



Habitat for Humanity[®] of Morgan County



Spring 2014 Newsletter • Volume 16, Issue 2

Somewhere Over the Rainbow...Dreams Really Do Come True!



Mr. William Dinsmore

Habitat has been dreaming about a Decatur subdivision for at least 10 years. We knew the cost to buy undeveloped land, supply infrastructure and add amenities was beyond our monetary capabilities. Still we continued to add the dream to our annual strategic planning goals. But with each passing year, we felt the dream slip further and further away. Thank goodness for prayer and lots of it! Last year Mr. William Dinsmore, a local entrepreneur, contacted Habitat to offer us some land in Decatur. The land was already equipped with infrastructure and ready to be subdivided. With help from Pugh Wright McAnally, the Decatur Planning Department, and the Planning Commission, Habitat soon had 16 lots ready for houses and began building our first two houses in March. Those houses will be dedicated in June and our first two families will realize the dream of home ownership. We will also receive adjoining land from Central Park Baptist Church. The additional land means we can build in Denver Place subdivision for the next 5 years! All homes will have carports and brick fronts. Drive by and check us out. We are located in Southwest Decatur just off Tammy Street and Central Parkway. We welcome visitors!

Hope Blooms on Denver Place

The past several weeks have flown by as Habitat volunteers worked day in and day out to build not one, but two new homes on Denver Place SW in Habitat's new subdivision in Decatur. March 10 kicked off our eighth Collegiate Challenge with students from around the country and county joining us on site.



Students from Wittenberg, Harvard and Drexel universities worked alongside future homeowners, local high school students and loyal Habitat volunteers to build these two beautiful new homes. Dedication will be held for both homes on Sunday, June 8 at 2pm. Come out and join us for the celebration!



A Long Time in Coming!

Habitat for Humanity of Morgan County finally has its own "forever home". At the beginning of March we moved to our new office suite at the Habitat ReStore building on Central Parkway in Decatur.



When we purchased the building in 2012 our intention was to eventually locate our administrative offices there as well. So earlier this year, our construction supervisor

Mark Schwan, along with a group of regular volunteers (the "Over the Hill Gang") and "homeowners-in-progress", worked hard to give a completely new face to the office. We're loving the new space and hope you'll stop by to pay us a visit!



YOUR DONATION CAN MAKE THE "AMERICAN DREAM" COME TRUE FOR THESE FAMILIES.



Moore Family



Mason Family



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Barbara Crayton



Vinson Family

Use the coupon on page 3 to make a donation TODAY. This is your chance to CHANGE A LIFE!

Family Spotlight: The Vinson Family

Six moves in 7 months was about 5 moves too many. Financial struggles had Bethany and Daniel Vinson shuffling between a trailer, a hotel, and various family members before they ended up in the apartment where they live now. And even though they've been there for a long time, it still doesn't feel like "home". Over the years, they've grown increasingly frustrated with their neighborhood as they experienced being victims of theft and vandalism, not to mention unsavory characters roaming nearby streets. Needless to say, it doesn't feel like a safe place for their children, Bella and Sylas.

They'd talked to a mortgage lender about the possibility of buying a house, but the obstacles loomed large, and they abandoned the idea. One day, Bethany was complaining to a friend about her dilemma, and her friend suggested that she and Daniel look into the Habitat program. And so it began...

They actually applied once and were turned down. But an initial refusal was inadequate to dampen their determination, and they later reapplied successfully. Now they're hard at work putting in sweat equity hours to make their dream of home ownership come true. When asked about working on the construction site, Bethany replied, "It's the coolest thing! I've learned how to hang vinyl siding." Daniel, as a former bricklayer, put his masonry skills to work and loved it.

They're so looking forward to their forever home: a place for the kids to spread out (they currently only have 2 bedrooms), a yard to play in, privacy...things that many of us take for granted. When asked what she's most looking forward to, without hesitation Bethany exclaimed, "Decorating!" Recently, she's been putting sweat equity hours in at the ReStore. The problem with volunteering: "I need to leave my wallet at home!" She keeps seeing things that would make great projects for her new home. What else are they anticipating as new homeowners? Daniel is looking forward to puttering around in the yard, while Bethany wants to try her hand at vegetable gardening. (Hope she plants some watermelons...)

And six moves in 7 months? That's ancient history. Sometime next year, they'll be moving for the last time, and Habitat will have built hope and a home once again.

If you're interested in making this dream come true for the Vinsons (and other families like them), please use the coupon on page 3 to make a donation today!



Habitat welcomes our new Financial Administrator, Allison Akins! Allison joined the Habitat family in March. She brings with her a degree in Business Administration from Auburn and a Law degree from the University of Alabama. Her work experience includes: a practicing attorney, a City Clerk, an Executive Director of a foundation, and a Director for the Housing Authority.

In addition, you may hear new voices on the phone when you call. Joyce Cowan and Betty Kidwell have joined us as receptionists through NARCOG's Senior Community Service Employment Program.



Our next **application information class** will take place on Tuesday, June 17 in the Community Room at the Habitat ReStore. There will be sessions at 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Tickets are required. Call 256-340-9609 to pre-qualify; registration deadline is June 10.

A BIG "Thank You" to last quarter's contributors...we couldn't do it without YOU!!

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Mark Schwan
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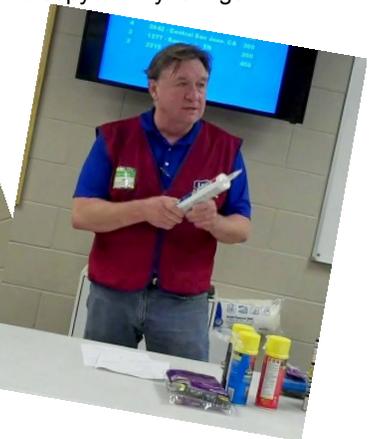
Members of the Tennessee Reading Council delivered books to Jennifer Chambers and her daughter, Sarah, at their home on February 7. This was in conjunction with their "New Books—New Homes" program.



Cook's Pest Control has been a long time partner with Habitat for Humanity. In addition to supporting us financially, they also provide a pest control class for our "homeowners-in-progress". Earlier this year, Cook's trainer Steve Allen talked to partner families about home pest prevention and treatment. This is not a class for the faint of heart; Steve loves to show specimens (fortunately NOT living) of roaches, spiders, bees, and various other "creepy crawly" things.



On March 14, the Magnolia Room in downtown Decatur was buzzing with excitement. Our second annual Big Deal casino-style gaming night was a huge success! If you missed it, make plans to join us next year.



Lowe's of Hartselle hosted a home maintenance class for our partner families on February 20. Here, Linda Oden provides instruction on basic patching and painting. (left), and Len Clemons talks about choosing the right product for the job when weatherizing.



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HELP US CHANGE A LIFE! Simply fill out this form and return it in the enclosed envelope with your gift today.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please make your check for your tax-deductible contribution payable to **Habitat for Humanity of Morgan County**, or use your credit card to donate online at www.morganhabitat.org/donate. (Select "Secure Online Contributions".)



Find more photos at www.facebook.com/HFHMC.

The ReStore Corner

Habitat ReStore, 1123 Central Pkwy. SW, Decatur

256-308-1160

Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:00, Saturday, 9:00-2:00

It's spring cleaning time! Are you moving, renovating or rebuilding? Or maybe you just need to tidy up closets, garages, or storage buildings. Call us! We can help move unneeded items out of your way. We'd love to have your gently used, unwanted furniture, building materials and working appliances. The ReStore truck is available for pickups Tuesday through Saturday, or you can drop off at the ReStore any time during normal business hours. Pickups can be scheduled by calling 256-308-1160 or by visiting www.morganhabitat.org/

Some recent arrivals...



We now have carpet squares. Hurry in... they won't last long!



See our recent arrivals at www.facebook.com/DecaturReStore

Join the conversation @MorganHabitat



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