

The students are comin'...the students are comin'!



The Morgan County chapter of Youth United is making plans now to build their 4th Habitat house at 218 12th Avenue SW in Decatur. Construction will begin on March 8 and will continue through May. Local youth will be joined on the construction site by Collegiate Challenge teams from Harvard, Michigan State, Virginia Commonwealth and the University of Chicago. The students still need your help raising the final \$27,000.00 for this build. If you are interested in partnering with us, please make a check payable to Habitat for Humanity of Morgan County. Place "Youth

Build" in the memo line and mail it to PO Box 1651, Decatur, AL 35602. If you would like more information on this project, call Landis at 256-340-9609 or email Landis@morganhabitat.org. To view our progress, visit our website: www.morganhabitat.org. To learn more about Youth United or Collegiate Challenge, visit www.habitat.org/youthprograms.



Calling All Baptists...

Look out Methodists...here come the Baptists! April in Morgan County will find six local Baptist churches building a house for a needy Habitat family. First to join the building project was Trinity Baptist, followed closely by Parkview, Central Park and Westmeade Baptist, who built for Habitat in 2004. Shiloh Baptist, who built a home in 2003, joined the group in December, and 16th Avenue Baptist enthusiastically joined the project in January.

The Brewer family can't wait for us to start their home, but we still need more churches. The cost is minimal, and the fellowship shared with fellow Baptists is priceless! Won't you encourage your church to join our project? It's not too late and the house will be built here in Decatur, not far from your church! Call Landis or Mindy (340-9609) for more details.



We're at it again!



Planning has begun for the 2nd Annual *Rollin' on the River* Classic Car Show! So pull out your calendar and mark the date for Saturday, June 19. The car show will be in downtown Decatur on 2nd Avenue and Moulton Street. Habitat volunteers will start parking cars at 3:00 in the afternoon, and the fun won't stop till 9:00pm. We'll have something for everyone! Put on your walking shoes, bring out your chairs, and come see what downtown has to offer. For more information about this event or to register, please call Landis at 256-340-9609.

CONTRIBUTORS

SUPPLY/SERVICE

84 Lumber
Allstate Pest Control Services
Beddingfield Surveying
Byco Plastics
Cathcart Services
Cerrowire
Daniel Vega Masonry
Danny Boy Plumbing
Danny Hill Construction
DCA Readymix
Elite Flooring
Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery
Gary Driver Drywall
Gobble-Fite Lumber Company
Goss Electric
Gurney Survey
H & H Limestone
Hernandez Concrete Finishing
Hubbard and Drake
J. Calvin McBride
JR Roofing
Larson Storm Doors
LeHigh Hanson
Lowe's
Mitchell Tree Service
Randy Mummert – Appraisal Services of North Alabama
Ricky Etheridge Heating & Cooling
Roy Methvin
Sherwin Williams
Square D
Trowelers Garden Club
Valley Trussworks
Vest Plumbing & Gas
Whirlpool
Yale Lock

CORPORATIONS/ORGANIZATIONS

Boeing Employee Community Fund
Chick-fil-A
Publix
State Farm Insurance
The Caring Foundation of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama

INDIVIDUALS

Sarah Bailey
David Barnett
Chris & Carol Burkett
Ray Cain
Thomas Cowan
Mary Davis
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Kenneth Foxx
Adam Gates
Charles Gross
Michael & Maxine Heath
Albert Hornsby
Sherrie Maine
Judith Owens
John Pearce
R.D. Schaffer
William Shinn
Jack Templeton
Dan Thompson
Carroll Tripp
LePage Williams

CHURCHES

Parkview Baptist Church
Priceville United Methodist Church
Neel United Methodist Church

CARPENTER'S CLUB

Mr. Mark Schwan – Rafter and Roof
Westminster Presbyterian – 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. Randal Ray – Brick and Mortar
Mr. & Mrs. Ramsey Huffman – Hammer and Nail
Barbara & Wally Inscho – Hammer and Nail
Tom & Christy Lamb – Hammer and Nail
Mitchell & Joanne Williams – Hammer and Nail
Ken & Billie Wood – Hammer and Nail

Family Spotlight: The Ashford Family



It was August 28, 2008. She couldn't possibly have known, but her life was about to change forever. Resheca Ashford walked into the food stamp office that day and saw a flyer that said, "So you want to be a homeowner?". Boy, did she ever! She and her three boys had always lived in apartments, and she dreamed of someday having a place of her own.

Habitat was holding an applicant orientation class that very night. Resheca called to get the details, and a few hours later, she was there. She wasn't even sure she would qualify, but it was worth a shot. After the class, she sat down with a member of the Family Selection Committee to answer a few questions. She soon learned her income was adequate and was given an application packet to take home.

A few weeks later, she turned in her application, and her wait began. In October, someone from the Habitat office called to say the committee wanted to do a home visit. That was a good sign, wasn't it? More waiting...and waiting... On her twins' birthday, she finally got the call: she was approved! Now, they really had reason to celebrate! Resheca cried. She and the kids ran through their apartment yelling and screaming with excitement. Her dream of homeownership was now going to become a reality.

Of course, we all know that life doesn't stop just because something good happens. Since that day at the food stamp office, there has been a lot of water under the bridge. As companies struggled to cope with the economic downturn, many workers were laid off; Resheca was one of them. She did a lot of crying and praying in those days, wondering how she would pay her bills and provide for her children. When she was unable to do Christmas for them, that was truly a low point. Fortunately, things have since turned around, and Resheca is in the process of finding her "groove" once again. The exciting news is that with YOUR help, Resheca can have her home built sometime this year. Can you make a donation today to help that wish for homeownership to come true? We would thank you, and I'm pretty sure Resheca would, too.

A Place to Call Home

They filled the house and overflowed onto the walkway out front. It was a momentous occasion for Renee Baker, and there were plenty of people on hand to help her celebrate. December 13, 2009 was a day Renee had longed for and dreamed about, a day that, not too many years ago, seemed impossible. But nothing is impossible with God, and Renee can tell you many stories to illustrate that point.

So, what was so great about that day? It was the day that Renee received the keys to her new Habitat home. She'd worked hard for it. She'd overcome obstacles that some thought she wouldn't. She had worked in the heat and the cold. She'd given up many Saturdays to work alongside complete strangers who grew to be friends. She'd attended classes to perfect the art of budgeting and to learn the finer points of being a homeowner (like how to repair a toilet).

Needless to say, Christmas 2009 was one to remember for Renee. The same Savior that was born in a stable because there was no room in the inn looked through the centuries and saw a young woman who needed a safe and warm place to lay her head. Then He made a way for her to have it.



Renee Baker (left) prepares to receive the keys to her new home.



Daija checks out the view from her new bedroom.

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

Now You See It...Now You Don't

Many times, older homes can look tired, rundown and even dilapidated. Now Habitat is bringing new life to houses in the 1600 block of Beech Street SE in Decatur. We recently finished our 2nd Extreme Makeover with the help of the Decatur Jaycees and a grant from State Farm Insurance. Neighbors Cherita Lewis (1622 Beech) and Shelia Hill (1620 Beech) are the proud owners of renovated Habitat homes, and the difference has heads turning at the transformation.



Last November, then President Brian Chapman organized teams of his fellow Jaycees to help every Saturday through January. The entire project was completed in frigid weather and nasty working conditions as they removed decaying floors, scraped off layers of vinyl flooring and replaced dry-rot in the roofline.



Now the pristine 2 bedroom house sports oak cabinets, energy efficient appliances (including a new washer and dryer), as well as a bathroom complete with pedestal sink and ceramic shower surround. The house was dedicated on February 14th, a fitting token of love from Habitat and the Decatur Jaycees to Shelia Hill and her son, DeVonte.

Morgan County Leads the Way in Energy Star Building

Hopefully you've read a newspaper article or heard a TV news story about our Energy Star building program for Habitat homes in Morgan County. We were recently acknowledged at a Southeast Regional Building Conference in Auburn for our innovative building methods which are not even practiced by most homebuilders in the area. So what's all the hype?

Habitat is building homes that are energy efficient in terms of electricity, water and gas consumption. We build to strict regulations using only Energy Star rated windows, doors, insulation, heat pumps, water heaters and appliances (including refrigerator, stove, microwave, washer and dryer). True, we spend a little more money for these features but our homeowners, on average, realize a significant reduction in power bills. Even in the coldest months this winter, our homeowners' power bills averaged around \$100. And we expect that over 12 months' time, their average power bill will be about \$50.

Cutting edge? You bet! And we're proud of it. If you'd like to know more about the changes to our building program, Jason Owens, our Construction Supervisor is available to give you a tour of any house under construction and answer your questions. Better yet, volunteer at any of our build sites and learn firsthand how Habitat is saving energy and money for our homeowners for years to come.



Thank You!

Thank You!



Mindy Thwing accepts a \$4,000 Grant from Chris Sheffield, local Publix Store Manager. The money will be used to help fund the 2010 Youth United/Collegiate Challenge house at 218 12th Ave. S.W. in Decatur. Construction will start in March.

Families in Waiting



The Ashford Family



The Brewer Family



The Carter Family



The Fletcher Family



The James Family



The Johnson Family



The Parker Family



The Swopes Family



The Williams Family

Let us help with that dream kitchen...



Come see what is happening at the Habitat ReStore! We recently received a LARGE shipment of BRAND NEW APPLIANCES. Each one includes a full manufacturer's warranty. Included in the shipment are double ovens, microwave/oven combos, single convection ovens, smooth top slide in stoves, slide in gas stoves, gas cooktops,



and one fridge. They are 50% off the manufacturers suggested retail price-- come check out the savings!

While you are there, visit Roxzan's Art Gallery, and take a look at the remodeling that we've been doing. Be sure to visit us often so you don't miss a thing! In the meantime, keep up with all that's going on by visiting on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DecaturReStore.

Who's New At Habitat

Habitat recently welcomed the following additions to our staff:

- Loretta Bonner, Volunteer Coordinator
- Anthony Goodner, ReStore Acquisition Manager
- Ray Stewart, ReStore Gallery Curator
- Vivian Stone, ReStore Floor Manager



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



Habitat Staff
Mindy Thwing, Executive Director
Jason Owens, Construction Supervisor
Lydia Beck, Family Services Coordinator
Laurie Griffin, Resource Development Director
Laurie Davis, Financial Administrator
Loretta Bonner, Volunteer Coordinator (NARCOG Senior Program)
Joe Bachus, ReStore Manager
Roxzan Goodner, ReStore Operations Manager
Vivian Stone, ReStore Floor Manager
David Moseley, ReStore Acquisition Manager
Anthony Goodner, ReStore Acquisition Manager
Ray Stewart, ReStore Gallery Curator

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