

ENOUGH WITH THE GOLD...I'm ready for Spring!

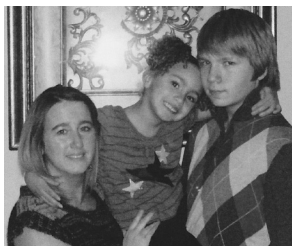


March can't get here soon enough! I'm tired of sitting behind a desk waiting for the weather to warm up. I want to be building a house. Correction, I want to build 2 houses!

With two months to go, Habitat is busy deciding on building sites, modifying house plans, not to mention speaking to churches, businesses and community groups. We have 9 qualified families waiting for their homes. That means we have nine stories of overcoming adversity that would touch your heart and leave you in awe of human fortitude.

Our present plans are to build a house at 1609 Douthit St. S.W. in Decatur and a second house at our subdivision in Hartselle. Both houses will be 3 bedroom houses which means we need to raise \$56,000 per house. We have received commitments from 7 Methodist churches, 5 Baptist churches, the Women's Chamber, Lowe's and 3 college teams who will help us build one of the houses. We have a special Women Build project in the works. However, we still need \$60,000 to fully fund both houses. **Without the needed \$60,000, we cannot build!**

We need your help...these families are counting on you.



"Like" our page on Facebook: www.facebook.com/HFHMC

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Family Spotlight: The Williams Family



Sherry Williams is the picture of exuberance, truly the "life of the party". Always on the go, she takes laughter and fun wherever she goes. But it wasn't always that way.

Sherry's parents separated when she was 6. Her mother struggled to support her and her 2 sisters, but life was never easy. Sherry spent most of her growing-up years in the projects. She still remembers the bugs that seemed to be everywhere and the cold, drafty rooms that always plagued her family in winter.

At 15, Sherry learned she was pregnant. It was truly a life-altering event, and she soon grappled with the same struggles her own mother had faced as a single parent. By the time she was 19, she had managed to get a steady job, a car, and her first apartment. Things were looking up.

Then she met Wes (not his real name). After getting pregnant for the second time, she began to realize that Wes wasn't all he had appeared to be. He was often abusive and would take her rent money and her jewelry. He ended up leaving before the baby was born, and she found herself alone once more.

Over the next several years, Sherry persevered to make life better for herself and her children. She took on a second job in order to be able to afford a 2-bedroom apartment. Eventually, she went to work at Wayne Farms and later, at Target Distribution Center.

It was while Sherry was at Target that she met a woman who owned a Habitat home. This homeowner told her about the program and encouraged her to apply. Sherry was interested, but felt she needed to build a more stable job history before applying. She finally attended an orientation in 2009 and has been working her way through the program since then. Even that has not been without difficulties. Sherry has had to learn to balance sweat equity hours with being a single mother of three and working 2 or 3 different jobs as well. But she is no stranger to hard work and tenacity, so she is beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel at last.

So, what has she learned from the experience? Sherry will tell you that she learned to work side-by-side with all kinds of people. Budgeting classes have helped her learn better money management skills, as well as making her aware of predatory lenders who often target low-income families. To sum up the Habitat process she says, "It's helped me grow a lot."

"I've been saying for years that I was going to get a house," Sherry said. "My friends stopped believing me; they thought I wouldn't make it. But if I want something, I'm gonna go after it!" She continued, "They'll be surprised when I finally get the keys..." Sherry's looking forward to more space in her new home, and a quiet, peaceful room to herself. She's anticipating planting things in the yard and meeting new neighbors. She won't miss carrying groceries upstairs or worrying about taking someone else's parking spot.

Her wait will soon be over, and I'm thinking Sherry Williams will brighten up any neighborhood...



Kristie Carter (on left) was all smiles at her home dedication on November 14th. She is joined here by homeowner-in-progress Yolanda Yarbrough and homeowner Tamatha Johnson.

The Carter House, Habitat's 55th house, is located at 1615 Thomas Drive SW in Decatur. The beautiful landscaping was donated by Hannah's Lawn & Landscape Service.

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

Photo Gallery



John Edington of Wells Fargo Bank draws the winning playhouse ticket as Habitat Executive Director Mindy Thwing looks on. The winner was picked from 372 tickets on December 15th at the Habitat offices.



Playhouse winner Cole Stuart of Meridianville and his Aunt Sissy Caitlin Moody are pictured here with the house after it was delivered by Santa Claus. Cole's mother said, "Cole loves his playhouse! We are very proud of it. Thank you, Morgan County Habitat!"



Homeowners-in-Progress (HIP) Emily Loughman, Sherry Williams and Yolanda Yarbrough bundled up for the Decatur Christmas parade.



Habitat friends join the ReStore truck and the Habitat playhouse in the Priceville Christmas parade.



Yolanda Yarbrough brought Habitat supporters to the Hartselle Christmas parade.



A whole host of friends and family accompanied Sherry Williams to the Hartselle parade.



Habitat Executive Director Mindy Thwing receives a check from Brian Chapman of the Decatur Jaycees. This money helped us build the Carter house on Thomas Drive in Decatur.



Brian Cook (of Cook's Pest Control) joined his friends from the Decatur Jaycees to make the the Carter house a reality.



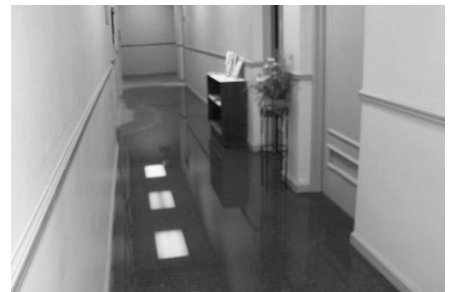
Publix District Manager Ken Jelonek presents a check to Habitat President Stu Strong as Store Manager Chris Sheffield looks on. Thank you, Publix, for helping Habitat further its mission in Morgan County!



These gals from Eaton Corporation were an invaluable part of the construction crew for the recent Carter house build.



Habitat employees came to work on Tuesday morning (January 4) to discover 2 -3 inches of water covering most of their office floor. The previous day, there wasn't even enough water in the building to flush a toilet--oh, the irony of it all!



The ReStore Corner



The ReStore is currently bursting at the seams. Thanks to all of the year-end donations and the arrival of our new mix and match carpet squares, we have more items available than ever. Start your new year off getting organized with some filing cabinets, or by filling your house with music from a beautiful Wurlitzer organ. We also expect to receive several church pews soon. And who knows what will be here tomorrow! Come visit us to find out.



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

Find us online at
www.morganhabitat.org/restore or at
www.facebook.com/DecaturReStore.



Have you seen the new ReStore banners? We thought they would be a great way to draw attention to the store. Stop by, and tell us what you think!



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



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