



Hi Rose- Not sure if you remember me but I am the now the past President of VanLandingham Rotary. You spoke in January at our club about your organization. As you may recall both of my children work at the Rec Center and worked with the children at the Challenge Camp your organization sponsors. They both walked away from this position with a new compassion for special needs children and were very humbled by the entire experience. In fact, I believe working with the children at the Rec helped seal my daughter's major choice in college- she wants to go into a field along the lines of child advocacy.

This all being said I see what a beautiful impact your organization has had on our community and for those children with special needs accommodations. The past president has the honor of choosing an organization to give a donation to at the end of their term and after careful thought I think your organization is the most fitting for me to give that contribution. These are earning the club has raised through various fundraisers throughout the year.

My best,
Kristin Keller



Dear Rose and friends,
On behalf of the volunteers, staff, board of directors, and especially our participants, we would like to thank you for your generous contribution of \$20,000.00 to our organization. Your generosity continues to bless us with the ability to serve our special needs children's community with the empowerment of equine therapy. Fully 90% of the cost to provide our unique service is paid for through contributed income like yours. Thank you again for your trust and friendship. We are so grateful that you have partnered with us to enrich the lives of individuals with disabilities in the Lowcountry, one stride at a time.
Very Truly Yours,
Robert E Lee,
Executive Director



Rose, Thank you for your continued support and generosity. There is no question that Heroes simply could not save our youth without your investment. We appreciate all you've done. - Bob

Dear Rose & CRF Board Members,
Thanks so much again this year for the \$50,000!! This is especially appreciated because our programs continue to grow. We absolutely could not provide these programs without CRF our 500+ athletes and families thank you as well!! As a board member, I am so proud to be a part of CRF because I see where all the money goes and how hard everyone works to raise the funds!

We love you!
Cherie & Kathy



Thank you for your generous donation of \$25,200 to Lowcountry Autism Foundation for ADOS Evaluations of Bluffton and Hilton Head Residents. We appreciate your continued commitment in supporting the Lowcountry Autism Foundation! Our programs are growing because of your generosity. Support from community members like you, allow us to offer all our programs at no cost to our LAF families. The Lowcountry Autism Foundation is committed to enhancing the lives of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families through innovative programs that fill gaps in services. Over 2,300 families have been impacted in our organization's lifetime. We appreciate your commitment to our vision where all individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder receive the necessary support to reach their full potential and communities are equipped with the necessary knowledge and tools to create accepting and functional environments for people with all levels of abilities. Thank you for supporting our innovative programs and enhancing the lives of children with Autism and their families.
Sincerely,
Kelly O'Meara Hampton
Executive Director, LCAF



DONATIONS

If anyone would like to honor someone they love during the holiday season by making a charitable donation to CRF, please call Rose at 843-681-7668.

We are happy to send an acknowledgment to the recipient with your good wishes. All donations are tax deductible.



children's relief fund

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

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children's relief fund 2023 news



Save the Date!

Straight from the Heart Wine Dinner & Auction

Celebrate with us at an intimate gathering to support the Children's Relief Fund

Saturday, February 10th, 2024

Venue 1223

1223 May River Road, Bluffton

Tickets can be purchased on our website at thechildrensrelieffund.org
or call Rose Fotia at 843-681-7668

I often think about what the true purpose of this life is, how do we make our lives count. For me, it is by touching the lives of others, especially those with Special Needs. When we started The Children's Relief Fund, I never imagined what the impact would be. Now over 32 years-and millions of dollars later, life for children and adults with special needs has changed dramatically. When we started this organization in 1991, there weren't any programs for our special needs children. Now there are so many doors that have been opened as a result of The Children's Relief Fund. Not only has this organization helped families of children with disabilities but also all of the volunteers and those that take part in these programs." It's Life Changing"! None of this would be possible if not for the generosity and hard work of our volunteers and our faithful donors who make it all happen!

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



special olympics reflection 2023

2023 was a great year for Special Olympics Area 8!! So many exciting things have been happening.

Practice and competitions have been held for both

school aged children and adults, bocce, bowling, horseback riding, swimming, pickleball and basketball. Track and Field competition took place at many of the schools. This October, in addition to Special Olympics North America tennis competitions at Van der Meer in Shipyard, we will be having North American Pickleball competition in Palmetto Dunes. In June of 2023, one of our Area 8 athletes, Charlotte Lewis, competed at World Games in Berlin and came back with a GOLD MEDAL



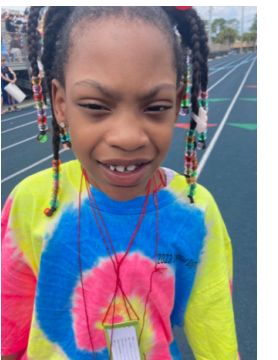
Special Olympics

in kayaking!! She was honored by the mayor of Bluffton with a big celebration and key to the city! We have been growing

the programs at the local schools called "Young Athletes"

which gives children ages 4-7 the skills they need to participate in Special Olympics when they are older. Project Unify is also going strong in the schools. This pair a special needs athlete with a typical person to not only participate in sports, but to become friends. As always, these opportunities for our athletes have been made possible by the financial support of Children's Relief Fund.

**We thank you
STRAIGHT FROM OUR HEARTS!!
Cherie Taylor and Kathy Cramer**



challenge camp & soar 2023

Challenge Camp is an adaptive summer camp program through the Hilton Head Island Recreation Association. This camp serves children with intellectual and developmental disabilities aged 5-21 and runs inclusively with the rec center's other summer camp. Each child is given a one on one to ensure that their needs are being met throughout the summer. With camp comes many exciting and different things, for example the kids getting to participate in gym games such as basketball or dodgeball, art class

where they learn how to tie dye or use oil pastels, learn about science through several STEM activities, and go on many FUN field trips like a trip to a waterpark at the end of the summer. The best part about camp is the inclusivity, each child is placed within their age group and participates in all activities with the help of the staff and those around them. Challenge Camp provides opportunities of not only inclusion but awareness of the many different kinds of people that live in this world. Thanks to the Children's Relief Fund, we are able to serve a wide variety of needs and make summer camp more adaptive for ALL.

Written by: Olivia Richardson
Adaptive Recreation Director
Island Rec Center



our 2023 scholarship recipients

Audrey Perry

Molly May

Whitney McGuire

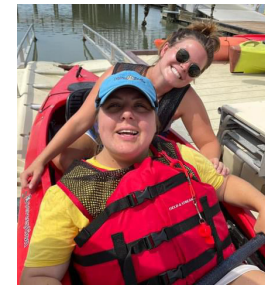
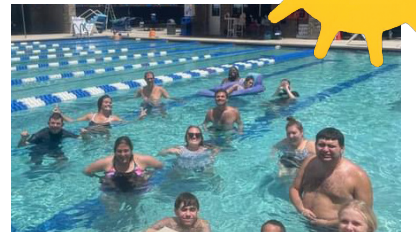
Good luck in your future endeavors to our college scholarship recipients from our local high schools. We appreciate your dedication to giving back to your community.



pockets Full of sunshine



Community relationships mean everything to us at Pockets Full of Sunshine. One such relationship we are continuously grateful for is with the Island Recreation Center. We partner with them in a myriad of ways during our weekly programming for adults with disabilities; fitness classes, use of their facilities such as the walking track, teen room and basketball courts and most recently we hosted a week long summer camp for special adults with their help! Our adults love all of the opportunities that the Rec provides. We are grateful to the Children's Relief Fund for an ongoing grant that provides memberships to the IRC for our "Rays" and their caregivers and helps them access all the Rec has to offer! Thank you!



Heroes on Horseback

Children's Relief Fund Empowering Lives One Stride At A Time

The generosity of Children's Relief Fund has been vital to the 23-year history of Heroes on Horseback. In fact, Children's Relief Fund was one of the first donors to the organization that provides equine-assisted therapy to our community's special needs children. For over twenty years, thousands of children have been impacted by this unique form of therapy that targets physical, emotional, and mental challenges including learning disabilities, autism, cerebral palsy, downs syndrome, ADD and ADHD, muscular dystrophy, speech impairment, multiple sclerosis, and brain trauma. The goals of equine therapy fall into two primary categories: physical enrichment which includes the recovery of physical abilities, improved balance and coordination, greater strength and muscle control and increased range of motion; and emotional and mental progress which includes increased confidence and self-esteem and improvements in language, cognitive abilities, and social skills. Every participant in the program is evaluated prior to the start of their session, and measurable goals and objectives are defined with caregivers including parents, teachers, therapists, and others.

With a mission that never turns anyone away from the benefits of the healing and empowerment of their program due to financial reasons, Heroes on Horseback funds nearly 90% of its costs through contributed income, with Children's Relief Fund its most consistent and largest donor. The funding provided by Children's



Relief Fund helps to cover the costs of therapy horses and certified instructors leading the lessons.

There are many success stories of children receiving the benefits of equine therapy funded by Children's Relief Fund. A few of these children, in particular, experienced the thrill of winning gold and silver medals in international competitions at the World Games hosted by Special Olympics. To say that this level of success is important to the development of any child is an understatement. The generosity of Children's Relief Fund has always been critical to providing empowerment to special needs children in every aspect of their lives. The 20-plus years of collaboration between Heroes on Horseback and Children's Relief Fund has proven time and again that children, regardless of the challenges facing them, can learn, improve and be their best.

