

children's relief fund 2018 news



from Rose:

Twenty seven years ago, the Children's Relief Fund became a non-profit organization. I never could have imagined the journey that I was about to take part in Way back then. Through the years, I have had the privilege of sharing the lives of so many who share my passion for special needs children. So many have given of their time and talents to make this organization what it is today. We have raised millions of dollars for therapy, special equipment, summer camp programs and recreational activities that enhance the lives of those special needs children in the Hilton Head/Bluffton area. Our all volunteer organization has truly made a difference in our community. So many families have expressed their gratitude to CRF for helping to change the lives of their special needs children. Today we are stronger than ever and we continue our very special work with the help of so many who have donated to the children's relief fund. To all of those who remain a part of this journey of mine, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. To all the special needs families out there, I am so grateful to have you in my life. You truly inspire me to keep moving forward and continue the work I started over 27 years ago!

Straight from my heart,
Rose Fotia
Founder of The Children's Relief Fund



stay tuned

For our upcoming fundraiser for 2019!
More details to follow at a later date ...
but, we are anxious to invite you all to
something new and exciting for 2019.

8th Annual sporting clays shoot

March 8, 2019 Forest City Gun Club, Savannah, GA
Proceeds benefit adults with disabilities of the Lowcountry
Pockets Full of Sunshine greatly appreciates CRF partnership
and support. To register or further information visit
www.pocketsfullofsun.org
or call Carol Bartholomew at 843-384-1315



The power of collective giving...

The Power of ONE Hour

Do you ever think about how your \$100 donation to an organization is actually used and if it makes a real difference?

Think about what could happen if 100+ people came together and each gave \$100 to a local nonprofit. That \$10,000+ would truly make a difference.

That's what 100+ Women Who Care Hilton Head Island does. Simple concept. Huge impact.

Our mission is to use the power of collective giving to support local nonprofit organizations that serve the people of Hilton Head Island. We meet four times a

year. Members make a simple yet powerful commitment to donate \$100 per quarterly meeting (\$400 a year). At each meeting, three local nonprofits, nominated by members, are randomly chosen to present their mission and explain how they would use the money. All donations must stay in our island community.

Our quarterly meetings are held at Dolphin Head Golf Club. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 16, 2019.

For more information, visit us at www.100wwchhi.org.



In August, Rose Fotia graciously accepted a generous donation from the 100+ Women Who Care.

special olympics reflection

Special Olympics, Area 8, is having a great 2018, thanks in large part to Children's Relief Fund. Competitions, both local, state and national have given our athletes so many opportunities to show their skills and have a great time together. This year, in addition to our local and regional events in bowling, track and



field, cheerleading, bocce, tennis, horse-back riding and basketball, kayaking and golf, two local tennis athletes, William Dennington and Christopher Arnot competed nationally at the 2018 USA games in Seattle, Washington! We also are looking forward to the National Tennis Tournament at Van Der Meer Tennis Center at the end of October and bowling tournaments in December.



CRF has helped our athletes grow and transition into adults. Two examples are athlete William Dennington, who has graduated from Bluffton High School and is now working at Publix in Bluffton; and



Hilton Head High School graduate, Kayanna Simmons, now working at Providence Presbyterian Day School. Volunteers and donors have helped our Special Needs people achieve so much than ever thought possible. You have made such a difference in these athlete's lives!

We thank you beyond what words can say!

*Cherie Taylor and Kathy Cramer
Area 8 Representatives*



dog walkers fundraiser

Susan Ochsner was just one of a group of regular dog walkers who skirted the beaches of Sea Pines every morning when she noticed the toys in the sand left behind by visitors. Members of the group began collecting this random detritus as they walked, until they decided to start keeping score.

"It was last year we decided to see who could get the most shovels. Then it was buckets, sunglasses, you name it," she said. "We threw it into my beach car and that's when we decided to really make a game out of it."

That game challenged friends to guess how many pieces of beach trinkets, from sunglasses to shovels, were stuffed inside Ochsner's 2000 Buick Park Avenue, named "Cashew's Caravan." At \$5 a guess, the group helped clean pieces of litter from beaches and raised \$700 for Memory Matters and donate the toys to Boys and Girls Club.

The fundraiser proved so successful, they're doing it again. Residents and visitors to Hilton Head can stop by The Sea Pines Resort "Welcome Center" parking lot between Sept. 16 and 30 and check out "Cashew's Caravan," once again stuffed full of beach trinkets, and guess how many pieces are in it. The winner will get a \$200 gift certificate from The Sea Pines Resort, but the real winners will be area special needs children. The Children's Relief Fund has been working to raise extra funds for a specialized playground at the Island Rec Center that will be available all children, including those with mental and physical challenges, and they will receive all funds from this year's guessing game.

OUR 2018 Scholarship Recipients

We congratulate **Kelsey Wallace**, this year's recipient of the **Gregory Fotia Memorial Scholarship**. She will be attending Clemson.

We congratulate **Anna R. Schidrich** who was awarded the **Dr. Robert Bokar Humanitarian Scholarship**. She will be attending USC Upstate.

The Children's Relief Fund is very proud of these young people and feel blessed to provide them with financial support as they begin their post-secondary educational journey.

Mrs. Rose Fotia,
Thank you so much for selecting me as the recipient of the Gregory Fotia memorial scholarship. Your support of my academic pursuits means the world to me, and I will definitely work hard at Clemson to make the Children's Relief Fund proud. I so admire everything you do and how hard you work to support the children of our community. I hope to honor Gregory's memory in my future and give back to the community as you do.
Thank you so much!

♡, Kelsey Wallace

Dear Dr. Robert Bokar Humanitarian Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for awarding me this scholarship. I greatly appreciate your generosity.

I will be using this scholarship award towards my college tuition. I am looking forward to majoring in nursing and a future career in a VA Hospital.

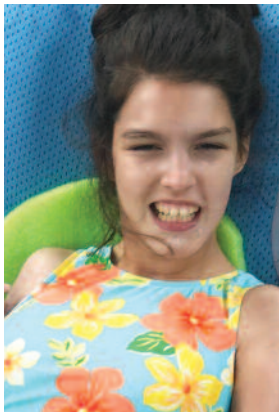
I promise to reflect well on this scholarship committee and USC Upstate!

-Anna R. Schidrich

we are thankful

The Children's Relief Fund is very grateful to all of their loyal supporters.

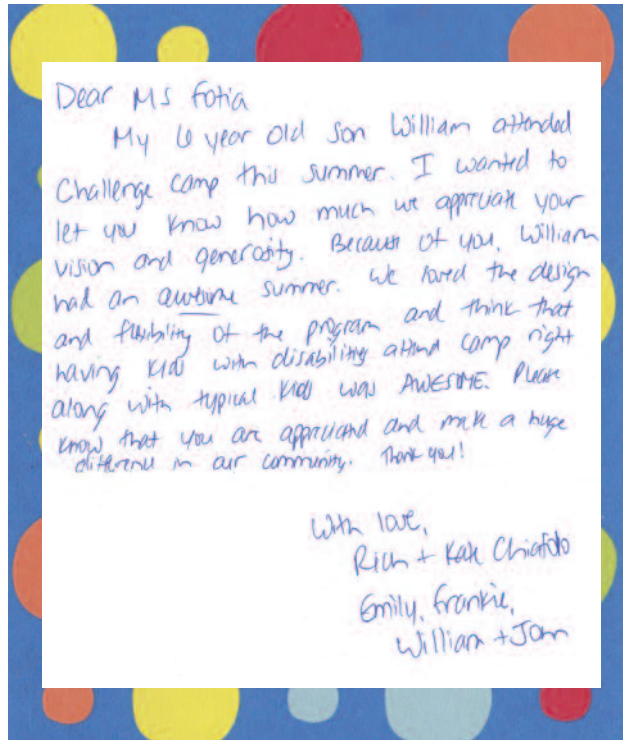
Our organization would not exist without your continued generosity. It takes special people like you to help our special children. Our dearest appreciation goes to the Indigo Holiday Gift Card Campaign, SunTrust Bank Foundation, The Heritage Classic Foundation, The Wexford Plantation Charitable Foundation, The Women's Association of Hilton Head, Holy Family Catholic Church Ladies Guild, The VanLandingham Rotary Club, The St. Francis Thrift Shop, 100 Women Who Care/Hilton Head, along with many local businesses and individuals who have supported us through our annual fundraiser. THANK YOU !!!



The Island Recreation Center would like to thank you for the tremendous support that we have received in the years past from The Children's Relief Fund for the Challenge Camp and SOAR Program. The programs this year were quite a success. The programs ran for 9 weeks and had 20-25 children in the Challenge Camp Program, and 12 in the SOAR program, on a daily basis from the low country area. There were many great things that occurred over the summer providing evidence into why these programs are so



challenge camp & SOAR program



important and that their missions can be completed. Each year we face the challenge that the individuals with disabilities will form negative concepts or have low expectations for themselves. However, the children themselves, and their adaptability to the schedule and other children in our camp eliminate these concerns. The campers participate with other campers in playing ball, swimming, field trips and various other activities. With each passing year, children of all disabilities who participate in the challenge program are learning to share and accept other kids

who do not have disabilities. Throughout the school year, these children develop their cognitive, social and motor skills and are able to continue learning and growing during the summer. Camp gives them the confidence to interact at school as they have classes with regular kids. The program continually receives strong support from the special education staff and principals of the Hilton Head Island and Bluffton schools.

This was all made possible by the generous support of The Children's Relief Fund. Overall the summer was a great success and we are looking forward Challenge Camp 2019.

Thank You,
Leah Arnold, Island Recreation Center
Director of Programs and Operations



*The Children's Relief Fund is proud to be 100% volunteer driven.
To volunteer to help or to request assistance please call Rose Fotia at 843-681-7668.*



children's relief fund

www.thechildrensrelieffund.org
P.O. Box 22574, Hilton Head Island, SC 29925

our Board Members

Mary Baumann	Amy Metzger
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Gregory Fotia

Gregory's playground

An update from our Kiwanians

The Kiwanis Club of Hilton Head and the Palmetto Kiwanis Club are excited to announce the Gregory's Playground presented by Kiwanis Clubs. Gregory's Playground presented by the Kiwanis Clubs of Hilton Head will help support the mission of the association by improving the quality of life for all families by ensuring that all children with or without special needs are able to enjoy a safe and inviting playground. This project is a \$550,000 inclusive playground that will not only have the latest in children's playground equipment but will also include features for children living with disabilities and wheelchair accessible surfacing.

Gregory's Playground was inspired by Gregory Michael Fotia. This sweet little boy suffered from a disorder called West Syndrome. He was multiply disabled and confined to a wheelchair his entire life. In his short time on earth, Gregory inspired change and acceptance for all children living with disabilities. He was the reason a local non profit The Children's Relief Fund was founded in 1991. On one of their many visits to the Children's Hospital at the MUSC, Gregory's family stayed at the Ronald MacDonald house where his mother Rose discovered they had a handicapped accessible playground. When she returned to Hilton Head, she approached the Island Rec Center about building a special playground!

Together with The Kiwanis Clubs and many volunteers, the first handicapped accessible playground in our area was built. Over the years, the Children's Relief Fund provided funding to upgrade

and maintain the playground enjoyed by thousands of children. After Gregory passed away in Oct of 2000, the playground was dedicated to him. The playground was a place where all children, no matter what their ability can play and form everlasting friendships.

Gregory's Playground is more than just an area where kids can be kept busy or "go run around outside" for a while. This playground will be a major part of development, and should be seen as vital to the community. The children in our area deserve this playground as does our community as this playground will help to make brighter futures for all who enjoy them. Too many modern children are being raised within a "scripted" model (too many activities and commitments from a very young age, and so on), and are unused to free time without adult controls. Playgrounds provide a safe and effective place for this sort of mental and physical freedom. In many areas, "Green space is giving way to development at an alarming rate," and cutting back on any opportunities kids have for outdoor play. This has led to an epidemic of childhood obesity, as well as behavior-regulating medicines - and so playgrounds are seen as a natural solution to a list of growing problems. Optimal health demands physical activity on a daily basis, and modern playgrounds make it easier than ever for kids to just move, run, climb, jump, and more. Urban children or children without yards can always go to the playground for safe and healthy activities.

This year, the Island Recreation Center is undergoing an extensive renovation and

the playground was taken down. It is now our mission, with the help of the Kiwanis Clubs to once again rebuild Gregory's Playground and his legacy. Every person has a purpose on this earth and Gregory's purpose was to make the lives of disabled children in our area better. To give them opportunities that didn't exist here in our area before him. To bring happiness to their families. He was truly an angel on earth!

The location of the playground is at the Hilton Head Island Recreation Center. At this site there will be a beautiful picnic shelter equipped with picnic tables surrounded by basketball courts, soccer fields and public restroom facilities. The addition of a playground would make this space a complete place to play for community members of all ages and abilities. Gregory's Playground presented by Kiwanis Clubs will have play structures for preschool age children as well as children 5-12 years of age. It will have double disc swings, approximately 6 smaller playground toys with seesaw and spinning features and an asphalt path to the picnic shelter.

This project upholds the Hilton Head Island Recreation Association's vision of a full range of accessible recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities with a commitment to meeting the challenges of today and the opportunities of the future. Together in partnership with the Kiwanis Clubs and The Children's Relief Fund, we are committed to providing diverse and accessible recreational opportunities that contribute to the health and wellbeing of the community as a whole.



Fishing with Friends... always a great ride!

*Many thanks to Fuzzy and Kim Davis
for their ongoing support of this
fabulous event!*

*It wouldn't and couldn't happen
without you and your family!*

