

# ORCA Charity Highlight Series

ORCA just marked its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Many of the Ocean Ridge residents joined us for the celebration where 10 of the major charities we all support were present. You saw articles on several of them across the year as we highlighted the great work they do and how your time and money have supported those efforts. As part of our ORCA Charity Highlight series, we bring you the Brunswick County Homeless Coalition and Brunswick County Habitat for Humanity.

## **Brunswick County Homeless Coalition**

Located in Ocean Isle Beach, the Brunswick County Homeless Coalition (BCHC) has a mission to serve as an advocate for the homeless and those in need by increasing awareness and education of issues in the county and by exploring, promoting, recruiting, facilitating and providing resources to meet these needs. Their vision is to ensure that needed resources are easily accessible by the homeless and those in need in order to decrease the incidence of chronic and transitional homelessness.



As with many counties in North Carolina, there are homeless in need of help. BCHC represents a group of volunteers from faith-based ministries, non-profit organizations, local agencies and concerned citizens coming together for the greater good of Brunswick County's homeless and in need population. They are entirely dependent on donations. The coalition is 100% volunteer and they would welcome anyone willing to join their volunteers. They meet monthly at Brunswick Senior Resources Inc. (BSRI) at 3620 Express Drive in Shallotte. Their next goal is to establish a day shelter to assist individuals to learn life skills and end the chronic homelessness and dependency.

ORCA has donated about \$5,500 to this organization to date. You can contact them at [www.brunswickcountyhomelesscoalition.com](http://www.brunswickcountyhomelesscoalition.com).

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### **Brunswick County Habitat for Humanity**

Seeking to put God's love into action, Brunswick County Habitat for Humanity (BCHFH) brings people together to build homes, communities and hope. Where there's a new home, there's a new hope. Habitat's vision is, "A world where everyone has a decent place to live." BCHFH is a locally run affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, an ecumenical housing organization.



Habitat works with the community to build and renovate decent, affordable housing to improve the lives of deserving people. Habitat believes decent shelter is a matter of conscience and action, and invites others to join them.

Volunteers from all backgrounds and areas of the county, including some Ocean Ridge residents, assist in house construction and in many other ways. In addition, about once a month Ocean Ridge's very own "Jersey Girls" prepare and deliver a delicious lunch to a Habitat worksite. Laura DeCando and Peggie Bruckman are the coordinators, and the Jersey Girls have done this since April 2007. They say the lunches are "not anything special," but the meals receive rave reviews!

BCHFH recently began their newest mission: to help existing low-income, elderly and disabled homeowners make needed repairs to their properties when they are unable to make the repairs themselves. Habitat seeks new ways to increase awareness of and access to decent, affordable housing for those in need of a safe place to live.

And Habitat is producing results on both the international and local levels. Habitat International has built more than 600,000 homes around the world, providing more than 2.5 million people with safe, decent, and affordable shelter. Since its founding, Brunswick County Habitat for Humanity has completed 50 houses here in Brunswick County. One home was recently completed in Shallotte, and two more are now being built in Shallotte and Leland. Before taking ownership, homeowners must meet strict requirements and invest substantial "sweat equity."

ORCA has donated \$7,700 to BCHFH to date. To learn more about them, go to [brunswickcountyhabitat.org](http://brunswickcountyhabitat.org).

Once again, ORCA would like to THANK the Ocean Ridge residents for their generosity. You are doing great charity work!

To learn more about ORCA, check out our website at [orcharities.org](http://orcharities.org)  
 "LIKE US" (**Ocean Ridge Charities Association Inc.**) on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/orcharities) or  
 email us at [orcharities@gmail.com](mailto:orcharities@gmail.com).

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