

HERO NEWS

"Making a Difference!"

Home Sweet Home

by Gregg Russell



There came a point in time in the life of the Hilton Head Heroes program when we had to decide if we were going to continue to borrow housing for our Hero families, or we were going to make the bold decision to purchase our own home in the Sea Pines Resort. Hutch Hutchinson, our legendary and long time Board member, insisted that we should find a way to control the program's destiny by owning a house that could accommodate the growing number of families coming on Hero vacations. His wisdom and leadership proved to be visionary and more rewarding than we could have ever imagined.



For the past 18 years, the Hilton Head Hero House in the Sea Pines Resort has been the heart and soul of this extraordinary program. Hundreds of families from across the country have walked through the front door and entered a welcoming refuge filled with warmth, encouragement and love. They have drawn closer together as families while swimming in the pool, having pizza nights in front of the television, riding bikes to Harbour Town, or grilling out under the stars on the patio. For many of them, it must have been hard to imagine why an organization and community would invite them, as strangers, to enjoy a cost free week of healing in such a beautiful setting. Those answers always came easily for our volunteers, supporters and Board members.



And now, after more than twenty years of daily operations, the Hero program is taking steps to redirect our focus in many new and challenging ways. And although we will be hosting the program's final Hero family in late summer of 2022, the spirit and commitment of serving the families of children suffering with serious illnesses will continue for many years to come. We will continue working with the various children's hospitals that have been our faithful partners for so long. We plan to send lots of children to special summer camps that host children with a variety of illnesses. And, we will assist local and regional organizations that serve the needs of families in crisis with funding and guidance.



As the Co-Founders of this amazing organization, we have been blessed to be a part of something that has been so special to so many people. But now, at this stage of our lives, it's time for us to embrace this next chapter in our journey of reaching out to even more children and families that are in need. It has been a privilege and an honor to be in the presence of angels for all of these years. And, we look forward to continuing our commitment of making a difference in the lives of those who may need a little extra dose of hope, encouragement and love.



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

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide special services, opportunities and funding to families and organizations who serve children suffering from life threatening illnesses.



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.



Beach Photography Hilton Head By Jack Deere

Sharing just a few beautiful memories of the hundreds of beach photoshoots provided to our Heroes families throughout the years.

"Making memories to last a lifetime."



A New Chapter

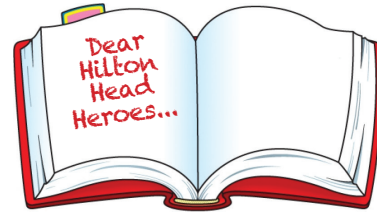
By **Lindy Russell, Director**

It is with great excitement that we approach 2023 focused on the next chapter in the life of Hilton Head Heroes. For more than twenty years, it has been my pleasure to have met and served over a thousand families as part of the Hero program. During that time, we have established wonderful relationships with doctors, hospitals, medical staff and social workers all across the country. As we now redirect our mission of "helping families with children coping with life threatening illnesses", our reach will be even wider than it has ever been before. Our focus will remain on providing these children with special opportunities away from the challenges of hospital stays and medical treatments. We intend to sponsor hundreds of ill children at highly specialized summer camps while still supporting their hometown hospitals with much needed financial aid. We have seen the difference we can make in the lives of those we serve by offering them a little hope, sunshine and love.

The future of Hilton Head Heroes is strong and we are committed to continuing our mission of reaching out to families when they need it the most. More information on the new direction and enhancement of our program will be available on our website (hhheroes.com) in January 2023. Applications for grants will also be available electronically for individuals and 501(c)(3) organizations on our site.

I am filled with awe, gratitude and thankfulness for the generosity that has been shown to our program throughout the years. I look forward to many more years of making a difference in the lives of the children and families that we are so honored to serve.

Big hugs!
Lindy



Our Guest Book

On the way home from Hilton Head Island this week my daughters said to me, "I am so thankful that through my brother's illness we were able to meet angels on earth".

From Scott P family

Thank you for placing this organization in the hearts of the Russell family and the Hilton Head Island community. We are forever grateful for this week on your beautiful island, connecting with our family again.

Shaneka W.

Our last one and a half years were filled with worry, stress, hospital visits, blood transfusions, spinal taps and days in isolation. For us to spend seven days in paradise together as a family means more than words can ever express.

Dan T.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for making this vacation possible. We loved the beach and just relaxing and spending time laughing and playing together. As we prepare to say goodbye to our precious child, we are thankful these memories and photos will be of comfort and joy to all of us in the days ahead.

Amaria B.

Thankful for this experience away from our hectic hospital and city lives. We totally enjoyed bike rides to the beach, eating our way around the island and meeting the lovely people of this community.

Christina W.

This time a year ago we were living for almost a year at the Eggleston Children's Hospital in Atlanta with our very sick child, urgently waiting on a heart transplant. Our warrior was transplanted and 6 months later we were on HHI enjoying the time of our lives. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the love, concern and care given to our family. We are so thankful to have been chosen for this amazing trip.

Belinda R.

Many many laughing moments and memories to cherish were made in our weeklong stay in the Hero House. Thank you so much!

John M.



P.O. Box 6689
Hilton Head Island, SC 29938

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Our mission is to provide special services, opportunities and funding to families and organizations who serve children suffering from life threatening illnesses.

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 (s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Donation Amount \$ _____

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.*

Make checks payable to: Hilton Head Heroes.

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.