



For immediate release

Ocean Ridge Plantation Residents Help their Neighbors in Need

Funds and volunteer time make an impact on low-income homeowners through a new nonprofit partnership.

February 27, 2017 – Shallotte, NC

Ocean Ridge Charities Association (ORCA) is a group of residents from Ocean Ridge Plantation who serve their community through volunteerism and fundraising. In November 2016, the association began partnering with Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry, Inc. (WARM) to make urgent, safety-related repairs and accessibility upgrades for elderly, disabled, and other low-income homeowners in their community.

Founded in 1996, WARM organizes hundreds of volunteers every year in Brunswick, New Hanover, and Pender Counties. Typical services include flooring/subflooring repair, plumbing and electrical repairs, roofing, window and door replacement and repair, wheelchair ramp construction, grab bar installation, stairs and landing construction, weatherization, and appliance installation. Services are free to low-income homeowners who qualify.

During their first volunteer event, Ocean Ridge Plantation residents made major safety-related repairs for a WARM homeowner in Shallotte. Their group committed to finishing the work and volunteered multiple times until this rebuild was complete. Since then they have donated \$6,000 to WARM's mission and next week, they will begin working on the home of a second homeowner in the Shallotte area.

Mr. Thomas has been on WARM's waiting list since 2012; as finding volunteers in his area proved to be a difficult task. He is an older gentleman who is disabled. He manages his small fixed income well enough to hold onto his home and pay for basic living expenses such as food and medicine. But there is never enough left over to make the repairs needed to keep him safe in his home long term.

On Monday, February 27th and Thursday, March 2nd, ORCA members will repair Mr. Thomas' floors, build new a new set of stairs and a landing and install accessibility upgrades such as grab bars and an ADA toilet.

“The members of ORCA are leaders in their community. Not only are they volunteering and donating, they are spreading the word about WARM’s mission and have already recruited two more organizations to volunteer,” said WARM’s Executive Director, JC Skane. “This kind of partnership is critical to building our volunteer base in Southern Brunswick County in order to help people faster.”

For more information about WARM’s mission, including ways to volunteer or donate, log onto www.warmnc.org or call 910.399.7563. For more information about Ocean Ridge Charities Association, log onto www.orcharities.org or email orcharities@gmail.com

For more information about this press release, please contact WARM’s Executive Director, JC Skane at jcskane@warmnc.org or 910.540.5326 (mobile)

Please keep the address of Mr. Thomas Bell **CONFIDENTIAL** but feel free to send a camera crew to the ORCA volunteer event:

641 Bricklanding Rd SW, Shallotte, NC 28470
Monday, February 27th and Thursday, March 2nd
9:00 – 2:00 (times are approximate. Please contact WARM to confirm.)