



Heart of Dixie Harley Owners Group donates Christmas gifts to Psychiatric Adolescent Unit at UAB

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BIRMINGHAM, Alabama - A caravan of Harley-Davidson motorcyclists rode from Pelham to Birmingham Saturday to bring Christmas gifts to teens and children at the Alabama Department of Mental Health's Psychiatric Adolescent Unit at UAB.

The Pelham chapter of the Heart of Dixie Harley Owners Group has participated in the ADMH Harley Ride for 11 years. "People always ask why we do this every year. The answer is--for the kids," said Tena Whitworth, fundraiser for the Heart of Dixie Chapter. "There is something so strong about making a difference in the life of a child. Simple things like a puzzle, blanket, or coloring book can mean so much to a child and make a huge difference in their lives."

The riders brought 10 large holiday gift bags filled with gifts for the children. Organizers said each child will receive a small gift today and open the rest of the gifts on Christmas. The group also spent the afternoon visiting with the children.

"I've had the opportunity to participate in this Christmas activity with the youth on the Adolescent Unit and the Harley riders for several years and it is truly heartwarming to see the sincere kindness and generosity of this group toward the children, and the reciprocal excitement and receptiveness of the children toward the members of the Heart of Dixie Harley-Davidson Chapter," Associate Commissioner Dr. Beverly Bell-Shambley said in a press release. "We are very appreciative of the commitment of this group to brightening the holiday season for these young people year after year."

The ride is a partnership between the Alabama Department of Mental Health's Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, JBS Mental Health Authority in Birmingham, UAB and the Heart of Dixie Owners Group.

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