

Success stories told at fundraiser luncheon

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Brenda Beacham needed help putting food on her family's table when she was out of work for three months in 2007.



Beacham was fortunate to receive essentials from Victoria Brown, founder of Dollar Dynasty, while she searched for a job. She volunteered at the humanitarian and outreach program's store in exchange for canned and frozen foods as well as fresh meats and vegetables.

Beacham, who now works as a patient caretaker, said she is appreciative of the help she received from Brown through Dollar Dynasty.

"A lot of people don't give up their time, talent and finances like she has been doing," Beacham said while attending Dollar Dynasty's sixth annual Luncheon for the Kids on March 12 event at University Park County Club. "Miss Vicki is a wonderful person."

Beacham was proud to show her designer shoes and ensemble she bought from the store's collection of gently used apparel.

"It's nice to go out there and look for jewelry and clothes," she said.

Luncheon guests could participate in a silent auction with the proceeds going to benefit Dollar Dynasty's outreach programs. A variety of items up for bid included hand bags, shoes and clothing.

Barbara Powell Harris, a guest who is a volunteer at Orange Blossom Community Garden, works with Brown on a garden for children.

The children are brought to the garden on Mondays and Wednesdays. Learning to grow their own food and interacting with people of different ethnicities and ages are some of the opportunities offered to the children through the garden, Harris said.

Dr. Lisa Merritt of the Multicultural Health Institute was the guest speaker. She said she admires Brown for her dedication and determination.

Merritt has worked in Newtown for several years in an attempt to enhance the education of the children, she said, particularly focusing on science, technology and math and promoting nutrition and obesity awareness.

"There's a lot of good things going on in Newtown like what she is trying to do," **Merritt** said. "We need to help her meet the many challenges that face our community."

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