



Habitat Shines for Miss America Serves Day



On a sunny Saturday in Decatur, 20 Miss Alabama contestants converged on Denver Place and were quickly joined by interested volunteers hoping for an opportunity to work beside the energetic young women. Alabama is one of many states whose contestants volunteer for a day to support a specific community service. The nationwide event is called Miss America Serves and is an integral part of the Miss America program which promotes young ladies' abilities to become future leaders through education, career and service efforts.



Young and old, talented and eager; all volunteers spent the day helping prepare a new home at 311 Denver Place for the Garner family who hope to move in soon after dedication on Sunday, May 17. If you would like to view their efforts, join us at 2 p.m. for the dedication!

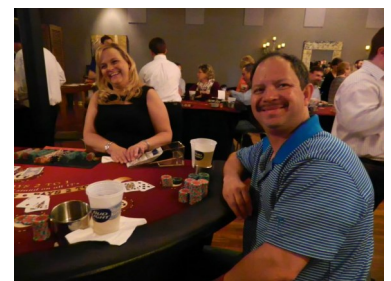
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It was a BIG DEAL!

Friday, March the 13th was a lucky day for Habitat families! The Decatur Jaycees and Toray sponsored the third annual Big Deal casino—style gaming night for Habitat for Humanity, and the real winners will be the homeowners in our program. The money raised from this event will be used to help build two homes here in Decatur. We would like to thank the following sponsors for their belief and support in Habitat.



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- Mellow Mushroom
- The Magnolia Room



Family Spotlight: The Coleman Family



Sometimes you meet someone whose very presence brightens a room and makes all your burdens seem a little lighter. Rodney Coleman is one of those people. He is a quiet, unassuming gentleman with a constant smile on his face. His 15-year-old daughter, Aliayah, mirrors those same qualities. Rodney never expected to be a single dad. Divorce was painful and costly—not only financially, but emotionally and spiritually as well. Life since then hasn't been easy, but he has risen to the challenge, with both determination and grace.

Rodney was no stranger to adversity, even prior to the divorce. In 1994, he was seriously injured on his job when a machine he was working on spit out a sizable piece of wood which pierced his side and caused serious nerve damage. Over the next several months, he spent many hours at a pain clinic in Birmingham as he gradually progressed from a wheelchair to a walker, and finally, a cane.

Yet in the midst of all this tribulation, Rodney learned to rejoice in hope. When Aliayah was younger, he told her one day, "When you're in high school, we'll have a home." He had no idea how this dream would come true, but he believed it would. So when a friend told him about the Habitat for Humanity program, he didn't hesitate to attend an orientation and fill out an application. He and Aliayah were overjoyed when they learned that they had been accepted into the program.

Since then, they've worked hard to realize their dream of homeownership. They've attended classes, put in numerous hours on construction sites and at our ReStore, and started saving money on a monthly basis to contribute toward closing costs on their home. Both are looking forward to having a space all their own, and Aliayah is looking forward to a place to ride her bike and play basketball (things she can't do where they live currently). When asked what advice he would give others who are interested in the program, Rodney said, "Be flexible and dependable; do whatever's required." He added, "Keep God first. Believe—dreams really do come true."



Yes, they do, and Habitat is thrilled to be a part of making Rodney and Aliayah's dreams come true.

Join us by becoming a "dream-maker" yourself; fill out the coupon on page 3 and send in your donation today.

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

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Joe Wheeler EMC
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Our spring build this year has been plagued by all sorts of crazy weather...from cold and snow to rain (lots of it!) and mud. But our tenacious volunteers (including 3 college teams) still plugged away tirelessly to get those house built!!



THESE FAMILIES DREAM OF HOMEOWNERSHIP...WILL YOU 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".)



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

ReStore Corner

"Your home improvement outlet"

Habitat ReStore, 1123 Central Pkwy. SW, Decatur
256-308-1160

Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:00, Saturday, 9:00-2:00



Time for SPRING CLEANING!!
Clean out those closets, work-shops, and garages. And when you uncover those "goodies" that you haven't used in years, give us a call. We pick up! We're looking for cabinets, appliances, furniture, and MORE. Visit our website to see

what we accept and/or arrange a pickup:
www.morganhabitat.org/restore.



 Habitat ReStore-Decatur

Love is a Gift—a poem by the daughter of one of our "homeowners-in-progress", Aliayah Coleman...



Love will always come from the heart.
That's where it grows and starts.
Love can be seen love can be heard.
Love is like a picture that means 1,000 words.
With love there comes trust, peace, and joy.
If you don't have these things, then don't fool around, because love is no toy.
Love is so powerful in many ways.
It's difficult to go without for days
Some people may not like the word love.
Even if it came from the Almighty God above.
Love is something rare to have.
It can have you to cheer, dance, sing, or laugh.
You cannot buy love with money.
Even though love is sweet as honey.
Love has many meanings for people.
It could mean to treat others as an equal.
Love cannot only be celebrated on Valentine's Day.
Because love is not here to leave but stay.
My Dad will always tell me to love one another.
Even if they show envy, hatred, or attitude towards others.
Love will heal you when you are down.
It can also cheer you up like Bozo the Clown.
It's always good to celebrate good times with family and friends.
You never know when your time is coming to an end.
If you have love within.
It won't be hard to commit sin.
As I come to the end of my point of view.
Before it's too late, tell someone I love you.

An honor student inspired by Maya Angelou's poem "Still I Rise", Aliayah has been writing poetry since she was 10. She has won awards in numerous competition around the state.

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Our number is 59800.



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