



### WHAT IS HERO?

HERO USA had been developing in the minds of its four founders for many years, finally becoming a reality in 2009. HERO USA (Health Education and Recreation Organization) supports common passions for recreational sports, an active lifestyle and cultivating relationships. HERO encourages active lifestyles through various sponsored sporting events.

### WHAT DOES HERO DO?

HERO USA encourages its members to embrace their passions and be proactive in their individual sport within the fabric of the HERO organization. The following are some examples, but this list just scratches the surface:

- Swimming
- Running
- Fishing
- Skiing/Snowboarding
- Water sports (skiing, wakeboarding)
- Golf
- Soccer
- Weightlifting
- Dancing
- Cycling/Mountain biking
- Rollerblading
- Volleyball
- Softball
- Hiking/backpacking
- Canoeing/kayaking
- Yoga
- Basketball

### HOW DO YOU JOIN HERO?

Go to HEROUSA.org to learn more about HERO USA, become a member, view upcoming HERO USA sponsored events or even make a donation to support HERO USA.



## MANY HANDS Russell Hodge

Russell Hodge is at his happiest when he is wearing a hard hat and has his eyes on the skeletal outline of steel and concrete which will become a performing arts center, library or another building of equal importance to the community. With his assistance in fund-raising, the dreams found in blueprints and boardrooms across the country become a reality for those in need.

“The architecture of the buildings isn’t something that I play a part in, but I really enjoy seeing everything come together,” Hodge says. “I’m a fan of great architecture, and it’s nice seeing the dream become a reality.”

From their offices in Dublin, the Hodge Group has helped raise funds to create buildings, fight disease, help the less fortunate and almost anything else that could use a push in fund-raising. With roots in political fund-raising, Hodge’s experience spans over two decades; his passion for philanthropy was initially ignited working with the late Wendy’s owner, Dave Thomas.

“He really set an example of what could be done with the power of philanthropy,” Hodge says. “I really felt like I had a responsibility to make a difference in the community.”

According to Hodge, 80 percent of American philanthropic donations comes from individual donors, which makes it important to get the message out for any kind of campaign to the public as a whole. Even in today’s economic climate, people continue to give, but want to send a message more than ever through their giving.

“As we are getting close to December, the time when most people give the most, it’s really important that they give more than ever this year as the charities and causes need it more than ever,” Hodge reaffirms.

For more information go to [www.hodge-group.com](http://www.hodge-group.com)

■ Cary Smith

### THE GIFT OF GIVING

This holiday season, consider presenting a family member or friend with a donation in their name instead of a physical gift. Many local organizations like Habitat for Humanity Ohio, Red Cross and CCAD offer the ability to make an honorary contribution. They will mail the person being honored a note explaining the contribution you made in their name. Contact your favorite charity organization and ask if they do honorary donations. If not, write a small letter or card telling about the donation you made in their honor.

### ORGANIZATIONS TO CONSIDER

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OHIO**  
Offers honorary donations.  
[www.habitatforhumanityofohio.org/donate.html](http://www.habitatforhumanityofohio.org/donate.html)

**RED CROSS OF CENTRAL OHIO**  
Offers honorary donations.  
[columbus.redcross.org](http://columbus.redcross.org) or  
[american.redcross.org](http://american.redcross.org)

**COLUMBUS COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN**  
Offers honorary donations.  
[www.ccad.edu/donate](http://www.ccad.edu/donate)