

KEOWEE KEY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP (KKCP)

Honoring Their Service and Purple Heart Homes Rebuild Army Veteran's Home

When the EF-3 tornado struck Seneca last Easter morning, many people lost their homes. While most were helped by FEMA and then could turn to insurance for the funds to rebuild, one Army veteran was out of luck. David Campbell, who served on active duty in the Army and later in the Army Reserve, had lost the only home he had ever lived in, even as a child, except when he served our country. And because the home was in his father's name, when his dad passed away without a will, our veteran could not get insurance, and FEMA could not help him.



Army veteran David Campbell in front of his new home.

Once the initial shock of the tornado wore off and the community effort to rebuild began, that's when two special organizations became aware of David's plight and stepped in to help. Purple Heart Homes agreed to fund a Tiny Home shell with a grant from the Home Depot Foundation, provided the local Purple Heart Homes Golden Corner Chapter would build it out. And Honoring Their Service was able to assist with that effort by funding the construction of the foundation to get the project started.

Honoring Their Service is a group of Americans who respect and honor the service of our veterans, and want them to know they care. Their purpose is to allow our community to say thank you and to show members of our military and our veterans that they are appreciated. Their signature event includes inviting combat veterans from the Marines Special Operations Command and medically retired veterans from the local area into their homes to share four fun-filled days in Keowee Key and the area.

Purple Heart Homes makes the homes of disabled and aging veterans safe and accessible. Work generally includes installing grab bars, building ramps, widening doorways, and remodeling bathrooms for accessibility. Each task is done by volunteers except those which require licensed craftsmen (in which case Purple Heart Homes pays for the work). There is never a charge to the veteran. Purple Heart Homes Golden Corner Chapter has been a Partner in Keowee Key Community Partnership for more than a year and a half, and many Keowee Key residents volunteer regularly.

Nancy Bolen, a Keowee Key resident who is a retired professional interior decorator, designed the interior, shopped for the cabinetry and fixtures, and supervised the installation. The home was completed the week before Christmas and a group of ladies from the Foothills Church cleaned and decorated for Christmas. David was thrilled to entertain his grandchildren during the Christmas holidays.



Kickin' It Up for the Kids

Have fun and help raise funds for Grace's Closet at the Kickin' It Up for the Kids event on Saturday, July 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the Keowee Key Event Center. An Art Auction, Quick Draw, Silent and Live Auction, and food and drinks will be featured. Grace's Closet provides free clothing, shoes, school supplies, hygiene items, and weekend food to Oconee County students.

"Our goal is to raise needed funds for the 2021-2022 school year to provide basic resources, such as clothing, shoes, hygiene items, school supplies, and weekend food to students in all 19 schools in Oconee County," said Julie-ann Shannon, co-founder and executive director of Grace's Closet. "One of our most critical needs is funding for new shoes for students. Many students come to school with holes in their shoes, the soles falling off, or sizes that don't fit. Imagine the joy and excitement of each student who receives a pair of shoes that fit and are new! For some students, this is the first new pair of shoes they have ever owned. Other critical needs are funding to purchase quality clothing that provides students with a sense of dignity and self-confidence, and hygiene items, such as deodorant, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, and toothpaste," she added.

Tickets are \$75 per person or \$700 for a table of ten. To order tickets, please order online at gracescloset.org. Feel free to contact Alicia Keys at 864-324-1668 with any questions.

You can make a difference in these children's lives by supporting Grace's Closet. They are one of twenty local, nonprofit organizations partnering with Keowee Key Community Partnership to have their good works promoted, and their needs identified to Keowee Key members.

Information about all twenty organizations can be found at, and donations made directly through, the "Philanthropy" tab on the Keowee Key internal website under "Member Central." Or, you can visit our website directly – <https://kkcommunitypartnership.com/>

Keowee Key Community Partnership (KKCP) began with a group of Keowee Key volunteers working to promote local organizations making a difference in the lives of the less fortunate in Oconee County.