

HERO NEWS



"Making a Difference!"

2019



From a House to a Home

by Gregg Russell

Over the past twenty years, Hilton Head Heroes has grown from its very humble beginnings into a highly regarded successful organization. The Heroes program has been recognized as an Angel Charity by the State of South Carolina, the Organization of the Year by the Hilton Head Chamber of Commerce and a National Finalist for the PGA Tour Charity of the Year. None of this recognition would have been possible without the support and tireless efforts of our dedicated Board of Directors. Over the years, we have been fortunate to have a variety of very skilled and committed Board members who have given of their time, energy and talents to keep the organization performing at such an effective and professional level.

Every Sunday, Lindy and I spend a few hours at The Hero House preparing for the Hero family that we will be hosting for that week. Every time I walk through those front doors, I am reminded of Hutch Hutchinson, one of our early Board members. Hutch was an enormously popular Sea Pines real estate professional for many years. He fell in love with the services that Heroes was providing for families with a seriously ill child. Hutch challenged us to purchase a house of our own where we could take care of our families in a more consistent and welcoming way. As a fairly young organization, we were reluctant to take on the responsibility of purchasing, remodeling and maintaining a house large enough to meet our families needs. But under Hutch's leadership, and with the help of the Heritage Classic Foundation's Birdies For Charity program, we pushed forward and were able to purchase The Hero House in 2005. Hundreds of families have now stayed in the Hero House for their week away from the medical challenges they face every day back home.

Through the ongoing generosity of our community, volunteers, Board of Directors and our One Hundred



Hero members, we have recently **paid off the mortgage on the Hilton Head Hero House**. The House not only stands as a symbol of hope and love to those families that we are so honored to serve, but also as a testament to all of the Heroes who have made this amazing program possible.

Photos by Jo Rackliff

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



A Gourmet Gala

benefitting  Friday, October 18, 2019 · 6:00-9:00 pm
at the TidePointe Clubhouse

RSVP to Leila Nelson at 843-298-0433
Silent Auction items to Lindy Russell
at 843-422-6343




Thank you to our supporters of the 2019 Birdies for Charity program. This program sponsored by The Heritage Classic Foundation collects pledges annually on the number of birdies scored during the RBC Heritage presented by Boeing PGA golf tournament.

You can pledge online at www.heritageclassicfoundation.com or by mailing the enclosed form to our post office box.

Pledges due by April 1st.

St. Luke's Church chose Hilton Head Heroes as their neighborhood outreach charity for November 2018. Gregg Russell was invited to speak to the Sunday congregations about the mission of Hilton Head Heroes. Donations received during the two Sunday services were matched by The St Luke's Church Mouse Thrift Shop. Thanks to all the amazing volunteers and to our community that supports The Church Mouse Thrift Shop with their continued donations and purchases.

"It takes a village".



The One Hundred Hero program continues to be an outstanding success. Over the past several years, we have asked our friends to commit to supporting Heroes with a gift of at least \$1,000 during the calendar year. Those who participate become members of our One Hundred Hero program and are invited to attend special intimate events throughout the year. Please contact Gregg Russell gruss3027@aol.com for information about this special program.



Photo by Alicia Daly

Volunteer Photographers

This past year we reached out to our friends and supporters; asking for photographers to volunteer to spend an hour with our Hero families for a fun outdoor photo shoot. These photos become a wonderful memory of their week on our island.

"A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words"

Here are a few of the photos taken by our amazing volunteers.



Photo by Faithography



Photo by Rita O Photography



Photo by Jo Rackliff



Photo by Brooke Balbi-Belz



Photo by Beth Gould



Photo by Bill Pender

Hero House Updates

Over the past few months, the Hero House has undergone some badly needed improvements. The aging front doors, sliding glass doors and windows in several rooms were replaced with state of the art doors and windows. The renovation was made possible by the generous donation of materials by The Bluffton Grayco Building Center and Marvin Windows. Paul Mathieson of Island Builders coordinated the project and had the house ready for Hero families arriving early this spring. Thanks to everyone who made this wonderful renovation possible.

GRAYCO



ISLAND BUILDERS
OF HILTON HEAD INC.

MARVIN
Windows and Doors

HERITAGE
ACADEMY

The National Honor Society students of The Heritage Academy of Hilton Head Island, invited Hilton Head Hero founders, Gregg and Lindy Russell to their school to do a presentation about the Hilton Head Hero program. After learning about the program these student leaders chose to solicit their friends, family, teachers and classmates to make donations to the 2019 Hero program. Their efforts were a huge success.



Thank You VILLAGE at WEXFORD

The Village at Wexford holds an event called **Wine Down Wednesday** on various Wednesday evenings throughout the year. Guests purchase wine glasses and shop, sip and nibble their way around the participating stores. All proceeds from the wine glass sales benefit Hilton Head Heroes.



Save the dates for more upcoming
2019 Wine Down Wednesdays.

May 8th September 18th December 11th
Villageatwexford.com for tickets and more information

Our Guest Book

"Making Memories That Last A Lifetime"



Guest book entries from our Hero families:

Hilton Head Heroes has been a blessing to our family, since our daughter was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor, our days have been full of hospital stays and doctor visits. This week was the chance to laugh, have fun and explore your beautiful island. Thank you for this gift to our family.—The R. Family

Sadly, we said goodbye to our dear child during our Hero vacation. There are no words to express how thankful we are to have had her final days in a place where she was wrapped in love. Thank you to the hospice nurses for being there for our entire family, to the hospital chaplain for comforting us, to the funeral home who handled everything, even personally driving our dear daughter's ashes to our home in Memphis, and to Gregg and Lindy Russell who made sure we were taken care of in our hours of need. We are grateful to everyone who supports Hilton Head Heroes, this will be a sad but grateful memory for our entire family. —The K. Family

After spending almost 10 months in the hospital in isolation, 24 rounds of chemotherapy, followed by radiation, constant spinal taps, MRI's and being poked with all kinds of needles, (our son calls them sticky pokers), we were beyond excited to be able to spend a week on your beautiful island. Everyone was so welcoming, the house perfect and the gift cards to the restaurants were incredible. We ate our way around the island. Thank you to everyone in this community that donates money and time that helps make these vacations possible. We return to Children's Hospital for treatment with renewed spirits. Please pray for all the children battling cancer.—The T. Family

Hilton Head Heroes treated us like celebrities from the moment we arrived on Sunday to the moment we left the next Sunday. Thank you Gregg Russell for making our son feel like a star on stage! He has not stopped talking about his experiences on his Hero vacation. Feeding horses, riding bikes, eating at the different restaurants and playing on the beach were some of his favorite things. His life has been full of medical treatments almost since birth. Thank you for this week to relax and enjoy our family.—The S. Family



P.O. Box 6689
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 843-422-6343
 www.hhheroes.com

Non-Profit
 US Postage
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 Hilton Head, SC

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.

Board Members 2019/2020

Gregg Russell	Marilyn Healy
Lindy Russell	Nancy Kelly
Rob Bender	Elizabeth Millen
Nancy Conder	Leila Nelson
Paul Griz	Jan Raisch
Mark Hammond	

Honorary Board 2019/2020

Barrie Bergman
 Jim and Courtney Nantz
 Lisa and Corey Pavin
 Norman and Dana Schuld
 Stan and Margie Smith
 Chuck Strauch
 Jack and Jean Ward

Tours of the Hilton Head Hero House

Sundays at 2 pm

By appointment for individuals or groups.
 Call Nancy Kelly to arrange an informal tour: 843-686-6856.

Donation program

Hilton Head Heroes has a program in place to accept donations in memory or honor of a loved one, family member or friend.

Donation cards are mailed to your recipients, and their name recognized on our website hhheroes.com under contributions. You will also be mailed a notification card and a tax receipt for your records.

We welcome contributions from business groups and can arrange to have notifications sent to your clients or customers.



For the most up-to-date happenings, be sure to join our FACEBOOK page

www.facebook.com/hiltonheadheroes

Follow up on Instagram



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

Donor Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Donation Amount \$ _____

Credit Card Visa M/C

Number _____

Name on Card _____ CVC _____ Exp. Date _____

Donations in name(s) of _____

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

Donation card mailed to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

**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

Donations will be recognized on our website www.hhheroes.com

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