

HERO NEWS



The newsletter for everyone who dreams of being a hero

2015

Heart Of A Champion

by Gregg Russell



The Champions Hall at the new Harbour Town Golf Links clubhouse proudly displays colorful oil paintings of many of its illustrious past winners. A walk down that hallway reminds us that some of golf's greatest champions have won the coveted plaid jacket in the shadow of the iconic Harbour Town lighthouse. Nicklaus, Palmer, Norman, Stewart, Watson, Love and many others count their victories there as one of their most cherished memories.



This past summer, yet another champion took the fabled walk up the famous eighteenth fairway with a small contingent of fans cheering him on. As nine-year-old Carson Ross sank the final putt of his round, the memories from that day were forever imbedded into the hearts of those who were there to see it. Though Carson's photo probably won't ever hang in the Champions Hall, to those who love him and those who have been touched by his grace and courage, Carson is in every sense of the word a true Champion.



Carson and his family enjoyed their weeklong stay on the Island courtesy of the Hilton Head Heroes organization. These Hero family vacations are designed to give children faced with a life threatening illness a chance to take a break from the medical challenges that they face back home. They ride bikes to the beach, build sand castles, see

the dolphin in Calibogue Sound and swim in the private backyard pool at the Hero House. And in Carson's case, for a few special hours, he battled Harbour Town instead of his serious medical condition.

Thanks to Cary Corbitt and John Farrell of the Sea Pines Resort, Carson's dream came true on a beautiful July afternoon. When Carson and his family arrived at the golf course, he was greeted by his caddy for the day, Tyler Beasley. Wearing his official PGA Heritage bib with Carson's name boldly displayed on his back, Tyler led Carson to the driving range where he warmed up in his especially reserved space. The small gallery of family and friends then followed close by as Carson and his caddy played a few of the holes on the back nine. The impact of that day was not measured in strokes, but more in the big smiles and the high fives given by this courageous young man. This was indeed a magical day in the fragile life of a wonderful child, but it was perhaps equally as remarkable for those who were there to witness it.

Hilton Head Heroes mission is to create memories that last a lifetime. And while heaven has welcomed hundreds of little angels that we have been honored to get to know and serve, each one of them leaves behind indelible memories that will stay with us all forever.



Photo credit: Kathleen Sanz

"Heroes stand when they would most like to fall."—Gregg Russell

Doing The Most For Others

by Elizabeth Skenes Millen



There are many things in which to host: parties; dinners; business events and weekend houseguests. However, nothing is more rewarding to host than a Hilton Head Hero family. I hosted my first Hero family last August. Savannah, a 9-year-old just finishing treatment for her second bout with Leukemia, came, along with her mother, stepfather and little sister. My job, as host was to orient the family with the Hero house, familiarize them with all the fun stuff they could enjoy during their visit and help them to have the best week possible.

In talking with Savannah's mother Jayme, I learned just a small portion of

how hard it is to be a mom of a critically ill child. As a parent, I have thought about how difficult it would be to come to terms with your child being sick and how stressful the possibility of loss constantly looming must be. However, I had never processed the grueling schedules, the long hospitalizations and never ending work involved. Not to mention, trying to provide the other children with an active childhood that still involves dance, sports and school plays.

When I signed up to host, I had no idea I was about to be a part of something incredibly special. Something

that would change a whole family's life and make lasting, lifelong memories – no matter how long that life may be.

My experience as a Hilton Head Hero host is one I will never forget. Booker T. Washington said, "Those who are happiest, are those who do the most for others." I, by no means have ever done the most for others. However, the little I have done have been the happiest moments of my life, and my experience as host tops the list.

If you would like to be a Hilton Head Hero host, please contact Marilyn Healy 843-842-2338 or Jan Raisch 843-816-4050

SAVE THE DATE
This year is the
10th ANNIVERSARY
of the
TIDEPOINTE
Elegant Evening
& Silent Auction

November 6, 2015
6-9 pm
ticket information by contacting:
Delane Marynowski
260-437-1280
Silent Auction items
are now being collected.
Please contact Lindy Russell
843-422-6343 for donation
information.

Through The Lens

by Faith Seiders, Photographer

When I look through my camera during a Hero Family Photo Shoot, I don't see the daily struggles of endless doctor visits, shots or medicine. Rather, I get to see children laughing, parents smiling and kids who love to pose for the camera. It is my hope to capture the unique and amazing personalities of our Hero children and those special family moments that create a lasting memory. To see more Hero family photos, visit www.faithographyphoto.com





The One Hundred Heroes initiative has been an overwhelming success! Over the past couple of years, we have asked our friends to commit to supporting Heroes with a gift of at least \$1000 during the calendar year. Those who participate become members of One Hundred Heroes and are invited to attend special intimate Hero events throughout the year. Please contact Gregg Russell at gruss3027@aol.com for more information about this special program.

Heroes Enjoy Smooth Sailing

by Captain Dave Shkor

My association with Hilton Head Heroes over the past five years has been an amazing experience for not only myself, but for the entire Yacht Club of Hilton Head. As boat owning skippers, we wanted to share the beautiful waterways surrounding our island with the Hero families. As a result, over



200 Hero children and their families have now enjoyed a day out on the water in our personal watercraft.

Our inaugural trip left Hilton Head and motored around Pinckney Island on May 12, 2010.

We saw dolphin, osprey and diving pelicans while our Hero child, Matt, was at the helm. This was the first time on a boat for Matt and he was thrilled. This simple act of kindness made an immediate impact on me as I realized that I could make a difference in the life of a sick child. I doubt that Matt realized the difference that he had made in mine.

Word of our program began to spread amongst the Club and everyone wanted to get involved. Our new captain volunteers included Cecil Viverette, Ernie Ahr, Mike Gilroy, Tom Caldwell and Sonny Compber. The Yacht Club Board and the Nauti Ladies group also got involved by contributing money for fuel expenses. This had truly become a group effort.

These Hero families have impressed our group with their strength, grace and courage. Their spirit is strong and their smiles are our reward. I challenge everyone to discover how they can use the gifts and talents that they have so they might become a Hero!



Every year the Board of Directors of Hilton Head Heroes decorates the Hero House for our Christmas families. We also invite our friends, supporters and volunteers to a **Holiday Open House** to thank them for their participation throughout the year.



SAVE THE DATE for our Annual Open House

One Spanish Moss
December 6, 2015
2-4 p.m.

Guests are asked to bring a grocery gift card to Publix or Harris Teeter to share with our arriving 2016 Hero families.

Board Members

2015/2016

- Gregg Russell
- Lindy Russell
- Rob Bender
- Nancy Conder
- Paul Griz
- Marilyn Healy
- Nancy Kelly
- Lynn King
- Delane Marynowski
- Elizabeth Millen
- Jan Raisch
- Mike Sanz
- Faith Seiders
- Steve Wilson

Honorary Board

2015-2016

- Paul and Toni Azinger
- Barrie and Arlene Bergman
- Jim and Courtney Nantz
- Lisa and Corey Pavin
- Norman and Dana Schuld
- Stan and Margie Smith
- Chuck and Nan Strauch
- Jack and Jean Ward



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 www.hhheroes.com

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Mission Statement

Our mission is to bring families with a child suffering from a life-threatening illness to Hilton Head Island for a resort vacation. All of our families stay in the Hilton Head Hero House located in the Sea Pines Resort.

In Memory

Hilton Head Heroes has a memorial giving program in place; in lieu of flowers a memorial donation can be made by others in a loved one's name. Donation cards will be mailed to all donors, a Keepsake list for the family's records will be mailed and the donors will be recognized on our website.

Holiday donations can also be made to Hilton Head Heroes in lieu of gifts. Your recipient will receive a beautiful printed holiday card recognizing your contribution in their name. Holiday contributions will also be recognized on our website. We welcome contributions from local business groups and will arrange to have notices sent to clients/customers recognizing your holiday donations to Hilton Head Heroes in their name also.

Tours of the Hilton Head Hero Home

Sea Pines on Sundays 2 p.m.
 Call Nancy Kelly 843-686-6856
 to arrange an informal tour for you,
 your friends or organization.

YES, I will help a family make memories to last a lifetime.

\$ _____ \$25, \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000, \$2,000, \$5,000

Donor Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Contribution Amount \$ _____

Donations in name(s) of _____

Occasion: Memorial / Holiday / Birthday / Anniversary (Please circle one)

Donation card mailed to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Donation in honor of _____

**please use a separate sheet for multiple donors and donations.*

Please mail to: Hilton Head Heroes, P.O. Box 6689, Hilton Head Island, SC 29938 • www.hhheroes.com

Hilton Head Heroes is a registered non-profit 501(c)(3) organization



"Anyone who does anything to help a child in his life is a hero to me." – Fred Rogers