

## JONES FAMILY BACKGROUND

The Jones family has lived in their home for 13 years, and for the past 5 years, Sabrena, a licensed practical nurse, has been a single mom to her 3 children. Over those years the house has become increasingly rundown. Sabrena has attempted to get ahead financially, but with her growing children, she has been unable to provide for their needs and repair the many problems with her home at the same time.

In 2001, Sabrena used her retail experience as a clothing store manager as well as her knowledge of medical apparel as a nurse and started "Sabrena's Medical Fashions & More" as a way to earn extra income. She rented a store in a strip mall close to her home until October of 2006 when she was forced to move her business into her living room due to an inability to pay rent. This was, however, not due to a lack of customers. She had maintained a steady client base thanks to word of mouth, but Sabrena's charitable mindset hindered her ability to make money. More often than not, she gave away product to people in need as opposed to selling it to them. She began viewing her store as more than just a retail outlet. She began to pride herself in the fact that people would come to her shop "for a hug" and an advice session as much as they would come for nursing scrubs.

In early 2006, she began helping a friend set up flea markets. Whatever didn't sell or was left over, Sabrena collected and began displaying on the sidewalk outside her store. Most of the items were older clothes in good condition, and she started selling them in small amounts for \$1 each. Over the past year, people have started dropping unwanted clothes and donations off. Right now, the clothing and other items for her giveaways sit in an old carport on her property. She hopes to find a place to display and store them before they are ruined by the weather.

Last year, Sabrena was selected to serve on a 5-member Hurricane Katrina relief committee at her church. The committee is responsible for distributing over \$500,000 in relief funds to needy individuals and organizations affected by the hurricane, and having been raised in Biloxi, Sabrena was specifically invited for her ties to that community. To date, the committee has handed out \$300,000 and improved countless lives. In addition to the committee, Sabrena regularly volunteers with as many charities as possible throughout the year. Her reputation precedes her as a consistently giving person.

Sabrena's 3 children are the pride and joy of her life. Each one has accomplished things individually, and she has no difficulty bragging about each child. They are all shining examples of her character. Sabrena gives love whenever possible and has taught her family how to handle themselves when dealing with adversity and hardships, as well as how to see good in every situation.

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Marjon Jones, Son, 18

- Freshman at Mississippi College in Clinton
- Academic/Leadership scholarship
- Plays football for Mississippi College
- Lives in dorm because there is no room at home
- Was first African-American student body president at his high school
- Prom king in high school
- Class favorite in high school

Mardairus Jones, Son, 17

- Senior in high school
- Was Marjon's student body vice-president
- Currently holds a 4.0 GPA
- President of Honor Society

Marjiya Jones, Daughter, 9

- 4th grade student
- Loves her mother
- Leaves notes all over the house "I Love you Mom"

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