

Spotlight on Melanie Howard



Melanie Howard has been chosen as the spotlight this month for her outstanding work ethics at EMSH. She began her career at East MS State Hospital in 1988 and worked her way up the ladder from a Staff Nurse to Director of Nursing and eventually to her current position as the Division Director of Community Services. As the Division Director, Melanie has educated and provided qualified staff to perform various duties as well as worked in conjunction with EMSH Administration to accomplish the missions of Community Services. She has also partnered with individuals and organizations within the community in order to maintain services for the IRS.

Melanie has two wonderful children who have enjoyed summer employment at East Mississippi as well. Her time spent here has always been about the reason we should all be here for--the individuals we serve. "I have always enjoyed seeing people who come to the hospital to spend time with us to get things in order only to return to live successfully with family or independently. I love helping people with the challenges and changes that living in the community bring. Just to hear them say "thank you" and to see them smile keeps you going in hopes that it will make their lives easier", Melanie comments. Melanie's 26 year journey at EMSH has allowed her to befriend many influential people she can now call "Family" and FAMILY is what she has been to many of us.



EMSH Participates in Holiday Blood Drive

Employees from every discipline here at EMSH came out to support the 2014 Holiday blood drive that was conducted by staff of the United Blood Services November 4th. Those who bravely entered the doors of the Bloodmobile were either first time donors, new EMSH employees or seasoned **HEROES**.

21 units of blood had to be fulfilled for this drive to provide for those who are in need during the holiday season. Of the 33 employees who registered to donate, 28 were able to give. UBS received 32 units of blood with 4 of those as double reds. Pictured below are the staff of United Blood Services and a few of our many donors. T-shirts were given to those who contributed as a token of appreciation. A BIG Thank you goes out to our Public Safety Department for providing a smooth entrance for the Bloodmobile as well as to all who participated in making this year's blood drive a success and becoming someone's **HERO!**





Suggestion Boxes are available for IRS and employees to submit their suggestions. EMSH's Internal Governing Board encourages your input and/or feedback. During IGB meetings, each suggestion is read by the members and a determination is made on how to best address each issue. If possible, responses will be placed in the Insider.

2nd Annual Haunted Grove



East MS State Hospital held its 2nd Annual Haunted Grove Thursday, October 30, 2014 as a fundraiser to be used for those in our care. Zombies of the Apocalypse lined the midnight grove seeking to frighten any and all who crossed their paths as customers climbed aboard hayrides looking for a thrill. Creepy Kafe` concessions were offered for sale as well as this year's signature t-shirts. Pictured below are but a few of our many staff who participated in this year's "spooktacular" event.

Leading up to the "Night at the Haunted Grove", Director Charles Carlisle offered \$100 to the team with the best scene in the grove. The money was won by a crew from our Maintenance Department for the Haunted Grove Entrance & for going above & beyond the call of duty to make sure lighting, electric and all other issues were properly working for the event. Pictured in the top left are: (front row) Mr. Carlisle, Randy Wilson, Mark Lanier, Travis Griffin, Melvin Walk, (back row) Tommy Miller, Robbie Scribner, Nathan Griggs and Otis Coleman. Not pictured are Eric Powe, Louis Alonso & Tony Jennings. In lieu of dividing the money between each team member, the crew will hold a BBQ to celebrate the hard work that was put forth for the one night event.



6th Annual EMSH Family Halloween Carnival



From angels to superheroes, children and their parents from EMSH were spread out among the menagerie of games that were offered at our 6th Annual Halloween Carnival which was held Friday, October 31st (Halloween night) at the S-Building (formerly the Friendship Center). Fishing, bowling, ring tossing, glo golfing and cake walking were a handful of the games enjoyed by the young and the young at heart alike. Raffle tickets were sold for one dollar each at the door to those interested in a chance to win half the "Brew". The winning ticket was held by Deborah Harrington, (Health Records) pictured top left, who received \$95 from the pot. The remaining half was given to the FRIENDS Organization to be used for IRS needs. In addition, a costume parade entertained onlookers as each child proudly announced his/her character of choice. Each "contestant" received a giant lollipop for participating in the parade as well as being offered cotton candy and drinks for attending the carnival.

Pictured below are a few of the many Smashing little "Pumpkins" who joined us for the night's festivities.

