



Generosity Abounds at 2016 Charleston Reunion Rally

Each year, Fantasy RV Tours honors their customers by sponsoring a Reunion Rally, and this year was no exception, with 120 rigs in attendance at the Rally site just north of Charleston, South Carolina. However, this year it just wasn't Fantasy recognizing loyal guests – Rally goers themselves paid tribute to Fantasy's charity efforts, resulting in donations of more than \$27,000 to Make-A-Wish South Carolina.

Not only did they raise money for a good cause, guests had fun doing it. Fantasy provided prizes for the charity auction. Each was carefully gift-wrapped, so no one knew exactly what they were bidding on. When the winning bidder opened their prize, they found an assortment of "gag" gifts before they reached the hidden prize, making the auction entertaining for all.

Fantasy Founder and CEO Nel Filliger has personally supported Make-A-Wish for many years, but it was not until 2014 when she was personally affected by the program. Nel's grandson, 10 year old Dylan Prunty was born with mitochondrial disease – a rare genetic disorder in which Dylan's cells do not create enough energy to sustain his body. As a result, he has spent more than half his life in the hospital, undergoing surgeries and suffering from pain. "Little did I know that the Make-A-Wish program would one day help my family," says Nel. "To combat the constant pain Dylan experiences, he has become a whiz at building Lego sets. It's how he deals with this disease. He asked Make-A-Wish for a trip to Legoland. Not only was he able to make the trip, but

alongside a team of Lego engineers they designed and built a replica of Children's Hospital Los Angeles, complete with a helicopter pad, cafeteria, operating room and even Dylan's own room and a character of his favorite doctor."

During the Rally auction, Nel announced that Fantasy would match the donations her customers were contributing. "We had very nice prizes in the boxes, and our guests just outbid each other," Nel stated. "By the end of the auction, they had donated more than \$12,600, which Fantasy matched. Since then, we've received additional checks at the office, bringing our total contribution to well over \$27,000."

Mary Silverberg, Donor Care and Youth Programs Senior Manager for Make-A-Wish South Carolina attended the auction. "We were really happy to be part of such a fun event. Fantasy's customers made an incredibly generous donation, and their support has a tremendous impact on seriously ill children in our community. By donating to Make-A-Wish, they have had a direct impact on making children's wishes come true," she said.

The auction was just one of the many fun activities at the Reunion Rally. Guests enjoyed a tour of Boone Hall Plantation, a Charleston city tour, and an incredible Charleston Bay harbor dinner cruise. And there was lots more fun to be had at the Rally site.

"From the time our guests walked in the door, it was fun and there was so much positive energy," says Nel. "We had a pirate costume party and everyone dressed up. Guests voted for the best costumes by offering gold coins (collecting booty) – and the person with the most booty won. Pirates were literally selling themselves along with their outfits to one another. We had a DJ, and so many people were dancing, there was no more room left on the dance floor. I think this energy spilled over to the charity auction."

Some of the Rally guests were new to the fun of Fantasy RV Tours -- people who had never taken a one of the caravans or attended any other rally before, and they used this opportunity to interact with WagonMasters and staff to learn more about the many options the company offers. Others had traveled with Fantasy, and for



them the Rally was a real reunion, reuniting with people with whom they've traveled and also making new friends. On the final night, Nel and her staff presented certificates to their guests. Those who had completed ten or more tours received Fantasy lifetime jackets, and those who had taken their 13th tour received camping chairs. One extraordinarily well-traveled couple, Donna and Joe Regenstein were recognized for completing more than 30 Fantasy tours.

Plans are already underway for next year's Reunion Rally, which will be held in Mesa, Arizona, April 3 through 8, 2017. Guests can expect local tours, including Goldfield Ghost Town, another fun charity auction and of course a costume contest, more dancing and entertainment. There is sure to be lots of amazing southwestern food, a variety of WagonMasters on board and great seminars— all accompanied by some beautiful Arizona sunsets.

2017 MESA RV REUNION RALLY

<http://fantasyrvtours.com/rallies/reunion/2017reunionrally.html>

