

ORCA Highlights

M.A.D.D.

SAVE THE DATE for National Make a Difference Day – October 28, 2017

Make A Difference Day is one of the largest annual single-days of service nationwide. No matter who you are or where you're from, everyone has the power to do something that improves the life of another. Whether it's starting a project that helps one person, or working on one that benefits a whole community, every contribution makes a difference.

On this one day each year, Ocean Ridge Charities Association, Inc. wants to inspire the residents to join together to make a difference. So, on October 28, 2017, ORCA is planning their first ever community-wide service activity. Their goal is to engage over 100 resident volunteers in a charitable activity – **Ocean Ridge Goes M.A.D.D.**

On October 28th, from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM, volunteers from Ocean Ridge will meet at the Pavilion to collect and organize golf related donated items so they are ready for sale at six thrift stores; Providence Home, Hope Harbor, Brunswick Family Assistance, Brunswick Senior Resource Inc., Community in-Schools and Habitat for Humanity.

These donations will include the golf balls that our committee has been collecting since April. Also on that day, volunteers will sort, bag and price all the collected golf balls.

Why do we need your help?

- The eight-hour day (8:00 AM-4:00 PM) will be divided into shifts.
- Volunteers will be given the opportunity to sign up for one to two-hour shifts. For each shift, we will need approximately 25-30 volunteers.
- One group of volunteers will be handling the sorting, bagging, pricing and distribution of the balls between the six thrift stores.
- The other group will be accepting golf related donations, and sorting, hanging, and distributing the collected clothing and items among the six thrift stores.
- One of the community dining groups has volunteered to make lunches for anyone who wishes to purchase a plate.

The committee will be well-prepared and organized to productively coordinate the volunteers, we just need you to sign up. **SO...Be on the lookout the first week of September for an ORMAonline.org email that will announce the official opening of the Volunteer Sign-ups. By Laura Wheaton**



Our practice run sorting, bagging and pricing 2100 balls to be ready for the actual day when we do the same for over 20,000 balls!

ORCA Highlights...continued

Board Members Score Grants for ORCA

A growing part of ORCA's fundraising portfolio over the last two years has been private sector grants. Over the last several months, ORCA has been the recipient of several corporate grants recognizing the critical work achieved by Ocean Ridge Charities in the Brunswick County community.



ORCA Grants:
Rusty Russ from Allstate
with Mike Cunningham (l) and Mike Lynch (r)

Just recently, and for the second year in a row, The Allstate Insurance Company announced the award of a \$1,000 "Helping Hands in the Community Grant" to ORCA, courtesy of board member Mike Cunningham and longtime ORCA corporate Sponsor Rusty Russ. Russ is Allstate's insurance agent in Shallotte. In awarding the grant, the Allstate Foundation announced that they were proud to include ORCA "as a partner in providing innovative and lasting solutions to enhance your community's well-being and prosperity." The Foundation grant is intended to benefit ORCA as operating support or program funding. Last year the Foundation donated \$26 million nationwide to non-profits.

Cunningham, who worked with Russ to acquire the grants, noted, "This is an outgrowth of ORCA's Corporate Sponsorship Program that partners us with small businesses throughout the community." The

sponsorship program-which is managed by Cunningham and board member Mike Lynch raised over \$12,500 last year and now includes over 125 small business contributors. "The Allstate Foundation Grant is an extra dividend from our work with and support from the local business community," Cunningham added. Mike Gildea, founding president of ORCA, expressed his appreciation as well to Rusty Russ, "Without Rusty's work with Mike Cunningham this grant wouldn't have happened. Rusty has been a very generous supporter of ORCA for many years and we're lucky to have a Corporate Sponsor like him – one who goes the extra mile to get additional funding for ORCA."

Not to be outdone, ORCA board member Peggy Burris also scored one of her own corporate grants when Brunswick Electric Membership Cooperative awarded her a \$500 grant to help underwrite ORCA's Hospice Dolls project. Like clockwork on the first Tuesday of every month, about 20 Ocean Ridge ladies meet at the Plantation Club to make mini-dolls for the children and grandchildren of hospice care patients. Over the last seven years, with the help of 110 Ocean Ridge women, they have produced over 1600 dolls, angels and hearts.

"The dolls provide something that's both distracting and comforting at the same time. They help children through a difficult time," Burris noted. According to Burris, Hospice social workers use the dolls during their home visits and they have been made available at SECU Hospice House of Brunswick. They are also used at Hospice's Summer Sunrise Kids Camp where counselors provide bereavement therapy to youngsters. The

(Continued on page 11)

ORCA Highlights...continued

work of the doll-making project has been featured in the Brunswick Beacon, Myrtle Beach Sun News, Wilmington Star News, and Stateport Pilot, as well as the South Brunswick Magazine.

Now in its 15th year, the BEMC's Community Grant program provides funds to programs impacting family services, civic and community activities, culture and the arts, emergency services, and community development. Since inception, the grants have helped hundreds of community groups with projects and programs serving thousands of citizens of all ages in BEMC's service area.

Gildea also expressed his thanks to BEMC for their support, "We are so very grateful to BEMC for recognizing the value of Hospice Dolls as well as for our partnership with them on the Warm Homes, Warm Hearts program which provides matching funds for charitable donations for households needing utility payment assistance. Last year, ORCA contributed \$3,800 for this program and BEMC matched it dollar for dollar." According to Gildea, such corporate matching awards have accounted for another \$15,000 in matching funds to non-profits receiving ORCA funds.

To volunteer for the Hospice Dolls project, contact Peggy Burris at peggyb@atmc.net



ORCA Pledges Another \$10K to Hospice

The Ocean Ridge Charities Association Inc. (ORCA) will earmark another \$10,000 in charitable contributions for SECU Hospice House of Brunswick County as part of a multi-year agreement signed between the regional hospice organization and the ORCA Board of Directors. The pledge will be funded over the next five years at \$2,000 annually and will underwrite services provided by Hospice that don't qualify for reimbursement.

"We are always honored to have the support of Ocean Ridge Charities. They have been incredibly generous since being one of the original donors in the *Closer to Home* capital campaign in 2012 that built the SECU Hospice House of Brunswick," remarked Laurie Taylor, VP of Development for Lower Cape Fear Hospice. "As 2017 marks five years since opening the SECU Hospice House, our gratitude for ORCA's support ever since is overwhelming," she noted.

According to Mike Gildea, ORCA's founding president, the charity has donated \$23,500 to Hospice over the last six years. "For Ocean Ridge residents, Hospice House is a very special place. Ocean Ridge is predominantly a retirement community and many households have had family members cared for by Hospice," Gildea said.

ORCA Treasurer Claudia Piccarelli noted that Hospice had already received an additional \$13,500 from the charity predominantly through its Memorial Fund which was set up to provide residents with a way to memorialize loved ones by giving to local charities. "Every year Ocean Ridge donors give more to Hospice than any of the other charities on the Fund's list."

ORCA board member and Hospice liaison Peggy Burris, who had initiated the latest round of discussion with Hospice, says the ORCA grant will "underwrite two of their programs: the Pathway to Care program is charity care that ensures no one is turned away because of an inability to pay, and the Grief Support program which offers licensed counselors to provide compassionate support through individual and group counseling,

(Continued on page 12)

ORCA Highlights...continued

workshops, camps and programs for all ages.”

The Ocean Ridge Charities Association Inc.--one of only three neighborhood-based charities in Brunswick County--funds the work of Brunswick County non-profits that serve residents in need. ORCA's community contributions support a broad range of purposes, including education and youth development, health care and human services, homelessness and hunger relief, seniors and veterans. Since its inception in 2010, ORCA has funded over 35 local charities and last year donated

over \$56,000 to support 23 of them.

ORCA is a tax exempt, non-profit corporation situated within the Ocean Ridge Plantation development in southeast Brunswick County, a community that is home to nearly 700 full and part-time households with nearly 1,300 residents. To learn more about ORCA go to www.orcharities.org or contact the organization at orcharities@gmail.com



By Laura Wheaton