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### Alabama natives create eco-friendly shopping bag

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/CUT/3/CStephanie Collins, left, and Tana Collins are eco-product developers whose Houston company has come to the attention of Oprah Winfrey and Tamar Gellar's "Operation Heroes and Hounds." The two are from Carbon Hill, Ala.

/CUT/1.66/CEnvitotes at the ready, Alabama native Stephanie Collins, right, and Tana Collins, second from right, shop at a farmers market. The two developed the eco-friendly canvas shopping bag, which is sold online.

/CUT/3/CThe Envitote, made of washable, lightweight canvas, is sold by Envicorp Products and costs \$19.99, according to the firm's Web site, [www.envicorp.com](http://www.envicorp.com). Envitote's creators are from Alabama and had an opportunity to promote the product when they were chosen by Oprah Winfrey's dog trainer to work with "Operation Heroes and Hounds," a cause supporting U.S. service members and homeless dogs

Submitted by Tana Collins

A new eco-friendly firm run by Alabama natives Stephanie Collins and Tana Collins in Houston recently took part in an event benefiting Oprah Winfrey's "Operation Heroes and Hounds."

They were invited by Tamar Gellar, Winfrey's dog trainer, to join the cause that helps service members and stray dogs. At the same time, they spread the word about the "Envitote," the reusable carrier they developed.

The Carbon Hill High School graduates have been best friends for years, they said. They founded Envicorp Products to produce the washable lightweight canvas totes. Both wanted to reduce the use of plastic bags.

Only 1 percent of plastic bags are recycled, Tana Collins said. Used for an average of 12 minutes before disposal, a plastic bag can take as much as 1,000 years to decompose, she added. Carrying one Envitote eliminates the need for about five to six plastic bags, she said.

"We hope knowledge will be a catalyst for a positive mindset change in shopping habits," Tana Collins said.

Additional eco-friendly products are being developed at Envicorp, Tana Collins said. When their company becomes profitable, she added, they will give a portion of earnings to environmental programs....



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