

A cause for celebration



Lynden Blake / The Outlook

Graduates of the Family Self Sufficiency program celebrated their accomplishments Thursday. The graduates enjoyed refreshments while fellowshiping with each other.

Housing authority honors this year's FSS graduates

By Lynden Blake
Outlook Staff Writer

Alexander City Housing Authority held a celebration Thursday night to honor the graduates of the Family Self Sufficiency program.

"The graduates tonight have been in the FSS program, and we lead them to resources to help them with getting their education, finding jobs, finding childcare and finding transportation," said service coordinator Patsy Prater.

Graduate Kathy Pearson said the program gave her an opportunity to set goals she wanted to accomplish.

"It took me through each step of accomplishing my goals, whether it was getting my finances back on track or finishing college," said Pearson.

Pearson said the decision to participate was a personal choice for her.

"I was searching for something that could help me better myself," said Pearson.

Participants can be in the program for five years, and they save up money while they try to accomplish their set goals in the program.

"Once they obtain a job, their rent will increase, and a savings account is established," said Prater. "Part of the rent they pay will go into a savings account. When they complete their set goals, they receive their savings."

This year's savings were about \$40,000.

Pearson said completing the program and finishing her goals has made her happy, and she looks forward to

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completing her degree in medical coding at CACC in three semesters.

Quwanza Brooks started the program in August 2007.

“It means a lot to me that I finished the program,” said Brooks. “I have learned how to control my finances and take care of my schedule. Overall, I am much more organized.”

One of Brooks’s goals was to start college. She said she has enrolled at CACC and will graduate in one year.

“My future plans include starting to save up for a house and in the next couple of years to own my own house,” said Brooks.

Prater said she is proud of all the graduates and hopes the FSS program has helped them with their goals and self sufficiency.