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St. Barnabas Residents Enjoy A Glamorous Valentine's Day

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St. Barnabas nursing home residents experienced a bit of glamour on Thursday at their annual Valentine's Day Pageant and Party. The highly anticipated event, hosted by WRCB TV's Jed Mescon, has been a popular St. Barnabas activity for five years.

With a little help from the cosmetology students at Chattanooga State Technical Community College, residents appeared at their best - men in suits or tuxedos, women in formal evening gowns.

A panel of judges viewed the contestants and selected king and queen. Reigning for 2008 are Mr. Stanley Jones and Ms. Mildred Price.

"This is such an exciting time for our residents," said Brigetta Nethery, administrator. "They start talking and planning for the competition long before Valentine's Day. The contest is open to all nursing home residents, and all who wish to participate are provided everything they need, including clothing," said Ms. Nethery.

More than 20 cosmetology students were on hand to spruce up residents for the competition. Rodney Adams, cosmetology instructor in the college's Tennessee Technology Center, said the event serves as a course project.

"Jed Mescon approached me a few years ago with the idea," said Mr. Adams, who has taught in the program six years. "We were honored to participate."

The students supplied the knowledge and tools of the trade to do the makeup, hairstyling, and manicures for the program.

"I enjoyed helping," said student Diane Manley. "The residents were so sweet and nice. You could tell this was a special moment for them."

The Valentine's Day Pageant is just one of the inter-generational activities that encourage ongoing community involvement for St. Barnabas nursing home residents.

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