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The Ocean Ridge Plantation goes M.A.D.D.

Raises \$20,000 for Charity Thrift Stores

Add together one community and 100 volunteers and 1100 articles of clothing/golf merchandise and 26,000 used golf balls and the total will equal one truly amazing community service activity!

Thrift stores in the South Brunswick area play an integral role in supporting our schools, troubled teens, the homeless, victims of abuse, and those who are financially unstable. With this in mind, the members of the Ocean Ridge Charities Association, Inc (ORCA) asked each other, "Why not embrace these worthwhile causes with a community-wide service program for the annual National Make A Difference Day?" That question was answered with an idea that germinated into what became *Ocean Ridge Goes M.A.D.D. for Make a Difference Day*. The six local thrift stores who were the benefactors of the all the volunteers' labors included: Providence Home, Hope Harbor, Brunswick Family Assistance, Brunswick Senior Resource Inc., Community in Schools and Habitat for Humanity.



OR Goes M.A.D.D. committee members – Laura Wheaton, George Briggs, Pris Lovell, Beth Naylor, Corinne Eisenstein. Missing: Kath Larson

Make A Difference Day is one of the largest annual single days of service nationwide. This year's event took place on October 28 and the residents of the Ocean Ridge Plantation were among the many volunteers across the country giving of their time to help make an impact on their community. ORCA's intent with this first-time endeavor was to inspire

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M.A.D.D....continued

the residents of our community to work together for one day, for one cause. Under the direction of committee members George Briggs, Laura Wheaton, Corinne Eisenstein, Kath Larson, Pris Lovell and Beth Naylor, and with the assistance of the men's and ladies' golf leagues, their objective was to engage over 100 resident volunteers in a hands-on charitable activity – *Ocean Ridge Goes M.A.D.D.* – and by day's end, they surpassed that goal. Grace Loyack, an emeritus ORCA member stated, "It is hard to believe how ORCA has evolved from 5 or 6 people discussing charitable endeavors to an organization that encompassed so many people and so many charities."



Volunteers organizing the apparel donations L-R: Pris Lovell, Ginny Alger, Corinne Eisenstein, Deb Jullien, Marilue Tate, Barbara Ellenberger and Beth Naylor

Since April, the *OR Goes M.A.D.D.* committee has been collecting and cleaning used golf balls from residents in their community. With an initial goal of 15,000 balls, they were ecstatic when the end number was close to 26,000! On October 28, for over 8 hours, the 100 plus volunteers from Ocean Ridge met at the Plantation's Nature Pavilion to sort, bag and price the thousands of golf balls.



The Dining Divas L-R: Barbara Bronneck, Eileen Jablonski, Peggie Bruckmann, Maureen Lundgren, Carole Dunham, Judy Hanna and Laura Wheaton

Volunteer Mike Dies commented, "It was a great way to meet neighbors, enjoy the day and help others at the same time. I think half of these found golf balls were mine at one time." On that day they also collected and organized hundreds of golf related items including shirts, hats, golf bags and clubs, etc. and readied them for the racks at the six thrift stores. The setting for the day was a festive one that kindled the spirit of giving. Like a well-oiled machine, the volunteers arrived in 2-hour shifts, took to their stations, and

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M.A.D.D....continued

completed their share of the day's huge task. By the end of the afternoon, the thrift stores arrived to pick-up almost \$20,000 worth of merchandise for resale to support each of their charities. Volunteers Barbara Bronneck and Brenda Hess shared, "It was so nice to be a part of the camaraderie of the day."

Whether it's starting a project that helps one person or working on one that benefits a whole community, every contribution makes a difference. The Ocean Ridge Charities Association Inc. is a non-profit, tax exempt corporation established within the community of Ocean Ridge Plantation to identify charitable needs within Brunswick County and to support them through increased fundraising and volunteer participation. ORCA President Mike Gildea shared, "We were so proud to be a part of Make A Difference Day by successfully leading our own community service activity. I know the committee is already looking forward to exceeding this undertaking with an even greater effort next year."

By Laura Wheaton



M.A.D.D....continued



Volunteers sorting 26,000 used golf balls



George Briggs



Tina Seamon

Bagging golf balls into one dozen packages



Mike Savoia

Never sat down all day as he assisted with the sorting, organizing and clean up duties

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Pat Brooks, Kathy Giancarlo, and Bill Bixler separating all the Titleist balls



Pricing the bags of balls (L- R): Tom Waldron, Ron Sorice, Lori Bonnington and Glenn Hess

Ocean Ridge Goes M.A.D.D.

Brenda Hess working the registration table



Volunteers enjoy lunch prepared by The Dining Divas (ladies from Ocean Ridge Plantation community dining group)

M.A.D.D....continued

At the end of the **M.A.D.D.** day, volunteers help loading when the thrift store trucks came to pick up their goodies.

