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**SERVING THE BRUNSWICK COUNTY COMMUNITY**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July , 2017**

# **ORCA PLEDGES ANOTHER \$10K TO HOSPICE**

The Ocean Ridge Charities Association (ORCA) will earmark another \$10,000 in charitable contributions for SECU Hospice House of Brunswick County as part of a multi-year agreement signed between the regional hospice organization and the ORCA Board of Directors. The pledge will be funded over the next five years at \$2,000 annually and will underwrite services provided by Hospice that don't qualify for reimbursement.

“We are always honored to have the support of Ocean Ridge Charities. They have been incredibly generous since being one of the original donors in the *Closer to Home* capital campaign in 2012 that built the SECU Hospice House of Brunswick” remarked Laurie Taylor, VP of Development for Lower Cape Fear Hospice. “As 2017 marks five years since opening the SECU Hospice House, our gratitude for ORCA’s support ever since is overwhelming” she noted.

According to Mike Gildea, ORCA’s founding president, the charity has donated \$23,500 to Hospice over the last six years. “For Ocean Ridge residents, Hospice House is a very special place. Ocean Ridge is predominantly a retirement community and many households have had family members cared for by Hospice” Gildea said.

ORCA Treasurer Claudia Piccarelli noted that Hospice had already received an additional \$13,500 from the charity predominantly through its Memorial Fund which was set up to provide residents with a way to memorialize loved ones by giving to local charities. “Every year Ocean Ridge donors give more to Hospice than any of the other charities on the Fund’s list.”

ORCA board member and Hospice liaison Peggy Burris who had initiated the latest round of discussion with Hospice, says the ORCA grant will “underwrite two of their programs: the Pathway to Care program is charity care that ensures no one is turned away because of an inability to pay, and; the Grief Support program which offers licensed counselors to provide compassionate support through individual and group counseling, workshops, camps and programs for all ages.”

The Ocean Ridge Charities Association--one of only three, neighborhood-based charities in Brunswick County--funds the work of Brunswick County non-profits that serve the residents in need. ORCA’s community contributions support a broad range of purposes including education and youth development, health care and human services, homelessness and hunger, seniors and veterans. Since its inception in 2010, ORCA has funded over 35 local charities and last year donated over \$56,000 to support 23 of them.

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. To learn more about ORCA go to [www.orcharities.org](http://www.orcharities.org) or contact the organization at [orcharities@gmail.com](mailto:orcharities@gmail.com)

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