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SERVING THE BRUNSWICK COUNTY COMMUNITY

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 7, 2019

OCEAN RIDGE CHARITIES DONATES \$85,000 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 Streetreach, 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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