

HERO NEWS



The newsletter for everyone who dreams of being a hero

2013/2014

The Dragon Slayer

by Gregg Russell

This spring during Heritage Golf week, I had an extraordinary event happen to me. As I was standing on the Harbour Town Golf Course, a huge gust of wind blew a heavy green cloud of pollen out of a stand of tall pine trees. I instinctively covered my nose and mouth with my hands to keep from inhaling too much pollen. Almost immediately, one of the tournament volunteers standing close by looked over at me and said, "With all the rain we've had this year, I would have thought the worst of the pollen season would be over by now". He looked at me in a "do I know you from somewhere" way and then said, "You look familiar. Do I know you?" I told him that I was the guy that sings under the tree in Harbour Town every night. He was visibly shaken as he put his hand on my shoulder and said, "I know you don't remember me, but I'm Herb Womble". I was instantly transported back over twenty five years to a night in Harbour Town when I had the pleasure of meeting a wonderful young fellow during one of my shows. He was chosen to sing that night and left the stage with a big smile and that was that.

Some months later, I received a heartbreaking letter from his mother telling me that her son had been diagnosed with cancer and she thought that maybe a note from me might cheer him up a bit. Well, we began corresponding and I invited him and his family to return to Sea Pines as my guests.

Time went by and the last thing that Little Herbie ever



sent to me was a story that he had written about slaying his "dragons" and the inspiration that he had received from a gentle singing "wizard" who lived under a big oak tree. Shortly thereafter, I received a beautiful note from his mother telling me that Herbie had passed away and they would not be making that trip back to Hilton Head.

This special young man would have been our first Hilton Head Hero


child if he had been able to make that trip. But in his passing, he touched me in a life changing way. He made me feel that there must be lots of other kids who are valiantly fighting their own dragons who would just like the chance to get away from all of the tubes, treatments and terror that they face every day.

The idea of Hilton Head Heroes was born because of Herbie. And now, all of these years later, many hundreds of courageous children and their families have spent time on our island climbing the lighthouse, riding bikes, playing on the beach and swimming in the Hero House pool. The heart and soul of one little boy remains alive in the hopes and dreams of so many who have come after him. My young friend, little Herbie Womble, left behind a legacy that lives on until this day.

I hope that has, in some small way, helped to heal this Dad's broken heart.



"Heroes stand when they would most like to fall."

 **Hilton Head Heroes**

8th Annual
Elegant Evening
& Silent Auction
presented by
TIDEPOINTE
a W Community

Friday November 8, 2013
6:00-9:00 pm
At the TidePointe Clubhouse

Join us for an evening of Food, Drink,
Entertainment and Enjoyment.

Your \$85 donation includes:
Cocktails, Dinner and a Silent Auction.

Jackets are required.
RSVP to Susan Woods at 843-671-2951.

All Proceeds go to Hilton Head Heroes, a non-Profit 501(c)(3) Organization

OUR MISSION
Bringing families with children suffering from life threatening illnesses to Hilton Head Island for a cost-free resort vacation. All of our families stay in the Hilton Head Hero House located in the Sea Pines Resort. Tickets to this event and silent auction sales benefit the Hilton Head Hero House.

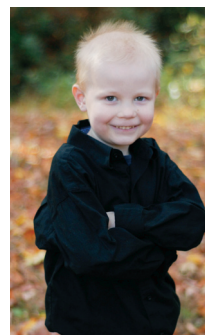


Wine Event

Jump N Phil's Restaurant once again opened its doors to help kick off the 2013 Birdies for Charity program. A wine tasting event sponsored by Tommy Hines and Trincherro Vineyards was enjoyed by our HHH supporters. Thank you to our 2013 Birdies for Charity participants. This year, 1321 Birdies were scored during the tournament, and our pledges totaled over \$20,000.00. We appreciate your continued support of this program.

Want to Volunteer?

You can be a host family for one of our Hero Families. Our hosts greet the HERO family, get them checked into The Hero House and serve as their liason to the program while they are here. For information please contact: Marilyn Healy at 843-842-2338.





Caring Community Superhero

The Walgreen's Store on Palmetto Bay Road has been a big supporter of Hilton Head Heroes for the past ten years. They have made multiple cash donations through charitable grants in addition to donating merchandise for our Hero families. Every week, Walgreens supplies all of our arriving Hero families with a disposable camera for them to enjoy while on their vacation. And then, before they leave, they provide photo processing for each family. Most recently, they donated t-shirts for each Hero and their family. The generosity and support of Walgreens has helped make Hilton Head Heroes a huge success.



SAVE THE DATE!

Save the DATE- 5th Annual Open House Christmas party at the Hilton Head Hero House, One Spanish Moss in the Sea Pines Resort—December 8th 2-4 pm—Please bring a grocery store gift certificate to share with our 2014 Hero Families.



One Hundred Heroes

This year, we have started a new supporter recognition program called One Hundred Heroes. Its members have made a pledge to support Hilton Head Heroes with a minimum donation of \$1000 during 2013.

During Heritage week, members Nan and Chuck Strauch opened their beautiful home to us for our inaugural One Hundred Heroes

gathering. We had a wonderful time with great food, wine and entertainment. Please contact us if you are interested in becoming part of the One Hundred Heroes family of friends.



Hero House Facelift

Over the past winter, The Hilton Head Hero House received a major facelift. Thanks to our friend and supporter Steve DeSimone, we were able to completely redesign the pool and patio area. With the generous help of Tom Curry of Low Country Pavers and Palmetto Coastal Hardscapes, our Hero families will now enjoy a fabulous outdoor experience around the pool complete with a new gas grill donated by Jim Dixon and Casual Living and Fireside Grillin' of Bluffton. Additionally, we converted the garage area of the house into a new "KIDS CAVE" complete with sofa bed, tv and full bath. Paul Matheson, Plantation Interiors and Culver Rugs all contributed to this new much needed addition.



HONORARY BOARD 2013-2014

Barrie and Arlene Bergman, Jim and
Courtney Nantz, Corey and Lisa Pavin,
Norman Schuld, Stan and Margie Smith,
Jack and Jean Ward.

Local Volunteer Board 2013

Gregg Russell-Founder
Lindy Russell-Admissions
Nancy Conder-Gift Certificate Books
Velinda Fisher-Birdies for Charity
Paul Griz-Treasurer
Marilyn Healy-Host Families
Nancy Kelly-Hospitality
Lynn King-Volunteer Coordinator
Lisa Medford-Publicity and Data Base Manager
Cindy Tuttle-Birdies for Charity
Jan Raisch-Host Families
Mike Sanz-TidePointe Silent Auction
Susan Woods-Secretary and TidePointe Annual Event
Paula Wyner-Grants and Aquisitions



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Mission Statement

Our mission is to bring families with a child suffering from 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.

Informal Tours

This summer, Hilton Head Heroes will be conducting "informal tours" of the Hilton Head Hero House every Sunday at 2:00 pm. Please call Nancy Kelly at 843-686-6856 if you are interested in a quick tour of the HERO HOUSE.

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