

Mile of Hope Weekend

By Bonnie Ferneau

Pine Knoll Shores Women's Club members again participated in the Mile of Hope Weekend, sponsored mainly by the Optimist Club of Raleigh. The event, held on Mother's Day weekend, provided fun and encouragement for children who are battling cancer and for their families. The children who attended this year's event are receiving treatment at Duke, UNC and ECU.

This year's theme was "Starfishing at the Crystal Coast," which included lodging for the 25 participating families at the Atlantis Lodge or Hampton Inn. In addition, ACE Hardware in Atlantic Beach, the Atlantic Beach Food Lion, Crystal Coast Crafts, Ernie's Gift World, and the Morehead City Pizza Hut donated items to help make the weekend a success. Breakfast on Saturday was held at the Channel Marker restaurant and Saturday night's dinner was provided by Moore's Olde Tyme Barbeque.

Many volunteers across the state made this year's event a success. Forty volunteers from the Pine Knoll Shores Women's Club helped out by making necklaces, decorating hats, greeting the families, assisting with coloring of flags, serving a pizza supper, and serving the hot dog lunch at the Atlantis. Participating families also enjoyed a boat ride on the *Crystal Coast Lady*.

The weekend weather was beautiful and time at the beach building sand castles and playing in the ocean was special. Families enjoyed a fun time on Saturday evening at Professor Hacker's Lost Treasure Golf and Raceway in Salter Path, and a final event at the NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores with pirates and a pancake breakfast honored the families and gave special recognition to the mothers in attendance on Mother's Day.



Pine Knoll Shores Women's Club volunteers with Mile of Hope coordinators, Ed and Sally Moore and Gary and Carol Turner. In addition to providing 40 volunteers to support the weekend, the Women's Club also presented a donation to Mile of Hope.—Photos by Betsy Beals



The fish and starfish sand sculpture was created for Mile of Hope by the Sandy Feat team. They will be back in June to create another sculpture in front of the local aquarium.



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