

# Palmetto Dunes Cares

As the summer season is in full swing, we at Palmetto Dunes Cares wanted to share with you the many accomplishments your charitable organization has accomplished since this time last year! We started out this past July forging ahead with our sharpened focus on two main causes; the natural environment and our youth.

First, our GRANT COMMITTEE worked diligently toward that focus and awarded \$61,350.00 to programs supporting those endeavors! This resulted in 100 percent of our grants this year going to organizations that serve local youth, given that even the environmental agencies who received grant money are ones serving our local youth. In toll, the needs unveiled in this process showed that hunger, safety, safe sleep, and mental health needs are vast with children in our area. The awarding of these Palmetto Dunes Cares grants has been highlighted in the local CH2 magazine. Check out the article about our 2023 grantees at The Unseen: Local charitable organization, Palmetto Dunes Cares, unveils real needs of area children and families - CH2 ([celebrateblufftonandbeyond.com](https://celebrateblufftonandbeyond.com))

Second, part of our new initiatives this year included the inauguration of an educational scholarship fund to support a local Hilton Head Island rising high school senior. Our goal was to help a young person from Hilton Head Island attend a South Carolina public university or technical school. The SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE worked diligently in reviewing applications and interviewing local students. We are happy to announce that we awarded scholarships to not one, but two outstanding young Hilton Head Seniors! Yes,



*Palmetto Dunes Cares Committee members Claudia Gant, Teresa Carroll, Joe Maggi, Lauri Davis, Andrew Schumacher, Nancy Novak, Abbey Hightower, Bill Caywood, Ann O'Neil and Bob Eberly with 2023 Scholarship Recipients Lea Sheeran and Ben Lewis.*

these two students have exceptional grades and are extremely motivated to go to college. Beyond that however, both of them have not only focused on excelling in their educational endeavors, but have also already committed to serving their community, and have overcome both financial and health adversities. Their names are Mr. Benjamin Robert Lewis and Ms. Lea Maria Sheeran. Be on the lookout for further media coverage and stories regarding the awarding of our scholarships to these amazing local young students.

Speaking of media, our MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE has developed several marketing tools including new logos and social media templates. This has resulted in Palmetto Dunes Cares entry onto the social media scene! Please check us out and follow us at [facebook.com/PalmettoDunesCares](https://facebook.com/PalmettoDunesCares) on Facebook and at [palmettodunescares](https://www.instagram.com/palmettodunescares) on Instagram. New announcements come out nearly every week on these platforms.

Also, with the help of Elizabeth Simpson, Director of Communications for PDPOA, we have been able to make some major changes to our web page and will be adding a new "Catch Our Latest News" section soon! This section will hold our "Palmetto Dunes Cor-

ner Stories" and feature historical stories as well as present and future events of special interest in Palmetto Dunes. Please check out our website at [palmettodunescares.org](https://palmettodunescares.org).

With regard to our Environmental Stewardship goals, we have been sharing a series of social media posts highlighting the unique wildlife entering our beach ecosystem with the onset of warm weather, and sharing how visitors can help us protect even our small Ghost Crabs that skitter across the beach. Their presence (or absence) tells us how healthy our beach is!! As we all know, everyone who lives, works or visits Palmetto Dunes values the condition of our beautiful natural environment. Our goal is that our work will build community and camaraderie among our full-time residents, investment property owners, visitors, and commercial businesses to protect and preserve the island's natural habitat. This kind of environmental stewardship begins with us!

Working to protect the island's natural habitat not only keeps our property values up but also ensures many future generations will continue to enjoy the beauty of Palmetto Dunes for years to come. To that end, we are working on several new Eco-tourism educational outreach programs in addition to Tur-

tle Talks. These include Palmetto Dunes Lagoon Tours and a Lagoon Clean-up Day and more! Watch for further announcements on social media and our website about these new offerings!

The overarching message from Palmetto Dunes Cares is that Palmetto Dunes is more than just a resort and vacation place, it is a community of many who live here and many who have been visiting here for decades with their families. It is a community where we must work to help each other, our youth and preserve our beautiful natural environment!

#### Palmetto Dunes Cares Wants YOU!

Palmetto Dunes Cares is always looking for volunteers to help achieve their philanthropic goals, and the good news is, you don't have to be a resident of PD to participate. You may want to help work an Eco-tourism event or serve on a committee or board. This is a good opportunity to meet your neighbors, give back to the greater Hilton Head community, and share your talents. Please contact us if you have questions or would like to join our efforts by using our new email at [info@palmettodunescares.org](mailto:info@palmettodunescares.org)

If you would like to contribute directly, send a donation through the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry earmarked for Palmetto Dunes Cares or the Palmetto Dunes Cares Scholarship Fund. You can contribute online at [cf-lowcountry.org](http://cf-lowcountry.org), by scanning the QR code, or email your check to Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, P.O. Box 23019, Hilton Head Island, SC 29925.



## PD Cares Grant Recipient Organizations



*Above: The Children's Center*



*Right: Deep Well Food Pantry*



*The Outside Foundation*



*Back Pack Buddies*



*Safe Sleep*