

## Men's Grilled Dinner Group presents donation to ORCA

ORCA will provide money to the Veterans Welcome Home, Resource Center, the Carousel Child Advocacy Center

John Santini from the Ocean Ridge Plantation's Men's Grilled Dinner Group (MGDG) presented a donation of \$1,856 to Mary Perno, president of the Ocean Ridge Charities Association (ORCA). At the MGDG's request, ORCA will provide the money to the Veterans Welcome Home and Resource Center (VWHRC) and the Carousel Child Advocacy Center (CCAC).

VWHRC's mission is to end veteran homelessness, and CCAC's mission is to support healing, promote justice, foster resilience in children victimized by physical or sexual abuse, and improve our community through education, prevention and advocacy.

The MGDG raised the money by cooking hamburgers and hotdogs for Ocean Ridge Plantation residents during the

Social Activities Committee's Tunes at the Pool events in May and June, the Opportunity Rocks concert held in June and by donations made by MGDG members during their June dinner.

With this donation, the MGDG has provided more than \$3,300 to ORCA in 2024.

The MGDG is a group of male Ocean Ridge Plantation property owners and full-time residents who prepare meat-heavy grilled dinners within the campus approximately every six weeks to build camaraderie within the men of ORP.

Formed in the summer of 2023, the group has quickly grown to more than 210 members, or "Meatheads" as they call themselves.

One of the MGDG's goals is to create demand signals for for-

ward thinking, innovative initiatives that improve Ocean Ridge Plantation as a community. Partnering with SAC and ORCA to provide grilled food to the community during some of SAC's more popular events and donating money raised to ORCA-vetted charities helps the MGDG achieve this goal.

The collaboration between the groups taps into the collective talents and energy of the volunteers so that everyone involved willingly works to make each event the best possible.

These successful efforts provide for an unforgettable experience for all involved, build excitement so that the residents look forward to attending each event, and bring a heightened sense of community within Ocean Ridge Plantation.



Photo contributed  
John Santini from the Ocean Ridge Plantation Men's Grilled Dinner Group presents a donation to Mary Perno, president of the Ocean Ridge Charities Association.