

HERO NEWS



"Making a Difference!"

2021/2022



Normal

by Gregg Russell

Over the past year, we have heard a lot of talk about the desire for things to return back to normal. Where we could get back to doing the things that we always used to do, but sometimes took for granted. Little things, like dropping the kids off at school and then stopping to meet a friend for coffee. Or having a neighborhood cookout and watching the kids splash around in the pool on a hot summer afternoon. Or visiting Grandma in the assisted living facility that she now calls home. Just the average day to day activities that make up the fabric of our sometimes hectic lives. Normal. That's what we've all been hoping for.

The families that we serve at Hilton Head Heroes are in a constant struggle of desperately seeking to return back to normalcy every day. From the initial shock of hearing that their child has cancer, needs a transplant, must begin treatments immediately or only has a slight chance of surviving, normal disappears for these families in the blink of an eye.

When you have a child facing a life threatening illness, the entire family gets rocked to its core. One of the parents usually has to stop working in order to give daily care to their child, while the other parent may have to work two jobs in order to try to keep up financially. As the parents shuttle back and forth between hospital visits and treatments, the siblings are often left in the care of relatives or babysitters. Virtually nothing in their lives is normal for extended periods of time. And in many cases, they never find their way back to normal.

Over twenty years ago, our Heroes program was created to give these families a brief glimpse of normal. Together, they might build a sandcastle on the beach, watch a dolphin playing in the Calibogue Sound or take a bike ride under the canopy of massive oaks in the Sea Pines Resort. They swim in the pool at The Hero House, eat fried shrimp at a local restaurant and have a beautiful family photo taken on the beach at sunset. And then, after a week away from the challenges they are facing at home, they return back to their normal. We hope they go back home refreshed, encouraged and uplifted by the love shown to them by our amazing community.



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

“It Takes A Village”



Thank you to Dolphin Seafari Cruises out of The Shelter Cove



Marina for their continued support of our program. The Trigg family provides tours of the local waters and marshes to our Hero families each week.



FORSYTHE
JEWELERS • SINCE 1927

Each week, Forsythe Jewelers in the Sea Pines Center invites our Hero child and their family to come to the store to pick out a beautiful silver necklace. Dolphins,



starfish, sand dollars, and even shark teeth become a lasting memory of their time on our island.



For 21 years, Vagabond Cruises has been providing dolphin cruises for our Hero families aboard the Vagabond



out of the Harbour Town Marina. Thank you to the Keith & Laura Walston family for providing an educational and fun way for our Heroes to see the island and its beautiful waterways.



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 at gruss3027@aol.com for information about this special program.

We are proud to announce the ongoing support and grant to The Hilton Head Hero House from Tito's Handmade Vodka, Fifth Generation, Inc.



These volunteer organizations help supply the funds for the purchase of grocery gift cards for our arriving Hero families each year. Please consider supporting these thrift shops with your donations of household goods or clothing.

St Luke's Church Mouse



St. Francis Thrift Shops



The Hargray Caring Coins initiative has been a supporter of The Hilton Head Hero House for over 15 years. This annual grant has been used to fund and offset costs associated with the purchase of gift cards to local restaurants.



Through The Lens

Photos by Jack Deere Photography-Hilton Head Island

When I look through the lens of my camera, I try to capture the spirit of the child, as well as their family. I see families that are happy to forget the struggles, endless doctor visits, injections and medical intervention. I see parents and children laughing, smiling and posing for my camera. I am very proud and happy to be part of the Hero Team and to be able to share my time and talents with these grateful families. The hugs at the end of each session are my reward.

“Making memories to last a lifetime.”



Admissions

Lindy Russell

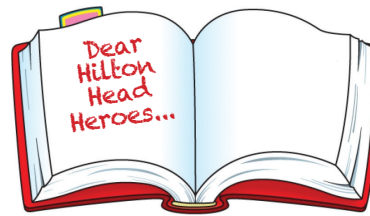
Frequently asked questions about the Admission process:

- **How do you get the Hero applicants?** *Hero applicants are referred to us from an established network of social workers across the United States. We are constantly adding to our referral list.*
- **How do you choose the Hero Families?** *Hilton Head Hero families fill out a 12-page application packet, which can be found on our website, hhheroes.com. This application includes medical verification of illness, release of liability forms, general information forms, and new in 2021 a Covid-19 liability release form.*
- **Who qualifies?** *Families with a child suffering from a life-threatening illness qualify for a Hero vacation. Please carefully read the rules before applying to see if your family qualifies.*
- **How do I apply?** *Family Application Packets are available online at www.hhheroes.com or by contacting lindyruss3027@aol.com via email.*



SAVE THE DATE
for our
Annual Open House
and Dessert Party
December 12, 2021 • 1-3 p.m.

The Hilton Head Hero House
One Spanish Moss, Sea Pines
Donations appreciated.



Our
Guest Book

A Community of Caring

Each week businesses donate services and goods to our Hero program. This month we highlight and send our gratitude to the following businesses:



The Harbour Town Bakery & Deli



HarbourSide Cafe



Cinnamon Bear in Harbour Town



Truffles Cafe



The Harbour Town Lighthouse



The Salty Dog Cafe



Guiseppi's Pizza in Sea Pines Center



Clearwater Pool Services



Ocean Woods Landscaping



The SandBar Beach Eats



Frosty Frog



The Serg Group



Peddling Pelican



Hudson's

All three of our boys have been so excited from the moment we arrived on your island. They ran from room to room in The Hero House exploring this beautiful and huge home. After our son's diagnosis I had to leave my job to be available to take J. to his chemo treatments, doctor appointments, and to stay with him during his lengthy hospital stays. This loss of income forced us to sell our home and move in with my parents. Having a place to ourselves, if even for a week has been a true gift to our family. Thank you for this wonderful week and showing our family such amazing southern hospitality.

The P. Family- Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

No words can ever express the incredible week we had in The Hero House. Thank you so much for all that you did to make this possible, it was above and beyond our expectations. W. was diagnosed at age 7 with Acute Myeloid Leukemia.

The F. Family-Charlotte, North Carolina

The beach, the pool, the bikes, the Sea Pines Trolley rides, feeding horses at Lawton Stables, a dolphin cruise aboard the S.S. Vagabond, Gregg Russell's show, a personal photo shoot with Jack and meeting the kind ladies of Forsythe Jewelers were just some of the highlights and memories that will be forever etched on our minds. We return home refreshed and ready to continue the battle, fighting our daughter's diagnosis last fall of bone cancer.

The M. Family-Fredericksburg, Virginia

Since our daughter was diagnosed with Acute Lymphatic Leukemia this spring, our lives have been turned upside down! Doctors, hospital treatments and stays, getting babysitters for her siblings, workings less hours at our jobs, and accepting help and gifts from strangers has become our new way of life. This week has been an amazing way for us to recharge our batteries and prepare for the next step in her treatment schedule when we return home. Thank you for these precious memories.

The Houston Family-Grand Rapids, Michigan

I do not know where to begin. We are so overwhelmed with joy and happiness. We have never had a family vacation. Our daughter has been battling cancer most of her young life. She has never known a week without some kind of treatment or doctor visit. This week was the first time I have seen her smile and be happy in years. Thank you. You are all Angels on earth.

The C. Family-Memphis, Tennessee

Board Members 2021/2022

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

Honorary Board 2021/2022

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



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.

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

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you make them feel." Maya Angelou.