

New Leader at Habitat's Helm

After an extensive search, the board of directors is excited to introduce Katherine (Lauren) Barrett as Habitat's new Executive Director. She took the helm in early December. Lauren hails from Walker County and attended school in Birmingham before moving to Madison County in 2011. She brings an abundance of enthusiasm and a wealth of knowledge to the Habitat team. Lauren comes to us from the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of North Alabama. She has her B.A. in Sociology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and her Juris Doctorate from Birmingham School of Law. Lauren also has her realtor's license. Her hobbies include hiking with her family, serving others, and teaching dance. She and her husband, Conor, live in Huntsville with their two children, and attend St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Lauren is more than excited for the opportunity to work with the Morgan County Habitat in providing the community with affordable housing





Have you ever wanted to visit a casino, but not "lose your shirt"? Here's your chance! Habitat's BIG DEAL casino night is coming up on Saturday, March 10, at 6 p.m. at the Decatur Elks Lodge (2625 Centron Drive SW, Decatur). Participants will enjoy casino-style games (no real money involved) like blackjack, poker, roulette, and slot machines. This year's event is sponsored by Toray Compo-

site Materials America, the Decatur Jaycees, and Jack Daniels Cooperage. The Big Deal is a casual event with a cash bar and a taco bar. Tickets are on sale for \$30 in advance or \$40 at the door. You can purchase your tickets online at decaturjaycees.com, or pick them up from the Habitat ReStore, the Decatur Chamber of Commerce, or Avanti Computers. This year's giveaways will include some great prizes like a Kindle Fire, a Samsung tablet, and 4 one day park hopper passes to Disney. If you would like more information about this event, please contact Landis Griffin at 256-340-9609. ext. 223, or email landis@morganhabitat.org. Proceeds from this event will help Habitat homeowners in Morgan County achieve the strength, stability, and selfreliance they need to build a better life for themselves and their families.





Help these families achieve strength, stability, and self-reliance!



Use the coupon on page 3 to make a year-end gift and BUILD A FOREVER HOME FOR A FAMILY!

Every Hand Makes a Difference!



Spring will be here before you know it, and you know what that means...BUILD time! Marilyn Chambers is looking forward to grabbing a hammer and using it to help shape her very own home in Denver Place Subdivision in Decatur. This March, volunteers will be swarming to the neighborhood to help make a homeownership dream come true for Marilyn and her 3 children. We will also have students from Harvard on hand during their spring break, the week of March 12. In addition, we have hopes of starting a second house later in the spring, but we still need \$15,000 to fully fund that build. Can YOU help us make up the difference? We have hardworking, expectant "homeowners-in-progress" waiting for their opportunity to join Marilyn in our Habitat

neighborhood. Everyone deserves a decent place to live, and everyone can do something today to make that possible for one of these families. Use the coupon on page 3 to show your support today!

WANTED: Sponsors and Volunteers in Hartselle

Get 'em while they're hot!!



Brandy McGuire is a single mom who dreams of owning a home in Hartselle for herself and her daughter. She currently lives in income-based housing, but still dishes out more than a third of her salary to cover rent and utility costs. She dreams of stability, and longs for the day when her monthly payments will be going toward something that she will ultimately be able to call her own. **Will YOU help make her dream come true?** Habitat is looking for sponsors and

volunteers to build Brandy a home in our Hartselle subdivision. If you or your group would like to get involved, please call Landis at the Habitat office 256-340-9609, ext 223.

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The Association of Alabama Habitat Affiliates (AAHA) has designed a specialty license plate for Habitat supporters statewide. The state requires 1000 people to commit to purchasing the plate before they will begin production. AAHA is willing to front the funds for the initial 1000 plates for the first year. Translation: you can get

a Habitat plate for free! After the first year, there will be a fee for the plate, but a portion of those proceeds will support your local Habitat. These plates can be used on any vehicle, including motorcycles and trailers. If your business has a fleet of vehicles, consider the Habitat plate for all of them! This is just one more (easy) way that you can support our mission. To commit to your free Habitat plate, visit <u>www.surveymonkey.com/r/HZQZM6K</u> or call Lydia (256-340-9609, ext. 224) with your contact info and current license plate number. We think you'll like sporting the Habitat logo on your vehicle, and we'll be happy to see you advertising our great organization each and every day that you drive!

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

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Have you seen Jeremiah, our new mascot? He showed up in the Re-Store in mid-October, and we decided to make him a permanent part of the Habitat team. He likes to get around, so be on the lookout for him. You never know where he might pop up next!



We could use your help feeding all those hungry workers during the upcoming build season. Can you or your church, business, or organization sponsor a lunch or snacks? A typical lunch would consist of a sandwich, chips, a piece of fruit, and a cookie for roughly 25 people per build day. We could also use doughnuts, crackers, granola, and fruit for snacks. If you could help provide lunches or snacks (or sponsor a day financially, please call Landis at 256-340-9609, ext. 223.



Habitat dedicated their 83rd house on November 12 for Tim and Hope Bumpus and their 3 girls. Renee Story from GE Appliances presented the keys to Tim, who belted out a "HALLELUJAH!" in response.



Friends old and new (incoming Habitat homeowners) gathered to wish former Habitat Executive Director a fond farewell at her retirement party on November 28. Thanks to Central United Methodist Church for allowing us to host at their location. Also, a "shout-out" to Susan Hines and Brix & Embers for providing mouth-watering pizzas for the evening...incidentally, Mindy's favorite food! There were lots of smiles, hugs, and memories to go round, not to mention a resolution in Mindy's honor from the Alabama House of Representatives, and a letter of congratulations from Habitat for Humanity International CEO, Jonathan Reckford. We'll miss you, Mindy! *(Photos courtesy of Freedom Light Productions)*

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| Plea | se make your check for your tax-deductible contribution payable to Habitat for Humanity of Morgan County, |
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Habitat ReStore 1123 Central Pkwy. SW, Decatur 256-308-1160 M—F, 8—4, Saturday, 9—2

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

The ReStore Corner

"Your home improvement outlet"

Thank you to all of our donors in 2017! A new year brings new opportunities to Donate, Shop, and Volunteer at Habitat for Humanity's ReStore. Be sure to support our mission in Morgan County by donating to us. We accept donations Monday-Saturday during store hours (see above). You can also go online (www.morganhabitat.org/restore/#pickup) or call 256-308-1160 to schedule a pickup.

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Decatur, AL 35601

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- We've received multiple large donations of ceramic floor tiles, ceramic wall tiles, and hardwood flooring. Shop with us before . paying full price.
- We may have the furniture you need at a price that can't be beat. For example, check out the chifferobe below. It's in excel-• lent condition and has plenty of space to get organized in the new year.
- We're expecting a new shipment of 12x12 carpet tiles this month. Shop early for the best selection.
- Need new chairs? The ReStore's got 'em. Come on in, and try 'em out!



Habitat Morgan County







@MorganHabitat

Our number is 59800.

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