

College Students See God's Hand in Hartselle!

As many of you know, the Collegiate Challenge students have kept Marlon Morris, Mark Schwan and Landis Griffin "on their toes" building our latest house. Harvard students spent the week of March 12th in near-perfect weather building Beth Parker's new home in Hartselle. Whoever said Harvard is for geeks is sadly mistaken! Our 10 students quickly picked up building skills and were ahead of schedule by their final day on Friday. No sooner had Harvard departed than 9 students from St. Olaf, Minnesota arrived. Again weather cooperated and the students learned quickly, allowing them to take a field trip on Wednesday, March 21st. While they were gone, a large tree limb fell on our property...on the exact spot where they break for lunch, at the exact time they would have been eating! Our Construction Manager, Marlon Morris, summed it up best...it was a God Thing! We were blessed that the volunteers working there just minutes before had left and the worksite was empty, but just as amazing, the tree fell between our house and our debris container without harming either...all we lost was a sawhorse!

Our many thanks to Eaton Corporation, our house sponsor; the tireless efforts of our "Over-the-Hill" Gang volunteers; area high school students from Falkville, Decatur Heritage and the Edge Leadership Program, who worked onsite. And last but not least, the many Hartselle churches who supplied lunches for all of our volunteers and students. (See photo on "Photo Gallery" page.)

It's that time again!

Wax your car and bring your family out to Habitat for Humanity of Morgan



County's 4th annual "Rollin' on the River" car show. This year's event will be held at the Decatur mall on **Saturday, June 16th from 9:00 until 2:00**. Come out and enjoy the music, food and kids' play area. Attendance is free, but registration to display your car is \$20.00. For more information on how to enter your car in our show please go to www.morganhabitat.org, or call the office at 256-340-9609. Hope to see you there!



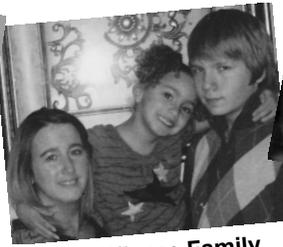
The Yarbrough Family



The Montgomery Family



The Burt Family



The Kilgore Family



The Johnson Family



The Jones Family



The Thomas Family



The Hood Family



The Parker Family



The Williams Family

**Make the "American dream" come true for these families.
With your donation, we can build houses AND hope.**



Family Spotlight: The Thomas Family



Tumultuous. That's the best word I can think of to describe Nancy Thomas's life. She was born into a dysfunctional family with an alcoholic mother and an absent father. One of her earliest memories is crying while comforting her mother after an abusive man has beaten her. A friend introduced her to marijuana in the 3rd grade. When she was 12, she attempted suicide. She drifted in and out of foster homes and group homes over the next few years. At 17, she learned she was pregnant. She dropped out of school, and began a string of unhealthy and often abusive relationships.

Yet in the midst of all the turmoil, there was one constant in Nancy's life. Mary Frances, the woman Nancy describes as her godmother, was always there for her. When Nancy was very young, Mary Frances sponsored her family at Christmastime. Something about Nancy touched a place in Mary Frances's heart, and a special bond formed. Mary Frances began taking Nancy to church. She would keep her on the weekends. She would buy Sunday clothes for her and make sure she participated in Sunday school, choir, and summer camp. In the middle of the chaos that was her home life, Nancy found comfort and peace in her relationship with Mary Frances. "I never felt loved by anyone except her," says Nancy. "If it weren't for her, I wouldn't be here. I'd probably be dead or in prison."

Meanwhile, Nancy went through recovery, gave up drugs, and learned that a relationship with Jesus Christ was more powerful than any high she'd gotten smoking pot. Her faith and her faithful godmother helped her establish a life on a more stable foundation. Then, last fall, a lady that Nancy was working for suggested she apply to the Habitat program. "I've tried that," she replied. (She had applied and been denied several years prior.) "You have nothing to lose," her friend replied. So she did, and the rest is history. She feels so blessed to have the opportunity to serve in the Habitat program. "I've learned that there are other people, just like me. Habitat gives us a little push, a reason to hope and go on." She feels the work she does with Habitat is a way for her to "give back". "It's a good thing," she says. She encourages people in the community to sponsor Habitat homes, saying, "God's going to bless you for doing it. It's a way to make your community better."

So, what lies ahead? She's looking forward to planting crepe myrtles in her front yard, having a paved driveway, and being able to afford warmth in the wintertime. "I've never had a house where we were warm." I have a feeling that Nancy's house will be warm all year round, but it won't have anything to do with a thermostat. No, I'm talking about a warmth that radiates from a heart that wants to give back to others just a little of what she herself has received.



Our sympathy is extended to the families who recently lost these loved ones...

- Ernie Parker (Habitat homeowner)
- Clayton Sivley (son of Donna Underwood, Habitat homeowner)
- Lakesha Lee Williams (sister of Yolanda, homeowner, and Freida Yarbrough, homeowner-in-progress)
- Elizabeth Claire Guess (granddaughter of Roger and Karen Guess, Habitat homeowners)
- Dale Strider (Habitat volunteer)

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

CARPENTER'S CLUB

Rafter and Roof:

David & Debbie Barnett
Mark Moody
Mark Schwan

Joist and Wall:

Ramsey & Donna Huffman
Stu & Carol Strong
Lynn Temple

C.D. & Linda Tripp

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Ford Ray

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First United Methodist—Hartselle
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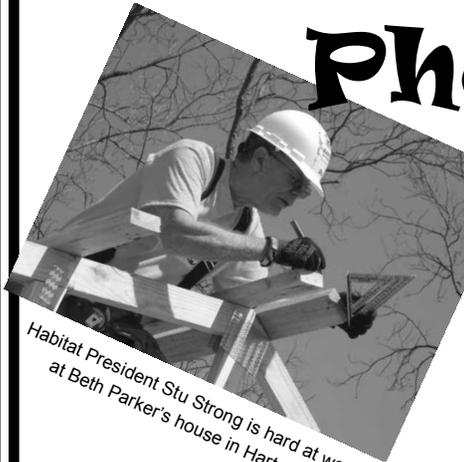
Valspar

Vest Plumbing & Gas

Whirlpool

Wolde Flooring

Photo Gallery



Habitat President Stu Strong is hard at work at Beth Parker's house in Hartselle.



On March 21, a sizeable tree limb fell at our construction site at 605 Hickory Street in Hartselle. God was really watching over us that day. Be sure to read the story on page 1!



We had a Pinterest Paint Party fundraiser on February 23. Participants painted cabinet doors from the ReStore. A good time was had by all!



Harvard students joined us in mid-March for Collegiate Challenge. They worked hard and accomplished a great deal in just a week.



Students from St. Olaf College (MN) worked on our Hartselle site from March 19—23. By the end of the week, a HOUSE had taken form.



Amy Kilgore is all smiles as she does yard-work at a foreclosed home that Habitat recently rehabbed.



Valley Rubber employee Emily Roberts and volunteer Adam Teague pitched in on a recent "A Brush with Kindness" (ABWK) project in Falkville.



Mr. and Mrs. Ball sit in front of their freshly refurbished home in Falkville. Habitat did external repairs to their house as a part of our "A Brush With Kindness" (ABWK) program. Valley Rubber was the sponsor.



Students from Decatur Heritage Christian Academy put faith into action at Beth Parker's house as part of their Missions: Possible service project on April 5.



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

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

Name: _____

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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".)



The ReStore Corner

Habitat ReStore, 620 Wilson Street NE, Decatur

256-308-1160

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



Spring arrived early in the Tennessee Valley this year! And with spring comes spring cleaning. As you look over all the things stored in your out buildings, garages and spare rooms, you might want to think of the Habitat for Humanity ReStore. We would be glad to pick up any unwanted building materials, furniture, appliances, lawn equipment...just about anything! Give us a call (256-308-1160) to schedule a pickup. And if you're looking for that little something for your spring projects, stop by the ReStore. You never know what you'll find!



Recently spotted at the ReStore:



Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/HabitatReStoreDecatur



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Mindy Thwing, Executive Director
Marlon Morris, Construction Supervisor
Mark Schwan, Construction Coordinator
Lydia Beck, Family Services Coordinator
Landis Griffin, Resource Development Director
Laurie Davis, Financial Administrator
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