

# HERO NEWS



"Making a Difference!"

2020



## A Heroes Holiday

*by Gregg Russell*

For many years, we have decorated the Hero House in Sea Pines for our visiting Christmas families. This past year, our Hero family experienced a Christmas holiday that they will never forget.

Please enjoy the words of a grateful Mom.....

"Some weeks ago, while sitting at the hospital waiting for my son to complete yet another round of chemo, a message popped up on my phone saying that we had been granted a Christmas vacation in the Hero House on Hilton Head Island. This was a very emotional and challenging time for us as a family and this possibility came along at just the right time. After conferring with our oncologist, we began making plans to surprise our large family with this special trip.

When we arrived on the island, we were greeted by our "host family" and taken to the Hero House. We were literally blown away by all of the preparations that had gone into making our visit so complete. There were personalized presents for the entire family under the Christmas tree, numerous restaurant gift certificates and even movie theater, mini golf and dolphin cruise tickets. No detail was left undone for us.



On Christmas Eve, we were able to attend a beautiful candlelight church service as guests of a local volunteer. And then, on Christmas Day, two chefs from the Sea Pines Resort personally delivered a Christmas dinner to the house that was overwhelming and delicious!

When our week on the island came to an end, we headed back home with grateful hearts and full tummies. Seeing our children riding bikes throughout the resort, walking the beach and filling the Hero House with laughter was a gift that we can never repay. We will never forget how your community took us in, "adopted our children" and showed us what the spirit of Christmas is really all about. What a tremendous blessing you have been to us all. Thank you, thank you, thank you!"

For over twenty years, we have hosted almost a thousand families on a Heroes vacation. They constantly remind us that it truly is "more blessed to give than to receive". Thanks to all of the Heroes that make a difference in the lives of the children and families that we have been so honored to serve.

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

## “It All Adds Up”

The Hargray Caring Coins initiative has been a key factor in the success of Hilton Head Heroes. For over fifteen years this local telephone service “round up” program has supported our organization with a yearly financial grant. We hope our island friends will “opt in” to this program that has so generously supported Hilton Head Heroes. [www.caringcoins.org](http://www.caringcoins.org)



## Food Trucks in Sea Pines Center



The merchants of Sea Pines Center held two Food Truck events to benefit Hilton Head Heroes. Food Trucks were stationed in the parking lot of Sea Pines Center where guests enjoyed different cuisine, drinks and desserts. Music was provided by The Chilly Willy Band and The Heritage Academy students helped park cars.



Volunteers set up tables for guests to make greeting cards for our arriving Hero families. Special thanks to the following sponsors of this unique event: The Sea Pines Center, The Club Group, RBC Wealth Management and The Heritage Classic Foundation.

*The* **Heritage**  
*Classic*  
FOUNDATION



**BIRDIES**  
FOR CHARITY

Thank you to our supporters of the 2020 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](http://www.heritageclassicfoundation.com)  
**or by mailing the enclosed form to our post office box.**  
**Pledges due by April 1st.**

The One Hundred Heroes 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 Heroes program and are invited to attend special intimate events throughout the year. Please contact Gregg Russell [gruss3027@aol.com](mailto:gruss3027@aol.com) for information about this special program.



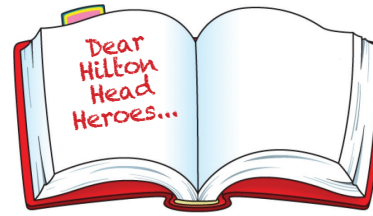
## “It Takes A Village”

**FORSYTHE**  
JEWELERS • SINCE 1927



Forsythe Jewelers is honored to be part of the Hilton Head Heroes program. Every week, Andrea Bragg and her staff at Forsythe Jewelers, invite our Hero child to come to the store and pick out a beautiful silver necklace. This dolphin, starfish, sand dollar, turtle or sharks tooth is a tangible way for the child to remember their week long stay on Hilton Head Island. The wonderful folks at Forsythe Jewelers help us “make memories that last for a lifetime.”





## Our Guest Book

*"Making Memories That Last A Lifetime"*

*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*

Beach Photography Hilton Head is owned and operated by Jack Deere, a local full time professional photographer with over 30 years experience. Jack has generously donated his time to photograph our Hero families in 2019/2020.

Hilton Head Beach Photography:  
hiltonheadbeachphotography.com



**The "Rockettes"**  
led by Natalie Usher  
and her friends  
painted and donated  
decorative rocks for  
our arriving Heroes.



Thanks to Tito's  
Handmade  
Vodka, sponsor  
of the Big  
Bamboo  
Summer  
Concert  
Jammin for  
Heroes.



## Thank You



## CLEARWATER POOL SERVICE

*Your Pool's Best Friend!*



Clearwater Pools has been an ardent supporter of Heroes for many years. Not only do they maintain the pool in the Hilton Head Hero House each week, they also generously donate the proceeds from their "pool inspection" program to the organization. A special thanks to Step Cornet and his staff.  
ClearwaterPoolhhi.com



**Lindy Russell and Nancy Kelly attend the Hilton Head/Bluffton Realtor Non Profit Event.**



P.O. Box 6689  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29938  
843-422-6343  
www.hhheroes.com

Non-Profit  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit 7  
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	Mark Hammond
Lindy Russell	Marilyn Healy
Rob Bender	Nancy Kelly
Nancy Conder	Elizabeth Millen
Eileen Cooper	Leila Nelson
Paul Griz	Jan Raisch

### Honorary Board 2019/2020

Barrie and Marjorie Bergman  
Jim and Courtney Nantz  
Lisa and Corey Pavin  
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](https://www.facebook.com/hiltonheadheroes)

Follow up on Instagram



**YES, I will help a family make memories that will 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 can be made and will be recognized on our website [www.hhheroes.com](http://www.hhheroes.com)**

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