

THE RIVER REGION MAGAZINE

# MONTGOMERY

## LIVING

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## HOLIDAY CHEER FOR THE CHRONICALLY ILL

Alabama Kidney Foundation volunteers took on the role of Santa this holiday season, bringing holiday joy to more than 800 people suffering from kidney disease. On December 4, volunteers and social workers gathered at the Montgomery Alabama Kidney Foundation office to stuff nearly 900 holiday stockings filled with donated items such as toiletries, dental care items, pens, and candy. The stockings were delivered before Christmas



to kidney patients in dialysis clinics throughout the River Region.

"Due to the financial devastation kidney disease causes, this is the only holiday gift many patients in the River Region will receive", said Amy Godsoe, Montgomery Regional Director of the Alabama Kidney Foundation.

Kidney disease is rampant in Alabama, ranking it fifth in the nation for occurrence. The Alabama Kidney Foundation serves kidney patients in Alabama by providing financial assistance, education, recreational opportunities and support services. The Foundation provides public education to promote organ donation awareness and the prevention of kidney disease.

## NATIONAL PRAISE FOR LOCAL RESORTS

From *Travel + Leisure* to *Southern Living* to *ConventionSouth*, the Resort Collection on Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail has received national praise from both leisure travel and convention publications recently.

The Battle House, a Renaissance Hotel in Mobile was named one of the "Top 500 Hotels in the World" by *Travel + Leisure* magazine in its January 2009 issue. The Battle House was the only hotel in Alabama featured in this high-profile list this year. Ross Bridge in Birmingham was on the 2008 list. The Battle House roof gardens was also honored in a national landscaping industry competition.

The Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa in Point Clear was named the #4 favorite hotel for 2008 in the annual *Southern Living* Readers' Choice Awards. The City of Fairhope was also recognized as one of the #2 Best Small Towns in the South by *Southern Living* readers. The Grand Hotel has been a Readers' Choice winner for several years. The Grand Hotel also recently was honored by *Wine Enthusiast* magazine for the hotel's wine program in the Grand Dining Room.

AAA inspectors recently named the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa a Four Diamond Award winner. The surprise inspection tests the quality and service of hotels internationally. The Renaissance Montgomery joins four other Resort Collection hotels as Four Diamond properties in Alabama: Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa; Battle House, a Renaissance Hotel; Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa; and the Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa.

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