

THINKIN' OUTSIDE THE BOX

Spring has been very exciting for Habitat! Not only have we built 3 houses, we've gotten creative in our fundraising efforts. Check out what we've been up to:

- In April, the Navy office and their recruits, along with students from Hartselle High School, worked at a Lowe's Wish List Day. Customers were given Habitat "wish lists" and the option of purchasing and donating needed supplies while shopping at Lowe's.
- In May, we held a two-day yard sale in the old Goody's parking lot on Spring Avenue. (Thanks to America's Thrift Store for their partnership!) This event was run by our "homeowners-in-progress".
- In June, Central Park Baptist held a Vacation Bible School Fundraiser. Children were told how much various components of a Habitat house cost (e.g. doors, doorbell, windows, etc.). Then they brought in money and watched as their "virtual house" began to take shape.



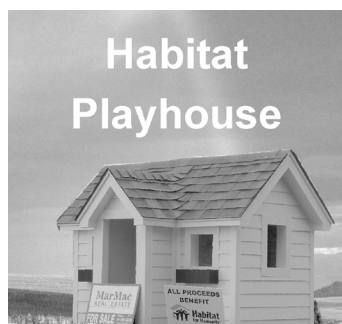
- Shine Salon took advantage of downtown Decatur's 3rd Friday event in June to hold a fundraiser for kids. For a set price, kids were given a canvas and paint to create their own masterpiece to present to Dad on Father's Day.

- LongHorn Steakhouse hosted a "Friends and Family" night in June and donated a percentage of their proceeds to Habitat.

- Downtown Decatur was host to our 2nd annual "Rollin' on the River" Car Show on June 19th. Swarms of spectators braved the heat to enjoy the sights and sounds of downtown, as well as to sample the cuisine of food vendors and local restaurants. A good time was had by all!



- Gloria's Good Heath is selling Women Build t-shirts for next year's spring build. This popular shirt boasts, "As girls, we played house...as women, we build them". Stop by and get yours today!



- Habitat Board of Directors is currently selling tickets (\$10 each) for a playhouse that will be given away in a drawing on December 15. The playhouse can be viewed at the Habitat ReStore. Tickets are also available from our office and online at www.morganhabitat.org.

We cannot express how thankful we are to have such committed partners within the community. And there is still more to come! The Navy recruits will be giving the ReStore a fresh coat of paint next month. On July 27th, LongHorn will be hosting a "Dining for Dollars" event from 5 – 9 p.m. LongHorn will donate a portion of each check that is turned in with a Habitat voucher. Come by the Habitat office or visit the ReStore, and pick up your voucher.

Then come join us for dinner at LongHorn! Call us for more information: 256-340-9609.

We are still in need of funds for our fall build, so consider planning your own fundraiser for Habitat. Not an event planner? Simply use the enclosed envelope to make a donation or donate online: www.morganhabitat.org. "HELP BUILD IT!" right here in Morgan County!

CONTRIBUTORS

SUPPLY/SERVICE

84 Lumber
Allstate Pest Control Services
America's Thrift Store
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Cathcart Services
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Whirlpool
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CDG Engineers
Decatur Family Dentistry
Decatur Women's Chamber
Eaton Corporation
Exit Realty Alabama
Family Security Credit Union
LongHorn Steakhouse
Lynn Layton Chevrolet
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Redstone Federal Credit Union
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CHURCHES

Central Park Baptist Church
Epic Church
First Baptist Church, Decatur
First United Methodist, Decatur
First United Methodist, Hartselle
Neel United Methodist Church
Parkview Baptist Church
Shiloh Baptist Church
Trinity Baptist Church
Westmeade Baptist Church

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Mr. Michael Dishman – Brick and Mortar
Ms. Vickie Eaves – Brick and Mortar
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Ken & Billie Wood – Hammer and Nail

Family Spotlight: The Parker Family



"God's not finished with me yet." That's what Yolanda Yarbrough will tell you. Her life has been filled with tragedies that would suck the life right out of most people...but not Yolanda. She recognizes that miracles come from God, and because she keeps seeing them, she concludes that there must be more for her still to do.

As a young child, Yolanda was in an accident that resulted in 3rd degree burns over 70% of her body. As a result, she thought she would be unlikely to ever have children. God, however, had other plans, and in 1994, she became pregnant. During the course of her pregnancy, she developed toxemia. It became increasingly serious until at 7 months, Yolanda's doctors told her mother that they could save either Yolanda or her baby, but not both. Miraculously, Yolanda gave birth to a 3 pound, 4 ounce baby boy, and both survived. A few years later, Yolanda gave birth to a girl—another miracle! Shortly thereafter, her daughter was diagnosed with clubfeet, which required surgery. She wore casts on both legs for six months, then braces. Despite all the hardships, Yolanda considered her children her greatest blessings.

March 23, 2006 was a day that would alter history for Yolanda. She had worked second shift at her job, napped a couple of hours, and was on her way to pick up her children. She was stopped at a stop sign when she was broadsided by a speeding car. She was thrown from the vehicle into a nearby field. She woke up in the hospital after 7 days in a coma. Her brain was swollen; her spine, hip, and collarbone were all fractured. She had numerous internal injuries, and the doctors thought she may have suffered a stroke as well.

Recovery was long and hard. She spent two months in the hospital; then came rehab. She had to learn to walk and talk again, but she stubbornly pushed on. When she was ready to give in to frustration and exhaustion, she had a nurse who rode her hard and pushed her to do things she didn't think she could. Family and friends also encouraged her to press on during this dark time. Little by little, life settled down, although it would never be quite the same again.

Last summer, Yolanda's sister learned that Habitat was taking applications. She told Yolanda about the orientation session and urged her to come along. Yolanda wasn't overly excited, but thought, "Why not?" Little did she know that decision would lead to another miracle—the opportunity to become a homeowner!

So, what has Yolanda learned from her Habitat experience so far? "If you work hard and are devoted to something, you can do anything!" (Hmm...wonder when she first learned that?) She's spent countless hours on Habitat construction sites, learning how to paint, caulk, and hang vinyl siding in the process. "I just love that nail gun!" she chirped when we talked about construction. Having something valuable to do and meeting new friends has gotten her out of the house and lifted her out of the depression she's struggled with ever since her accident.

What's she looking forward to? "Owning that house...saying it's MINE!" she said with a big grin. She also anticipates planting flowers and giving the yard that special touch. What else does the future hold? Yolanda has no idea what God has in store for her, but I have a sneaking suspicion that in the not-too-distant future, she'll be inviting people to her new living room where she'll sit down and share her story. They'll leave encouraged and inspired, just like I did, knowing that God's not finished with any of us yet. He's certainly not finished with Yolanda Yarbrough...not by a long shot.

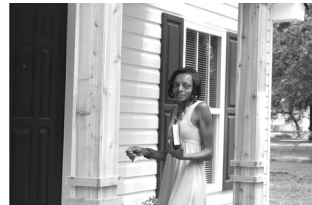
Dedication of the Johnson Home – June 6, 2010



Family Services Coordinator
Lydia Beck shares a scripture
reading with Tamatha
Johnson while sons John
and Jurion look on.



Tamatha receives her new
house keys from Resource
Development Director
Landis Griffin.



The new homeowner unlocks
the door for her first guests!

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

Baptists...You ROCK!



Last quarter, I told you about the Baptist Challenge to build a house for Cindy Brewer and her family. Can you believe that in three short months we experienced workdays that brought torrential downpours, tornado warnings and 105 degree heat conditions? No matter the conditions, volunteers from all 6 churches worked tirelessly to complete the house, spruce-up the grounds and meet their church pledge. Yes, we even dedicated the house on July 25th, one week earlier than originally expected!

I guess Baptists REALLY don't like finishing 2nd Place to any other denomination. It's your turn, Methodists! Habitat plans to build two houses in the spring of 2011. Why not build a Methodist House and a Baptist House side-by-side? Who can raise the most money? Who can muster the most volunteers? To quote Peyton Manning, "It's on like Donkey Kong!"

Don't Stop...We Need More Cans!

The next time you see an Epic Church member handing out doughnuts & coffee on the street corner, stop and tell them how much you appreciate the things they do in our community. After hearing about the Recycle House that Tennessee Valley Recycling was helping to fund, Epic pastor, Joe "I.V." Marsh, and his wife Bené wanted their church to join the project. They pledged \$10,000 and the volunteer labor of their 500 church members to help build the house!



On Saturday, May 8th more than 50 volunteers from Epic church and the Habitat Women Build Event gathered at 419 Hillside Road SW to frame the house that Resheca Ashford and her 3 sons soon hope to call home. The house is mid-way to completion, but more money is needed. Don't make us stop building!



We desperately need your empty plastic bottles, aluminum cans, appliances...and yes, we will gladly take your old car! If you'd like, you can even write us a check...*just bring it all to the ReStore*. But PLEASE, DO IT NOW!

To keep up with these and future builds, visit us online at www.morganhabitat.org or www.facebook.com/HFHMC.

Families in Waiting



The Carter Family



The James Family



The Loughman Family



The Nolan Family



The Parker Family



The Russell Family



The Swopes Family



The Williams Family



The Yarbrough Family

The ReStore Corner

It's summer here at the ReStore, and have we got some HOT deals for you! We have new Formica laminate flooring in house with six colors to choose from. We still have a great supply of new Whirlpool appliances, recently reduced. (Don't miss out on this chance to update your kitchen at a great price!) Another HOT deal is carpet squares: 2'X2' squares for just \$2 each. They are easy to install and replace!



Every day when the temperature climbs, we offer a free "sauna" while you shop. Come in early, browse our library and check out our books. And when you clean out the attic, the garage, or your teenage son's bedroom, just give us a call--we pick up! The number to call is 256-308-1160. Check us out online at www.facebook.com/DecaturReStore or at www.morganhabitat.org/restore to learn of the latest specials.

Come shop early and often, and don't forget to tell all your friends about us!

Habitat ReStore
620 Wilson Street NE, Decatur
Monday – Friday, 8:00 – 4:00
Saturday, 9:00 – 2:00



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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

P.O. Box 1651
Decatur, AL 35602

Habitat for Humanity
of Morgan County

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