

OR COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Ocean Ridge Charities Association Activities (ORCA)

ORCA WHAT'S NEW

by - Kath Larson

ORCA 10+2 Celebration: April 21, 2022 Plantation Club

The “10+2 celebration” originally was planned to be a 10-year celebration in 2020, but due to Covid 19, ORCA postponed the event. Then last year, in the aftermath of the February tornado, it was again a time to postpone. **The ORCA board of directors decided that 2022 would be a “year of gratitude and appreciation” for Ocean Ridge Charities Association. The celebration on April 21 was to THANK EACH OF YOU for helping ORCA to impact this wonderful area we live in with over \$1.3 M dollars in cash and commodities over the last 12 years.**

Maggy Schlink, ORCA President, also thanked all of the past and present board members for their hours of dedication and service. Success like this is achieved by the hard work and dedication of many. Special thanks went to Lynn Wieties, the chairperson for the “10+2 celebration” and her wonderful team: Judy Cunningham, Kath Larson, Beth Naylor, and Mary Perno.

Displayed on charts around the room were the highlights of ORCA’s growth in two-year segments.

ORCA invited representatives from our charities to come celebrate with us....because THEY are the people who actually use our donations to make the biggest impact. We thank them for all they have done and continue to do to help others.

Maggy then introduced Mike Gildea, the founding resident of Ocean Ridge Charities Association, to provide

attendees with a brief recap of ORCA’s beginnings (*pictured below*). In honor of his vision of what ORCA could be, Maggy acknowledged his idea of ORCA as a “whale of a charity.” ORCA never could have become what it is today without Mike’s vision, determination, and hard work!



Maggy’s remarks: At this time, I would like to take a few minutes to recap ORCA’s last two years. They both represent different challenges: first, Covid 19, and our first year without any fun fundraising events. Those of you who are new may not even realize we founded this charity on the premise that if we created fun events and charged money to come to them, we could then donate that money to our charities! 2020 certainly challenged those assertions. Yet, our Ocean Ridge community realized that our charities were still in need of our donations. Our Corporate Sponsors, all of whom had businesses that were struggling, still donated to ORCA during this time.

Then, in 2021, we as a community experienced the most challenging time in the existence of Ocean Ridge, with the February 15th tornado. In addition to the

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loss of our dear friends, Barry Glick, Rich O'Connor, and Phyllis O'Connor (a former ORCA board member), over 120 families had significant damage to their homes. We had to change our bylaws to be able to have the "Neighbor for Neighbor Campaign," since we donate to 501(c)3 charities, not individuals. We facilitated the distribution of over \$150,000 to our neighbors. Due to a grant from Duke Energy, we were even able to aid 10 families impacted outside our gates.

So, as I comment upon the challenges of the past two years, I would ask you to **focus on our resilience**. Even in our darkest hours, our community came together and showed the strength of our love and commitment, not only to each other, but also to Brunswick County. As I began to say to the people impacted by the tornado: ***"On any day, Ocean Ridge is a great place to live, but on one of the worst days of your life....Ocean Ridge is the BEST place to live."***

As a point of reference, in 2011, we established the David Kelly-Ocean Ridge Charities Association Nursing Endowment at Brunswick Community College. To date, we have awarded scholarships to 12 nursing students or future nurses in Brunswick County.

After our final financial distribution, which emptied our "Tornado funds," money continued to come in. Some people decided to return their checks (after determining that they were in better shape than they had originally thought), and other groups from the outside sent additional funds.

Our board of directors wrestled with "what to do with those additional \$7K in funds" donated to help

our community. After researching several possibilities, we decided on a solution.

I am thrilled to announce today that ORCA will be establishing a second scholarship fund with The Foundation of Brunswick Community College...recently recognized as "the #1 community college in the US" for the second year in a row. The Ocean Ridge Charities Association Emergency Medical Technician Scholarship will be given to selected candidates in the EMT (emergency medical technician) program. We will define the criteria and The Foundation will facilitate the selection of the successful candidates. We are very proud of this decision. **This program will help to train the emergency responders of the future for Brunswick County. Our Ocean Ridge community knows firsthand how important those people are to us all.** The creation of this second scholarship is consistent with our goal of not only providing cash and commodities to Brunswick County charities, but also investing in the vision of "Not just giving someone a fish so they can eat for a day, but teaching them to fish so they can eat for a lifetime."

Thank you again for coming to celebrate with us today. Enjoy the goodies and a chance to chat with our neighbors and charity leaders.

Remember....we are always looking for VOLUNTEERS....so please consider joining us!

We have one last expression of gratitude: An original watercolor painting from the award-winning artist Marilyn Pounds. Marilyn and her husband lived in Ocean Ridge over 20 years and were supporters of

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ORCA. When she was recently moving, she donated a couple of paintings to ORCA for our fundraising efforts. One of ORCA's charity representatives held the winning ticket for this beautiful painting. Congratulations!

For more info about ORCA, please visit our website at www.ORCharities.org, or contact us at ORCharities@gmail.com



Maggy Schlink, President, and Mike Gildea, founder of ORCA, addressing the attendees of the 10 + 2 ORCA anniversary on April 21st at the Plantation Club.



END OF YEAR DONATIONS TO LOCAL CHARITIES by Kath Larson

Due to ORCA's Corporate Sponsor Program, the generosity of our Ocean Ridge neighbors, an Allstate Grant, the Memorial Fund and other contributions, ORCA donated an additional \$20,000 in the name of Ocean Ridge residents to the following Brunswick County Charities in December 2021:

Brunswick Family Assistance, Brunswick Community College Foundation, Carousel Center, Habitat, Hope Harbor, Literacy Council, Providence Home, Shallotte Lions, Toy Run and Waves4Kids.

A special THANK YOU to all our volunteers, event organizers and ORCA board members for all of the tireless work they put in to make all of this happen.