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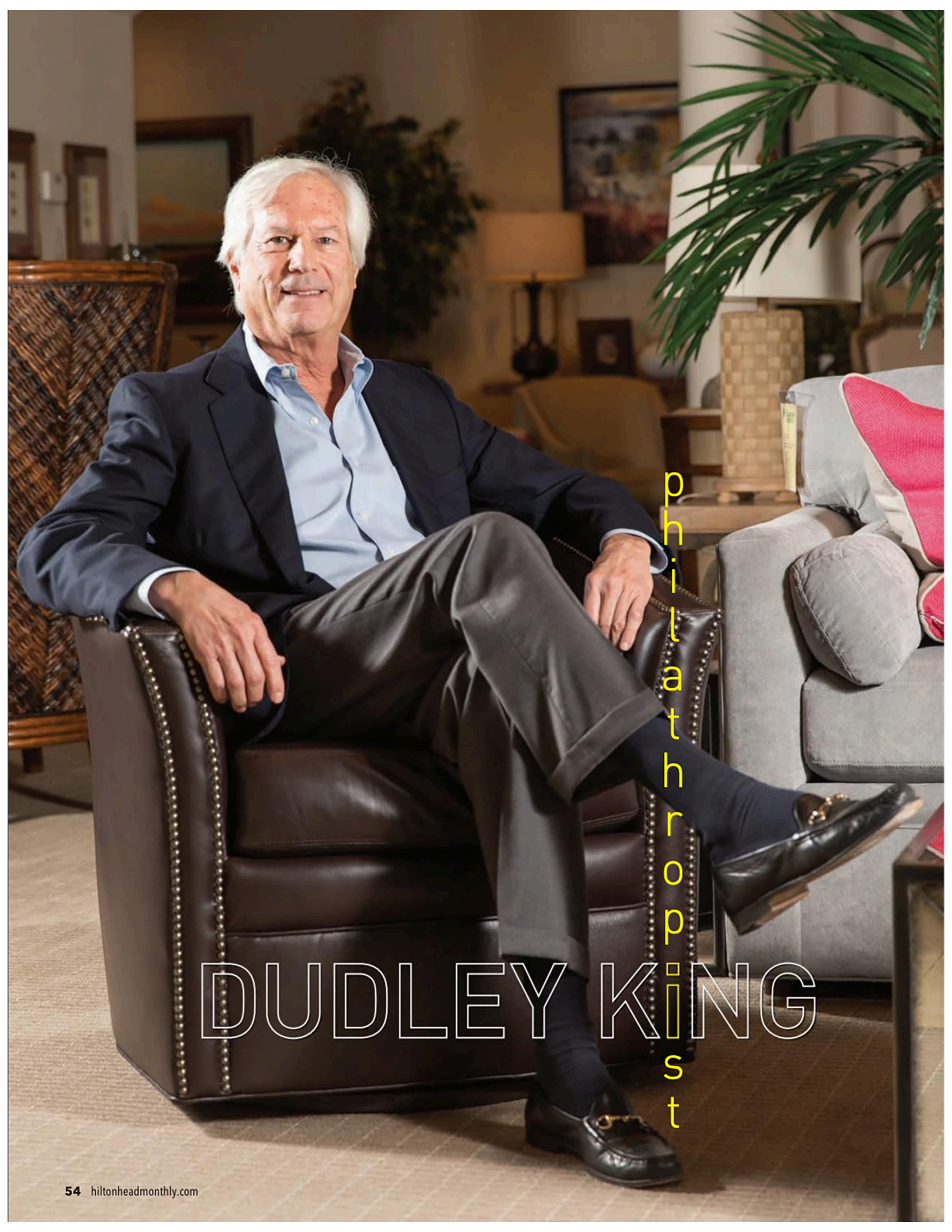
people of the lowcountry

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JANUARY 2014  
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philanthropist

# DUDLEY KING

## HELPING BEHIND THE SCENES

BY MARY DOYLE | PHOTO BY VITOR LINDO

**D**udley King moved to Hilton Head 30 years ago to get involved in the community, and that he did, wholeheartedly.

After establishing a successful career with Coca-Cola and spending the early years of his career moving often, he sought the opportunity to settle down and become involved in the community. He began to look for a business to purchase and found Plantation Interiors on Hilton Head.

Since then he has made philanthropy his full-time job for nearly 25 years. King has donated his time and talents to: Hilton Head Island Community Association, Arts & Cultural Council of Hilton Head, Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce, The Children's Center, Caring Coins Foundation, Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, and most recently Hilton Head Island Institute. To name a few.

He combines business savvy with compassion, a winning combination that has proved instrumental in many of the organizations he has assisted in getting off the ground.

King takes a hands-on approach. "It is the only way to get involved," he says. "You are not fully aware of how an organization is run unless you get involved. It is a lot easier to make decisions and give advice if you are hands on."

In 1989 King took part in the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce Leadership program, an opportunity that would introduce him to many of the area's charitable organizations and prove as the foundation for his calling to Lowcountry philanthropy.

Although he has dedicated his time to a multitude of charitable organizations in the Lowcountry, he has most notably been involved with Arts Center of Coastal Carolina and The Children's Center.

King played a key role in the founding of the Self Family Arts Center, now known as Arts Center of Coastal Carolina. Serving as vice chairman and chairman of the Finance Committee and treasurer, King managed the financing and construction of the new building. In 2007 King was recognized as Volunteer of the Year, for contributing his time towards a successful wine auction, and undoubtedly the countless hours he devoted to ensuring the success of the organization over the years.

Due to his experience in building the arts center, King also played a crucial role in the construction of the new facility for The Children's Center. In King's own words, he "fell in love with the organization." "They care for kids six weeks to six years. A lot of kids grow up there. Eighty percent of the families are need-based. The teachers have been there a long time. It is a real loving atmosphere."

King has always sought to maintain a low profile, that's the way he wants it. However, at the 2013 Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce annual ball, King received the Alice Glenn Doughtie Good Citizenship Award. It was a recognition and credit that was incredibly well deserved.

"I'm not an up-front person. I respect those that do work in the spotlight, it's just that I would rather help people behind the scenes," said King.

Although always engaged in charitable activity, King is a devoted family man as well. He has been married to his wife Rita for 48 years; they have four children and 14 grandchildren. **M**



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