

# Our Mission With Hope

By Jean McDanal

## It's all about supporting the warriors

Pine Knoll Shores and Kayak for the Warriors (K4TW) partner with Hope For The Warriors to support our wounded warriors. Here is picture of how this partnership came to be.

**Hope For The Warriors mission:** We believe those touched by military service can succeed at home by restoring their sense of self, family and hope. Nationally, Hope For The Warriors provides comprehensive support programs for service members, veterans, and military families that are focused on transition, health and wellness, peer engagement, and connections to community resources.

**Kayak for the Warriors philosophy:** While we enjoy good fellowship and the natural beauty of Pine Knoll Shores, our service men and women across the globe willingly make unimaginable sacrifices to protect our country and our freedom. With our events in late May and early June, we celebrate their dedication and pledge that their needs will not be forgotten.

**History of Hope For The Warriors:** It originated right down the road at Camp Lejeune. Wounded men and women were coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan and staying in their empty barracks while their buddies and their leaders were still deployed. The Commanding General recognized the problems: how to get them to medical appointments, manage medications, ensure rehab was accomplished properly, and perhaps most important, how to make them still feel like marines and part of a cohesive unit.

These were major problems in 2003. A visiting Lt. Col. Marine who was severely injured in Afghanistan, and had returned to the US, started to negotiate the medical and support system to address his needs with the help of his spouse. They found this task so daunting that they knew others would need help as well and became a catalyst for Camp Lejeune. From this grew the Wounded Warrior Barracks at Camp Lejeune, where the injured men and women were transported, supervised and rehabbed.

Also from this grew Hope For The Warriors, which started out as a group of Navy, Marine and Coast Guard spouses, all volunteers whose spouses were on active duty. One of the first things they did was organize a simple foot race onboard Lejeune. It was smaller in scope and scale than our present kayak race here in Pine Knoll Shores. In time, they became Hope For The Warriors, a national organization that does simply incredible things for the combat injured.

Pine Knoll Shores will continue to support Hope For The Warriors as we want our service members to be able to come back home, go to school, get married, have a family and be a productive part of society.

Today, Hope For The Warriors services include physical, emotional and financial wellness; social support and community connection. Over the past 15 years, Kayak for the Warriors events have raised over \$500,000 for this worthy organization. We have had home tours and beach races, and we now focus on our Warrior Gala and Auctions, the annual Golf Tournament at Crystal Coast County Club, and our signature kayak/paddleboard race. We have come a long way since six intrepid kayakers paddled the canals and raised \$600.

When any of us donate to charity, we always want to know if the funds are being used for what we think they are. One of the ways we can do this is by

analyzing our charities through a well-established charity evaluation group. Visit Charity Navigator, GreatNonprofits and GuideStar to see how Hope For The Warriors fares. You will find it is an absolutely first-class organization, consistently applying over 90% of funds received to meet their mission. We ask that you help us help them support our warriors. There are many ways to support our efforts:

- Go to [k4tw.org](http://k4tw.org) to register for any of our three events, become a sponsor or donate.
  - Come party with us at the DoubleTree on May 14, with the I-42 Band.
  - Bid on a silent auction item. There will be an opportunity to bid online this year as well as in person at the Gala.
  - Buy raffle tickets (\$10) for the Wine and Dine Basket, which includes \$1,000 worth of restaurant certificates and wine.
  - Come party at the Topsy Turtle in Atlantic Beach on May 19, the night before the golf tournament. There will be a DJ, free food, door prizes and a 50/50 raffle.
  - Participate in the golf tournament.
  - Buy a hole sponsorship for \$100.
  - Fund the registration fee for a wounded warrior to play golf (\$85).
  - Participate in the kayak/paddleboard race.
  - Fund the registration fee for a wounded warrior to paddle (\$50).
- Thank you in advance for your support of this important fundraiser.

## SAVE THE DATE

The Kayak for the Warriors  
Warrior Gala and Auction  
are scheduled for Saturday, May 14,  
at the DoubleTree.

The popular Wine & Dine Basket Raffle  
will return this year.  
Tickets are \$10 each.

Friday, May 20

K4TW Golf Tournament  
Shotgun Start at 8:30 a.m. at the  
Crystal Coast Country Club

Saturday, June 4

- Kayak/Paddleboard Race @ 10 a.m.
- Lunch Feast @ 11:30 a.m.
- Awards @ 12 noon

To donate, register or learn more about our events, please visit [k4tw.org](http://k4tw.org).  
All proceeds support Hope For The Warriors,  
a 501(c)3 with a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator.

