

In 2023, the Ocean Ridge Charities Association, Inc (ORCA) will enter its 13th year of service. Founded in June of 2010, ORCA is a 501c(3) tax-exempt, state licensed, nonprofit corporation established within the community of Ocean Ridge Plantation. Its primary objective is to support local charitable and non-profit organizations in Brunswick County, NC that assist the neediest. ORCA accomplishes this by promoting charitable fundraising and volunteer participation throughout Ocean Ridge.

The Board of Directors is comprised of Ocean Ridge residents who guide the work of the organization. The Board elects the officers of the association, decides its annual budget, develops and implements fundraising plans and strategies, directs the allocation of donations to local recipient organizations and communicates to both Ocean Ridge and the greater Brunswick County communities about its activities.

If you participated in the ORCA Spring Garden Tour, the Veteran's mailbox bows or the Christmas House Tour, you helped to donate to our 2022 fundraising efforts. Additionally, if you bid on items at the Market Place Raffle and Quilt raffle, bought an International Dining Club membership, or an Ocean Ridge Cookbook or luminaries to "Light Up the Night", you contributed to our fundraising successes. Donations to our Annual Appeal were also greatly appreciated. We want to thank you for your participation in these "fun" fundraising events. Your donations help to make a positive difference in Brunswick County.

ORCA ended 2022 with \$57,000 in collected contributions resulting from a variety of fundraising events and earmarked donations. These donations were distributed to 24 charities that have been vetted by ORCA to ensure the contributions will be used to serve those in need in Brunswick County. Each Board member is liaison to several charities and is responsible for "follow up" with the charities on their use of the donated funds. From the Fall activities and Holiday activities we were able to donate \$12,750 to Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation's (BEMC) Warm Homes Warm Hearts program which will be doubled by BEMC to pay electric bills for those in need.

ORCA established its second scholarship at Brunswick Community College. The first scholarship grants scholarships to nursing students who meet specific grade criteria. The second scholarship, funded by extra Tornado funds, will be granted to students pursuing their Emergency Medical Technician certification. This was established to invest in the future of those who helped during the 2021 tornado. ORCA also sponsored our first ever Charity Workshop, focusing on growth and

future challenges in Brunswick County. This provided the 24 charities who attended an opportunity to hear first-hand from Brunswick County officials. Feedback after the event concluded it was a huge success. Many of the charities want to know when we are having another workshop. The board is considering this opportunity to create lasting positive management skills for the charities in addition to providing funds. Additionally, 2022 was a time of "catching up" for ORCA, we celebrated our 10 plus 2 anniversary, as our 10 year anniversary in 2020 was not celebrated publicly due to Covid restrictions.

To start 2023 off the Board met on January 19th for a day-long strategic planning retreat. The retreat started with a welcome of two new board members, Cathy Benton and Heidi Root. The Board looks forward to a fruitful and productive 2023 and wants to thank all Ocean Ridge residents for their continued generosity and support of those in need in Brunswick County. Look for our fundraising activities in NABR announcements coming soon! Hope to see you there.