

**Doll makers at the Ocean Ridge Plantation in southern Brunswick County recently donated seven dozen “medical” dolls for patients and family members at the Lower Cape Fear Hospice facilities in both New Hanover and Brunswick County. The doll making project is an activity of the Ocean Ridge Charities Association, Inc. (ORCA). Recently ORCA made a \$10,000 donation to help fund the construction of the new hospice care facility in Supply which is scheduled to open at the end of the month.**

**Becky Long who coordinates volunteers for the Lower Cape Fear Hospice Inc. noted that the cuddlies not only “...help lift the spirits of children but as well are therapeutic for some patients” Long also indicated that “...right now Hospice social workers are using the dolls during their home visits and they’ll be made available at Hospice’s Summer Sunshine Camp where counselors provide bereavement therapy to youngsters” “The dolls provide something that’s both distracting and comforting at the same time. They help children through a difficult time”**

**“It’s just another way for our community to support hospice,” says ORCA Board member Peggy Burris who helped lead the recent ORCA fundraising campaign to raise the construction funds. “After the campaign, a number of us wanted to maintain our hospice connection so the doll’s project made perfect sense” she added. Karen Arnold, who leads the doll making project noted that “...when the Brunswick County’s new hospice facility opens this summer, a basket of Ocean Ridge dolls will adorn the entrance where children can pick one for their very own.”**