



Habitat for Humanity®

of Morgan County

Summer 2012 Newsletter • Volume 14, Issue 3



A DREAM COME TRUE!

When we opened the Habitat ReStore at 620 Wilson Street in 2005, we didn't expect that location to be permanent. Even so, we were excited to get things up and running, and knew we had plenty of time to locate another building before the store's lease expired in December of 2012. The business grew quickly as the years passed, and we started thinking about where we wanted to be. Early on, the property at 1123 Central Parkway was attractive, but the cost of the building was beyond our reach. One of our employees sent up frequent prayers asking God to make a way for us to acquire the building, if He so willed. At one point, we submitted a bid for less than half the asking price. Our offer was rejected. But the hopeful group from Habitat began a savings plan to secure a building sometime in the future.



Fast-forward to the July 2011 Strategic Planning Session for Habitat. Participants set a clear plan for the future. Goal #3: Secure a new ReStore and office facility by June 30, 2012. A Search Committee was selected, and the next 9 months were spent finding a building we could afford, in an excellent location that would meet the needs of our ReStore, Construction & Administrative departments. Guess where it was located? Yep, 1123 Central Parkway! Our savings had gone up, and the price had come down. Our prayers were answered!

Are we more excited, or the customers? I'm not sure, but there ARE going to be a number of perks at the new location that we'll all enjoy. Here are just a few:

- Better climate control. Many of you know that the ReStore has sometimes had to close on summer or winter days when the temperature wasn't exactly conducive to shopping. Our new store has insulation, heating, and cooling.
- More parking spaces. Currently, customers are often forced to park at other businesses or in the alley across the street. Soon, this will no longer be an issue, as we have over 40 parking spots at our new location.
- More space and better layout. We will add about 3000 more square feet of space across 2 large warehouses, rather than being chopped up into multiple rooms as we are now.
- Designated drop-off area. When donors visit the store now, they are dropping off in the same area where pickups are occurring. These "traffic jams" will soon become a thing of the past.
- Larger restrooms. You may not think this is important until you need to go, and the WC is already occupied. The new store has numerous restroom facilities, and they are easily handicap accessible.

We'll be opening this fall, and we can't wait to show off our new digs!

(Keep tabs on our Facebook page or website for grand opening information: www.facebook.com/DecaturReStore or www.morganhabitat.org.)



The Swindle Family



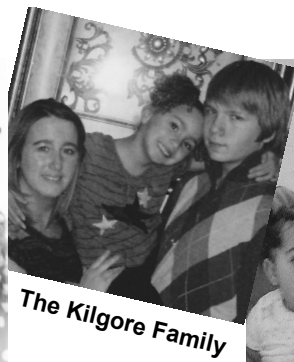
The Burt Family



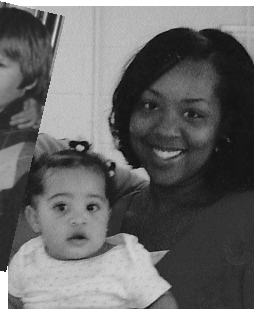
The Thomas Family



The Harris Family



The Kilgore Family



The Williams Family

With your donation, we can make the "American dream" come true for these families.

Rollin' on the River: One **HOT** Car Show

Temps were up on June 16th, the day of our 4th Annual Rollin' on the River Car Show at the Decatur Mall. But if you missed it, you also missed some really HOT cars. This year, we had a great mix of classic cars, modern cars, and a little bit of everything in between. A BIG thank you goes out to all of our sponsors for this year's show, as well as the volunteers who helped set it up. Check out our photo gallery for some of the pictures, and see our Facebook page for even more!

Thank you, Car Show Sponsors:

Baggett Construction
Gobble-Fite
Hubbard and Drake
MarMac Real Estate
Alabama Farmers Co-Op
Jimmy Smith Jewelers
Michael Mason Formal Wear
Renasant Bank
Decatur Comprehensive Dentistry
Pugh Wright McAnnally, Inc.
Pepsi
The City of Decatur
The Decatur Mall
Canteen
Chick-fil-A

Entrusted Tees picked Habitat as their charity of the month and donated \$1 from every t-shirt they sold in June.



Family Spotlight: The Burt Family

It was dark. She was 16, pregnant, jobless...and alone. With nowhere left to turn, she realized she would have to spend the night in her car. In the silent, lonely hours that ensued, she wondered how she would survive. But she did.



Fortunately, it wasn't always like this. Felicia actually grew up in a Habitat house. Her face lights up when she recalls moving into the house shortly before Christmas in 1993. She was 4 years old. They had moved from the projects. She was the youngest of four children. They all loved their new house and especially enjoyed having a yard to play in.

The day Felicia turned 18, she went out and got a job. She was determined to be on her own and make a life for herself and her daughter. The company she worked for was sold a few months later, and paychecks began to bounce. A few weeks later, the plant doors closed completely, leaving employees without a paycheck right before Thanksgiving. Fortunately, Felicia's mother suggested she apply for a job at Wayne Farms. She was quickly hired on and has been there ever since.

In 2010, Felicia applied to Habitat. She was on break at work when she got the call that she'd been approved for the program. She went crazy, screaming and dancing in delight at the news. Her coworkers kept asking, "What happened?!" She finally recovered sufficiently to share the good news.

Since then, Felicia has been hard at work attending classes, learning the fine art of budgeting, and developing construction skills, besides working each day and raising two little girls. When asked what she'd enjoyed during the course of her Habitat experience, she responded with a smile, "Putting up walls!" She said seeing all the pieces that make up a house is valuable, as are the relationships you build in the process. She said that at times, the expectations of the Habitat program can be tough, but "you have to go for what you want, even when you don't feel like it."

What's her encouragement to potential sponsors and volunteers? "Don't do it out of obligation; let it come from your heart. Look into the eyes of Habitat families and feel their pain." Some of them (like Felicia) have lived in that place where they feel they have nowhere to turn and nobody cares. "If you can help, do. It will be a blessing to you and to the family you help."

Meanwhile, Felicia, her daughters, and Missy (the dog) are waiting patiently for their blessing to roll around. Will you help to make it happen?

A BIG "Thank You" to last 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
Jan & Maben Yount
Brick and Mortar:
Cook's Pest Control
Michael Dishman
Hank & Linda Livingston
Lloyd Homes of Decatur
Majestic Homes
Randal & Emily Ray
LePage Williams

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Tom & Christy Lamb
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Mindy Thwing
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Mark Schwan

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National Roofing and Supply
Sherman Concrete
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Square D
SWC
Valspar
Vest Plumbing & Gas
Whirlpool
Wolde Flooring



Photo Gallery



Habitat Construction Manager Marlon Morris & volunteer RaeAnn Baker pose with the Habitat banner at the Rollin' on the River Car Show.



Wayne Williams shows off the 1st place trophy he won at this year's car show. He was driving the 1973 Ford 350 Dump Truck shown on the right.



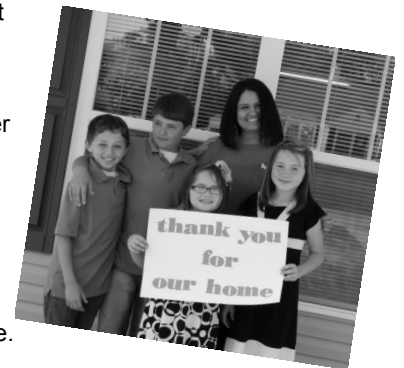
Employees from M & D Mechanical turned out to help us with "A Brush With Kindness" project on North Street in Decatur. We appreciate your help, M & D!!



On July 10, we had our second Pinterest party. Participants painted a cabinet door like the one shown here.



Ashley Fuqua (left) recently joined our staff as Volunteer Coordinator. Give Ashley a call at 256-340-9609 to learn how you can help Habitat today!



In May, Beth Parker and her children moved into their new Hartselle home. Here (right), they express their gratitude to sponsors & volunteers who made it possible.

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



ONE DONATION COULD MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE!

Did you know that a \$20.00 donation could help build a house? If every one of our readers donated at least \$20.00 this month, Habitat could build two houses this fall. We have 6 families approved and waiting for their chance to build and move into their own homes. Will YOU help them?

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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".)

You Can't Put a Price on Friendship



Alan Schollian, the President of M & D Mechanical Contractors (M&D), believed there were families impacted by last year's April 27th tornado who still needed help. Charlene Barney, HR Generalist, & Johnny Horton, General Superintendent of M&D, teamed up to find affected families and to sign-up employees to support this cause. Charlene reached out to Habitat.

And so, on a sunny day in May, eleven people (a combination of M&D employees and their families) joined Habitat for Humanity to help the Pate family paint their new home at 1611 North Street. The home replaced their mobile home which was destroyed by the tornado.

James Doedtman had recently joined M & D Mechanical and was anxious to lend a hand for a family in crisis. Johnny Horton was grateful for a successful year in a faltering economy and wanted to "pay it forward." By the end of the day, both men realized their goals but were surprised by an unexpected benefit. Johnny got to become "up close and personal" with a new employee; and James got to spend "quality time" with one of the owners of M&D. Now when they see each other at a job site, each man calls the other by his first name...all because they shared a piece of themselves in an effort to help their fellow man. And that, my friends, is priceless!

This fall, come find your new best friend on a Habitat work site.

3's a Charm!

Our local Baptist churches enjoy strength in numbers. First Baptist, Parkview Baptist, Southside Baptist and Shiloh Baptist churches have something in common. When they join forces this fall, each church will have built a Habitat house for 3 years in a row!

In September, the four churches will build a house on Olive Street in Decatur. Last year the churches built a house in Somerville for Megan James and her family, as well as a house in Hartselle for J.R. & Emily Loughman. In 2010 they built a house in Decatur for Cindy Brewer and her family.

The Baptists have learned the value of teamwork. Each church spends 2 Saturdays working on a Habitat house and they share the cost of construction. They challenge **all** local churches to join forces and build a house a year.

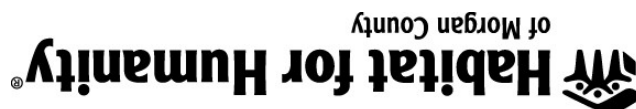
Take a tip from the Baptists. It's a win-win for everyone!



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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
 Ashley Fuqua, Volunteer Coordinator
 Office Staff: Loretta Bonner, Shelby Wilson
 Joe Bachuss, Restore Manager
 Roxzan Goodner, Restore Operations Manager
 Ray Stewart, Procurement Specialist
 Megan James, Service Manager
 Donation Ambassadors:
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