

# S.H.E. Agency

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## **SHE Talks**

**From the desk of Traci A. Smith, CEO/President**

October has come and gone but “hello” to sweet November. This means that there is one month left in 2011 and I’m thankful for the blessings I received thus far.

The weather is much cooler and the beautiful burnt orange, blood shot red, eggplant purple, and dark green leaves have fallen off the now bare trees. Thanksgiving is almost here and I can’t wait to pile my plate up with all my favorite dish and desserts.

It’s November! My dear sweet November... Please take this time to thank those that made you who you are today. SHE is Thankful!

~TAS

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# sheBITS...For the Nerd in You

By: TAS



This *XD Design solar window charger*, with **big USB and small USB output**, is easily attachable to your window. The outside of the charger **catches sunlight**, while the smooth designed inside spices up your interior and charges your electronic equipment.

Contains a 1400mAh rechargeable lithium battery and a mini usb cable.

Source: <http://www.design-3000.de/en/Living+Lifestyle/Living+Accssories/Charging+Station/Solar+Window+Charger.html?listtype=se>

RockStar makes it fun to create your own music experience. Connect up to five headphones, and your iPod, to start sharing. Or, add another iPod to mix songs and listen together. Works with all MP3 and DVD players, as well as other portable media devices.

Source: [http://www.belkin.com/IWCatProductPage.process?Product\\_Id=404634](http://www.belkin.com/IWCatProductPage.process?Product_Id=404634)



This wall socket is the same size as a regular outlet, but includes two USB ports - a great solution for small space living or older homes where the number of outlets are often limited.

Source: <http://www.re-nest.com/re-nest/energy-power/space-saver-usb-wall-socket--153193>





By: Traci A. Smith

On Thursday, October 20, 2011, local artists, supporters and young professionals gathered at the AlleyBAR in Montgomery, Alabama for the 'Artists on Tap' event. This event was a project of the New Development group of EMERGE Torchbearers Leadership Class III. The New Development group noticed a disconnect between the artist subculture and young professionals and decided to bridge the gap by focusing on promoting art and culture in our community. The group created the event to give artists throughout the River Region a means to share their creativity and provide them with the opportunity to showcase their skills and talents, while giving young professionals a venue to connect and have access to the works of up and coming artists in the community.

The members of the Development group are Rodney Allen, Chacolby Burns-Johnson, Tyler Caldwell, Lyndsey Dixon, Lindsey Griffis, Jodi Turner, and myself. There were 20 local artists displaying their works and the event also included a live art demonstration by Steven Davis. The door prizes consisted of The Deli, Midtown Pizza Kitchen, Dreamland, Cantina, Embassy Suites, Winzell's, The Exchange & AlleyBAR and were raffled off to individuals with the winning numbers. The event was well attended, with both the artists and the professionals learning more about each group and discussing potential ways that the groups can work together in the future. See some of the artworks that were at the event. You can see the rest of the pictures at [www.facebook.com/artistsontap](http://www.facebook.com/artistsontap).



# S.H.E. HEALTH: Health Awareness Month

By: Matalia Liptrot

November is Health Awareness Month. Health Awareness is a daily choice of paying attention to the needs of your body. If a person would take stock of the most important aspect of their life, personal health would be at the top of the list. In this month of health awareness, there are many health issues spotlighted. My focus is **Diabetes**. Diabetes is a chronic condition with no known cure.

Diabetes is a disease that is growing by the numbers children (Type I – Juvenile Onset) and adults (*Type II*). The cause of Diabetes is a mystery but researchers believe both genetics and environmental factors play a role in who will develop diabetes. Diabetes is characterized by high blood glucose levels resulting from defects in the body's ability to produce insulin. Insulin is needed by the body to process sugar and other foods into energy.

## **DIABETES IS HAVING A DEVASTATING EFFECT ON THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY!**

- + 13% or 3.2 billion of all African American ages 20 or older have diabetes
- + Twice as likely to develop diabetes than other groups
- + 25% of African American ages 65-74 have diabetes
- + More likely to suffer kidney disease, blindness, loss of limb and more
- + The 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of end stage kidney disease

## **DIABETES RSK FACTORS :**

Obesity, Family History, Low Physical Activity, High Blood Pressure, Age and etc.

## **DIABETES SYMPTOMS :**

- + Frequent urination
- + Unusual thirst
- + Extreme weight loss
- + Extreme fatigue
- + Blurred vision

Diabetes has reached epidemic proportion in this nation especially in Black America with 1 in 7 having diabetes. African Americans suffer from complications from diabetes at a higher rate than the rest of the population. There are many problems associated with diabetes people are dying earlier from heart disease and strokes. Learn about the risk factors. If you have any of the diabetic risk factors or experience any of the symptoms, contact your physician to have a glucose test and discuss lifestyles changes to lower your chances of developing diabetes. A healthy lifestyle change is the best prevention of illness so consider making a healthy change to improve your overall health!



### **About the Writer**

**Matalia Liptrot** is an Ozark native with a Bachelor degree in Marketing from The University of Alabama. Matalia started out her professional career in corporate America as a buyer for a retail chain. She later entered upper retail management before making a career change to become an event planner to now working for a non- profit organization. Matalia's interests include working with community organizations to promote health and education and bring awareness to issues facing the community. She also enjoys socializing with family & friends, reading, writing, and personal growth. You can follow Matalia on Twitter (Tylo12) or e-mail her at [Matalia@SHEagency.com](mailto:Matalia@SHEagency.com).

# Coach Carter's FastBREAK



## **About the Writer**

John "Coach" Carter is a graduate of Troy University. He received his Bachelors in Political Science with a concentration in Business. He is also President of a management & marketing firm, Authentic Team Management LLC which specialized in helping amateur and professional talents, concentrating in music, modeling, and sports. He is heavily involved with health related causes such as Sickle Cell Foundation, AIDS Outreach, and Joy for Life. You can check out his media publication Authentic Chronicles News at [acnewsmag.blogspot.com](http://acnewsmag.blogspot.com). Coach Carter currently resides in Montgomery, Alabama and can be reached at [ateammangement@gmail.com](mailto:ateammangement@gmail.com)

## Watch the Throne

From the moment Jay-Z and Kanye West (Yay) took the stage at Philips Arena —on identical cubes with images of vicious Rottweiler and Sharks rising from both ends of the venue —there was an inescapable feeling that there was going to be something regal about this show. After all, it's the Watch the Throne tour, and Kanye and Jay-Z did not disappoint.

The dynamic duo kicked things off with "H.A.M.," the first unofficial single from their joint "Watch the Throne" album. From there it was a dizzying, highly-entertaining, at times emotional 2 1/2 plus hour thrill ride of hit after hit. No special guests showed up at the concert, but Jay-Z and Kanye have so many hits between them that was a minor factor. The spectacular light and laser show and fiery pyrotechnics certainly helped.

Also, there was no way the two could perform all of their hits, and it was noticeable that Jay-Z didn't perform any songs from his classic debut "Reasonable Doubt" or his "American Gangster" album.

After warming up the receptive crowd, a huge American flag was unfurled on the main stage as Jay-Z and Yay appeared together to perform their smash hit "Otis". For the rest of the night, the two superstars alternated between their respective hits and songs from "Watch the Throne". At one point Yay even shed a tear while performing overly-Auto Tuned versions of "Heartless" and "Runaway".

Raised in Chicago, a lot of fans might not realize that Yay was actually born in Atlanta and his father still lives here. Jay-Z made a point to announce to the crowd early in the show, referencing Yay by saying "He was born in ATL!"

Jay also proclaimed proudly later on in the evening: "ATL, you are now looking at the best of black excellence!"

One of the most poignant moments of the show was when the arena played Louis Armstrong's "What A Wonderful World" and everyone sang along right before Jay and Yay went into "No Church in the Wild." The only other moment that came close to that was when the two stars had everyone hold up a cell phone or lighter during "Made in America" illuminating the entire arena.

Even if the crowd was expecting T.I. to come out for his verse on the "N\*ggas in Paris" remix, they weren't too disappointed since Jay commanded the sound man to "start that sh\*t over" as Philips went nuts. Jay-Z asked the crowd do they want more and stayed another 30 min.

In the end Watch the Throne was an amazing show that lived up to all its hype. But should we expect anything less from two of hip hop's greatest talents?

# Thanksgiving Tips for Entertaining

The Thanksgiving holiday is one of my favorite times of the year to spend time with family and friends. With family and friends gathering together at the same location, it is always festive and entertaining while giving thanks and appreciation to those I love. For those of you that think the idea of planning, buying, cooking, serving and entertaining guest is a stressful task to accomplish. There are simple ways to entertain your guests without feeling stressed. Here are 10 ideas to help you entertain in style and enjoy the holiday too!

-TAS

- 1.) **Accept help from others:** As a host/hostess, you do not have to do everything! It's okay to ask for help in hosting the event at your home. You may have a guest that loves to cook her favorite dessert or dish or simply likes to decorate tables. This would give you less things to worry about.
- 2.) **Search now for deals:** To save money and avoid the rush, start looking for holiday sales on holiday foods. Most stores will have displays already up and if you buy a few key ingredients each time you visit the store, you run less risk of the store running out of key ingredients.
- 3.) **Plan your holiday table:** The night before Thanksgiving is too late to plan what your table will look like. If you prefer a formal table, assure table linen, napkins, and dinnerware is clean and polished. For a casual table, assure you have the appropriate number of settings for everyone.
- 4.) **Invite guests early:** Start making your guest lists now and inviting them. This will help you plan a menu and will give time for your guests to check their calendars. Often time's people wait until the last minute for Thanksgiving invites, and then are disappointed when guests have made prior plans.
- 5.) **Ask guests to bring a dish:** If the thought of preparing the Thanksgiving meal is a little intimidating, why not ask your guests to bring a dish? Plan how many people you will have and ask each member to bring a certain item. Keep a running list so you don't have 20 turkeys and no side dishes!
- 6.) **Ask guests about diet regimens:** To ensure everyone can partake in the delicious meal, ask for any diet and/or restrictions they have in advance, so you can plan the menu accordingly. If you aren't sure what to serve those that have a restriction ask them for suggestions as to what they'd prefer to eat.
- 7.) **Plan for children:** Unless your event is restricted to adults, children will need to have activities to do while the parents are socializing. Plan an area with toys, educational items and a television if possible. This will keep everyone happy and help the day be more enjoyable for all those involved.
- 8.) **Plan seating arrangement:** If you plan on having a formal meal with assigned place settings, plan this early to avoid a last minute stressful chore. Even if your meal will not have assigned seating, ensure you have enough seats and you consider where children and adults will be seated.
- 9.) **Cook early:** Start preparing desserts and side dishes now and freeze the items until a few days before Thanksgiving. This will help you space out the holiday cooking and keep you from getting tired out.
- 10.) **Enjoy yourself amongst your guests:** This season is for enjoying your loved ones. If the thought of cooking is too much, consider hiring a caterer or buying food out and heating it up. Grocery stores and restaurants often have Thanksgiving meals you can buy in advance, to make you look like you did all the work!

Reprinted from <http://freshome.com/2010/11/15/10-easy-thanksgiving-tips-for-entertaining/>

# An Attitude of Gratitude!

Happy November! Happy Thanksgiving! Can you believe it's November already? I don't know about you, but it feels like 2011 has flown by in a rapid pace. However, I must admit that I LOVE this time of year! Turkey, cranberry sauce and spending time with loved ones is what makes this month so special. Another reason why I love this season is because it is so important to take time and give thanks.

Gratitude is yet so simple but has many benefits that can last a lifetime. Studies have proven that gratitude can help reduce stress and sickness in a person's life because it can strengthen one's emotional resilience.

I recently read an old story about Lucien Hamilton Tyng who was born in Peoria, Illinois. He had big dreams but worked a job as an office boy; and after he paid his rent on his room he only had fifty cents a day for meals. Lucien spent five cents on a bag of chocolate cream for lunch. Breakfast was fifteen cents, so dinner couldn't be more than thirty-five cents. He was also very religious and always expressing an attitude of gratitude by making a constant habit of holding his fifty cent piece in his hand and saying: "God multiplies this and I give thanks. I am receiving more and more money every day." Lucien made the habit of repeating that phrase every morning before he spent the fifty cents. Eventually, Lucien began to attract many successful men into his life and he manifested an idea that led him to create a company called General Gas and Electric Company. Long story short, the company grew by leaps and bounds and he eventually sold it for \$50 million dollars. What an amazing story!

What are you thankful for this holiday season? What are you appreciative of in your life? What good things have happened to you and your family this year that you are grateful for? During this wonderful Thanksgiving season, take some time to ponder all of the good that has happened to you and your loved ones this year and give thanks.

In closing, everything may not be the way you desire it to be today, but maintaining an attitude of gratitude will open up your life to receive more.

From my house to yours, Happy Thanksgiving!

Until next time, live, laugh, love!



Charismatic. Inspirational. Go-Getter – are some of the qualities that personify who Sharon Carter is. Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Sharon attended the Brooklyn Campus of Long Island University, where she received her Bachelor's in Political Science as well as her MBA in Finance. She enjoys traveling, meeting new people and reading. It is her love for words that has ignited her passion for the written word. Sharon is a Teen Life Coach and is the CEO of I Come From Greatness, LLC, a Coaching & Leadership Company for teen girls & young women. She currently resides in Northern Virginia and can be reached at [Sharon@SHEagency.com](mailto:Sharon@SHEagency.com).

# Thanksgiving Fun Facts

## Fun Facts about the First Thanksgiving

- The Plymouth Pilgrims were the first to celebrate the Thanksgiving.
- The Pilgrims sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to reach North America.
- They sailed on the ship, which was known by the name of 'Mayflower'.
- They celebrated the first Thanksgiving Day at Plymouth, Massachusetts.
- The Wampanoag Indians were the people who taught the Pilgrims how to cultivate the land.
- The Pilgrim leader, Governor William Bradford, had organized the first Thanksgiving feast in 1621. He invited the neighboring Wampanoag Indians to the feast.
- The first Thanksgiving celebration lasted three days.
- Mashed potatoes, pumpkin pies, popcorn, milk, corn on the cob, and cranberries were not foods present on the first Thanksgiving's feast table.
- Lobster, rabbit, chicken, fish, squashes, beans, chestnuts, hickory nuts, onions, leeks, dried fruits, maple syrup and honey, radishes, cabbage, carrots, eggs, and goat cheese are thought to have made up the first Thanksgiving feast.
- The pilgrims didn't use forks; they ate with spoons, knives, and their fingers.

## Thanksgiving Facts throughout History

- Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey to be the national bird of the United States.
- Sarah Josepha Hale, an American magazine editor, persuaded Abraham Lincoln to declare Thanksgiving a national holiday. She is also the author of the popular nursery rhyme "Mary Had a Little Lamb"
- Abraham Lincoln issued a 'Thanksgiving Proclamation' on third October 1863 and officially set aside the last Thursday of November as the national day for Thanksgiving.
- The annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade tradition began in the 1920's.
- In 1939, President Roosevelt proclaimed that Thanksgiving would take place on November 23rd, not November 30th, as a way to spur economic growth and extend the Christmas shopping season.
- Congress to passed a law on December 26, 1941, ensuring that all Americans would celebrate a unified Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday of November every year.
- Since 1947, the National Turkey Federation has presented a live turkey and two dressed turkeys to the President. The President does not eat the live turkey. He "pardons" it and allows it to live out its days on a historical farm.

## Fun Turkey Facts

- The average weight of a turkey purchased at Thanksgiving is 15 pounds.
- The heaviest turkey ever raised was 86 pounds, about the size of a large dog.
- A 15 pound turkey usually has about 70 percent white meat and 30 percent dark meat.
- The five most popular ways to serve leftover turkey is as a sandwich, in stew, chili or soup, casseroles and as a burger.
- Turkey has more protein than chicken or beef.
- Turkeys will have 3,500 feathers at maturity.
- Male turkeys gobble. Hens do not. They make a clucking noise.
- Commercially raised turkeys cannot fly.
- Turkeys have heart attacks. The United States Air Force was doing test runs and breaking the sound barrier. Nearby turkeys dropped dead with heart attacks.
- A large group of turkeys is called a flock.
- Turkeys have poor night vision.
- It takes 75-80 pounds of feed to raise a 30 pound tom turkey.
- A 16-week-old turkey is called a fryer. A five to seven month old turkey is called a young roaster.

Reprinted from <http://www.whsv.com/seasonal/misc/33852054.html>

# IMMIGRATION LAW IN ALABAMA: WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON?

By: Ashley Smith

Alabama's 2010 General Election brought a tidal wave of change to the state's political scene. Prior to the November 2<sup>nd</sup> election, Democrats held 60 of 105 seats in the Alabama House of Representatives, while Republicans held 43.<sup>1</sup> In the Alabama Senate, Democrats held 20 of the 35 seats, while Republicans held 15. However, the historic election resulted in a drastic shift in power, ending the 136 year Democratic reign. Republicans now occupy 66 House seats and 22 Senate seats, while Democrats hold 39 House seats and 12 Senate seats.<sup>2</sup> Why is this important? Because the party that controls the legislative chambers has a substantial influence on which bills make it out of committee onto the House or Senate floor for introduction. So essentially, the party in power controls the legislative agenda for the legislative session.

With the pendulum now swung in its favor, the Republican Party set out to accomplish its legislative agenda, which it coined the "Republican Handshake with Alabama". As part of this handshake, Republicans pledged to combat illegal immigration. True to their word and handshake with Alabama, Republicans introduced the Beason-Hammon Alabama Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act, also known as House Bill 56 (HB 56) or the immigration law. On June 2, 2011, the Alabama legislature approved HB 56 and on June 9, 2011 Governor Bentley signed it into law with majority of its provisions to go into effect on September 1, 2011.

On August 1, 2011, the Department of Justice filed a Complaint (lawsuit) on behalf of the United States against the State of Alabama and Governor Robert Bentley.<sup>3</sup> The Complaint contended that various provisions of HB 56 are preempted by federal law and therefore violate the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution, which prevents any state from making any law that conflicts with federal law. In addition to the Complaint, the United States also filed a Motion for Preliminary Injunction seeking to enjoin, or prevent, enforcement of the contested provisions. The purpose of a preliminary injunction is to preserve the positions of the parties until there has been a trial on the merits. It only remains in effect while the litigation proceeds through discovery, additional briefing, and a trial or settlement. Therefore, the issuance of a preliminary injunction does not mean the plaintiff will ultimately prevail.

When deciding whether to grant a preliminary injunction, a court must balance each side's claims of injury and consider the effect that granting or denying the requested relief would have on each party. To prevail on an application for a preliminary injunction, the plaintiff must clearly establish "(1)...a substantial likelihood of success on the merits; (2) irreparable injury will be suffered unless the injunction issues; (3) the threatened injury to the party requesting the injunction outweighs whatever damage the proposed injunction may cause the opposing party; and (4) if issued, the injunction would not be adverse to the public interest."<sup>4</sup> The United States sought a preliminary injunction for the following sections of HB 56:

- HB 56 § 10, which creates a criminal misdemeanor violation under Alabama law for willful failure to complete or carry an alien registration document;
- HB 56 § 11(a), which makes it a misdemeanor crime for an unauthorized alien to apply for, solicit, or perform work in the state;
- HB 56 § 12(a), which requires a law enforcement officer to make a reasonable attempt, when practicable, to determine the citizenship and immigration status of a person stopped, detained, or arrested when reasonable suspicion exists that the person is an alien who is unlawfully present in the United States;
- HB 56 § 13, which makes it unlawful for a person to 1) conceal, harbor or shield an alien unlawfully present in the United States, or attempt or conspire to do so; 2) encourage an unlawful alien to come to the State of Alabama; or 3) to transport (or attempt or conspire to transport) an unlawful alien;
- HB 56 § 16, which forbids employers from claiming as business tax deductions any wages paid to an unauthorized alien;
- HB 56 § 17, which establishes a civil cause of action against an employer who fails to hire or discharges a US citizen or an alien who is authorized to work and instead hires or retains an unauthorized alien;
- HB 56 § 18, which amends Ala. Code §32-6-9 allowing detainment of people who cannot produce a valid driver's license to determine citizenship;
- HB 56 § 27, which bars Alabama courts from upholding contracts made with illegal aliens;
- HB 56 § 28, which requires every public elementary and secondary school in Alabama to determine if an enrolling student was born outside the jurisdiction of the US or is the child of an unlawfully present alien and qualifies for assignment to an English as second language class or other remedial program; and
- HB 56 § 30, which makes it a felony for an alien not lawfully present in the US to enter into a "business transaction" with the State of Alabama or any political subdivision thereof.

**Continue on next page**

## IMMIGRATION LAW IN ALABAMA: WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON? (cont.)

On August 29, 2011 United States District Judge Sharon Lovelace Blackburn temporarily enjoined enforcement of HB 56 solely to allow more time to consider the various challenges to the act. On September 28, 2011 Judge Blackburn issued an Order granting a preliminary injunction to block enforcement of Sections 11(a), 13, 16, and 17 of HB 56. However, the Order simultaneously denied the United States' preliminary injunction and refused to block Sections 10, 12(a), 18, 27, 28, and 30 of HB 56.<sup>5</sup>

The United States and the HICA Plaintiffs appealed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, requesting that the court declare Sections 10(a), 12(a), 18, 27, 28, and 30 unenforceable until there has been an appeal of the district court's decision to deny a preliminary injunction.<sup>6</sup> The Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals concluded that Sections 10 and 28 of HB 56 should be enjoined pending appeal. However, the court denied the United States' and the HICA Plaintiffs' motions for injunction pending appeal as to Sections 12, 18, 27, and 30. So what just happened here? Good question.

- Sections 8, 10, 11(a), 11(f), 11(g), 13, 16, 17, 28, and the last sentence of Section 11(e) have all been blocked. Section 9 does not go into effect until January 1, 2012 and Section 15 does not go into effect until April 1, 2012. All other parts of the act are currently in effect.
- The Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, after full briefing and oral argument, will make a decision on the appeal of the district court's decision to deny a preliminary injunction. Currently, briefing is set to be complete in late January 2012.
- The district court proceedings for the United States and HICA Plaintiffs are generally stayed until mid-January 2012.

In addition to the three cases filed in federal court, another case involving HB 56, *Doe v. Bentley*, is pending in the Montgomery County Circuit Court before the Honorable Judge Johnny Hardwick. The plaintiffs are illegal aliens and citizens, including a citizen who is married to an illegal alien. Hearings have been held in this case and the next hearing is scheduled for November 7, 2011.

Alabama's immigration law has been widely recognized as the harshest state immigration law on the books. Alabama has prevailed where four other states that had previously enacted anti-immigration laws did not. If courts across the country are going to differ on the same issue, then the question begs whether states should be legislating in this area or whether the status quo should remain and allow the United States to police immigration under one uniform policy.

<sup>1</sup> The other two House seats were vacant.

<sup>2</sup> The remaining seat is occupied by an Independent.

<sup>3</sup> There were two separate lawsuits (in addition to the suit filed by the United States) filed in district court by private citizens. The first suit was filed on July 8, 2011 by twelve organizations and twenty-four individuals, hereinafter referred to as the HICA (Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama) Plaintiffs. The second suit was filed on August 1, 2011 by a group of Church Leaders, hereinafter referred to as Church Leaders. Each lawsuit targets specific provisions, and additionally the HICA Plaintiffs are challenging HB 56 in its entirety.

<sup>4</sup> *Bloedorn v. Grube*, 631 F.3d 1218, 1229 (11th Cir. 2011).

<sup>5</sup> In a separate opinion, Judge Blackburn denied the Church Leaders' motion entirely holding that their challenge to Section 13 was moot, or irrelevant, because of the decision in the United States' case. The court granted the HICA Plaintiffs' motion in part and enjoined Sections 8, 11(f), and 11(g), as well as the last sentences of Sections 10(e) and 11(e). The court denied the HICA Plaintiffs' request for a preliminary injunction with respect to Sections 12, 18, 19, 20, 27, 28, and 30.

<sup>6</sup> The Church Leaders have not filed an appeal.



### About the Writer

Ashley Smith was born and raised in Montgomery, AL. She attended Harrison Elementary and Brewbaker Primary and Intermediate schools, Capitol Heights Jr. High, and she graduated from Sidney Lanier High School in 2002. She attended the University of North Carolina for two years then transferred to The University of Alabama. She graduated *magna cum laude* from The University of Alabama in May 2006, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Psychology. After obtaining her Bachelor's Ashley went on to attend The University of Alabama School of Law. She graduated from The University of Alabama School of Law with a Juris Doctor in May 2009. In September 2009, she became licensed to practice law in the State of Alabama. She also became licensed to practice law in the State of Florida in May 2010. She began working for a private firm shortly thereafter and currently works as a Legislative Analyst for the State of Alabama.

Hobbies include playing softball and basketball, watching basketball, football, baseball and almost every other sport known to man, reading, writing, and spending time with friends, family, and loved ones. You may reach her at [Ashley@SHEagency.com](mailto:Ashley@SHEagency.com)

## S.H.E. Features

S.H.E. features **Al-Hajj, Inc.** November is National Adoption Month. Al-Hajj, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) charitable, not-for-profit organization based in Montgomery, Alabama. Al-Hajj, Inc. has been licensed to conduct traditional foster care and facilitate adoptions since 1993, and has served as a pillar of generosity and service for a number of Alabama communities. The name Hajj, meaning “a difficult journey in life”, reflects the difficult journey experienced by children removed from their home and placed in foster care. Al-Hajj, Inc. combines service and support to aid and heal children and families. Al-Hajj, Inc. offers a continuum of services including: Adoption facilitation/supports, Traditional Foster Care, Foster Parent trainings, and Professional Staff trainings. In complement to their services, they are in process of developing an Outdoor Therapeutic Residential Care program.

In supporting the community partners through collaborative agreements, Al-Hajj, Inc. provides foster parents with on-going training in the needs of children removed from home and placed in foster care. Also, Al-Hajj, Inc. funds conferences and training opportunities throughout the year. Through community support of in-kind gifts, children and their foster parents, receive recognition for their contributions and successes in overcoming daily obstacles. Recognitions include: anniversaries of the foster parents, children’s birthdays and lifetime milestones, such as graduation and recognition of dates that adoptions were finalized.

For more information about Al-Hajj, Inc, go to <http://www.al-hajjinc.org>

## Upcoming Events

**Montgomery’s Tweet and Greet 5**  
January 2012



**All DOLled Up Workshop**  
March 2012  
Montgomery, Alabama



**All TIEd Up Workshop**  
Spring/Summer 2012  
Montgomery, Alabama



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