

Making Spirits **BRIGHT**

Area students present their community with the gift of charity.

By Brian Janiak

With the holidays coming, many of us will be getting ready to spend time with our friends and families, give and receive gifts, and feel the holiday spirit. Unfortunately, some of our neighbors could use a little help to enjoy the holiday season. There are many different local charities available, to assist both people and pets, and the island's local schools will be doing all they can to help these charities out.

Hilton Head Christian Academy will be doing all it can to help with donations for the holidays this season. The student councils of both the lower and upper schools will be collecting to help a Christian orphanage in the Dominican Republic. The Zonta Club will be hosting an afternoon at the Art Café to benefit the Children's Relief Fund and will also be sponsoring its annual "Pennies for Patients" drive to benefit cancer patients with leukemia.

The school's Key Club will hold a school-wide fundraiser that will provide Christmas presents for pediatric patients of the Volunteers in Medicine Clinic. Several music groups from the school will be performing at area nursing homes as well as at The Mall at Shelter Cove for "Music at the Mall," December 3rd from Noon until 3 p.m., to support the Deep Well Project. They will also be caroling on Main Street during the evening of December 8th to help Habitat for Humanity.

The lower school will also be helping. The 4th grade has been collecting supplies to help a family through Deep Well, and the 5th and 2nd grades have been sending cards and packages to our soldiers in Iraq.

At Hilton Head High School much of the charity work this holiday season will be coordinated through the school's student clubs and organizations. The school's student government will be heading a school-wide effort to raise enough money to grant someone in the Make-A-Wish Foundation a wish come true. The Interact Club will be helping a family have a memorable Christmas morning by donating gifts for everyone in the family. They will also require that each club member donate supplies, such as dog and cat food, toys and blankets, office and cleaning equipment, for the Hilton Head Humane Association. The National Honor Society will be requiring each member to fill a Christmas stocking that will be given to members of the Boys and Girls Club, as well as spearheading a school-wide effort to collect canned goods and clothing for the Deep Well Project.

Hilton Head Preparatory School will also be doing its part to help out this holiday season. Most of the work will be coordinated through the Upper School's two major clubs, the Zonta Club and the Interact Club. The Interact Club will be adopting a family and sponsoring their Christmas. The Zonta Club will be helping out students at West Hardeeville Elementary School by donating money and supplies to the school and Christmas gifts for the students. They will also host a Christmas party for the students and will be collecting canned goods and clothing for the Deep Well Project. **M**



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