



# Ocean Ridge<sup>SM</sup> Charities Association Inc.

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**SERVING THE BRUNSWICK COUNTY COMMUNITY**

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# OCEAN RIDGE CHARITIES TOPS \$100,000

The Ocean Ridge Charities Association, or ORCA as it is known by its acronym, recently achieved a major milestone in just its fourth year of raising funds for Brunswick County charities. Thanks to a banner year in 2014, when it netted over \$32,000, ORCA exceeded the \$100,000 fundraising mark in December far outpacing the organization's initial expectations.

"Four years ago when we started out, our new board of directors hoped we could raise \$10,000 to \$15,000 per year" said Mike Gildea, ORCA's founding president. "Well, we've averaged over \$25,000 thanks to their hard work coupled with the remarkable generosity of Ocean Ridge residents and the support of our small business sponsors. It's been an amazing experience that we hope to maintain in the years ahead" Gildea added.

ORCA came to life in 2010 as a spin off of the community's original home owners association. Its primary objective was and is to support non-profits in Brunswick County that assist disadvantaged citizens. Since inception, ORCA has provided nearly \$105,000 in financial support to over 25 local non-profits including Hope Harbor Home, Habitat for Humanity, Matthew's Ministry, Providence Home, SECU Hospice House, Brunswick Senior Resources, New Hope Clinic and Brunswick Family Assistance and the Veterans Welcome Home and Resource Center in Little River.

"Our first campaign was originally intended to fund a one-time scholarship for a nursing student at Brunswick Community College" said Claudia Piccarelli, ORCA's Treasurer. "Well, we did so well in that effort that we ended up establishing the \$25,000 Ocean Ridge-David Kelly Nursing Endowment that has financed a full, one semester scholarship in each of the last four years and will do so in perpetuity" she stated.

Besides the scholarship endowment, other activities underwritten by ORCA's financial support include:

support for homeless veterans; weekend food backpacks for students in need; meals-on-wheels; health care for the poor; low income housing; hospice care; support for ecology & the environment; cancer care; literacy services; children at risk; food assistance; shelters for abused women; emergency services, and; foster care help.

ORCA raises its funds through multiple strategies including events such as its Trivia Night Championship, a Bistro Nite cabaret, a dinner dance with Mike's Garage Band, corporate sponsorships by local businesses, a community memorial fund, along with the sales of its cookbook— *From the Kitchens of Ocean Ridge*—a discount dining package, red white and blue mailbox ribbons and an annual direct mail drive.



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“We couldn’t have accomplished what we’ve done without the sustained generosity of over two-thirds of the Ocean Ridge residents, and nearly 150 local business sponsors each year” Gildea emphasized. “They and our 17 member board of directors are the lifeblood of the organization and the reasons for its success.”

For more information about ORCA, go to [www.orcharities.com](http://www.orcharities.com). To get information about starting a neighborhood charity, e-mail us at [orcharities@gmail.com](mailto:orcharities@gmail.com)

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