

Hospice Angels, Dolls and Hearts

Why Do We Make All Those Dolls, Angels and Hearts You Ask??

Since 2011, the Hospice Dolls Volunteer Group of the Ocean Ridge Charities Association (ORCA) has hand crafted over 2,700 dolls, angels, and hearts for patients and their family members. That task involved a lot of measuring, tracing, cutting, stitching, curling, stuffing, nipping and tucking, culminating in really cute dolls dressed in colorful shirts and pants, angels all heavenly in toile with wings and halo, and spongy hearts ready to comfort little and old ones alike.



The group meets monthly on the first Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the Plantation Club's Members Lounge. Over the years, we've averaged between 35-40 members annually. Our lively group of ladies has lots of fun making different parts and pieces that assemble into dolls, angels and hearts provided to Lower Cape Fear Hospice in Bolivia for Brunswick County residents in need of hospice's professional assistance.

These hand-made dolls, angels and hearts are used for different purposes but all are geared to assisting Hospice counselors teach family members to overcome their sadness and deal with their situation or touch a child with something to love. A heart is used to let a small boy deal with a moment of grief in front of his friends and avoid being teased because that boy was taught by Hospice grief counselors to remember happy moments, squeezing the inconspicuous heart (hidden unseen in his pocket) brings that good memory to his attention. An angel gives a widow a gentle way to remember her beloved husband, and her grandchild something to hang on their Christmas tree each year to remember something special about her grandfather. We also made over 50 larger angels that were distributed by local ORCA-supported charities to homeless families with children during the holidays last year.



Hospice Dolls is a long standing member of Ocean Ridge's group activities, Our volunteers and neighbors routinely donate thread, colorful

fabric for doll clothes and hearts, or ribbon and stuffing, all of which are welcome and appreciated. Those participating volunteers come and go during the meetings as their time allows, take "work" home and bring it back to the next meeting. Visitors are always welcome to drop in and see what we are all about. Our three Hospice Dolls coordinators (Peggy Burris, Mary Perno, and Nancy Roman) are available to assist volunteers and tell stories about what hospice does for families and especially about how our hand-made gifts can give comfort.

Recently, a group of veterans were at the hospice facility to meet other vets as ORCA was delivering veteran angels for patients' families. It was touching to see those vets bent over looking at the angels -- plus a doll or two in khaki. They thanked us and said they knew their comrades' families would be pleased to receive such a gift.

The Ocean Ridge Charities Association's Board Members Thank All Our Volunteers For Giving Us Your Time and Talents To Help Others, Making A Difference In Lives of People You Will Most Likely Never Meet! BRAVO!!! We Could Not Have Done It Without You!!!

— *Peggy Burris*



Mary Perno (Hospice Doll Coordinator) with completed dolls as well as semi-completed dolls

Ocean Ridge Charities Association, Inc.

The Ocean Ridge Charities Association, Inc. (ORCA) is a tax exempt, non-profit corporation situated within the Ocean Ridge Plantation development in southeast Brunswick County, a community that is home to nearly 700 full and part-time households with nearly 1,300 residents. ORCA was organized in 2010 for the purpose of identifying and supporting those Brunswick County charities and non-profits that assist disadvantaged citizens. To find out more about ORCA and its activities go to www.orcharities.org or contact the organization at orcharities@gmail.com.



ORCA donates \$55,000 to Hurricane Relief

In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Florence, the community of Ocean Ridge Plantation stepped up and raised tens of thousands of dollars to help the victims of this natural disaster. Just two weeks after the storm hit, the Ocean Ridge Charities Association (ORCA)—rolled out a plan to support relief efforts in Brunswick County. Its goal: Raise \$50,000 in contributions and commodities. Three months later, ORCA had raised nearly \$85,000.

“Awesome” said Mike Gildea, ORCA’s founding president. “Ocean Ridge is and continues to be an incredibly generous, community conscious neighborhood that understands the value of giving back” he added.

The community-wide effort kicked off with two days of commodity collections. Over \$40,000 worth of items were donated by over 250 residents. Over 100 volunteers worked nearly 500 hours to offload, sort, package and re-load all collected items onto delivery trucks. Truckloads of hurricane relief supplies were then dispatched to local charities.

Part two of the Ocean Ridge relief plan--direct fundraising to help local charities who were helping victims. ORCA’s annual direct mail giving campaign yielded \$30,000. Two events raised nearly \$5,000. ORCA’s newest fundraising program, Change for Charities-- countertop donation boxes at 90 local retailers--netted another \$4,000. Thanks to the support of local All State agent Rusty Russ, the All State Foundation contributed another \$6,000. According to ORCA Treasurer Claudia Piccarelli, “On average we were raising over \$900 per day over the three-month campaign.”

Overall, the effort directly assisted 14 local charities and 12 individuals whose homes were destroyed, including three employees at Ocean Ridge. “Every time we needed their financial support, ORCA was there with funding,” said Donna Phelps of Brunswick County Street Reach, the county’s lead homeless support organization. “Their generosity helped us find shelter for dozens of displaced families,” she added.

ORCA is a tax exempt, non-profit corporation located within the Ocean Ridge Plantation development in southeast Brunswick County. Organized in 2009-10, the award-winning organization has raised nearly \$500,000 for local Brunswick County charities and non-profits. To learn more about ORCA, go to www.orcharities.org or contact the organization at orcharities@gmail.com.

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— Kath Larson and Mike Gildea

ORCA donates to Habitat for Humanity, Street Reach, and WARM

Photos in this newsletter’s Photo Gallery include:

Habitat for Humanity donation pictured with Habitat for Humanity representative Carlos Montagano, and ORCA representatives: Maggy Schlink, Barbara Ellenberger, Claudia Piccarelli, Beth Naylor, Ron Sorice, Corinne Eisenstein, and Mike Lynch.

Street Reach donation pictured with Street Reach representatives Garry Phelps and Donna Phelps, and ORCA representatives: Barbara Ellenberger, Peggy Burris, George Briggs, Beth Naylor, Amy Kelly, and Mike Lynch.

WARM: Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry donation pictured with WARM representative Kelley Mawhinney, and ORCA representatives: Amy Kelly, Beth Naylor, Glenn Hess, Pris Lovell, and Corinne Eisenstein.