



CHRISTMAS 2025 | Vol. 14 - SPECIAL EDITION

# ASPIRE

A PUBLICATION OF MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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## Mississippi State Hospital's Christmas Parade 2025



Santa Claus was in attendance for the 2025 Mississippi State Hospital Christmas Parade

By: Kevin Walker

Mississippi State Hospital kicked off the Christmas season with joy as Santa's Workshop came to life for the 2025 MSH Christmas Parade. With 20 float entries, eight classic cars, several 4-wheelers, and the energetic Canton High School Marching Band, the parade brought cheerful excitement to patients, residents, staff, and guests across campus.

A special thanks goes to Gary Burns, who led the parade in his 1977 Trans Am, carrying this year's Grand Marshal, Mr. Bill Bobbs, and his wife, Becky.

Judging for this year's parade was provided through a partnership between the Friends of Mississippi State Hospital Board and Youth Leadership Rankin, a program of the Rankin County Chamber. We are especially grateful to Friends Board Member Kim Edwards for

coordinating the student ambassadors who helped judge the parade.

Reflecting on the day, she shared: "Thank you all so much for allowing the Leadership students to participate this year. They truly had a wonderful time, and I was pleasantly surprised by just how excited and engaged they were throughout the day. They had nothing but great things to say afterward, and several of them mentioned how much they

would love the opportunity to join us again next year. Your willingness to welcome them made a meaningful impact, and I appreciate it more than you know."

Public Relations Director Julie Cox echoed the gratitude, noting: "Thank you so much for everyone that participated in Santa's Workshop, the 2025 MSH Christmas Parade. Tough decisions were made by our judges today because the floats looked fabulous!"

This year's parade showcased exceptional creativity, teamwork, and holiday spirit.

**THE 2025 PARADE AWARD  
WINNERS WERE:**

**The North Pole Award – Malibu Barbie,  
CTS Tx Mall, Building 32**

*Best represents the parade theme and  
visually tells the story.*

**The Elf Award – Clue, Forensics,  
Buildings 63/90**

*Entry with the most enthusiastic participants.*

**Toy-Maker Award – Radio Flyer Wagon,  
Utilization Management, Building 22**  
*Outstanding entry among non-patient units.*

**Santa's Village Award – Pac-Man Video  
Game, Hinds Behavioral Health Services  
(Jackson House)**

*Best overall creativity, appearance,  
and originality.*



Friends of MSH, Inc. board members served as the 2025 Christmas Parade Judges. Pictured left to right: Kim Edwards, Tony Gomillion, Sissy Gomillion, Dee Payne, Bobby Stephens, Marilyn Garth, Diana Croxton, Lynn Dilmore, Donna Boykin, and Gale Martin.



Rankin County Youth Leadership



The North Pole Award – Malibu Barbie, CTS Tx Mall, Building 32



The Elf Award – Clue, Forensics, Buildings 63/90



Toy-Maker Award – Radio Flyer Wagon, Utilization Management, Building 22



Santa's Village Award – Pac-Man Video Game, Hinds Behavioral Health Services (Jackson House)









# Christmas House Tours and Activities

By: Kevin Walker

Building 71 was transformed into a Christmas wonderland November 17-20 as the Public Relations department hosted Christmas House tours for patients and residents. The building became a walk-through celebration of the season, with themed scenes inspired by Disney, Peanuts, and A Christmas Story, along with the Nativity, a vintage Christmas living room, Santa's workshop, and Polar Express. Throughout the event, patients and residents enjoyed a variety of games, including an ornament guessing game, Minnie's Bow Spin, Snoopy Putt-Putt, and Santa Bowling.

The Art Department joined in on the fun as well, with Ricky Shelby, Ceci Whitehurst along with other volunteers leading a hands on Christmas craft that gave patients and residents a chance to have some creative fun. Each participant also had the opportunity to have a Christmas photo taken by Jerry Johnson, Print Shop and Design Manager, creating a keepsake they can share with family and friends. To complete the experience, everyone received a ticket to board the Polar Express, where they watched part of the beloved movie and enjoyed a holiday treat of cookies and/or popcorn along with hot chocolate or coffee.

Julie Cox, Public Relations Director, remarked "This year we are so thankful for the hands-on assistance during The Christmas House tours from Katie Burns, Tara Symon, Ginnie Arinder, Destiny Hudson, Fran Strehlow, Darlene Kranz, Michelle Chmielewski, and Donna Boykin. These ladies were awesome! They jumped in and helped the Public Relations and Art Services staff with games, crafts, and serving refreshments. Therapeutic Recreation and Transportation staff kept



things rolling by arriving on time and helping with refreshments. Creating the magical Christmas House experience is a two-month labor of love for Public Relations and Friends of MSH. It's a lot of planning, organizing, and making the

most beautiful things out of the most ordinary materials. Our hope is that each of our patients and residents leave The Christmas House with some holiday joy and warm Christmas memories."

# 2025 Christmas House Donors

- Bear Creek Methodist Church
- Bethel Baptist Church
- Byrd, Dana
- Coahoma Community College Allied Health
- Coleman, Betty
- Craft, Emily
- Crystal Springs Methodist Church
- Daniel Memorial Baptist Church
- Delta State University - School of Nursing
- Florentine Club
- Greater Northside M.B. Church
- Greenville Garden Club
- Hernando Civic Garden Club
- Hinds CC Honors & PTK
- Holmes Community College ADN Program 2027
- Klein, Nena
- Lowery, Bridget
- Mendenhall Church of God
- MS Delta Community College Nursing Program
- Mississippi Forestry Commission
- Morton Homemakers
- Mosley, Teresa
- MS Delta Community College
- Omicron Federated Women's Club
- Rankin County Embroidery Club
- Sand Hill M.B. Church
- Solomen Temple AME Zion W.H.E.O. Missionary Society
- Stacy, Leigh Ann
- Torry, Curtesteen
- Traxler Construction, LLC
- Union Baptist Church - Jackson County Community
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc, Omega Tau Zeta Brandon, MS

# 2025 Christmas Monetary Donations

- Adams County MHV
- Allen, Shaquita
- Anderson, Linda B.
- Barnes, Shelby
- Batesville Woman Club
- Beruk, D.D.S, Dr. Djuana M.
- Bethel Baptist Church
- Boyd, Betty
- Brandon First Methodist Church
- Burford, Robert E.
- Burnham, Elizabeth
- Cartlidge, Shirley
- Church Women United
- Clinchy, Lee Royal
- Coleman, Betty
- Croxton, Mr. Stanley
- Crystal Springs Floral Club
- Crystal Springs Methodist Church
- Davis, Catherine
- Davis, Curtistene
- Davis-Briggs, Gladys
- Dilmore, Lynn
- Dorsey, Leania
- Douglas, Vera J.
- Earnest, Janet
- Estes Homemakers' Volunteer Club
- Evans, Deon Day
- Fields, Mr. R. Mark
- Fields, Margaret J.
- First Baptist of Hollandale Sunday School
- Florentine Club
- Fortenberry, Gwen
- Fultz, Patty
- Fyke, Debbie
- Garth, Marilyn
- GFWC- MFWC Raleigh Woman's Club
- Giles, Thelma
- Glessner, B.G. & Annette
- Graham-Martin Foundation
- Gray, Sadie Ruth
- Greater Disney Chapel AMEC
- Griffin, Cynthia
- Hales, Marilyn
- Hansell, Marilyn N.
- Hardy, Mary J.
- Harper, Greg
- Harris, Maxine
- Haynes, Chris & Margaret
- Hilton, Kathy
- Hoover, Mary Glenda
- Hope Bible Fellowship Class
- Hughes, Lynda
- Hunt, Jo Ann
- Jackson, Edna M.
- Jackson, Paula
- Jelks, Janice
- Broadmoor Baptist Church (Happy Hearts Sunday School)
- Laura, Sara
- Lawton, Maxcean
- Lee's Chapel M.B. Church
- Lewis, K.P.
- Lewis, Leslie
- McMichael, Reb
- Mendenhall, Teresa

- Mt. Carmel M.B. Church
- Mt. Horeb M.B. Church
- Mt. Olive Baptist Church
- Nalls-Hopson, K.
- National Financial Services, LLC
- Nativity Lutheran Church
- Old Silver Creek Baptist Church
- Payne, Norma Dee
- Pearl Presbyterian Women In The Church
- Peden, Janet
- Randle, Roxanne
- Rankin Co. Embroidery Club
- Raymond Garden Club
- Reeves, Shirley
- Sanders, Mr. Bradley & Mrs. Elizabeth
- Scott, Jori
- Scott, Wanda
- Shannon, Dr. Loretta M.

- Sims, Barbara R.
- Smith-Nelson, Dr. Dorothy J.
- Sneed, Robert
- Springhill Missionary Baptist
- Springhill Baptist Church
- Taylor, Keanita
- The Jimmy Bullock Family
- The MS State Department of Mental Health Board
- The Tea Rose Foundation
- Trinity Rehabilitation, Inc
- Walker, Ruth
- Watkins, Helen
- Whalen, Mazie B.
- Williams, Gail
- Woods, Earlean C.
- Worsham, Helen



Bethel Baptist Church



Betty Weston



Bridget Lowery



Daniel Memorial Baptist Church



Delta State University School of Nursing



Emily Craft



Church Women United



Curtesteen Terry



Dana Byrd



Nena Klein



Florentine Club



MS Forestry Commission



Greater Northside MB Church



Greenville Garden Club



Hinds CC Honors &amp; PTK



MS Hospital Association



Holmes CC ADN Program



McLaurin Methodist Church



Mendenhall Church of God



Salvation Army Sock Donation



Jimmy Bullock Family



Sand Hill MB Church



MS Delta Community College



MS Delta Community College Nursing Program



Morton Homemakers/Pam Warren



Zeta Phi Beta Sorority (Omega Tau Zeta)



Union Baptist Church



Zeta Phi Beta Sorority (Delta Chi Zeta)



Teresa Mosley (DMH Board Member)



Rankin Embroidery Club



Traxler Construction LLC

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REHABILITATION

# Therapeutic Recreation Sing-Along Fills Auditorium With Joyful Singing

By: Kevin Walker

On the morning of Thursday, December 18, the Auditorium in Building 38 was filled with the joyful sounds of patients, residents, and hospital employees joining their voices together to sing many classic and modern Christmas songs.

Music Services, Art Services, and Pastoral Services worked to put the Sing-Along event together. Selections included Deck the Halls, Joy to the World, Go Tell it on the Mountain, Jesus What a Wonderful Child, Santa Claus is Coming to Town, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, This Christmas, and more, ending with We Wish You a Merry Christmas.

There were many special moments, but none more so than when several patients and residents volunteered to participate in the singing of The 12 Days of Christmas. Each day was represented by a poster that the patient or resident held up during that part of the song.



L-R: Melvin Collins, Denesha Evans, Stacey Davis, Tyrone Crawford, Dennis Spivey, Charles Ray, Ceci Whitehurst

# Santa Day at MSH

By: Kevin Walker

Santa Day brought the joy of Christmas across the hospital campus on Monday, December 22, as each volunteer Santa visited buildings and brought gifts to our patients and residents.

The event began in Building 71, as MSH Director James. G. "Bo" Chastain welcomed all in attendance and pointed out several esteemed guests, including Senator Hillman Frazier, Senator Brian Rhodes, and Representative Lance Garner. Friends of MSH Vice-President Gayle Martin prayed, and Allie Walker entertained those gathered by singing "O Holy Night" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas."

Soon, each Santa, and their Elves, were off to patient and resident buildings to visit and bring gifts.

Afterwards, each Santa, Elf, and guest met back at Building 71 for refreshments.





Front Row (sitting) - Carl Mangum, Senator Hillman Frazier, Representative Lance Varner, Gale Martin, Gene Miller

Back Row (standing) - Senator Brian Rhodes, Dustin Crum, Patrick Fontaine, Nathan Lillie, Jeff Luckey, James G. "Bo" Chastain, Martin Keil, Daniel Elliot, Billy Morehead, Bobby Browning

## 2025 Christmas Party Providers

- Brown Hill Missionary MBC Society
- Grandview Baptist Church
- Good Hope Baptist Church
- Fairview MB Church
- Ebenezer CME Church
- Evangelist Temple Church of God in Christ
- Greater Mt. Zion M.B. Church
- Greater New True Light Baptist Church
- Griffith Baptist Church
- Meadowbrook Church of Christ
- Circle of Love
- New Hope Missionary Baptist Church - WMU
- New Prospect Baptist Church
- New Stranger Home M. B. Church
- First Church of Deliverance
- Parkview Church of Christ
- Pine Grove Baptist Church
- South Liberty Baptist Church
- St. Mark Baptist Church
- St. Luther Missionary Baptist Church
- St. Matthew MB Church - Jackson
- St. Peter Baptist Church
- Omicron Federated Women Club



Brown Hill Missionary MBC Society



Good Hope MB Church



Grandview Baptist Church



Fairview Baptist Church



Ebenezer CME Church



Evangelist Temple Church of God in Christ



Greater New True Light



Griffith Memorial Baptist Church



Meadowbrook Church of Christ



Circle of Love



New Hope Missionary Baptist MWU



New Prospect Baptist Church



First Church of Deliverance



Parkview Church of Christ



Pine Grove Baptist Church



South Liberty Baptist Church



St. Mark Baptist



St. Luther Missionary Baptist Church



St Matthew Missionary Baptist Church



St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church



Omicron Federated Women's Club