



PRESS RELEASE

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Mississippi Industrial Heritage Museum
Historic Soulé Steam Works
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Santa's Christmas Factory Set for December 15-22

Meridian, MS ---- The elves are already busy decorating historic Soulé Steam Works for the third Annual Santa's Christmas Factory. The public can get a sneak preview Friday, December 2 from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. in conjunction with the Kansas City Southern Holiday Express. Santa's Christmas Factory officially opens Thursday, December 15th and runs each night through Thursday, December 22nd. Regular visiting hours are 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. with the last tour beginning at 7 p.m.

"We really wanted to host a fund raiser for the museum that would bring joy to everyone," Greg Hatcher, Executive Director, said. "We especially wanted to provide some type of snow feature because we do not get to see it too often here in the Meridian area." The holiday factory theme has worked well for the past two years for the museum. Last year more than 1,600 visitors came to enjoy the holiday season at Soulé and helped provide needed funds for museum operations.

Realistic snow flurries fall in Steam Alley as historic Soulé Steam Works transforms into Santa's Christmas Factory. This family-friendly, holiday event features decorations, music and holiday lights. A snow-covered play area (so realistic you think it is real snow) will provide the kids a brief snow experience. A kid-sized Christmas train will be available for the kids to ride. Be sure to bring your camera for great shots as the kids experience the event!

Santa Claus will be on hand to greet the kids and the young at heart. A guest appearance by Santa's sister Jean and her trusty rein-dog Disney has been a highlight for the past two holiday seasons.

The Mississippi Industrial Heritage Museum at historic Soulé Steam Feed Works features an impressive permanent collection of historic equipment and steam engines that will be decorated for the holiday season.

Admission is \$5 per person. The museum offers a maximum admission of \$25 for families (up to 10 members). All proceeds go to the upkeep and restoration of the Museum.

Soulé Steam Feed Works closed in 2002 and was purchased by a local businessman, Jim McRae, who desired to save this important part of industrial history. McRae and a group of preservationists founded the Mississippi Industrial Heritage Museum to preserve and interpret the turn-of-the-20th century buildings and original equipment that remains from a bygone era.

For more information: VisitMeridian.com - 888-868-7720.