

2017: another great year!

children's relief fund news

from ROSE

It's been a long year for all of us. First, dealing with hurricanes and secondly, the challenges that came along with them. We have all lived through the devastation and the rebuilding process. Some with greater loss than others. The most important thing I have learned is how strong and special the people of the Lowcountry are. We take care of each other! This is also true for The Children's Relief Fund. We have found ways to take care of those most vulnerable, our special needs community. I truly wondered if we would have the funding we needed to support all the programs that depend on us. Although it was a struggle, our organization also stood strong and our community stepped up to help. All of our programs were able to provide services and continue to make a difference. I love the Lowcountry and all its beauty and uniqueness. Those who call this place home are blessed beyond words. The love we all share will help us remain strong for whatever we face next because we'll do it together!

Straight From My Heart,
Rose Fotia,
Founder of The Children's Relief Fund

save the dates...

It's official! Our 2018 fundraiser will be on March 24th at The Westin Resort! We're excited about changing things up next year with an awesome event to welcome spring and new beginnings! So next year you can put on your spring dresses and suits and shake off winter to welcome springtime! It's so beautiful in the Lowcountry that time of year! Stay tuned for details to follow but **mark your calendars** for the most awesome fundraiser in the Lowcountry! Spread the love.

Call Rose Fotia at 843-681-7668.

spring ♥ Fling

Saturday, March 24, 2018

Our Annual Dinner Dance

is now a Spring Fling!

Join us at The Westin Resort

7th Annual
sporting
clays shoot



March 9, 2018

Forest City Gun Club, Savannah, GA

To benefit **Pockets Full of Sunshine**

For information contact

Carol Bartholomew 843-384-1315 or

carolbart@roadrunner.com

www.pocketsfullofsun.org



A Huge Thank You

to Sun Trust Mortgage for supporting our organization!
Our organization would not exist without your generosity.



SunTrust employees, Susan Axtell and Sally Zuniga and Rose Fotia, CRF



Sporting Clays Shoot volunteer team



Challenge Camp 2017

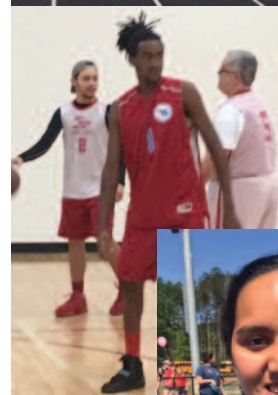
The Island Recreation Center would like to thank you for the tremendous support that we have received in the years past from The Children's Relief Fund for the Challenge Camp Program. Challenge Camp this year was quite a success. The program ran for 9 weeks and had 20-25 children on a daily basis from the low country area. There were many great things that occurred over the summer providing evidence into why this program is so important and that its mission 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 challenge 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 CRF. Overall the summer was a great success and we are looking forward to Challenge Camp 2018.

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



Special Olympics Reflection

Special Olympics, Area 8 is growing and thriving! Tennis, bowling, horseback riding, swimming, track and field, bocce and kayaking are still going strong. More regional, state and national competitions have given our athletes many opportunities to shine. Regional competitions were held this year for tennis, track and field – this year held at May River High School in Bluffton – basketball, bowling, swimming, bocce, golf, cheerleading and kayaking. Our bowling tournaments have grown so much that we now have to have 2 tournaments! Some of our local athletes have also competed on the national level in bowling, tennis and golf. Social media has really increased the positive exposure our athletes have been getting in our community. One of our athletes, Bluffton High School student William Dennington, has been interviewed on local television by none other than our CRF board member Dr. Debi Lynes! CRF is our greatest source of funding and we absolutely could not provide these opportunities for our athletes without that support!!! We love you and thank you all STRAIGHT FROM OUR HEARTS!!

*Cherie Taylor and Kathy Cramer
Special Olympics/SC Area 8*

Greetings from



Once again, what a sunny year we have had, and we could not have done it all without the help of our friends

at the Children's Relief Fund!

We kicked off the summer with our 3rd annual 'Fun in the Sun for Everyone' inclusive beach event. This year was not only a lot of fun, but our largest event yet with over 155 participants! Special needs families and their friends of all ages enjoyed a variety of beach games and water sports, free of charge and in a



welcoming and inclusive environment. What a perfect way to begin the summer season, we already can't wait for next year!

The surf event was just the beginning of a summer filled with new adventures. Our Rays staffed a regular booth at both the Bluffton Farmers Market and the brand new Wexford Wednesday Market. The adults loved interacting with their community members and selling the beautiful crafts they work so hard on during our weekly Sunday crafting time.

We also began an exciting new venture partnering with Transportation Safety Apparel, a wonderful local business. TSA welcomed our adults into their establishment with open arms and we now spend time there weekly, completing administrative tasks to assist the office staff and



screen printing and heat pressing t shirts! The look on their faces as they complete an order is priceless! If you are in the market for t-shirts we encourage you to contact Carol Bartholomew at 843.384.1315 and keep our adults in mind!

The incredible summer we had and our exciting plans for the fall are in large part made possible through the support we receive from CRF during our annual Sporting Clays Shoot. Last year's shoot was very successful and a great time for all involved. We are already beginning the planning process for next year's shoot and we hope you'll join us on March 9th for a fun day of shooting clays for a great cause!

Thanks for helping us spread the sunshine!

Carol, Laurin and Dayna
Pockets Full of Sunshine



Island special team cheers!

The Island Special Team is an allstar cheerleading team that travels all over the southeast to compete in cheerleading competitions. We are made up of Special Needs adults ranging in age from 21-59 years old. As the proud coach of this fabulous team, I am so very thankful for the support we have received from the Children's Relief Fund over many of our fourteen years. We have been blessed to receive financial support to purchase rolling suitcases for travel which make travel quite a bit easier for our cheerleaders. CRF has assisted us in meeting the burden of traveling costs and assisted when we have purchased uniforms and warm ups.

This year, we were so thankful and very, very blessed by CRF as they donated money for us to purchase cheerleading mats for our practice facility! Now our cheerleaders have beautiful, clean and SAFE mats on which to practice and perfect their routines. I know that CRF is a blessing to so many organizations in our area and I am so thankful to say that we are one of them. With help from CRF, our team continues to thrive, grow and represent the HH/Bluffton area as we travel around the southeast.

Thank you, Children's Relief Fund! Julie Daffler and the Island Special Team





2017 scholarship recipients

We congratulate **Megan Marie Reilly**, this year's recipient of the **Gregory Fotia Scholarship**. She will be attending Wofford College.

We congratulate **Sophie Christine Rudloff** who was awarded the **Dr. Robert Bokar Humanitarian Scholarship**. She will be attending Ohio State University.

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

A Special Thank You

We are so grateful to the Children's Relief Fund. Their generosity enabled my daughter to receive the speech therapy she needed at a cost we could afford.

As our insurance did not cover speech, so it was a financial struggle taking on an additional medical bill every week. We were committed to do so for the wellbeing of my daughter, and sacrifices were made. Then I learned of CRF and of the amazing good works they do and a burden was lifted. I cannot fully express my gratitude for the assistance they offered us so my daughter could get the help she so desperately needed. Thanks to their help, my daughter achieved progress at a natural pace in a nurturing environment. Thank you CRF and Diane Hall at Pediatric Rehabilitation in Bluffton. You have both made a tremendous impact in my little girl's life.

An Appreciative Parent

our Board Members

Mary Baumann	Amy Metzger
Debbie Fellingner	Ryan Ott
Rose Fotia	Maggy Stefonick
Michele Iverson	Cherie Taylor
Janet LoConte	Becky Tracy
Debi Lynes	



Many thanks to Fuzzy and Kim Davis for their ongoing support of this fabulous event! It wouldn't and couldn't happen with you and your family!



*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

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