

## PICTURE THIS PLAYHOUSE IN YOUR BACKYARD!



**IT COULD BE YOURS FOR \$10.**

If you have a kid, know a kid, or are a kid (even a grown-up one), you need to make a \$10 donation to Habitat for Humanity of Morgan County for a chance to win this adorable playhouse to be given away in December.

You can purchase playhouse tickets on our website ([www.morganhabitat.org](http://www.morganhabitat.org)) or at the following Decatur locations:

The Habitat office – Wells Fargo Bank, 3rd Floor, 254 East Moulton Street  
The Habitat ReStore - 620 Wilson Street NE  
MarMac Real Estate - 2114 Central Parkway, Suite A

Playhouse is 4' x 8' with a 2' x 2' porch.  
Drawing for the winner will take place on December 15.  
(Time and location to be announced.)

C'mon...you can spare 10 bucks...  
plus it helps a family in Morgan County get a house of their very own!!!  
For more info, call our office at 256-340-9609.  
Thanks for your support!!

## CONTRIBUTORS

### SUPPLY/SERVICE

84 Lumber  
Bedingfield Surveying  
Byco Plastics  
Cathcart Services  
Cerrowire  
Daniel Vega Masonry  
Danny Boy Plumbing  
DCA Readymix  
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Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery  
Gary Driver Drywall  
Gobble-Fite Lumber Company  
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Hernandez Concrete Finishing  
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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  
Valley Trussworks  
Vest Plumbing & Gas  
Whirlpool  
Yale Lock

### CORPORATIONS/ORGANIZATIONS

Allegra Print and Imaging  
Bank Street Uniques  
Coca Cola Company  
The French Connection  
Lowe's  
MarMac Charities  
State Farm Insurance

### INDIVIDUALS

Robert Archer  
David Barnett  
Sue Chapman  
John Edington  
Gerald Harrison  
Gayle Kassay  
Sandra Locke-Godbey  
Judith Owens

### CHURCHES

First United Methodist Church  
Johnson Chapel UMC

### CARPENTER'S CLUB

Sherrie Maine – Master Builder  
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Mr. & Mrs. Ramsey Huffman – Joist and Wall  
Cook's Pest Control – Brick and Mortar  
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Ms. Vickie Eaves – Brick and Mortar  
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Loyd Homes of Decatur – Brick and Mortar  
Mr. & Mrs. Randal Ray – Brick and Mortar  
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Landis Griffin – Hammer and Nail  
Leissa Hill – Hammer and Nail  
Barbara & Wally Insko – Hammer and Nail  
Michael Keith – Hammer and Nail  
Tom & Christy Lamb – Hammer and Nail  
Don Moseley – Hammer and Nail  
Owens Custom Homes – Hammer and Nail  
Mindy Thwing - Hammer and Nail  
Ken & Billie Wood – Hammer and Nail

## Family Spotlight: The James Family



Megan's been through a lot in her young life; sometimes those experiences make her feel older than her 22 years. Growing up, Megan never lived in a house. It was always a trailer or an apartment, and her family moved a lot. She went to multiple schools and never really felt settled. In her senior year of high school, she found out she was pregnant. With only a couple of months until graduation, Megan withdrew from school because she was unable to obtain childcare so that she could attend classes. She immediately took her GED and passed it, but missing graduation is a memory that still makes her emotional

when she talks about it.

The bright spot in her life was the beautiful baby boy that she'd birthed. Unfortunately, the joy that he brought was overshadowed by the lifestyle of her son's father, Jake (not his real name). Jake was several years older than Megan, and his life had become consumed by drugs and alcohol. During their son's first year of life, he and Megan moved 7 times. They would stay in one place until Jake had spent all their money on drugs. Then the next time the rent was due, they would move somewhere else. Before long, Megan had had enough, and the couple separated. She went to live with a friend; he eventually went to rehab.

After 6 months in rehab, Jake graduated from the program and got back together with Megan. She soon learned she was pregnant again. She truly thought that the worst was over and looked forward with anticipation to the birth of another baby. During her first trimester, Jake's sister moved in with them. She was a crack addict who soon lured Jake back into the world of drugs. One night when Megan was 7 months pregnant, Jake showed up demanding money, the money she'd set aside for the rent and the light bill. Knowing he wanted to spend it on drugs, she refused to give it to him. He proceeded to choke her and hit her in the face, while his sister and her boyfriend looked on, but made no effort to intervene. Her son stood by helplessly, screaming and afraid. He was 22 months old.

That night, Megan knew that it was truly over between her and Jake. She packed her bags and moved in with relatives. It was difficult for them to accommodate an expectant mom and a child, so she would spend a week with one family member and then move in with another relative. In February of that year, Megan gave birth to a baby girl. When her daughter was a week old, she was finally able to get her own apartment. She was thrilled to finally have some semblance of normalcy and stability in her life.

In the summer of 2009, another single mother visited the daycare where Megan worked. She was posting flyers about Habitat's application class. Megan was unfamiliar with Habitat and asked all kinds of questions. "Are you in the program?" "What do you have to do?" The other mother explained that she, too, was a working woman with two children, and that the program was doable and well worth the effort. Megan wasn't overly hopeful, but decided to attend the class anyway. She took the application home, filled it out and returned it to the office. Then she sat back to wait.

When Megan got the call that she had been approved, she cried in joy and disbelief. She said later, "I didn't believe I could do it, but I did!" She encourages others by saying, "If you work toward a goal, you can achieve it" Never doubt that Megan has worked tirelessly toward her goal. She's spent hours on construction sites, as well as sweating away at events like the "Rollin' on the River" Car Show and Riverfest in the service of Habitat. She's labored in the winter cold, the summer heat, and under the light of the moon. She's learned how to build, paint, rehab, even repair a toilet. When asked what else she's learned, she replied with a chuckle, "I've learned not to eat pizza on a 98-degree workday!" (That was a lesson learned the hard way, let me tell you...)

Megan's really looking forward to moving into a "fresh" home where she won't hear neighbors on one side screaming during a football game, or a neighbor on the other side yelling at her husband. Her grandmother has promised to plant all sorts of wonderful things in the yard. She's excited about the prospect of being "in one place that's mine, for the rest of my life." She adds, "No matter what happens, we'll have a place to live, and my kids will live in ONE place."

Life is truly about to settle down for Megan James. She hopes that by this time next year, she'll be able to sit in a rocker on her own front porch, soak in the quiet, lean back and say, "HOME...at last."



If your organization, church or business needs to find programs for the coming year, Habitat is happy to help you!

We are searching for opportunities to share the Habitat story, show how we partner with the community, and describe the dire needs of our families. We may even bring a "homeowner-in-progress" to share their story.

We're waiting for your call!

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

## Give a gift. Open a door.



Just across town, Habitat creates opportunities for families like Megan's (see Family Spotlight on page 2) to build simple, affordable homes. It's the support and involvement of readers like you that allow these families to open new doors – doors like this one that lead to decent housing and better lives.

The need is more urgent than it has ever been. Your contribution will help our families leave behind the struggles of substandard housing for the hope and stability of a home of their own. *Please use the enclosed envelope.*

You are the key to their future!

## An Early Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving is still several weeks away but here at Habitat, we are already counting our blessings! Habitat is thankful for Eaton Corporation, the Decatur Jaycees, and State Farm Insurance, all of which joined forces with Habitat to sponsor this year's fall build at 1615 Thomas Drive SW in Decatur. Many thanks to the

Navy recruits who gave us a day of service to put trusses on the house, and to Aramark employees who helped with the vinyl siding. There have also been



numerous local companies and organizations who have volunteered their time onsite to build this house. It's truly a collaborative effort and the work is not finished yet, so come out and help us! Visit our website ([www.morganhabitat.org](http://www.morganhabitat.org)) to register as a volunteer today. Habitat will

furnish the tools and the instruction; all you need are willing hands and a willing heart.



A tearful Cindy Brewer receives a hug from Jim Bureson of Shiloh Baptist Church while Habitat President Stu Strong looks on. Bureson presented Cindy with the keys to her new home during a dedication ceremony on July 25.



Resheca Ashford is one happy homeowner after receiving her new house keys on August 29. Resheca was surrounded by friends and family, including Habitat Executive Director Mindy Thwing.



These guys are looking forward to their new home and especially that big backyard...can you tell?

## Welcome Home!

## Families in Waiting



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

Hello, Habitat friends! The weather is now perfect for coming down to the ReStore (unlike a couple of months ago). Check out our current deals:

- Filing cabinets with 3, 4, 5, and even 7 drawers, \$20 - \$50 each
- Just in: NEW oak cabinet doors, only \$5.00 each (yes, they match)
- Large selection of trim, only 25¢ a foot
- Thompson's Water Seal House and Deck Stain, only \$10.00 a gallon



Don't forget our laminate flooring and new appliances, both of which would make great Christmas gifts! And speaking of Christmas, check out our holiday room for everything you need to make your home festive for the holidays.

As always, there are lots of surprises in the nick-nack room and art gallery, not to mention our selection of books and movies.

Hope to see you soon...

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

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Permit no. 809

**Habitat for Humanity**<sup>®</sup>  
of Morgan County



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