

# ASPIRE

A PUBLICATION OF MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

◆ HOPE

◆ SAFETY

◆ RECOVERY

## CREATIVITY SHINES AT SERENDIPITY 2025

By: Kevin Walker

### SERENDIPITY ARTISTS RECOGNIZED

On Tuesday, August 26, the Conference Room in Building 71 was transformed into an art gallery as the work of many of our residents was displayed for the first time in anticipation of the upcoming Serendipity Art Show.

Artists from JNH and IPS gathered to see their pieces beautifully framed and on display. Each artist received a ribbon and posed for an official photo to take as a keepsake. A recognition ceremony, led by Ceci Whitehurst and Ricky Shelby, honored their creativity and accomplishments. Following the ceremony, artists and guests enjoyed refreshments together. Employees from across campus also stopped by to view the exhibit and share in the celebration with our artists.

### SERENDIPITY ART SHOW

Mississippi State Hospital staff and friends gathered on Thursday, September 4, for the 2025 Serendipity Art Show, an annual celebration of the creativity and talent of our patients and residents. Held in the



Building 71 Conference Room, the event welcomed MSH staff and members of the public to enjoy a full day of art, music, and fellowship.

The show featured framed artwork created by patients and residents through the hospital's Art Services Program. Throughout the day, visitors browsed the collection, placed bids both in person and online, and enjoyed refreshments while the MSH Music Department provided a soothing backdrop of live jazz.

Ceci Whitehurst and Ricky Shelby of MSH Art Services worked closely with patients and residents throughout the year, helping them develop their skills, cultivate their unique styles, and prepare selected pieces for the exhibition. For many, the show is a highlight of the year.

"The annual Serendipity Art Show is one of my favorite patient/resident events at the hospital," said Donna Boykin. "I am always amazed at the talent these individuals have. As you walk around the room, you see an assortment of different subject matter and styles. Each art piece is unique in its own way, but several artists have personalized their own style. When the artists are able to be at the showing and can point out their pieces of art, you can see and hear the pride in their voice."

The show's impact is felt far beyond the hospital's walls. "I make it a commitment to myself to get to Serendipity every year," said Dr. Sara Gleason, Psychiatrist at University of Mississippi Medical Center and DMH Board Member. "I have purchased a number of pieces throughout the years, and given them as gifts, and

display some in my office. I associate Serendipity with good friends that I've made throughout the years. I love this time of year, and love the fact that we always hold it in September when the weather is lovely and the campus is most beautiful."

Other attendees echoed those sentiments. Melissa Case shared that she makes it a point to bid on her patients' work each year, proudly displaying the pieces in her home. Julie Johnson added, "Every year I look forward to this all year long. I am blown away by the art pieces of our patients, their talent, and how much they have to contribute to the art world. I look forward to adding a piece of art to Building 22 to our own collection of patients' work. I am so proud of them all!"

The Serendipity Art Show highlights the powerful role of art in therapy, providing patients an outlet for creative expression, self-confidence, and growth. Congratulations to all those who won bids during the show, and thank you to everyone who made Serendipity 2025 such a success.





## SEPTEMBER WAS SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

By: National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

Each September, NAMI recognizes Suicide Prevention Month as a time to raise awareness, spread hope, and spark meaningful action around one of the most urgent mental health issues of our time.

Our goal is to ensure that individuals, friends, and families have access to the tools, resources, and support they need to talk openly about suicide prevention, recognize warning signs, and seek help.

This month: Start a Conversation. Be the Difference.

With one conversation, asking someone how they're really doing — and being ready to truly listen — can save lives. Because here's what we know: No one has to face this alone. Help exists. Healing is possible. And all it can take is for one person to start a conversation.

**Call, text, or Chat - 988  
Support is only three digits away.**



# Friends Of MSH Annual Meeting Honors Community Partners



By: Kevin Walker

Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc. held its 2025 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, August 20, in the Building 71 Conference Center. The afternoon gathering brought together board members, volunteers, community partners, and hospital staff to celebrate the impact of service and to recognize those who make a difference in the lives of patients and residents.

Friends President Amy Walker opened the meeting with a warm welcome, followed by an invocation led by board member Gale Martin and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Treasurer Dee Payne. MSH Director James G. "Bo" Chastain then directed the awards presentation, honoring three organizations whose generosity and commitment have enriched the MSH community.



**NANCY B. FOREMAN AWARD**

In 1987, Ms. Foreman was one of seven people to sign the charter to establish the Friends organization. She served as President from 1989 to 1993 and remained an active Board member until her death. She traveled, at her own expense, throughout the state educating the public about mental illness and served as a tireless advocate for Mississippi State Hospital. Her grassroots efforts also included advocacy with the legislature. Ms. Foreman inspired her family, friends, and community and continually

encouraged them to volunteer at MSH. Her daughter, Anne, followed her as President of Friends from 1993 to 1995.

In honor of Ms. Foreman, and in appreciation of her dedication and service to this organization, the Friends of MSH established the Nancy B. Foreman Award. 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.

**VIVIAN SHIVERS AWARD**

The Helping Hands Award was established in 2006 to honor an individual or group who represents the volunteer spirit and sets the standard for future generations. In 2009, the Friends Board voted unanimously to rename this award in honor of Ms. Vivian Shivers.

Ms. Shivers began her career as an RN at MSH in 1976 in one of the original tuberculosis wards, and later served in Jaquith Nursing Home. After retirement in 1987, Ms. Shivers



Greater New True Light Missionary Baptist Church

*“We’ve been coming to the hospital for over 35 years, and the reason why I continue to come is because I’m a retired nurse and I love compassion and helping others. It’s a joy to see the residents here and they remember us and smile. And that’s what Jesus did. He said he didn’t come to be served but to serve others.”* - Rachel Bennett

*“We want to continue to share the love and let people know that God does love us!”*

-Pastor Steven Brook



Fairview Missionary Baptist Church



**“Volunteering at Mississippi State Hospital is not just a service, it is partnership and healing where every conversation, smile, and gesture of support has the power to change a life.”** *—Sydney Lambert*

### Traxler Construction

remained an active volunteer and advocate for Mississippi State Hospital until her death in 2009. She served as both President and Vice-President of the Friends organization, was active on numerous committees, and routinely attended and volunteered at special patient/resident events and activities such as MSH Day and the Independence Day 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, Ms. Shivers was a loved and respected member of her community and church in Magee, MS.

### JERALD D. BALL TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD

This award recognizes businesses or organizations in the community who have given exemplary service to Mississippi State Hospital. In 2018 the board voted to rename this award in honor of Mr. Jerald D. Ball.

Mr. Ball began his career at MSH in 1984 when he became Director of the Volunteer Services Department. He immediately developed a plan to recruit and retain volunteers. His primary areas of concern were adequate clothing, and making sure patients were not forgotten during the Christmas holiday season. The clothing center established by Mr. Ball continues

to provide needed clothing to patients and residents throughout the year. For the holidays he established The Christmas House and party program.

Donations to the Christmas House are used to fill Christmas bags for patients, and on “Santa Day”, business leaders, legislators, and others dress as Santa Claus and personally deliver the bags to every individual served by the hospital. Mr. Ball also sowed the seeds for the Friends of Mississippi State Hospital organization and was a charter member in 1987. This coming year, Friends will provide more than \$27,000 for projects. After retirement in 2005 he remained an avid supporter and volunteer at MSH until his death in 2018. His programs will continue to reap dividends for our patients and residents well into the future. Mr. Jerald Ball exemplified the spirit of volunteer service and spent his professional and personal life promoting and nurturing that spirit in others.

### HONORING SERVICE AND IMPACT

#### **THIS YEAR’S AWARD RECIPIENTS WERE:**

#### **NANCY B. FOREMAN AWARD — Fairview Missionary Baptist Church**

Fairview Missionary Baptist Church is

located in Canton, Mississippi, and has been hosting parties for Building 31 since July 23, 1978. They host parties twice a year, bringing food, gifts, and singing with the residents.

#### **VIVIAN SHIVERS AWARD — Greater New True Light Missionary Baptist Church**

Greater New True Light M.B. Church is located in Brandon, Mississippi, and has hosted parties for Building 28 for more than 25 years. They have provided food, gifts, and music for the residents, often hosting a party twice a year. The sing Christmas songs with the residents during the holiday season, and always receive excellent reviews for their parties from staff and residents alike.

#### **JERALD D. BALL TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD — Traxler Construction**

Of Traxler Construction, Carla Dearman, Director of Support Services, says, “Traxler Construction, LLC, is a full-service general contractor in Magee and is owned by Ashley and Andrea Traxler. They have worked on a few projects at MSH and are currently the GC for the B-62 remodel. Ashley is the company’s primary estimator, overseeing bids, the estimation process, and client coordination. He is married to Andrea, who serves as the Office Manager. They are



*Friends of Mississippi State Hospital members: 1st Row (L-R) Lynn Dilmore, Betty Harpe, Amy Walker, Carolyn Trigg, Sheila Shows. 2nd Row (L-R) Julie Cox, Kim Rayburn, Marilyn Garth, Tim Durr, Bill Bobbs, Gale Martin. 3rd Row (L-R) Larry Swales, Dee Payne, Bo Blanks, Bobby Stephens, Bo Chastain*

a dynamic duo and a pleasure to work with! When I mentioned Santa Day to Andrea last year, she immediately told me they would help, asked what was needed, and then told me of her grandmother bringing her out here when she was little. I am so thankful for their generosity and willingness to help!"

Mr. Chastain noted the significance of these recognitions, saying, "Each of these groups have made our patients' and residents' lives better in some way, simply by giving of their time, talents, and resources."

**Greater New True Light Missionary Baptist Church:** Rachel Bennett of Greater New True Light explained, "We've been coming to the hospital for over 35 years, and the reason why I continue to come is because I'm a retired nurse and I love compassion and helping others. It's a joy to see the residents here and they remember us and smile. And that's what Jesus did. He said he didn't come to be served but to serve others."

**Fairview Missionary Baptist Church:**

Pastor Steven Brooks of Fairview shared, "We want to continue to share the love and let people know that God does love us!"

**Traxler Construction:** Sydney Lambert of Traxler Construction added, "Volunteering at Mississippi State Hospital is not just a service, it is partnership and healing where every conversation, smile, and gesture of support has the power to change a life."

## BUSINESS AND FELLOWSHIP

Alongside the awards, committee reports were presented, and officers and board members were elected to continue guiding Friends of MSH's mission. The meeting concluded with a reception featuring finger foods, desserts, lemonade, and ice cream, giving attendees a chance to enjoy fellowship and celebrate the spirit of service.

The annual meeting highlighted not only the important role of Friends of MSH but also the enduring partnerships with local churches, organizations, and businesses that help bring joy and support to those served by Mississippi State Hospital.



*Friends of Mississippi State Hospital Grand Prize Winner of a \$200 Visa Gift Card, Brenda Brett.*

## Historic Photo Presented To Mr. Chastain

By: Kevin Walker

A remarkable piece of Mississippi's mental health history has found a new home at Mississippi State Hospital thanks to the generosity of a thoughtful visitor and the support of Friends of MSH, Inc. The photo, dating to sometime between 1930 and 1935, features the staff of the Mississippi State Asylum which once stood where the University of Mississippi Medical Center is located today. Exceptionally well preserved and clear for its age, the image offers a rare glimpse into the early era of institutional mental health care in the state.

"I get excited about it," said Donna Brown, MSH Historian. "The picture is so good for that time period. We can see the details of their faces. We can touch that picture and feel that time period and those who were working at the hospital. That someone back then cared enough about people living with mental illness and decided they wanted to take care of them – it's powerful."

The photo was brought to MSH by Bob Whitten, a Louisiana resident who stopped at the hospital's front gate after



discovering the photo while cleaning out his late grandfather's storage room. His grandfather had worked at the State Hospital as a dentist many years ago. Wanting to ensure the photo was preserved and appreciated, Mr. Whitten offered it to the hospital. Ms. Brown met with him and brought the photo to the Public Relations Department's archives and history office in Building 71.

Understanding the historical and personal significance of the photo, Friends of MSH,

Inc. generously had it professionally framed for Mr. James G. "Bo" Chastain, MSH Director, who is known for his deep appreciation of history. While the original photo will remain preserved in the dark room of the archives, Mr. Chastain's copy is now displayed in Building 21. This unique artifact now stands as a reminder of the compassionate foundations of mental health care in Mississippi and the ongoing commitment of MSH to preserve and honor that legacy.

## Rankin County Prosecutor's Office Visits MSH

By: Kevin Walker

On Monday, July 7, Mississippi State Hospital welcomed several members of the Rankin County Prosecutor's Office for a campus tour. Guests included County Prosecutor Trey Spillman, Assistant Prosecutor Blake Cauthen, Court Watch Kayln Zimmerman, Justice Court Intern Lily Payne, and Prosecutor's Office Intern Presley Rice. MSH Historian Donna Brown guided the group through the tour, sharing insights into the hospital's rich history and its lasting impact on the local community.



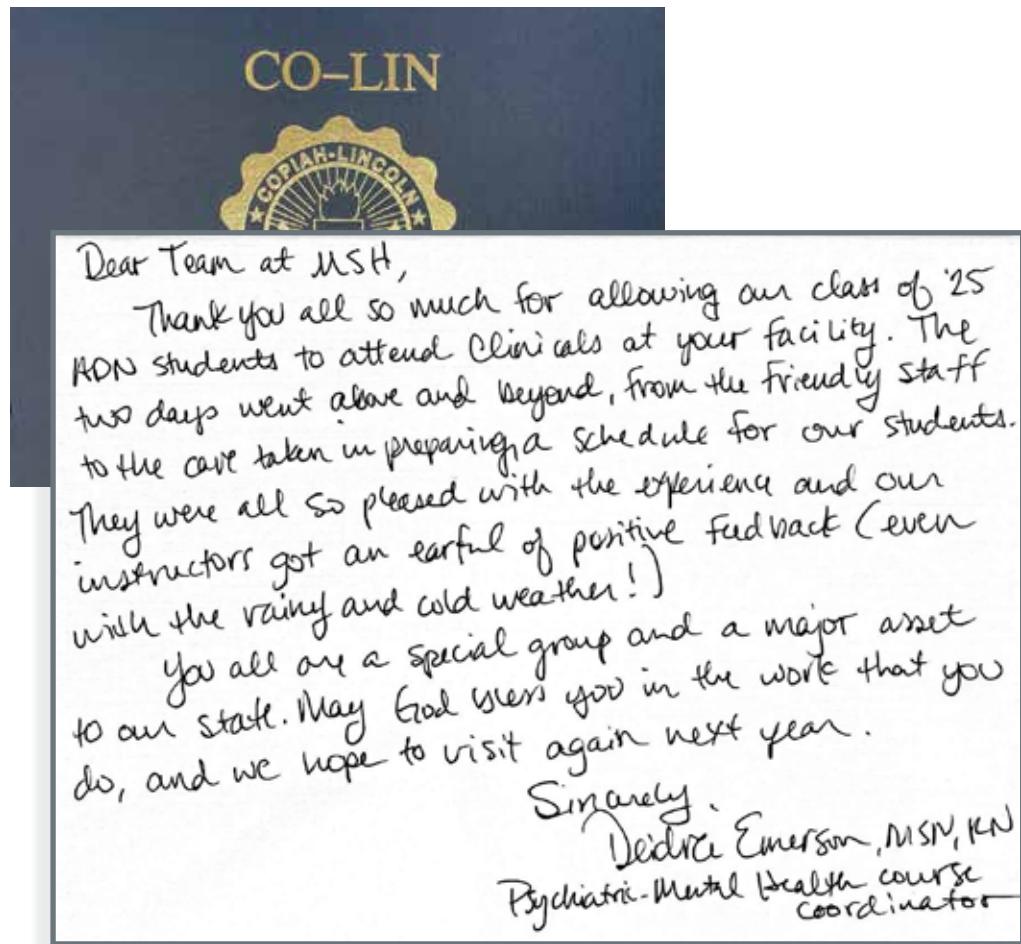
## Staff Education Receives Encouraging Note from Co-Lin Nursing Program

By: Kevin Walker

Ms. Donna Chapman, Nurse Affiliation Coordinator in Staff Education and Training Services, received this note from the nursing program at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Wesson. Co-Lin's nursing students are part of a long list of university and community college nursing programs that visit the MSH campus each year for clinicals.

These students spend time on campus learning the history of MSH, touring the campus, and working with our doctors, nurses, and support staff. For many students these clinicals become a pivotal moment that breaks the stigma that is often associated with mental health care. Many students and program leaders often share about the impact that MSH has had on them, and look forward to coming back. Ms. Chapman says that this note was especially meaningful.

To those who work with these students, she says "This note from Co-Lin says it all, but I wanted to take a moment to echo its sentiment. Your time, your presence, and your dedication matter. Even on the days that feel heavy, you're making a difference in someone's life. You are appreciated more than you know."



## Sweet Summer Fun at the Ice Cream Social

By: Kevin Walker

MSH's Therapeutic Recreation Services (TRS) hosted an enjoyable Ice Cream Social on a warm and sunny Wednesday morning, July 9, at the MSH Park Pavilion. Beginning at 9:30 a.m., patients enjoyed a joyful atmosphere filled with music, dancing, and plenty of smiles. Patients were able to build their perfect sundaes with a full array of toppings, adding to the excitement and fun of the event. The fresh air, upbeat music, and community spirit made for a memorable time of connection and celebration.

## DMH Hosts New Board Member Orientation At MSH



By: Kevin Walker

This summer, members of the Department of Mental Health Executive Staff hosted an orientation training session at MSH for new Board of Mental Health members, Dr. John Mitchell and Ms. Sue Gallaspy. They were appointed during the 2025 Legislative session, their terms became effective July 1, 2025.

Dr. Mitchell of Pontotoc was appointed to serve in the physician category for a seven-year term. He is the former director of the Office of Mississippi Physicians Workforce and was instrumental in the establishment of MSH's Psychiatry Residency Program.

Ms. Gallaspy of Hattiesburg was appointed to serve in a congressional category. She is a member of Friends of Ellisville State School, where her son resides in one of the community homes operated by ESS.

Current Board of Mental Health members also joined the orientation, those included Ms. Teresa Mosley, Vice Chair, Dr. Jim Herzog, and Dr. Sara Gleason. Board members not in attendance are Dr. Alyssa Killebrew, Chair, Mr. Courtney Phillips, and Mr. Stewart Rutledge.

The governing board of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health is composed of nine members appointed by the Governor of Mississippi and confirmed by the State Senate. Members' terms are staggered to ensure continuity of quality care and professional oversight of services. By statute, the nine-member board is composed of a physician, a psychiatrist, a clinical psychologist, a social worker with experience in the field of mental health, and one citizen representative from each of Mississippi's five congressional districts (as existed in 1974).

## Building 46 Holds Glamour Shoot for Patients



Yolanda Sherrod-Mary Kay Rep., Connie Sayles-Support Specialist, Quanette Colbert-Support Specialist, Derrick Smith-Mary Kay Rep., Sandra Horhn-BHS1 and Carla Hammond-BHS1.



By: Kevin Walker

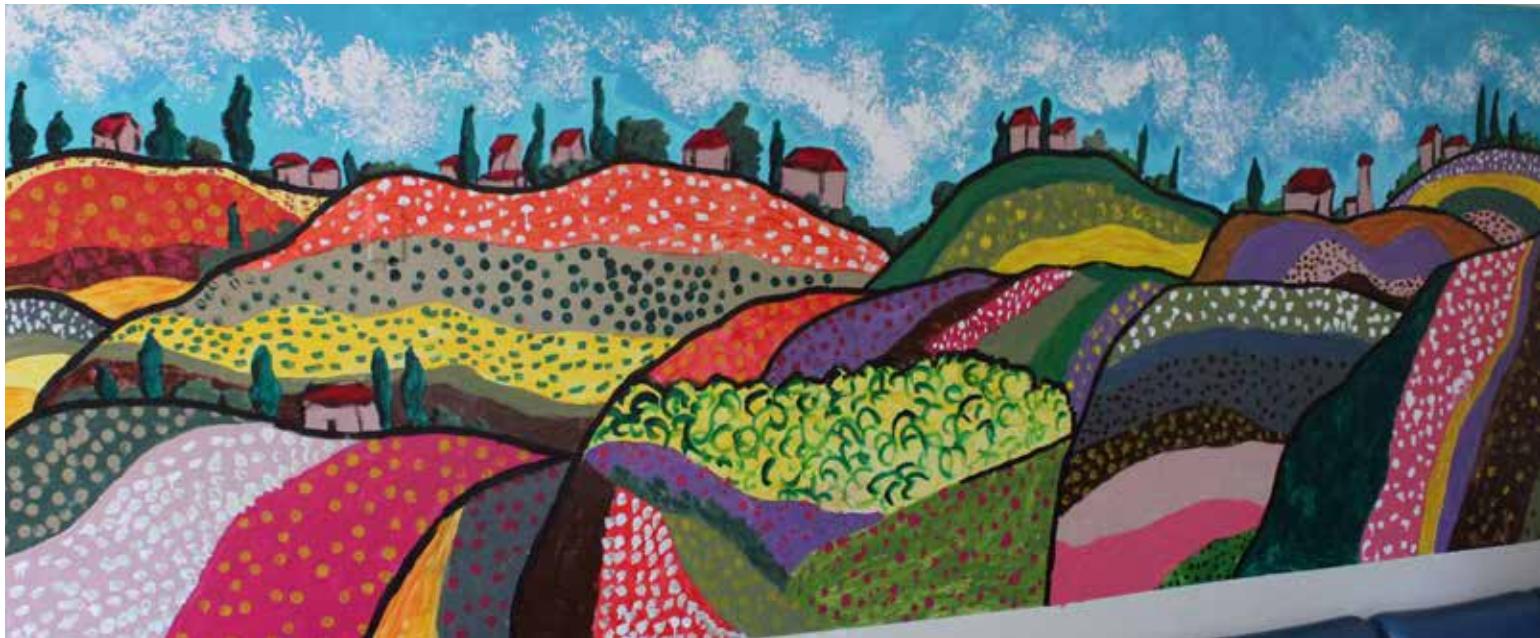
The BHS team from Building 46 recently organized a special Glamour Shot event to celebrate the ladies of the unit, highlighting beauty, confidence, and dignity in a unique and memorable way.

The event, coordinated by staff leaders Carla Hammond and Sandra Horhn, brought together creativity, teamwork, and patient care. Patients were brought to Building 39, where two Mary Kay representatives welcomed them and provided opportunities to sample and apply various beauty products. The experience continued as the Building 46 team offered hair styling, makeup, clothing, and a selection of accessories, including jewelry and coats, to complement each individual's look.

Once ready, the participants stepped into a professional photo session led by Photographer Jerry Johnson of the Public Relations Department. Each lady posed for her own glamour shot, creating keepsake photographs that will be presented to them as a lasting reminder of the day.

Staff members expressed their gratitude to everyone involved in making the project a success. In a note of thanks following the event, Hammond and Horhn wrote, "This shoot wasn't just about photos—it was about celebrating elegance, confidence, and the timeless beauty of these amazing ladies."

# Murals Transform Dayrooms in Buildings 45 & 46



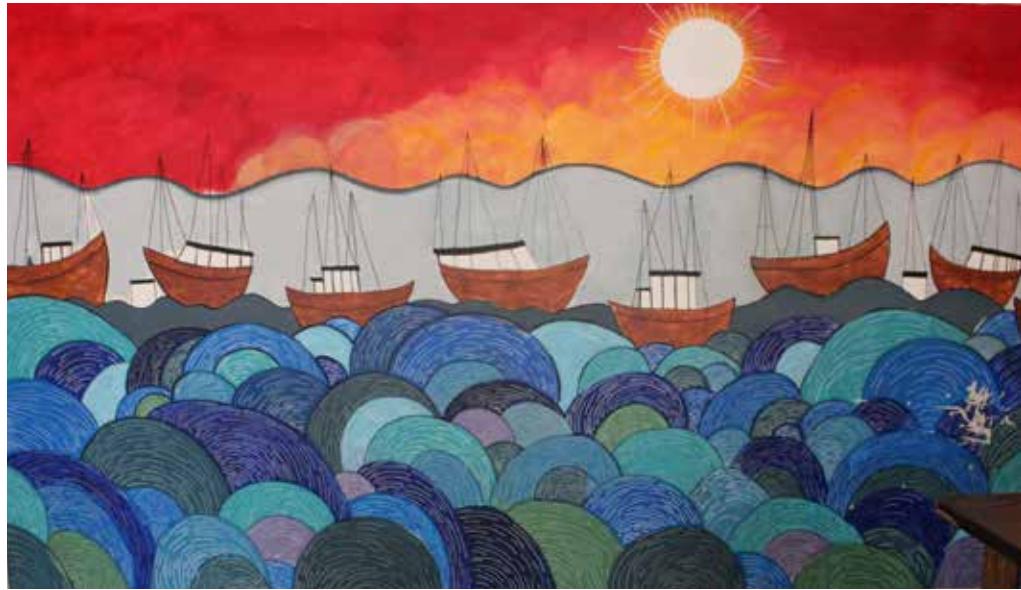
*By: Kevin Walker*

What began as a challenge – dayrooms in Buildings 45 and 46 that felt plain and uninviting – led to a remarkable transformation into something vibrant and healing.

Under the leadership of Dr. Juliette Schweitzer of Continuing Treatment Service, and with the creativity of Ceci Whitehurst and Ricky Shelby from the Art Department, the idea to bring color to these spaces came to life through the painting of new murals in each of the dayrooms.

With approval from MSH leadership, including Mr. James “Bo” Chastain, patients voted on the mural themes and even took part in painting them. The result: every dayroom now features a unique, colorful mural that reflects patient choice and creativity.

“Ceci and Ricky really put their heart and soul into working with patients to create murals together that would stimulate an environment more conducive to healing,” said Dr. Schweitzer. The project has not only brightened walls, but also strengthened a sense of ownership, pride, and healing for patients who call these spaces their own.



## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES WEEK WAS SEPTEMBER 14-20



*The entire Environmental Services Staff and Building CUOs.*

*By: Kevin Walker*

September 14-20 was Environmental Services Week, a week set aside to simply say "Thank You" to our MSH 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. They do things we often take for granted, but are vital to keep things running smoothly day to day.

Environmental Services is essential to MSH 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.



*Gerome Hughes, CUO - Building 81 & 87, Janet Brown, CUO - Building 45 & 46, Nieshia Taylor, CUO - Building 200's, Anita Christopher, CUO - Building 63 & 90, Tiffany Jefferson, Director of Environmental Service and Mark Griffin, CUO - Building 63 & 90.*



*Carla C. Dearman, Director of Support Services Support Services and  
Tiffany Jefferson, Director of Environmental Services.*

Please take a time to acknowledge and thank our Environmental Services employees for their extraordinary contribution to our success at MSH. 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, says "This week, we proudly recognize our dedicated Environmental Services (EVS) team for their exceptional commitment, hard

work, and professionalism. Each day, they play a vital role in maintaining a clean, safe, and healing environment for our patients, staff, and visitors. Their attention to detail, teamwork, and unwavering dedication ensure that Mississippi State Hospital continues to uphold the highest standards of care and cleanliness. We are truly proud to have such an outstanding group of individuals as part of the Mississippi State Hospital family. Thank you, EVS team, for all that you do — your work makes a difference every single day!"

## Candace Woodard Joins Staff Education As CNA Training Coordinator



*By: Kevin Walker*

Mississippi State Hospital is pleased to welcome Candace Woodard as the new CNA Training Coordinator in the Staff Education Department, located in Building 65. She joined the MSH team in July 2025 and brings with her a wealth of experience in both clinical and educational settings.

Prior to coming to MSH, Woodard worked in a variety of health care environments, including nursing home care, home health, and at St. Dominic Hospital in Jackson. Her diverse background has equipped her with valuable insight into patient care, staff development, and clinical instruction. In her role at MSH, Woodard oversees the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program and provides supervision for the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) instructors. She has already hit the ground running, embracing the opportunity to help shape the future of nursing care at the hospital.

"What I enjoy most about working at MSH is meeting new people," Woodard said.

A native of Hazlehurst, Woodard graduated from Hazlehurst High School before earning her LPN certification from Hinds Community College and her RN degree from Alcorn State University. She currently lives in Crystal Springs with her husband and their three children.



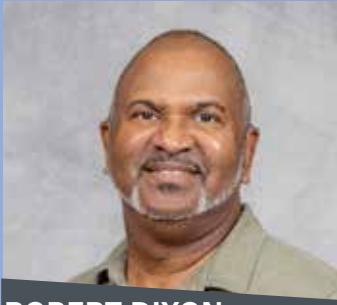
# MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

July 20+



**KEVIN MOORE**  
**25 YEARS**

Kevin Moore celebrated 25 years with Mississippi State Hospital in July. Moore serves as Therapeutic Therapist III in JNH Direct Care in Building 78 (A-Shift). He resides in Pearl.



**ROBERT DIXON**  
**25 YEARS**

Robert Dixon celebrated 25 years with Mississippi State Hospital in July. Dixon serves as Safety Inspector III in Risk Management in Building 21 (A-Shift). Born in Magee, Dixon is graduate of Mendenhall High School, where he won Best Dressed, Best School Spirit, and played tennis, and Copiah-Lincoln Community College earning an AA in Business Administration.

Dixon says he most enjoys meeting and working with people here at MSH. His favorite quotes come from the Bible: Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," and Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the Lord with all of your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding."



**RENA RIDEOUT**  
**40 YEARS**

Rena Rideout celebrated 40 years with Mississippi State Hospital in July. Rideout serves as Social Services Team Lead in Social Services in Building 78 (A-Shift). Born in Columbia, Rideout graduated from East Marion High School, Jackson State University (Bachelor of Social Work), and the University of Southern Mississippi (Master of Social Work), and resides in Jackson

Aug. 20+



**NORMA CHISM**  
**25 YEARS**

Norma Chism celebrated 25 years with Mississippi State Hospital in August. Chism serves as Nurse III in JNH Nursing in Building 34 (A-Shift). She resides in Mendenhall.



**BARRETT NALL**  
**25 YEARS**

Barrett Nall celebrated 25 years with Mississippi State Hospital in August. Nall serves as Specialized Trades Worker II in Physical Services in Building 37 (A-Shift). Born in Canton, Nall, a graduate of Madison Central High School, now resides in Pearl.

His favorite quote comes from Isaiah 54:17, "No weapon formed against me shall prosper."



**STEVE SHOOP**  
**25 YEARS**

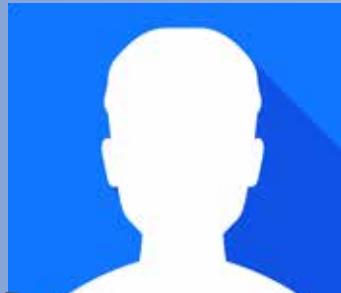
Dr. Steve Shoop celebrated 25 years with Mississippi State Hospital in August. Shoop serves as Physician III in Building 33 (A-Shift). He resides in Brandon. Shoop graduated from The Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, and completed Residency at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Sept. 20+



**DARLENE KRANZ**  
**30 YEARS**

Darlene Kranz celebrated 30 years with Mississippi State Hospital in September. Kranz serves as Therapy Assistant in JNH Administration in Building 27 (A-Shift). Kranz, a graduate of Hillcrest Christian School, Hinds Community College, and The University of Southern Mississippi, resides in Richland.



**SONJA STIFF**  
**30 YEARS**

Sonja Stiff celebrated 30 years with Mississippi State Hospital in September. Stiff serves as Dentist in Dental Services in Building 75 (A-Shift). She resides in Brandon.

**THANK YOU**  
TO OUR  
**CORPORATE**  
**SPONSORS**



**BankPlus®**

**cura**  
hospitality

**TRINITY REHAB**



# Jefferson Inn Enjoys New Volunteer: Bentley the Dog

*By: Kevin Walker*

Jefferson Inn has a new volunteer and the residents are captivated with him! Sherelda Jones has been bringing her “grand-dog” Bentley to Building 33 a couple of days per week to spend time with the residents. “He loves the residents and they have really taken to him,” Jones says. “When I come to work without him, they are really sad.” Jones continued, “He makes everyone a little happier. Some residents that won’t hold a conversation have started conversing.” Lee Varner, JNH Director, added: “I am grateful Ms. Jones volunteers to bring Bentley to building 33 to brighten up the residents’ day.

# MSH July Employees of Month



## DIRECT CARE

**Gwendolyn Hughes**  
**Building 81, C-Shift**

Gwendolyn Hughes has been named Mississippi State Hospital's July Employee of the Month for Direct Care.

Hughes resides in Byram, and attended New Hope High School in Columbus, Mississippi. She serves as Mental Health Tech Supervisor in Building 81. Her favorite quote is Luke 6:31, "Do to others as you would have them do to you."

In her nomination, it was said of Hughes: "Gwendolyn is a very dependable employee. She comes in and works extra shifts to help out on the building. She is a superior employee and MHT Supervisor. She cares for the patients and is always there to help anyone!"



## CLINICAL SERVICE

**Courtney Denson**  
**Building 81, A-Shift**

Courtney Denson has been named Mississippi State Hospital's July Employee of the Month for Clinical Service.

Denson resides in Jackson, and attended Jackson State University, earning a degree in Therapeutic Recreation with a minor in Biology. She serves as Therapeutic Therapist II in Building 81. Her favorite quote is "Hard work beats talent when talent fails to work hard."

In her nomination, it was said of Denson: "Ms. Denson is very dedicated and hardworking. She is extremely organized and focused on continuously learning and developing best practices... Although Ms. Denson is responsible for her own daily tasks, she can often be found assisting others. Ms. Denson is an all-around remarkable individual that I am humbled to work with."



## SUPPORT SERVICES

**Connie Pace**  
**Building 78, A-Shift**

Connie Pace has been named Mississippi State Hospital's July Employee of the Month for Support Services.

Pace resides in Pearl, and attended Hinds Jr. College and the University of Southern Mississippi. She serves as Administrative Support Assistant IV in Building 78. Her favorite quote is Mark 12:30, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

In her nomination, it was said of Pace: "She is always helpful and no matter what the situation she is very friendly and personable. She is a hard worker who goes above and beyond, and is very knowledgeable about work tasks."

# MSH August Employees of Month



## DIRECT CARE

**Toni Johnson**  
**Building 31, A-Shift**

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

Johnson resides in Jackson, and attended Hinds Community College. She serves as a CNA in JNH Direct Care in Building 31. Her favorite quote is "This too shall pass."

In her nomination, it was said of Johnson: "Toni is a great CNA and leader. She is attentive and supportive to therapy nurses and her coworkers. She is kind and dependable."



## CLINICAL SERVICE

**Tequelle Shoulders**  
**Building 45, A-Shift**

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

Shoulders resides in Jackson, and attended Excelsior University. She serves as an RN Nurse III in IPS in Building 45. Her favorite quote is "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

In her nomination, it was said of Shoulders: "Ms. T is a born leader. I have never seen her deviate in her respect, professional ethics as a nurse. She consistently models what it means to be a nurse."



## SUPPORT SERVICES

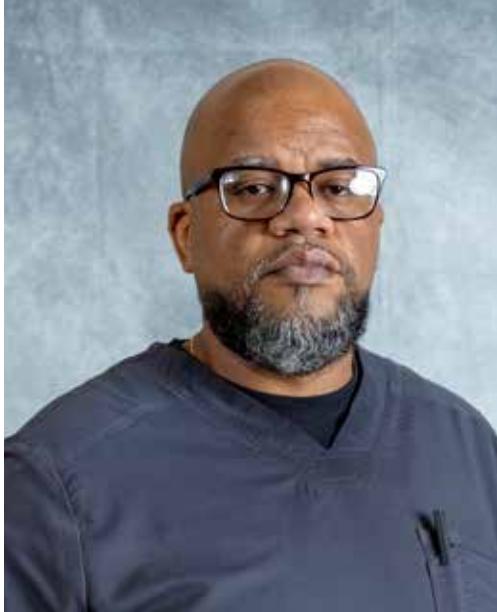
**Tina Perry**  
**Building 21, A-Shift**

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

Perry resides in Brandon, and attended McLaurin High School. She serves as Accounting Technician II in Fiscal Services/Cashier's Office in Building 21. Her favorite quote is "Be the change you wish to see in the world."

In her nomination, it was said of Perry: "It is a pleasure to work alongside Tina. She is kind, selfless and a person of integrity. Since her arrival to the Cashier's Office, she has brought joy and a positive attitude. She is dependable and accurate, and will always be successful in whatever task or project she is engaging."

# MSH September Employees of Month



## DIRECT CARE

**Sheridan Dickey**  
**Building 63, C-Shift**

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

Dickey is originally from McComb and now resides in Byram. He attended McComb High School, Hinds Community College, and Jackson State University. He serves as Direct Care Supervisor in IPS in Building 63. His favorite quote is "I think therefore I am."

In his nomination, it was said of Dickey: "Mr. Dickey's work ethic and attention to patient care are two of his strongest attributes. Mr. Dickey understands how to de-escalate patients who are upset and ensure the least restrictive measures are used to get the situation under control. He strives to learn and become a better leader and is a great team leader as well as member of the team."



## CLINICAL SERVICE

**Verlance Smith**  
**Building 202, A-Shift**

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

Smith resides in Byram, and attended the University of Southern Mississippi, earning a B.S. and M.S. degree. He serves as an Academic Teacher in Building 202. His favorite quote is "Those who make history don't ask for permission!"

In his nomination, it was said of Smith: "Mr. Smith has been nominated due to his ongoing efforts to encourage patients to attend and participate in Therapeutic Programming during their treatment." He was praised for good communication, coordination, positive attitude, and enthusiasm.



## SUPPORT SERVICES

**Teresa Wilson**  
**Building 31, A-Shift**

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

Wilson resides in Crystal Springs. She serves as Records Specialist in JNH in Building 31. Her favorite quotes are "Broke as a joke" and "Don't bite the hand that feeds you."

In her nomination, it was said of Wilson: "She is here to help whenever you need it. She keeps our work area running efficiently and always knows where to find whatever we are having problems locating. She is very organized and has a great attitude toward coworkers."

# July Service Award Recipients



Pictured L-R: Kevin Moore, Gwendolyn Michelle Creel, Laura Marie Bowden, Rena Rideout, Ashley Elizabeth Applewhite, Robert Dixon.

# August Service Award Recipients



Pictured L-R: Johnathan Taylor, Arrianna Beeman, Barrett Hall, Norma Chism, Francine Gray, Dr. Steve Shoop.

# September Service Award Recipients



Pictured L-R: Amanda Louise Smith, Alicia Michelle Brown, Darlene Kranz, Aminata Tambajang.

## MSH Service Awards List July, August & September

JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER	
NAME	YRS	NAME	YRS	NAME	YRS
JAMECTRICA DASHEKA HALL	1	ARRIANNA CHARDONNAY LAJAS BEEMAN	1	JULIA H NELSON	1
SHAHLA MARY HATTEN	1	ANTHONY ANTONIO SCOTT	1	ALEXIS DEANNA NELSON	1
DEON BILBREW	1	JOHNNY WAYNE CAVES	1	NAKITA NEVETTE BARNES	1
CHRISTY MAE HAMMACK	1	JAMES RAIDON NICHOLS	1	BRIANNA N COLEMAN	1
MAHOGANY NYKIRIA JORDAN	1	WILLIAM HAL CARTIER	1	JOSHUA RYHEM WILDER	1
GREGORY DARNELL WESCO	1	JESSICA RENEE BATES	1	KWANZA AYANNA PRICE	1
NICHOLAS M KOWALUK	1	MASHAYLA TYNAE SANDERS	1	AMANDA LOUISE SMITH	1
JENNIFER MARIE SIERRA	1	IESHA TIARRA NICOLE WILLIAMS	1	AMINATA TAMBAJANG	1
MARJORIE GRACE MCCOY	1	PAULA DENISE JOHNSON	1	ALICIA MICHELLE BROWN	1
KATELYN ISABELLA LYNN MADERE	1	TAYLOR LEE MUNCY	1	JAMES EVERETT	5
JULIETTE L SCHWEITZER	1	TAYLOR LAUREN NEWMAN	1	AMANDA MARIE PORTER	5
ASHLEY ELIZABETH APPLEWHITE	1	KRISTEN KAY RIDGDELL	1	LYNDA KAYE MCFARLAND	10
LAURA MARIE BOWDEN	1	TRUC ANH LAM DAO	1	ELIZABETH PURVIS BRAGG	15
BEVERLY NICOLE MCGOWAN	1	JOHNATHAN ISSAC TAYLOR	1	SONJA T. STIFF	30
TONYA MAYS HOLMAN	1	ANNAMARIE I GARCIA	1	JACQUELYN DARLENE KRANZ	30
KAYLA S ENOCH	1	DENISE TORIBIO SCOWCROFT	1		
KADARIUS KESHUNN WALKER	1	SONDRA MONIQUE CAMPER	1		
MARK E CRAIG	1	ANSON L ROSS	10		
GWENDOLYN MICHELLE CREEL	1	ANTOINE M. GROSS	15		
BARBARA E DOTSON	10	NORMA L. CHISM	25		
ROBERT HILL	10	FRANCINE L. GRAY	25		
BRIDGET AMOS	10	BARRETT W. NALL	25		
BOBBY CHAD MCLAIN	10	STEVE B. SHOOP	25		
LATANYA STEWART-MCNEAL	10				
JENNIFER BLAN CASHION	15				
KEVIN JEROME MOORE	25				
ROBERT E. DIXON	25				
RENA M. RIDEOUT	40				