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### **Tybee's Island, GA's, Big Give Aims to Make a Difference in American Outlook**

TYBEE ISLAND, GA—Businesses throughout the Tybee Island community dig deep April 17-30, 2009 to provide discounts, goodies, events and more to visitors and day-trippers. At this eclectic, artsy and unpretentious beach community just 20 minutes outside of Savannah, the majority of businesses are small and independently owned. Tybee's Big Give is a collaboration of businesses giving back during worst recession in modern times. Vacation home rentals, motels, hotels, bike shops, charter boat captains, lighthouse tours, retail shops, boutiques and even mom and pop restaurants are working together to give guests a time they won't soon forget.

No doubt, Tybee's Big Give will be an endearing memory for many in the financial crunch of 2009. Few have gone untouched by the recession; so many Tybee entrepreneurs are making a sacrifice to bring visitors to the island for their first time or for repeat vacationers. Sometimes a change of scenery can make all the difference and Tybee wants to be the difference. This is also the big reveal for the island's first spring break with the re-nourished beach with 1.2 million cubic yards of sand now in place and ready to enjoy. Tybee Island is the destination story for spring break 2009; fun and affordable and only a short drive away. This event is the ultimate one-tank trip in the making.

Island-wide participation in Tybee's Big Give means discounts on lodging up to 50% off for hotels, B&Bs and vacation rentals ranging from lovingly restored vintage bungalows to palatial homes by the sea to condos. Restaurant participation in Tybee's Big Give includes gift cards, free kids meals, 10% off meals and more. For the four-foot-and-under set: pirate rings, bubbles and chalk for creating sidewalk art. Heading out to the open waters there is free bait, 25% off charters and discounts on activities like parasailing from Lazaretto Creek, jet skis and fishing. Tybee is often voted #1 for porch sitting by residents and visitors alike, but for those who want to stay active there is free early-morning yoga on the strand, free YMCA aerobics and fitness classes and free gym access. Also, fun free events such as a Guitar Hero Tournament will be held at Tybee's new cyber cafe and arcade. Tybee's Big Give offers a little something for everyone.

Tiny Tybee Island, a unique town full of true characters has decided to give back to their fellow Americans in hopes they might be able to get away for a bit of R&R. "We think a break from bad news, stress and worry is just what the doctor ordered and Tybee is the perfect place to do just that," says Chairman Greg Stoeffler the of Tybee Island Tourism Council, a branch of The Savannah Chamber of Commerce. "Our decision for most all of our businesses to unify in a show of solidarity to give whatever we have to give during the last two weeks in April is one we are proud of. It shows the heart of Tybee. Some businesses are barely hanging on, but they still want to give, that is what will get us through these hard times. I am sure of it. I feel honored to live and work with people that want to reach out and do something this uplifting and special."

Mayor Jason Buelterman, an avid surfer and lover of outdoor activities, resides on Tybee with his wife and young daughter. "One of the reasons people love Tybee is because of the lack of pretense," Buelterman explains. "Now more than ever they appreciate that flip-flops are as dressy as it gets here on the island. We hope travelers will hang up their blue blazers of trips gone by for a vacation to remember. Crossing the bridge from town is such a release into a new laid back existence. This is something people need to experience. We are doing all we can to make it as affordable as possible. It's incredible what our community is offering and I have not heard of anything like this before. We believe that people are re-evaluating priorities for all aspects of their lives, including where they go for vacation. We want to convey that the down-to-earth appeal of Tybee is essential in times like these. We have always been a great affordable getaway, but now more than ever we hope people can come be a part of our Big Give. Even if it's only for an afternoon on the beach and dinner with the family, that can be a great memory."

Please visit [www.tybeesbiggive.com](http://www.tybeesbiggive.com) for daily updates for events, activities, special "Only on Tybee" packages and to preview the growing list of participators in Tybee's Big Give.