

A HOUSE OF ~~CARDS~~ CANS??

Do you know what your empty soda cans and water bottles can do? Last April, the Habitat ReStore started collecting every bottle, can, and newspaper that was to build an Energy Star certified the monies raised. It took a \$10,000 over 1 million cans and bottles from dream come true. Now the ReStore on this house will begin this month. Road SW in Decatur. If you would like register as a volunteer at www.morganhabitat.org, or call us at 340-9609.



Tennessee Valley Recycling, LLC

they could get their hands on. Their goal house for a deserving Habitat family with donation from TVR, and a year of collecting members of the community to make this is excited to announce that construction The house will be located at 419 Hillside to volunteer to help on this project, please



Special One Day Event!

Women of Morgan County, join us for our Women Build Day! This event will take place on Saturday, May 8th at 419 Hillside Road SW in Decatur. We will start at 8:00 a.m. Lunch will be served on site. There will be giveaways all day long! Call 340-9609 for more information.

Roll on Over...

Come enjoy a free night of music and fun on Saturday, June 19th at the 2nd Annual *Rollin' on the River* Classic Car show in downtown Decatur! The festivities will start at 3:00 p.m. and last until 9:00. The Decoys will take the stage at 6:00 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs and listen to the music, or walk around and enjoy the cars and the lights of downtown. Food vendors will be available. For more information or to enter your car in the show, call Landis at 256-340-9609, or visit our web site at www.morgnahabitat.org.



CONTRIBUTORS

SUPPLY/SERVICE

84 Lumber
Aaron Driver Drywall
Beddingfield Surveying
Byco Plastics
Cerrowire
Custom Air
Daniel Vega Masonry
Danny Boy Plumbing
Elite Flooring
Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery
Gobble-Fite Lumber Company
Goss Electric
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J. Calvin McBride
JR Roofing
Larson Storm Doors
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Randy Mummert – Appraisal Services of North Alabama
Ricky Etheridge Heating & Cooling
Sherwin Williams
Square D
Turner Pest Control
Whirlpool

CORPORATIONS/ORGANIZATIONS/SCHOOLS

3M Foundation
Jimmy Smith Jewelers
Lakeland Industries
Michigan State University
Nucor Steel
Satterfields' Auto Tech
Smith Motors
Tennessee Valley Recycling
University of Chicago
Virginia Commonwealth University

INDIVIDUALS

Don Chittam
Christopher Cummings
Representative Bill Dukes
Charlie Ezell
Susan Gibson
Representative Ronald Grantland
Leissa Hill
Steven Jones
Sherrie Maine
Lynn McLemore
Mark Moody
Judith Owens
Randal Ray
Mark Schwan
Janice Simpson
Collis Stevenson
Stuart Strong
Dan Thompson
Theresa Waddell

CHURCHES

Central Park Baptist Church
Epic Church
First Baptist Church – Decatur
Parkview Baptist Church
Shiloh Baptist Church
Trinity Baptist Church
Wesley Memorial UMC
Westmeade Baptist Church

CARPENTER'S CLUB

Mr. Mark Schwan – Rafter and Roof
Cook's Pest Control – Brick and Mortar
Mr. Michael Dishman – Brick and Mortar
Ms. Vickie Eaves – Brick and Mortar
Mr. & Mrs. Hank Livingston – Brick and Mortar
Loyd Homes of Decatur – Brick and Mortar
Mr. & Mrs. Ramsey Huffman – Hammer and Nail

Family Spotlight: The Parker Family



A family of five lives in a two-bedroom trailer that is literally “falling apart”, according to one home visitor. Floors and ceilings sag. Walls are shifting and becoming detached. The roof leaks. The trailer lacks adequate insulation and air seeps in everywhere. Trying to heat and cool the space is a nightmare. Most electrical outlets don't work. There are places where you can actually see the ground through the cracks in the floor.

That's what Beth Parker goes home to every day. It's not what she wants, but she doesn't complain. She just digs deep and finds the courage that's brought her this far. Life's never been particularly easy, but at least there's a light at the end of the tunnel now that Beth's working toward a Habitat house.

It used to be even worse. At one time, she was married to an abusive, drug-using husband. After one particularly violent episode, he was jailed. She later met another drug user who introduced her to meth. She started using herself, only to wake up one day and realize she'd lost her home, her job, and her kids. Fortunately, for Beth, our area is rich in capable and compassionate aid for hurting women such as herself. She was able to participate in the Decatur Dream Center's drug rehab program and later spent several months at Lexi House, a home for women and children in need. She was finally reunited with her children and was able to acquire an apartment in the Salvation Army's transitional housing program. One of the staff people there suggested she apply for the Habitat program.

Now, in addition to working and providing for her family, Beth spends her days hammering, hanging siding, and painting. She's helping to build the homes of others, knowing that the hard work will all pay off in the end. She knows that one day, in the not-too-distant future, she'll live in a house where the floors are solid, the roof doesn't leak, and the utility bills aren't sky high. And she certainly won't miss seeing the ground through that crack in the floor just inside the front door. Some things are just better off forgotten.

Home, Sweet Home

For me, a dedication is probably the best part of what we do at Habitat. It's the day we throw a party and give the new homeowner the keys to her house. It's a day for celebration (and for some construction volunteers, relief). It's the culmination of lots of hard work not only on the part of the homeowner, but also on the part of every participant. Have you every stopped to think about just how many people are involved in the process? Of course, there are the obvious people—our construction supervisor, his subcontractors, and the hordes of volunteers that turn out week after week to hammer, saw, and caulk away. But there are dozens of not-so-obvious people as well—numerous committees, including the Family Selection Committee, Resource Development Committee, Construction Committee, and Finance Committee are all instrumental in helping our partner families reach their goal of homeownership. These committees are composed of volunteers who give of their time solely to aid Habitat in fulfilling its mission of providing simple, decent, affordable homes for families in need. Of course, the staff and board of directors are working behind the scenes as well to make the dream of homeownership come true for our clients. Perhaps one of the most important pieces of the puzzle is you, our donors. Without you, we would simply have to shut the doors and go home (while our partner families continued to dream of “home”). Whether donations come from individuals, churches, businesses, or organizations, they are all equally important in the accomplishment of our goal—building hope in the form of four walls and a roof.

Never is that hope more evident than on dedication day! February 14 was no different. It was the best Valentine's Day ever for Shelia Hill and her son, DeVonte! As people crowded in their newly rehabbed two-bedroom home, a festive atmosphere began to take shape. Speeches were made, tears were shed, prayers were said, and cake was eaten. But I'm guessing the best part of dedication always comes last...the moment when everyone else has gone home, and the frenzy of moving in hasn't yet begun...the moment when mother and son have an opportunity to sigh a deep, contented sigh, and say, “Ah... HOME at last...”



Jaycees Past President Bryan Chapman shakes hands with DeVonte Hill while his mother, Shelia Hill, looks on.



Jaycees Stacey Puckett, Bryan Chapman, Tiffany Brightwell, Brian Cook, and Heather Thompson pose with homeowners DeVonte and Shelia Hill (second and third from left).

If you or your organization were left off the contributor list, call 340-9609 to be added to the next issue of HabiChat.

The Baptist Brotherhood of Homebuilding



When we first approached local Baptist ministers about working together to build a Habitat house, we were quickly told, "Baptists are very competitive!" As a laid-back Methodist who had just completed a Habitat house, that statement didn't compute. You see, we subscribe to the "Share the Work, Lighten the Load" philosophy. So my next question was, "Do you really want the Methodists to 'one-up' the Baptists?" That was all it took to see the true competitive nature of our Baptist community emerge!

On April 10th, six Baptist churches began a local mission to build a home for Cindy Brewer and her family. By 8 a.m. Baptist volunteers swarmed the small city lot, and I witnessed a miracle! Men and women from different churches worked side-by-side to erect the walls of Cindy's new home. Something must have felt right because they keep coming back, and the house is really taking shape. I'm not sure who is enjoying the process more: the folks who have learned new skills while forming new friendships, or the homeowner who is learning the true meaning of fellowship. Either way, we have all been blessed!

Youth United Update



The students have done it again! March has come and gone; meanwhile, another Habitat house has taken shape! Habitat hosted four Collegiate Challenge teams during the month of March. From March 8th through March 27th, all 40 of our visiting team members were able to experience the true meaning of southern hospitality. They spent their days on the build site with construction supervisor Jason Owens and our faithful construction crew.



In the evenings, they enjoyed southern cooking, rolling skating, ice skating, bowling, as well as the U.S. Space and Rocket Center. We want to say thanks to all the students who helped us build the Johnsons' house over on 12th Avenue SE. Additionally, we want to thank the community for all of their support and donations while the students were here!

Dedication of this home will be on Sunday, May 23 at 2:00 p.m. Come by and look around the house and see what the students accomplished. Meanwhile, view the photo album at www.morganhabitat.org/photogallery.



Ron Grantland

Mindy Thwing accepts a \$10,000 check from Representative Ronald Grantland. Grant funds were provided to state legislators to distribute to charities of their choice. Thanks for choosing us!

Thank You!



Thank You!



Johnny Conn

Earlier this year, GE donated two refrigerators to Habitat for Humanity. For a donation, participants could be entered into a drawing for the appliances. All proceeds were used for the construction of our Youth United house on 12th Avenue SW. Shown here are the lucky winners, Johnny Conn and Ted Lewis.



Ted Lewis

Families in Waiting



The Ashford Family



The Carter Family



The Fletcher Family



The James Family



The Loughman Family



The Parker Family



The Swopes Family



The Williams Family



The Yarbrough Family

Come check out all the reorganization at the ReStore!



Finding the right size door is so much easier now that they are racked by size and type.



The sinks are more accessible and are grouped by type and shape.



This just in--marble countertops for your bath or kitchen! Choose from a variety of colors and styles.

Also, be sure to check out our new and improved pages on the web: www.morganhabitat.org/restore. We've updated the "What We Stock" section and added a "Request Donation Pickup" form.

The ReStore is located at 620 Wilson Street NE in Decatur, right next to the river bridge. We're open Monday through Friday from 8:00 until 4:00, and Saturdays from 9:00 until 2:00. Stop by today, and leave with a bargain!



Federal employees: Donate to Habitat through **CFC**.
Our number is **59800**.



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Jason Owens, Construction Supervisor
Lydia Beck, Family Services Coordinator
Landis Griffin, Resource Development Director
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