

ORCA Charity Highlight Series
January 2016 *Changing Tides* article

ORCA marked its 5th anniversary in 2015. We have had the opportunity and the pleasure to contribute over \$125,000 during that time to many local charities who support the neediest in Brunswick County. It has only been possible because of the generosity of the Ocean Ridge residents. During 2015, you saw articles in *Changing Tides* on a number of them, where we highlighted the great work they do and how your time and money have supported those efforts. As part of the ORCA Charity Highlight series, we bring you the Lower Cape Fear Hospice/Life Care Center and Communities in Schools.

Lower Cape Fear Hospice/Life Care Center

The Lower Cape Fear Hospice/Life Care Center is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide the highest level of care and comfort to patients with life-limiting illness, support and counseling to families, and education to the community.

It was created because Brunswick County, one of the fastest growing counties in the nation, most desperately needed its own hospice care center. With the leadership of W.J. and Sybil McLamb and the generosity of donors, that included ORCA's contribution of \$10,000, the seven-bed SECU Hospice House of Brunswick facility opened in June 2012, and patients needing acute, end-of-life hospice services or counseling avoided an hour long journey to the Wilmington or Whiteville facilities.

Hospice is a benefit that offers healthcare, assistance and education to support patients and their families facing the challenges of an advanced illness. It is individualized care that offers compassion, dignity, comfort, respect, and someone to call for assistance, anytime day or night. Infants, children, and adults who face an advanced illness can qualify as hospice patients.

The services provided at the hospice care center and for patients served in their place of residence are varied and support not only the patient, but support the family members as well. These include:

- Around the clock pain and symptom management
- Physicians who develop and oversee patient plans of care
- Specialized nurses who provide care to patients and education to families
- Certified nursing assistants who provide personal care
- Social workers who provide individual and family counseling, provide assistance with understanding financial options, and help communicate needs within the healthcare system
- Chaplains who provide spiritual counseling and support
- Bereavement counselors who offer grief counseling and education
- Volunteers who provide respite, companionship and assistance

As a result, Lower Cape Fear Hospice has been able to serve more than 4,800 patients annually through hospice, palliative care and bereavement services. It has been serving patients in coastal North and South Carolina since 1980, and touches the lives of more than 750 hospice and palliative care patients each day. SECU Hospice House of Brunswick, Lower Cape Fear Hospice's inpatient care center in Bolivia, has seven private patient/family suites. Since it opened in June 2012, approximately 870 patients have been served in the Brunswick County care center.

Ocean Ridge residents support the Hospice/Life Care Center in numerous ways: provide food ("Meals of Love") for the families visiting the facility; volunteer their time, and donate to the hospice center through

ORCA's Memorial Fund. Additionally ORCA sponsors neighbor volunteers who make dolls and angels to give patients and children comfort or relieve stress, and angels are provided to family members within the patient's belongings as a tender remembrance. ORCA has also contributed \$16,290 to this organization since its inception. Thank you all for your generosity!

Communities In School of Brunswick County (CIS)

The mission of Communities in Schools is to surround students with a community of support empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

Nationally, every 9 seconds, a student drops out of school. When they drop out they earn less, are twice as likely to be unemployed, rely more on public health/welfare systems and, unfortunately, are more involved in the criminal justice system.

In 2010 – 2011 alone, 137 children dropped out of Brunswick County Schools, with over 15,000 students dropping out across North Carolina. Each dropout costs Brunswick County taxpayers \$127,000 in support services over their lifetime, totally \$17,399,000 in lifetime costs to Brunswick County taxpayers for all our dropouts.

CIS believes every child deserves a one-on-one relationship with a caring adult, a safe place to learn and grow, a healthy start and healthy future, a marketable skill to use upon graduation and a chance to give back to the community. It was founded in the 1970s on the belief that relationships save children. In 1995, Brunswick County began looking at ways to improve student success. It was concluded that CIS was the most effective means to "mobilize the community for improving the success of low-performing students and enhance community excellence."

CIS is a non-profit organization offering services in a number of areas: After School Programs; Teen Court and Peer Court; Family Resource Center; Parenting Education; Adopt A School and Volunteer Partnerships and a Dropout Prevention Program.

The use of ORCA funding is to help cover the costs of the Dropout Prevention Program at the Shallotte Middle School. The cost to provide these preventative services to a student is \$1,500 dollars. ORCA has contributed \$4,000 over the last 5 years to CIS program.

Its success stories are many and your generous contributions have helped to keep kids in school in Brunswick County. Thank you, once again, Ocean Ridge residents.