of the Month for Direct Care.

A resident of Jackson, Robinson grew up in Crystal Springs where he attended Crystal Springs High School and Jackson State University. He enjoys providing patient care and leadership at MSH. He serves as a Support Care Professional III in IPS and has been employed at MSH since 2019.

"Always cheerful, "Big Mike" is kind, generous, and welcoming of new employees. He displays the caring side of MSH to his patients," said Dr. John Wilkaitis, who nominated Robinson.



CLINICAL SERVICE
NATASHA HARRIS
BUILDING 60, A-SHIFT

Natasha Harris has been named Mississippi State Hospital's February Employee of the Month for Clinical Service.

A lifelong resident of Canton, Harris attended Canton Public High School, Holmes Community College where she earned her LPN Certificate, and Mississippi University for Women where she earned an associate degree of Science Nursing. She enjoys helping all of the patients as well as the staff at MSH. She serves as a RN/Clinical Nurse at Whitfield Medical Surgical Hospital and has been employed at MSH since 2022.

"Natasha Harris is very caring and loving to all patients. She is a team player and is willing to help anyone in need. Mrs. Harris always exhibits a positive attitude despite being presented with difficult tasks wherever she is assigned. She is very dependable and knowledgeable in her job duties. She goes the extra mile to ensure that patients receive excellent care. Mrs. Harris deserves to be recognized for efforts in a career field that does not always receive praise," said Michelle Jackson, who nominated Harris.



SUPPORT SERVICES
JENNIFER GRAVES
BUILDING 71, A-SHIFT

Jennifer Graves has been named Mississippi State Hospital's February Employee of the Month for Support Services.

A resident of Jackson, Graves grew up in Byram and attended Terry High School and Mississippi State University where she earned a bachelor's degree in Human Sciences/Interior Design with a minor in Fine Arts/Communication. She likes her awesome co-workers and friends at MSH. She serves as a Public Relations Specialist and has been employed at MSH since 2015.

This year, Jennifer was asked to lead games for the patients and residents during their visit to The Christmas House. For the entire week, she led 18 groups through Christmas-themed games, each with the same enthusiasm as if it were the first group. Along the way, she made modifications to some of the games so that each person could participate. She also takes her daily job filling patient clothing requisitions very seriously and wants to assure the patients get something they want to wear and that fits. At any event, you can always see her interacting with all of the guests in a positive way whether they are public, staff, or patients/residents.

MSH March Employees of Month



DIRECT CARE
DESTINY CHANCELLOR
BUILDING 201/1, A-SHIFT

Destiny Chancellor has been named Mississippi State Hospital's March Employee of the Month for Direct Care.

A lifelong resident of Jackson, Chancellor attended Jim Hill High School. She enjoys the patients and staff at MSH. She serves as a Support Care Professional III in IPS and has been employed at MSH since 2021.

"There are some employees who get it and Destiny is among them. We work with a very special population, one that can test your last ounce of patience, yet somehow Destiny remains calm through it all. She goes beyond the call of duty to make certain our patients are well taken care of. Just today, which was her day off, she came in early and gently roused our patients up and obtained vital signs. When there is an extra something that comes up requiring a staff member, she volunteers first. The patients respond well to her kind, gentle manner. Her smile often disarms the most difficult patient. In difficult circumstances, you want Destiny around. She's a great team player and definitely deserves Employee of the Month consideration," said Mike Shaw, who nominated Chancellor.



CLINICAL SERVICE
BELINDA SIMPSON
BUILDING 22, A-SHIFT

Belinda Simpson has been named Mississippi State Hospital's March Employee of the Month for Clinical Service.

A resident of Brandon, Simpson grew up in Lexington and attended J.J. McClain High School, Holmes Community College, and the University of Southern Mississippi. She enjoys the teamwork atmosphere at MSH. She serves as a Nurse Case Manager II in Utilization Management and has been employed at MSH since 2017.

"Belinda has brought a wealth of experience to the UM Department as she has worked in many roles in her nursing career, including on the Forensics unit at MSH. She is always the calm in the storm and works tirelessly with her covered assignments and is always willing to help a co-worker if they are overloaded. The UM Department has had a period of being super short-staffed and she helps divide and conquer the daily assignments in the department. She is a team player and works overtime on Building 43 when she can help with coverage," said Julie Johnson, who nominated Simpson.



SUPPORT SERVICES
ANDREW SISTRUNK
BUILDING 55, A-SHIFT

Andrew Sistrunk has been named Mississippi State Hospital's March Employee of the Month for Support Services.

A resident of Brandon, Sistrunk attended Brandon High School. He enjoys working with his co-workers at MSH. He serves as a Grounds Supervisor in Maintenance and has been employed at MSH since 2022.

"Andrew embodies the core values of MSH. When the Workforce Development Program began, Andrew took over supervision of the trustees participating in the program. He's worked not only to live up to the MSH values but to also instill them in the trustees participating in the program. He's been successful in management of the program and the trustees and has given the campus a facelift in the process," said Amanda Matson, who nominated Sistrunk.

January 2024 Service Awards



L to R: Shatonya Bernard, Kathryn Simmons, Leslie McKenny, and Lori Thompson.

February 2024 Service Awards



L to R: Front Row – Terry Norwood-Stevens, Sheila Cantrell, Tamara Lauren Hammack, Johnnie Clark, Regina Ann Pinion McDaniel, Eve Walton, Kathy Pack. Back Row – Breonna Owens, Shawn Cagle (December), Regina Amason, Jordan Lyons (January), Mel Bailey, Kyndareus Bailey

March 2024 Service Awards



L to R: Leroy Evans, Cassandra Myles, Latonia Dixon, Lease Brent, Jazmine Kincaid, Rhonda Bufkin

Jan, Feb, Mar-2024 Service Award Lists

JANUARY

| NAME | YRS |
|-------------------------|-----|
| JORDAN RENAE LYONS | 1 |
| SHATONYA TAMERA BERNARD | 1 |
| CASSANDRA LEE PUGH | 1 |
| KATHRYN M SIMMONS | 1 |
| MARILEN HOWELL KELLEY | 1 |
| LORI LEANN THOMPSON | 1 |
| ASHLEY SHAMONE BROWN | 1 |
| TIMESHA JAKELL FOREST | 1 |
| ALICIA ANN DUGAN | 5 |
| SUZETTE M JOHNSON | 5 |
| AMANDA L. GUGLIANO | 10 |
| ED HARRIS | 15 |
| SHANIKA FCORNELL LEE | 15 |
| JORDAN GABRIELLE SUTTON | 15 |
| WONDA MCKIE | 15 |
| LESLIE MARIE MCKENNY | 20 |

FEBRUARY

| NAME | YRS |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| TAMARA LAUREN HAMMACK | 1 |
| REGINA ANN PINION-MCDANIEL | 1 |
| SA'MYA DASJA'LASHAY BRUMFIELD | 1 |
| JOYCE K LONIE | 1 |
| ALLISON CLARE MCCUE | 1 |
| NATHAN LEON ASHLEY | 1 |
| REGINA MICHELLE AMASON | 1 |
| KYNDAREUS JERREL BAILEY | 1 |
| BREONNA COLION OWENS | 1 |
| JOHNNIE N CLARK | 1 |
| KATHERINE MARIE PACK | 5 |
| EVE HART WALTON | 5 |
| HAROLD MELBY BAILEY | 10 |
| CLEOTRA TANNER | 10 |
| CHERRY ROTASHA COLLINS | 15 |
| MARY FRANCES TUTOR | 20 |
| SHAUNA DEONDRRA HARRIS | 20 |
| SHEILA A. CANTRELL | 20 |
| TERRY MICHELLE NORWOOD-STEVENSON | 30 |

MARCH

| NAME | YRS |
|---------------------------|-----|
| CANTAVION LATARRIUS KELLY | 1 |
| CARYN ALISON JOHNSON | 1 |
| LATONIA LACRESAH DIXON | 1 |
| LEASE MARTIN BRENT | 1 |
| FREDERICA D CARSON | 1 |
| TERRY LYNN GARLETTS | 1 |
| CHRISTINE BROWN | 1 |
| NAOME PAULINE KOBAYAKAWA | 1 |
| VERLANCE MAURICE SMITH | 1 |
| JAZMINE JOSHA E KINCAID | 1 |
| RHONDA MORRIS BUFKIN | 1 |
| ANTHONY WALKER | 1 |
| KEEFE PENNYMON | 1 |
| MADONNAZAIRA MCMURTRY | 5 |
| RHONDA LACHELLE ANDREWS | 5 |
| MEGAN EGBERT SLADE | 10 |
| LATEDRA DEONNA TAYLOR | 10 |
| MILDRED L. JENNINGS | 10 |
| MINNIE L. THOMAS | 10 |
| SUZANNE MICHELLE BLAKELY | 15 |
| MAURICE DERRELL WOODS | 20 |
| CASSANDRA S. MYLES | 25 |
| LEROY EVANS | 35 |