

# Hero News

The newsletter for everyone who dreams of being a hero

SPRING 2008



*Barett DiMarco shared with his host family, Karen and Irv Becker, that he was so fortunate to go with his family to the beach, see Harbour Town and Gregg Russell, and eat at the wonderful restaurants on Hilton Head.*



*Christmas was a special time for Alex Hickson and his family in the holiday decorated Hilton Head Heroes House. They told Irv and Karen Becker, their host family, that the best fun was riding their bicycles all over Sea Pines and going to Lawton Stables and the beach.*

Some years ago, we had the opportunity of participating in a Special Olympics event. The bleachers at a high school stadium were full of enthusiastic families and supporters. The field was teeming with courageous young athletes and a host of volunteers.

The last event of the day was the hundred yard dash. The eight runners, boys and girls alike, took off at the sound of the starter's pistol and had taken no more than ten or fifteen steps when one of the young men stumbled and fell onto the cinder track surface. Scraping the skin off both knees and an elbow, he began to cry as he lay there alone.

Up ahead, one by one, the other runners heard their fallen friend and turned around to see what had happened. They stopped the race and quickly made their way back to him and helped him to his feet. One little girl kissed his forehead and gave him a big hug. Others gently brushed the cinders from his clothes and skin. And then, one of the most amazing sights we have ever seen unfolded before our eyes. All eight runners locked arms, and with big smiles on their little faces, skipped all the way down to the finish line..... together. There wasn't a dry eye in the stadium.

We believe that our mission at Hilton Head Heroes is to go back for those left behind, lift them up and dust them off, and accompany them toward their own personal finish line, wherever it might be. And although some of our young Hero kids only run a very short race, we trust that they, along with their families, feel the loving arms and hearts that reach out to them and surround them on their brave journey.

Gregg and Lindy Russell  
Founder of Hilton Head Heroes

*"They want to walk on the beach  
and collect sand dollars.  
All we want to do, is for a moment in time,  
create an environment where they  
can just be a FAMILY."*



## Christmas Party

The "Volunteer Appreciation Christmas Party" was enjoyed in the beautifully decorated Heroes' home prior to the Hero family's arrival for the holidays.



## Hero Companies:



ISLANDIMPROVEMENTS



The SeaPines Resort

TIDEPOINTE

A CLASSIC RESIDENCE BY  
HYATT®

## Mission Statement

Our mission is to bring children between the ages of four and sixteen suffering from life-threatening illnesses and their families to Hilton Head Island, South Carolina for a resort vacation. Children are referred to our program, through doctors, healthcare providers, and hospital administrators. The families are housed in the Hilton Head Hero House located in the Sea Pines Resort; they are given gift certificates to local restaurants, grocery stores as well as other island amenities.

## Birdies for Charity

Once again Hilton Head Heroes will participate in the Birdies for Charity program sponsored by the Heritage Foundation during the 2008 Verizon Heritage Golf Classic.

This is our major fund raising event for the year and we greatly appreciate your support. Be sure to use the green Birdies form to submit your pledge so that we are credited for your support. Each year as we furnish vacations to deserving families our costs increase.

—C. Denison "Hutch" Hutchinson

Scott and Kim Geltz hosted the Bilttons in 2007. Mrs. Bilton and her eight-year-old daughter, Hannah were in a fight for their lives – BOTH mother and daughter had been diagnosed with cancer earlier that year. "We treasured our time with the Bilttons; it was a rare opportunity to share the bountiful beauty of Sea Pines with a precious family who needed its healing power," Kim said.



Hannah, her sister (far right) and the Geltz children (Jessica, Samantha and Coulson) after a long day playing together.



Hilton Head Heroes table at The Bluffton Library "Day of the Family"

SC Secretary of State, Mark Hammond, lists Hilton Head Heroes as a charity with the following rating:

"According to financial information filed with the State office, Hilton Head Heroes devoted 92.4% of its total expenses to program services during 2007."

**Hooray for the good guys!**

# Providence Presbyterian Men

Several guys from our Monday Night Fellows met recently to do good works for God and the Hilton Head Heroes House. Started by local entertainer Gregg Russell and his wife, Lindy, the house offers a place for terminally ill kids and their families to rest and relax together on our beautiful little island. The men brought rakes and blowers and wheel barrows and tools and generally spruced up the place for Christmas.

—Paul Cifaldi (301-6640)

*Men Working (and one woman in charge), left to right: Dave Grandt, Larry Jansen, Gregg Russell, Lindy Russell, Mike Brock, Don Schuttera, Tom Rasch, Paul Cifaldi and Phil Smith at Hilton Head Heroes House.*



## Girls Scouts Adopt Heroes

The Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina, Senior Troop 369 from Hilton Head Island, recently adopted the non profit Hilton Head Heroes as their Silver Award project.



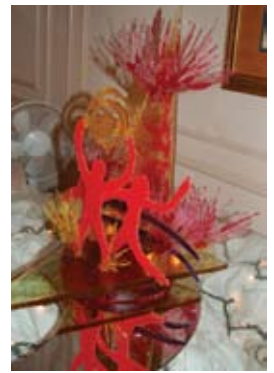
The Girl Scouts: Cara Borelli, Gioia DiBartolomeo, Kelly Breinich, Morgan McMillan, Erica Polcari and Jessica Wilkes-Berry made scrapbooks for each arriving 2008 Hilton Head Hero family. These scrap booking works of art detail the many "faces" of Hilton Head Island and have spaces left blank for departing families to place their own HHH vacation photographs.

*"With rising utility costs and other maintenance costs, we are looking for support to reduce or eliminate the outstanding mortgage on The Hilton Head Heroes House at least in part during 2008. We hope we can count on your support." —Ed Forrest, Treasurer*

## Hero Web Site

Please use our web site to access information, refer a family, make a donation, or to see more photos of our HERO families. [www.hhheroes.com](http://www.hhheroes.com)

In October last year The Hyatt Residences at Tidepointe hosted an Elegant Gala cocktail party for HHH, the chefs of Tidepointe outdid themselves with some amazing creations including the Hilton Head Heroes logo in spun sugar that graced the center of the draped table in the delicious dessert and coffee room. Lobster, crabcakes and a carving station, set the tone in the main area while yet another room full of fruit, cheeses, and wines from different regions were available for guests and residents to sample. Guests were also treated to violin and harp music while bidding on some amazing donated items in the silent auction organized by Keller Williams Real Estate. The soldout event was such a success that we will do it again in November, 2008, look to our website for further information and ticket sales on this fun evening.



*Spun sugar replica of the HHH logo, fans were set up to keep it cool during the event.*

## Hilton Head Area Association of Realtors' September 2007 Garage Sale Benefitted Hilton Head Heroes



*Jim Purcell, Joan Weaver, Kay Smith, Melba Windham, Maureen Houston, Brandi Sons, Myra Davis, Hutch Hutcinson, Marianne Blaine, Don Correll, Velinda Fisher, Ricardo Pecora, Dan Jackson and 3 unidentified people.*



P.O. Box 3027  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

**843-671-4939**  
**www.hhheroes.com**

**HONORARY BOARD  
2007-2008**

**Barrie and Arlene Bergman**  
**Jim and Lorrie Nantz**  
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**Stan and Margie Smith**  
**Keith Walston**

**LOCAL VOLUNTEER  
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*Birdies for Charity*

Nancy Conder  
*Gift Certificates*

**Heroes House  
2007 Donors**

- January - Keller Williams Real Estate
- February - Pino Gelato - Sataria Packaging, Inc.
- March - The Izant Family, Stan Smith, Dan's Fan City
- April - The Heritage Academy, Heritage Foundation - Birdies for Charity Program
- May - The Sea Pines Resort
- June - Hargray's Caring Coins and the Bargain Box
- July - The Corey Cerrone Memorial Golf Tournament
- August - The TJX Foundation, The Vanlandingham Rotary Club
- September - The Alverin M. Cornell Foundation
- October - The Ward Family Foundation
- November - The HHI Board of Realtors and The HHI Firefighter's Association
- December - Russ and Pennae Johnsen Family

**In Memory**

We honor the Heroes of our program who lost their heroic battle this year.

We also honor the mothers, fathers, siblings, grandparents, teachers, pastors, chaplains, rabbis, priests, social care workers, doctors and friends of our HERO children who provided them with support, comfort and strength when they needed it most.

We have a program in place that will allow you to have contributions made in honor of departed friends and family members. We will mail a donation card to the person being honored in your name. This can be used in lieu of flowers at a ceremony or to celebrate an event in the life of someone special.

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

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$30,000, \$20,000, \$10,000, \$5,000,  
\$2,000, \$1000, \$500, \$100, \$50

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

My check is enclosed.

Please make checks payable to: **HILTON HEAD HEROES**  
and mail to: P.O. Box 3027  
Hilton Head island, SC 29928

Hilton Head Heroes is a registered non-profit 501c3 organization