

# Student helps break school dropout cycle

BY EMILY CRISMAN  
COMMUNITY NEWS WRITER

High school dropouts now have an even greater incentive to pursue a GED thanks to Baylor ninth-grader and Signal Mountain resident Aliza Cohen.

In lieu of gifts, Cohen said she asked guests at her bat mitzvah to donate money to a scholarship fund she established for Re:Start — the Center for Adult Education GED program candidates.

"Regardless of why they dropped out, everyone deserves a second chance," said Cohen. "Especially right now with the economy down and with the new Volkswagon plant coming to Chattanooga, to have a high school education will really help you get a job."

The Re:Start GED program helps people who often have been out of school for a long period of time prepare for the eight-hour exam through course work and practice tests.

The scholarship helps pay for the initial fee to get into the program as well as costs associated with the



Re:Start Executive Director Lori Hairrell, left, accepts a check from Baylor student Aliza Cohen for her scholarship fund to help GED program candidates pay for costs associated with the test.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## GET INVOLVED

To find out more about the scholarship or Re:Start — The Center for Adult Education's GED program call 855-4443 or visit the Web site, [restartchattanooga.org](http://restartchattanooga.org).

test, said Cohen.

She said she heard about Re:Start from family friends and felt the GED program fit with her desire to help with education in the community.

"If parents are educated and get a GED, it will be more likely for the future generation of the family to get a high school education," said Cohen. "That will hopefully break the cycle of high school dropouts."

She said anyone interested in the scholarship should ask about it at Re:Start when signing up for the program.

Re:Start employees determine if the applicant is eligible based on need, said Cohen.

E-mail Emily Crisman at [ecrisman@timesfreepress.com](mailto:ecrisman@timesfreepress.com)

## Signal Mountain Middle students excel

STAFF REPORT

Signal Mountain Middle School students earn Star Roll for the second quarter of the 2009-2010 year by receiving all As with no conduct that term less than an S.

Sixth-grade students are Connor Ballard, Margaret Dowling, Bethany Burns, John Cate, Brooke Lonic, Caroline Mitchell, Joshua Bennett, Caroline Culpepper, Aryn Sanders, Lydia Bledsoe, Andrew Vernetti, Evan Roseman, Tess McCain, Austin Sawyer, Sarah Price, Justus Camp, Eamon McFadden, Bobby Briggs and Jacob Bailey.

Seventh-grade students are Shehan McFadden, Haydon Tucker, Cale

Shelton, Matthew Lamsey, Charles Trageser, Stephen Heinichen, Joseph Coffey-Slatery, Anne Darke, Elizabeth Webb, Emily Thornton, Parker Davis, Griffin Palmer, William Paturski, Seebree DePreter, Ben Brymer, Emily Phillips, Delaney Barnes, Hannah Meller, Christopher Feem-

ster, Chloe Lyle and Lexie Arnold.

Eighth-grade students are Davis Brock, Micajah Tucker, Taylor Lapinski, Morgan Lakey, Kylila Tucker, Hannah Peterson, Sophie Workman-Johnson, Daniel Sawyer, Rachel Mersch, Kellie Matthews and Ryan Stevens.

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