Hilton Head Island Safe Harbour

Enriching the Lives of Our Neighbors

Celebrating

7 Years of
Neighbors helping Neighbors

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Become familiar with Hilton Head Island Safe Harbour

Hilton Head Island Safe Harbour, an example of the "Village" concept, was incorporated in the summer of 2009 and obtained its 501(c) (3) in the fall of 2009. The first "Village" was started in 2002 in the Beacon Hill section of Boston, MA. There are now more than 200 "Villages" around the country each with a different face, but a similar purpose.

 The Coalition for Aging in Place (CAP) in Beaufort County so nicely phrased the purpose of the Village as a "network of support enabling members to remain in their own homes as long as safe and healthy".

Hilton Head Island Safe Harbour was the first "Village" in South Carolina serving the whole island of Hilton Head to include Windmill Harbour and Jenkins Island. Now there are two other villages in operation in Beaufort County and several beginning in the Charleston/Mt. Pleasant area.

HHI Safe Harbour Board of Directors

Emily Newman, President   David E. Voyles, Executive Director

Ronni Silett, Vice-President   Ed Fitzgerald

Susan Mazur, Secretary

"Safe Harbour" - Jim Simon, Artist

Our Mission: *Hilton Head Island Safe Harbour is a non-profit membership service organization designed to help Hilton Head Island residents who wish to remain in their own homes as they grow older. Committed volunteers provide non-medical services to members that allow them to enjoy the comforts of living the Island lifestyle at home for as long as safely possible.*

Members are often people whose lives are in transition. Many times there is no family member close by. A member may have just lost a spouse and no longer drives, may be challenged with some unusual health issue, or may need a respite visit to give the main caregiver a break.   Often transportation is the most needed service whether to the grocery store, the hairdresser, or therapy.

*Message from **Emily Newman, founder of HHI Safe Harbour & current Board President***

We are proud of the accomplishments and contributions of Hilton Head Island Safe Harbour over the last 6 years. The real thanks, however, go to the Island community for its support. With the help of our members, volunteers and supporters HHI Safe Harbour has grown to serve an ever increasing population and has expanded services to include social activities, craft workshops and companionship for our members. I look forward to many more years serving our friends and neighbors here on Hilton Head Island.

Sincerely, Emily Newman

Message from David E. Voyles, Executive Director

Hilton Head Island is fortunate to have community members with the forsight and initiative to create an organization like Hilton Head Island Safe Harbour. Its mission is to provide an alternate solution in helping islanders stay in their homes as they age. With most Safe Harbour member's families living afar, our volunteers are much more than simply drivers but become a second family to our members. Our members are not ready for assisted living and can live a comfortable and full life with the help of Safe Harbour. Hilton Head Island has found its niche on the island and will continue to attempt the increasing needs of the islanders.

HHI Safe Harbour exists because of a core of wonderful volunteers who are really just "Neighbors Helping Neighbors", enrichinlives of mem

Staff & Volunteers with a Member in St. Patrick's Parade

Volunteers and Staff attend Safe Harbour Workshop

Programs:

Our program has expanded to include craft workshops and small group social gatherings. Some of these are just conversation groups; some are crafts such as creating your own greeting cards, making clothespin wreaths, and a monthly movie. Each Friday event serves a light lunch to attendees.

Making coasters in a workshop with volunteer Carol Puchalski

Celebrating St. Patricks Day

Members are making Valentine Cards to send to their sweethearts

Some Facts about 2016

Hilton Head Island Safe Harbour continues to be a growing organization limited only by the number of volunteers available who have a commitment and passion for the work they do. Hilton Head Island Safe Harbour serves the entire Island population of around 36,000 which requires valuable resources, both time and money.

At any one time we had about 60 household memberships, with members ranging in age from mid 40s to late 90s. Financial support was derived from a combination of fundraising, grants, gifts and membership fees.

During 2016 the changing needs and living arrangements of our members resulted in a 30% membership turnover.

- *An average month for our volunteers included:*
  - ✓ *performing between 182 and 280 assignments*
  - ✓ *driving nearly 5000 miles*
  - ✓ *donating close to 600 hours of their time*

While some of the costs of providing services can be quantified, the real impact of our support programs is best described as the intangible benefits both members and volunteers receive.

- *Members remain independent while enjoying the companionship of caring volunteers.*
- *Volunteers enjoy devoting time and attention to a cause about which they are passionate.*

With neighbors helping neighbors the whole community benefits!

HHI Safe Harbour is making a difference! And with your help we can make an ever greater contribution toward helping Island residents remain safely in their own homes as they age. You can make a difference by becoming a volunteer or donating to our organization.

Donations by mail can be made to: Hilton Head Island Safe Harbour

P.O. Box 5337

Hilton Head Island , SC 29938

To volunteer, visit our website, www.hhisafeharbour.org, or call our office at 843-671-7233 to learn more about us and to get a volunteer application.

Moving forward:

HHI Safe Harbour continues to work together with other groups in the state who are interested in starting their own "Village" by sharing all needed materials and answering their many questions. Working together, all interested parties met early April 2016 in Harbour Town to compare notes and learn from each other. Staying Connected in Sun City is going full steam, Caring Neighbors in Rose Hill continues to help neighbors, several "Villages" are now operating in the Charleston/ Mt. Pleasant area. This gathering of the "Villages" has become an annual event as the "village movement" continues to grow in South Carolina and in Beaufort County giving its citizens a choice, the choice of staying in their own home as long as they are safe, as they transition to their next phase in life.

Volunteers Susan and Tony in Village discussion group on January 24th, 2015