

*These hospitals send families
to
Jason's House:*

1. Presbyterian Blume Clinic
Charlotte, NC
2. Levine Children's Hospital
Charlotte, NC
3. Georgia Regents University
Augusta, GA
4. Medical College of Virginia
Richmond, VA
5. Brenner's Children's Hospital
Winston-Salem, NC
6. Children's Hospital of The Kings
Daughters Norfolk, VA
7. University of North Carolina-UNC
Hospitals Chapel Hill, NC
8. Palmetto Richland Memorial
Columbia, SC
9. Bi-Lo Charity Cancer Center
Greenville, SC
10. Broady School of Medicine ECU
Greenville, NC
11. MUSC Children's Hospital
Charleston, SC
12. Duke University Medical Center
Durham, NC
13. Children's Hospital at Memorial
University Medical Center
Savannah, GA

What Families Tell Us

"Just to see (child) smile again was worth the trip. Keep us in your prayers and we sure have thanked God for wonderful people like you."

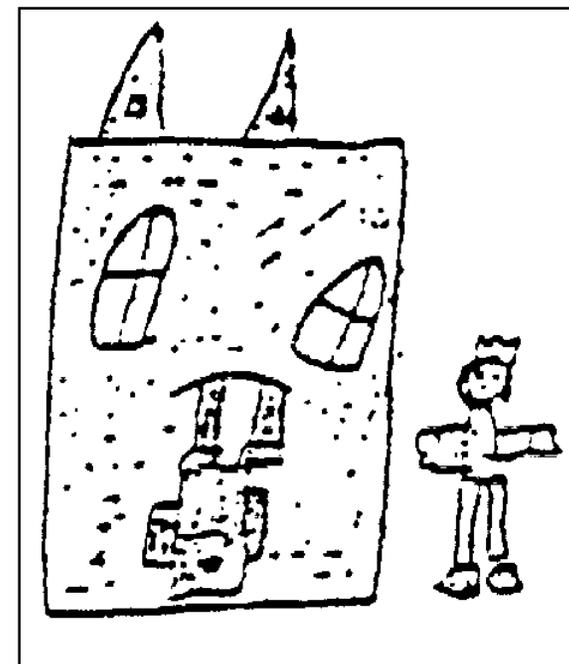
"It was so good to live almost a normal life for a few days. We really appreciate everything you did."

"Let me thank you for adding a few bright days into (child's) sometimes gray world."

"Thanks for a great vacation. It gave us an opportunity to spend real quality time together since illness struck our family. Thank you for giving and sharing what the Lord has blessed you with."

"Thanks so much for allowing my son to experience the vacation of a lifetime. The trip will be something that will always remain on his mind, and ours. It came at a time when (child) said he 'needed a break'."

"You are a great group of people to share this with children that have such a tough life. You gave us a bright spot in our life when we really needed it."



JASON'S HOUSE

*A mission
the church and community support
to give free vacations
to families burdened
by care for a child
with life-threatening cancer.*

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No Structure—Just Love

Jason's House is not an actual house. Its structure lies in Christian sympathy for families whose lives are stressed as they care for a child with life-threatening cancer. It is a mission of Surfside United Methodist Church in Surfside Beach, South Carolina.

What it does is to provide totally free beach vacations for entire families. As one parent wrote, *"It means so much for a family to be able to finally get a vacation after spending so much time with illness and worry."*

Jason was the six-year-old son of Jim and Linda Lewis. They went through the ordeal of doctors, hospitals, chemo and cancer-fighting procedures. When the battle was lost, they and a daughter settled in Myrtle Beach. When they said, *"Oh, Jason would have loved this,"* inspiration took hold.

Project Became Mission

They determined to see that other children and families could get away, for a time, from their anxiety. Motels, restaurants and amusements were asked for help, which they freely gave. Volunteers were organized into a church mission, which the program is today.

Early each year, Jason's House Committee members and volunteers solicit support of business owners who provide, free of charge, the needed rooms, meals and entertainment. Owners and managers are in constant change, so each year is a fresh challenge to acquaint people with the program. Rooms must be assured by mid-April to begin assigning families.

Doctors, nurses and social workers at hospitals in four Southeastern states; North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia identify families who most need to escape all their taxing routine, to enjoy together the fun and excitement of the beach scene.

Families come for their scheduled weeks on Saturday or Sunday, June through August, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. A bright banner reading, "Welcome to Jason's House," hangs outside the church. They are welcomed and put through a briefing intended to put them totally at ease. One parent wrote back: *"To be treated so nicely by people who didn't know us gave me a better outlook toward the future."*

Father is "Astounded"

They find a whole new experience. One father wrote, *"I was astounded when your volunteers sat down with us, showed us a map already marked with locations, explained the services and attractions available, set up a hotel (motel) for us, and then said, 'Have a great vacation.' WE DID!"*

This is possible because the whole Grand Strand vacation enterprise supports it. Volunteers keep alive the dynamics that was started in 1984 and shows no sign of letting up. The Jason's House Committee develops fresh energy from those who find it an outlet for dedication to stricken kids and their families. Approximately 65 families come each summer from four states and fourteen hospitals.

Gifts Are Voluntary

Jason's House draws its name from the child who inspired it. Our identifying symbol, drawn by his hand, is taken to be an invitation to his heavenly house. Volunteers regard it also as an invitation to join them.

Volunteers put the vacation package together. They re-contact supporters and contact new ones each year. Without them, the program would fail. With them, it flourishes to produce family responses like those herein.

The value of all the support provided in meals, rooms and entertainment is estimated over \$3,000 for the average family. Voluntary contributions from \$5.00 and up come from individuals. Many are given as memorials or to honor someone. Larger amounts come from other churches, community groups and individuals.

These gifts go to meet operating expenses. Family emergencies often arise and the limited resources are adequate to meet them. Most relate to their automobiles—break down, out of gas, stolen battery, etc. Such expense is justified because each family is assured a visit free from worry.

The host church bears a significant expense in the use of its office staff, services, facilities, utilities and storage. The volunteers give freely of their time and talents for the total administration of the program, none being compensated except in satisfaction for carrying on such a program.

The families are so grateful and send heart-filled notes of "thanks."