



### Dear Friends,

There is a spark that drives this community—one that inspires action, builds trust, and fuels generosity. That spark is at the heart of everything we do at the Outer Banks Community Foundation. We are guided by three simple but powerful ideas: inspire action, inspire trust, and inspire giving. And this year, we've seen them come to life in extraordinary ways.

It starts with the students who are forging new paths for themselves and their families. This year, nearly a quarter-million dollars in scholarships were awarded to dozens of students from across the Outer Banks. Many of them are the first in their families to attend college, and thanks to our donors, their journeys are just beginning. At the same time, our nonprofit partners continue to do extraordinary work, meeting the needs of this community with creativity, passion, and resilience. They remind us that we are fortunate to live in a place where neighbors lift each other up, where service is a way of life, and where giving back is simply what we do.

It grows stronger with the leadership and trust that fuel everything we do. The individuals who guide this foundation—our board, our staff, and our partners—are deeply committed to this community. They bring expertise, vision, and a shared belief that philanthropy should be both thoughtful and bold. This year, we strengthened that commitment by partnering with Brown Advisory to ensure the future of our investments is as strong as the mission they support. With careful stewardship, we can ensure that generosity today leads to even greater impact tomorrow.

And, of course, it all comes to life through the generosity of our donors. This year was one of the most successful in our history, with more than 1,200 donors stepping forward to support the Outer Banks Community Foundation. Many of you have been with us for years—some for over two decades—proving that generosity isn't a moment, but a lifelong commitment. 2024 was one of our strongest years ever for community support, thanks to our truly incredible donors whose generosity made a profound impact. We also celebrated the creation of several important new charitable funds, established by individuals who are following their passion for philanthropy and making a lasting difference.

This is the power of inspiration. It drives action. It builds trust. And it sustains the generosity that makes the Outer Banks such a special place.

To every donor, every volunteer, every nonprofit leader, and every neighbor who believes in the power of community: thank you. In a time when philanthropy is more essential than ever, you continue to show up, step up, and inspire.

With deepest gratitude,



Jason Waughtel 2025 Board Chairman Chris Sawin President and CEO Cover photo courtesy of Biff Jennings. The Outer Banks Community Foundation would like to thank Biff for generously donating his photography work, which can be seen throughout this report.

### **FISCAL 2024 AT A GLANCE** 2024 Incoming Donor Gifts \$1,779,927 Scholarships Designated and \$248,033 Organizational \$388,933 Total Grants and Scholarships \$1,524,424 Community Donor Advised Fund **Enrichment Grants** Grants \$281,242 \$606,216 **GRANTS** into and for the benefit of the community NONPROFITS through Designated and Organizational funds SCHOLARSHIPS awarded to 80 students from 98 2024 **FINANCIAL** Unaudited assets as of December 31, 2024 Cash & Cash Equivalents \$117,752 Investments. Net \$26,804,800 Property, Net \$718,030 Other Assets \$54,050 Total Assets \$27,694,632

### **BEYOND THE** OUTER BANKS



















### Disaster funds help fuel Hurricane Helene recovery

Photos by Steve Exum

#### **RESIDENTS OF THE OUTER BANKS ARE ALL TOO FAMILIAR** with

the devastation hurricanes can bring and the long road to recovery that follows. When Hurricane Helene struck Western North Carolina, our community leaped into action. Supply drives and drop-off sites popped up everywhere, with locals donating essential items. Families, businesses, and nonprofits immediately made donations to relief efforts. Notably, Outer Banks Community Foundation (OBCF) fund establisher Matt Khouri flew over a dozen flights from Manteo to Rutherford County Airport, delivering supplies in the early days of the crisis, while his mother Denise Khouri shared news about how to help across social media.

To address the unprecedented damage caused by Hurricane Helene, the OBCF Board of Directors recently voted unanimously to approve a series of grants to support disaster recovery in the affected communities of Western North Carolina.

To date, OBCF has provided over \$80,000 in grant awards from multiple charitable funds managed by the foundation.

"The Outer Banks is no stranger to hurricanes, and we understand the need for immediate support after a disaster," said Outer Banks Community Foundation Board Chair Jean-Louise Dixon. "We stand in solidarity with our fellow North Carolinians, and we want them to feel supported by the Outer Banks community in their recovery and rebuilding efforts."

The grant awards were made to the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, the Polk County Community Foundation, the Community Foundation of Henderson County, Samaritan's Purse, and Bounty and Soul in Black Mountain, NC.

The contributing funds were from OBCF's Disaster Recovery Fund and the Greater Outer Banks Fund, and several donor-advised funds including the Simpson-Sharp-Oakes Fund, the Evans Family Fund, the Just for Today & Tomorrow Endowment Fund in Memory of Dorman N. Doutt & Florence B. Satterwhite, and the Dorothy Scott Townsend Fletcher Memorial Fund. Two additional donor-advised funds contributed anonymously.

Recovery in Western North Carolina will be a long and challenging process, with rebuilding efforts expected to take years as communities work to restore homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods. In early 2025, the Outer Banks Community Foundation further supported the long-term recovery by donating an additional \$20,000 to the North Carolina Community Foundation's Disaster Relief Fund.

# LEGACY SPOTLIGHT

## An Incredibly **Generous Heart:** The Life and Legacy of Marisa M. M. Smith

By Chris Sawin

#### MARISA M. M. SMITH, MORE AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS MISSA.

was a woman whose quiet generosity and deep love for her community left an enduring mark on the Outer Banks. Though she hailed from Alexandria, Virginia, where she spent the majority of her career, the Outer Banks was always close to her heart. It was here that she built lifelong friendships, contributed her time and resources, and ultimately made a lasting impact through her legacy of giving.

Missa's connection to the Outer Banks began in her childhood when her parents bought a house in Nags Head. It was during those early visits that she met Helen Meekins Midgett, who would become her best friend. Their friendship blossomed over the years, bound by shared interests and a love for books. One of Missa's fondest memories was riding along with Helen on the Bookmobile, a traveling library that served the people throughout Dare County. Helen worked for the Dare County Library and drove the four-wheel-drive Bookmobile down to Hatteras Island. When Misa was here visiting, she would ride with her to Hatteras. Their shared passion for education and literacy was a defining feature of their friendship and a cause Missa carried forward throughout her life.

Missa had a distinguished career as an appraiser in Alexandria, VA and for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in Washington, D.C. She took great joy in showing visitors the historic sights of the nation's capital, demonstrating the same warmth and enthusiasm that she later brought to her life in the Outer Banks. When she retired to Manteo, she designed and built a home among her neighbors on Dogwood Circle, a place where her generous spirit and love for community flourished.

"Missa loved to have parties and loved to entertain," recalled her goddaughter, Chris Nunemaker. "Though she didn't want to be the center of attention—she wanted other people to have a good time." Her kindness extended far beyond social gatherings. She was a devoted volunteer, reading to children during story hour at the local school, delivering meals through Meals on Wheels, and playing an active role in the Roanoke Island Garden Club. She was an active member of a Book Club that met in Elizabeth City on a regular basis, and she was also a faithful member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Nags Head.

Missa's generosity was not always visible, but it was deeply felt. "Missa was very quiet about what she did for others," Chris shared. "She didn't make a big deal about it, she just did it." Her kindness was both intentional and spontaneous—whether through focused philanthropy or random acts of kindness.



Missa Smith, courtesy of Chris Nunemaker.

Her adventurous spirit was another remarkable trait. She loved to travel, documenting her trips in her journal. Before her mother passed, they took annual two-week vacations to Jamaica. Her sense of adventure never faded—on her 80th birthday, she rented a villa in Italy and invited all her friends to celebrate with her. One year, she hopped on a steamer from Europe back to Boston, a two-week trip. She dined with the Captain and had a splendid time.

Though she experienced the deep loss of her best friend Helen in 1987, Missa remained close to Chris, who became a steadfast presence in her life. As she aged, Chris and a team of local caregivers provided support, ensuring she remained connected to the community she loved so dearly.

Even in her passing, Missa's generosity continued to shape the Outer Banks. She thoughtfully planned her estate, making significant gifts to her church in Alexandria, to St. Andrew's in Nags Head, and a major unrestricted bequest to the Outer Banks Community Foundation. Her contribution was added to the Community Fund, OBCF's largest grantmaking fund, ensuring that her love for the Outer Banks would live

Through her planned giving, Missa provided a resource for the Outer Banks that will benefit generations to come. Her generosity, quiet yet profound, will continue to touch lives—just as she did in her own lifetime. In every child who discovers the joy of reading, in every neighbor helped by a community grant, and in every act of kindness inspired by her memory, Missa's spirit remains an enduring presence in the place she loved so dearly.

# DONOR SPOTLIGHT

## Wolfinger-**Jones Family Fund Supports Breaking Through Task Force's Mission**

By Michelle Wagner

SINCE ITS CREATION by the Healthy Carolinians of the Outer Banks in 2016, the Breaking Through Task Force has been committed to reducing the stigma and barriers often encountered by those who face mental health and substance use challenges.

With mental health identified as a top health priority in recent Dare County Community Health Needs Assessments – and suicide being the ninth leading cause of death in Dare County – the Task Force recognizes the positive benefits of public awareness and educating the community about mental health issues, as well as the importance of connecting those in need to available

Breaking Through Task Force is primarily funded through an ECU Health/Outer Banks Health Community Benefits Grant Program.

The Task Force was recently awarded an additional \$5,000 grant through the Outer Banks Community Foundation for suicide awareness and prevention.

"We are so grateful for the support and additional funding so that we can continue to expand our efforts toward suicide awareness and have a meaningful impact on prevention in our community," said Breaking Through Task Force Co-Chair Kelly Fleming. "Suicide affects people of all ages and has far-reaching impacts on family, friends and the community."

The grant was supported by the Wolfinger-Jones Family Fund, which is a donor-advised fund managed by the Outer Banks Community

The Wolfinger-Jones Family Fund was established by Nags Head residents Tony and Tracy Jones to give back to the local community.

"Suicide, suicidal ideation and mental health struggles have touched us personally, so these are issues that are important to our family," said Tracy Jones. "We were surprised to learn of the disproportionally high suicide rate in Dare County. There are not many dedicated resources in the OBX, but the Breaking Through Task Force is one coalition trying to address what is often a stigmatized and hidden topic."

The Breaking Through Task Force has led a number of initiatives since its inception. Among these include a series of mental health



Pictured L-R- Michelle Wagner, Tracy Jones, and Kelly Fleming, accompanied by Roz and Boo. Photo by OBCF staff.

workbooks for both adults and children; participation in local outreach events; public awareness campaigns through social media and blog posts; comprehensive resource guides; a locally-focused suicide documentary; and training adult and youth mental health first aid providers.

The Task Force also hosts a mental health and addictions counselor quarterly roundtable and is currently partnering with UNC-Chapel Hill to study suicide in Dare County. The study will explore the impact of cultural nuances and contextual factors on mental health/well-being perceptions among residents aged 18-34 years in Dare County.

In addition, the Breaking Through Task Force recently put mental health resources in all Dare County libraries that include more than 30 titles related to mental health and well-being. In an effort to share resources with the community, the Task Force also regularly attends local events such as KidsFest, Artrageous, Veterans Live, Trunk or Treat and local National Night Out events.

The Task Force continues to look for ways to expand its reach in Dare County and is currently looking at opportunities to bring teen mental health first aid to Dare County to complement its adult and youth mental health first aid offerings. It is also exploring hosting a podcast that highlights local mental health concerns and topics that impact Dare County residents.

### **Community Foundation Sees Scholarship Recipient Mya Murphy through to Graduation & Motherhood**

By Steve Hanf

GIVEN THE UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES, it would have been pretty easy for Mya Murphy to press pause on her college journey. Instead, the 2022 graduate of First Flight High School (FFHS) has hit the fast forward button on her march to adulthood, thanks in part to funding and flexibility - from the Outer Banks Community Foundation.

"Trust me," Mya said with a laugh. "They've had to follow me through a lot. So many emails!'

Mya Salch was your typical high school student in the spring of 2022, applying to her dream school, soaking up the recognition of multiple awards during First Flight's Scholarship Awards Ceremony and then preparing for life at East Carolina University (ECU) in Greenville, NC.

"All I ever really wanted to do was go to ECU, wear those purple scrubs, and get my nursing degree," said Mya. "I knew it was going to be a lot of money, so I just applied for everything and anything. I was awarded two scholarships from the Outer Banks Community Foundation in 2022 that have followed me ever since.'

The big award from OBCF was The Elizabeth and Wayne Evans Scholarship, a four-year, \$20,000 renewable scholarship. The Osborne Scholarship provided additional much-needed aid for the first-generation college student.

Mya's first year of college was going well and she only needed a few classes to get into the

nursing program thanks to having earned her associate degree from College of The Albemarle in the dual enrollment program. Right about the time that she was studying for the big nursing school entrance exam, Mya made a discovery that would alter the course of her life.

She was pregnant.

"I was like, 'Well, it's going to be really hard going to nursing school and being all by myself in Greenville without any family,' so I decided to come back home," Mya said. "While I was pregnant, I did community college courses to get my last few prerequisites that I needed for some other colleges."

Following the birth of Addilyn in December, Mya looked into a couple of different nursing programs that didn't work out, and then she discovered the Accelerated Nursing Program at Averett University in Norfolk, Virginia.

But could she afford it? Mya had a baby in 2023, and a wedding to her long-time boyfriend, Camden Murphy would come in 2024, along with a move to Grandy. Mya reached out to OBCF officials to learn more about the status of her awards.



Mya and her daughter Addilyn. Photo courtesy of Mya Murphy.

"Since Averett was an accredited program, Community Foundation was able to still keep funding me," said Mya. "It has been amazing that they've followed me through this chaotic journey. They were super, super supportive of all my decisions, and they have said so many times how proud they are of me for continuing my education."

Mya also expressed her thanks for a great support system on both her side and Camden's side of the family. The 16-month program through Averett includes classes and clinicals - she had an exam on the day of her wedding rehearsal and a 12-hour clinical rotation on the following Monday - but all the work is going to pay off this summer when she receives that bachelor's degree.

Mya says she's always wanted to work as a labor and delivery nurse - even before

Addilyn entered the picture and she got to experience the job from the patient perspective – and she hopes to land a position with a local healthcare provider.

"I did have to push through a little bit and there have been times that I did miss Camden and Addilyn, but I knew I had to get through it because in the long term our future is more important," Mya said.

The end result will be the same even though Mya never could have imagined the unique nature of her journey sitting in the David E. Oaksmith Auditorium at FFHS just three years ago as the scholarships were being announced. As members of the Class of 2025 nervously await the announcements of this year's winners, it's fun for Mya to press rewind and think about that night.

"It just felt incredible because, when you go through the process, you have absolutely no idea – you just show up because you got an email that says you will receive at least one award," Mya recalled. "It was very exciting to see that all my hard work paid off, and to know that I have so many other classmates who are so successful, too. It just felt good, feeling accomplished that night."





Left: Hukilau Surf Camp has been teaching kids to surf for almost 25 years. Above: Hukilau Surf Camp Students & Instructors in front of the new trailer in the summer of 2024. Photos courtesy of Ben Alexander.

## **Hukilau Surf Camp Awarded Grant To Continue Teaching Kids To Surf**

Reprinted with permission from The Coastland Times By Summer Stevens

HUKILAU SURF CAMP RECEIVED A **GRANT** from the Outer Banks Community Foundation to purchase a new trailer to hold boards and gear. With the grant, Hukilau volunteers can continue to do what they love: help kids catch their first wave.

In 2000, a visiting missionary from France, while sharing the message one Sunday evening, challenged members of Nags Head Church to use their passions for God. Steve Wise was sitting in the audience. He didn't need to think twice to name his passion. It was the same passion he'd had for almost 40 years.

When Wise was around 10 years old, his father was transferred to Hawaii for a tour of duty with the Navy. Their landlord's son showed Wise how to take a piece of plywood, round off the edges, and use it like a makeshift boogie board to catch waves that would come off the solid concrete wall of a pier.

When Wise's family moved to the military base at Pearl Harbor, he would ride a bus to Waikiki and rent a board, learning to surf in the easy rolling blue ocean waves.

"The waves were easy to catch and fun to ride," he said of his early years of surfing in Hawaii.

He was hooked.

It was the early 1960s. Though Hawaiians had been surfing since the 1800s with wooden boards, the sport was finally taking off on the mainland thanks to lighter foam and fiberglass boards. When his father was transferred to the Pentagon, Wise still managed to find a way to get to the water. He and some friends would travel down to Virginia Beach or the Outer Banks to surf.

Over the next several decades. Wise would remain an avid surfer. He moved down to the Outer Banks to surf. He traveled to surf. He collected classic surf boards and restored

"My passion is surfing," he said to himself that Sunday evening. "I could do a surf camp." And so Hukilau Surf Camp was born.

He started out using his own boards and some of his classic surf boards just so he would have enough. He reached out to fellow surfers or young people from his church to help serve as volunteer coaches.

In the fall of 2023, Hukilau Surf Camp was awarded a grant to purchase a new trailer, surfboards, and additional supplies to continue providing new and exciting learning opportunities for Dare County youth in 2024.

For almost 25 years, Wise has been teaching kids to surf. He offers the camp every other Saturday in June and July. The camps are timed with low tide so surfers and coaches can easily access waves.

Twenty campers arrive at 8 a.m. for a brief on-land demonstration about how to pop up on the board, and then they spend an hour or so practicing getting up on a board. The ratio of kids to coaches is almost 1:1 so campers can have individualized help on the board.

"The main thing that we love about teaching kids to surf is helping them catch their first wave," Wise said. "Because they get so stoked and you get so stoked because they're excited about it."

Campers take a break back on shore and listen to a guest speaker share a story of faith. Then it's back to the water for more practice, with most campers finding success on the board. The morning wraps up with a raffle prize to Surfin' Spoon. After rinsing off the boards, everyone goes home with a cool Hukilau Surf Camp t-shirt.

Camp cost is only \$35, which pays for next year's t-shirts and replacement boards. If someone can't pay, Hukilau offers a scholarship. He's taken surf camp as far as Ecuador and India.

On the Outer Banks, Wise estimates he and his team have taught about 2,000 kids to surf.

"I have friends who say that I'm the reason that the surf breaks are so crowded because I'm teaching all these kids how to surf," he said.

### DONOR ADVISED **FUNDS**

### Water's Edge Village School **Receives Largest Grant In Community Foundation History**

By Tatum Clements

WATER'S EDGE VILLAGE SCHOOL (WEVS) in Corolla, North Carolina, has made significant progress toward building its new schoolhouse with a \$300,000 grant from the Evans Family Fund at the Outer Banks Community Foundation (OBCF).

The award is the largest single grant in the Community Foundation's 42-year history.

While the grant brings WEVS to nearly 90% of its \$2.1 million capital campaign goal, it has been a long journey for Corolla to have a school that meets their community's educational needs.

The original Corolla Schoolhouse was built in the late 1800s for children of lighthouse keepers and surfmen, but by 1958 there were not enough children in Corolla to attend the school so they closed their doors.

Fast forward to 2008 when Currituck Beach Lighthouse manager and mother Meghan Agresto was faced with the choice of putting her child on a school bus at 5:30 a.m. or moving away from Corolla to be closer to a school.

When Agresto realized that children who lived in Corolla were spending four and a half hours a day on the bus, she met with Sylvia Wolff, a local resident with a degree in elementary education who was the head of Corolla Ocean Rescue at the time, and they began the process of finding a way to start a school on the northern Outer Banks.

"I don't think everyone realizes this, but Corolla is zoned for Currituck County Schools, which are almost two hours away," said Meghan Agresto, who is now the Corolla Education Foundation Board President. "There has always been a need for a school here. People who live and work here would move away as soon as they started a family because there wasn't access to a school in Corolla, and that was detrimental to our local economy. Nobody who had a young family could establish roots here, and we knew we had to stop the move-away train."

Before applying to start a charter school, Agresto and Wolff were required to have an operating nonprofit.

"We put together a board of concerned and energized residents, and together we founded the Corolla Education Foundation (CEF) in 2010," said WEVS Director Sylvia Wolff.



Photo courtesy of Water's Edge Village School.



Left to right: Bryan Daggett, Meghan Agresto and Wayne Evans from the Corolla Education Foundation inside the new building that is currently under construction. Photo courtesy of Tatum Clements.

Water's Edge Village School, a public, K-8, tuition-free charter school, was founded by CEF to revitalize local education on the northern Outer Banks.

When WEVS reopened the doors to the 800 sqft historic Corolla Schoolhouse in 2012, they had 15 students for their first school year. Today, the school is thriving with 50 students. However, 50 students is also their capacity. For the last 10+ years the school has used a lottery to accept students from a waitlist as there are more children on the list than spots available.

"While the students are still using the original schoolhouse, they are also using other facilities around Corolla for classes and extracurricular activities because we have outgrown our space," said CEF Board Vice President/Treasurer Bryan Daggett.

To continue to meet the needs of their community, CEF began searching for ways to expand WEVS and they connected with local leaders to begin the process.

The Twiddy Family gifted the property next to the historic schoolhouse to WEVS, and in 2021 WEVS launched a fundraising capital campaign to support building a second schoolhouse.

Corolla residents Wayne and Betty Evans provided start-up funding through their donor-advised fund at OBCF.

"One morning we saw a school bus picking up children before the sun had come up, and my wife and I said, 'This isn't right,' said Wayne Evans, who is now on the CEF Board of Directors. "Then, that same day, we went over to the schoolhouse to figure out how we could support them."

In 2022, the Capital Campaign gained momentum with contributions from hundreds of donors along with grants from multiple OBCF funds, including the Evans Family Fund.

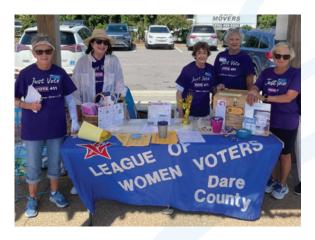
In 2023, they broke ground to begin building the new 4,000 sqft schoolhouse, which will have three classrooms, a community room, a breakout room, plenty of decking for outdoor learning, a teacher workspace, and an administrative office.

The current plan is to have the new building open for the 25/26

"This has been a long process with challenges along the way, but we remain optimistic that we will reach our fundraising goal," said Daggett. "One thing has remained the same throughout this process- it has always been for the kids and families in Corolla."



### **COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT GRANT HIGHLIGHTS**



With support from the Outer Banks Community Foundation, the **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF** DARE COUNTY hosted the Make Your Vote Count Rally & Resource Fair at Dowdy Park. This nonpartisan event featured local and statewide speakers, voter resources, live music, and food—empowering residents with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions at the ballot box.



"We are honored to receive a grant from the Outer Banks Community Foundation," said **MUSTANG MUSIC OUTREACH PROGRAM** President Shelli Gates. The funding helped relaunch their program, which provides musical instruction and performance opportunities for all ages, including special populations. With this support, the organization expanded its reach, continuing its mission to build community through music.



The Nature Conservancy's North Carolina Chapter improved trail signage at Nags Head Woods Ecological Preserve, including updates to the ADA-accessible trail, enhancing the experience for 60,000 annual visitors. Meanwhile, the FRIENDS **OF THE MOUNTAIN-TO-SEA TRAIL** installed new signage at Jockey's Ridge State Park, sharing the trail's history and connection to the Outer Banks. As the eastern terminus of the statewide trail, it has become an iconic destination, deepening appreciation for North Carolina's scenic and cultural heritage.





its support to families in Dare County, providing financial assistance for travel, lodging, and meals to ensure children receive essential cancer treatments, even when care requires travel to specialized centers far from home. In 2023, CCP assisted over 2,100 children across the Carolinas, with projections to support more than 2,400 in 2024. Their comprehensive approach aims to alleviate the financial and emotional burdens on families during their child's cancer journey.

> With the launch of Dare County's new Mobile Recovery Support Unit, the **SAVING LIVES TASK FORCE** is expanding its outreach with interactive workshops for Recovery Court participants. Thanks to funding from the Outer Banks Community Foundation, these sessions cover stress management, nutrition, self-care, and financial planning, providing essential tools for long-term recovery.

Clockwise from top left: photos courtesy of Nandy Stuart, Betsy Brown at Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, Children's Cancer Partners of the Carolinas, Dare County, and Mustang Music Outreach Program.



### New Ray Gray, Jr. Memorial Scholarship launched to honor legendary educator and surfer

Reprinted with permission from Island Free Press By Joy Crist

AFTER YEARS OF EFFORTS AND FUNDRAISING - and  $\alpha$ collaboration with The Outer Banks Community Foundation — the Ray Gray, |r. Memorial Scholarship is now officially available for an up-andcoming 2025 graduate on Hatteras Island.

The scholarship came to fruition thanks to Ray's son, Alex Gray, who wanted a perpetual and appropriate way to honor his father's memory.

"The scholarship is limited to students on Hatteras Island, because given dad's experience as an educator, and being a Hatteras native, we wanted to focus on this community," said Alex. "Our hope is that this scholarship is a small way that his name can still be present, and that it can allow kids to continue growth, no matter what form it takes.

Ray was a lifelong educator, serving as a tennis coach, science teacher, assistant principal, and elementary school principal on his native island of Hatteras. He was an avid surfer, and enjoyed decades of sessions on the north side of the first jetty in Buxton, eponymously named "Ray's Rights."

Ray suffered a severe brain injury in 2014, and passed away on April 2, 2023, but he remains a legend for islanders of all demographics, (including and especially surfers and students), due to his love of the island community, and particularly its youngest members.

And loved ones attest that Ray's proudest achievement in life was helping support and encourage hundreds of Hatteras Island youth through education and sports.

"He was their world, and they were his world, too. He lived for the kids," said Ray's partner of 24 years, Paulette Boyden.

"He would do anything for a child, and that never changed. He would take money out of the bank to buy coats for students who needed them, or he would make sure that every kid could purchase a book at the book fair, and being a surfer dude, he could always relate to the kids," she said. "He took his job seriously, but he always made sure he left them laughing... There will never be another Ray Gray.'

"I think he always wanted to create a space for kids to be comfortable and to be themselves, and to try to make being at school and learning seemed a little more fun," said Alex. "Surfing was of course a passion of his that enabled him to connect with a lot of kids.'

Alex grew up on the island, shadowing his dad as he taught, coached tennis, and surfed regularly, and after some time away from

# MEMORIAL

Ray Gray surfing in 2011. Photo courtesy of Island Free Press.

the Outer Banks, Alex and his wife moved back to Hatteras Island in 2020.

"It's comical going around the island sometimes and introducing or reintroducing myself. I'll ask people 'Do you know my dad, Ray Gray?' and there's a very high hit rate, which is evidence of his role in the community," said Alex.

After Ray passed, Alex was approached by a family member who suggested that a scholarship be created with the help of OBCF. "Personally, I also benefitted from local scholarships, which helped me go to UNC-Chapel Hill for my undergraduate degree, and this seemed like a great way for his

name to stay in the community and have an impact."

Donations trickled in and the Grays contributed a substantial portion of the new scholarship to bring it to life. "Folks were very kind and put a little money toward it, and we got moving and finally finished funding it, and we're excited for it to be live for the first time this year,"

While the Ray Gray Jr. Memorial Scholarship is earmarked for one Hatteras Island student, it is one of dozens of scholarships offered by OBCF for local graduates, and Principal Beth Rooks of Cape Hatteras Secondary School (CHSS) says that these financial opportunities are a lifeline for many CHSS graduates.

"Our scholarship programs are not just valuable, they are essential," said Rooks. "We currently have about 55% of our students who are on free or reduced [cost] lunches, and having scholarships and community support is the difference between them going to college or not."

The scholarships aren't just for students who are pursuing a four-year degree, either.

Principal Rooks says there is funding available for a wealth of careers, such as scholarships that help students purchase military uniforms, scholarships for students who are going into the construction field, and scholarships for students who are pursuing maritime and fishing careers.

"These scholarships help students with the equipment or tools they need for their future careers," said Rooks. "Typically, we give out about \$250,000 grant monies total to our students every year, and it's endearing the amount of support our community gives to our kids.

And thanks to the hard work of Alex Gray and his family and friends, the Ray Gray, Ir. Memorial Scholarship is now added to the list of available Hatteras Island scholarships for 2025, and for many years to

"There were a lot of ways that we could have honored dad, because there were many things he was passionate about and involved in, like the Buxton Volunteer Fire Department, or the Surfing for Autism group," said Alex. "But this just seemed like the right fit.

"He always wanted to invest in all the local kids that he had an opportunity to teach and be principal to, and we wanted to do the

### **NEW FUND SPOTLIGHT**

### **Our EPIC Project Cultivates Joy Through Community**

By Tatum Clements

A BEAUTIFUL VACATION HOME IN COROLLA with all the bells and whistles, a sunset sail, a spa day, delicious meals, a tour to see wild horses, and putt putt, coupled with plenty of time at the pool and the beach... Sounds like an epic family vacation, right?

That is exactly what Dianne Young and her family from Gambrills, Maryland,

experienced on their recent EPIC Outer Banks Family Vacation Retreat, which was made possible by Our EPIC Project.

Our EPIC Project, an acronym for Emitting Positive Impact Collectively, was founded to strengthen, support and share the local beach communities that the Outer Banks Boil Company serves. To advance their charitable work, they created Our EPIC Fund at the Outer Banks Community Foundation.

Each year, the folks at Our EPIC Project partner with friends and local businesses to give one deserving family an EPIC Outer Banks Family Vacation Retreat.

After sorting through numerous heartfelt submissions filled with stories about individuals and families who need and deserve a vacation, the team at Our EPIC Project selected Dianne Young and her family for this year's EPIC vacation, which took place the week of August 10-17.

'We are so honored to be able to provide this opportunity to Dianne and her family," said Our EPIC Project President Denise Khouri. "When we first spoke with Dianne during our selection process, her voice conveyed a heaviness of heart that we knew we could lift with an EPIC summer vacation retreat."

The Young family arrived in Corolla on Saturday, August 10, where they were greeted by members of the EPIC Project and a welcome dinner courtesy of Outer Banks Boil Company.

For the next week, Dianne and her family enjoyed an EPIC vacation in a 5-bedroom house in Corolla equipped with a private pool, hot tub, elevator, and other unique amenities. Breakfast, lunch and dinner were provided every day for the Young family by local restaurants. Their EPIC vacation also included fun-filled days of making memories at the beach and activities such as a 4×4 beach tour to see the wild horses, a round of mini golf, watersports, a visit to the Corolla Lighthouse, and a walk around the historic Whalehead Club.



Night one of the EPIC Vacation. Pictured (L-R) Front row: Dianne's son Travis, her grandson Evan, and Travis' fiancé Mallory. Back row: Outer Banks Boil Company COO Kirk Lamb, EPIC Collective Community Outreach Kristen Slayton, Dianne's fiancée Walt, EPIC Vacation recipient Dianne Young, Our EPIC Project President Denise Khouri, and Matt Khouri, Founder and CEO Outer Banks Boil Company and Vice President of Our EPIC Project. Photo courtesy of Our EPIC Project.

"I sure needed this vacation," said Dianne. "I was hurting badly from my multiple sclerosis, and everything, especially the spa day, helped me so

much. The house was absolutely amazing, and all of the food was delicious. We saw a whole family of wild horses, and we went go-karting and fishing together. EPIC also organized a family beach portrait photography session for us, so we could have photos to remember this trip forever. Everyone was so kind and wonderful to us. My family loved every minute of this vacation. My grandson said, 'This is the best thing ever!' Thank you so much, EPIC!'

An integral part of EPIC's mission is to share all of the wonderful and unique things the Outer Banks community has to offer through their annual EPIC vacation.

"Turning seven days into a lifetime of memories, relaxation, healing and hope for this EPIC family has been a true pleasure," added Denise. "It was an EPIC week for all of us. When we said our farewells on check-out day the smile in Dianne's voice matched the smile on her face. We had accomplished our mission. We would like to thank all of our sponsors, local businesses, and EPIC Collective members who made this dream a reality for Dianne and her family.".

Our EPIC Project Fund is a donor-advised fund managed by the Outer Banks Community Foundation for grants to nonprofits with a preference for projects supporting mental health needs on the Outer Banks.

"All of our funds have a unique name, history, legacy, and purpose," said Outer Banks Community Foundation Chief Operating Officer, Nandy Stuart. "Although each fund is different, they all share the same broad goal of improving lives and enriching our local community."

Outside of organizing EPIC vacations, Our EPIC Project also hosts an annual fundraising golf tournament called EPIC Round on the Sound, they support young entrepreneurs, and they are dedicated to supporting mental health issues for people living and working in highdemand vacation destinations, like the Outer Banks.

New **Funds** for 2024

12 Bars of Christmas Fund Everyone's Playground Fund Garage Band Charities Charitable Purpose Fund Halloween Island Fund Healthcare Professionals Scholarship Fund Marine Life Preservation Fund of North Carolina MAS Fund for Ocracoke

**OBX First Responder Giving Program Fund OBX Room In The Inn Fund Our EPIC Project Fund** Purple Recovery Empowerment Project Fund Ray White Family Fund The Hope Fund



**THE DAVID STICK LEGACY SOCIETY** recognizes those individuals and families who have named the Outer Banks Community Foundation in a will, trust, insurance policy, retirement account, or other type of deferred or planned gift. Through our endowments, these gifts will become permanent sources of support for all future generations here. We gratefully recognize these members.

Anonymous (13) Jack L. Adams Nancey H. Atkinson Louise Baraw Alyson Belvin Barbara A. Bingham James B. Birindelli Nancy B. Birindelli Patti Bourexis Marcy Brenner Allison Brown Scott Brown Catharine L. Bryan\* Donald W. Bryan\* Chris Kelley Cimko R. Stewart Couch\* Carol S. Cowell Edward D. Cowell, Jr.\* Moncie L. Daniels, Ir.\*

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David Dixon
Jean-Louise Dixon
David Doran\*
Shirley Doran\*
Maureen R. Ducker
D. Wayne Evans
Elizabeth Evans
A. W. Fletcher\*
Cheryl Ford
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Gael Hawkins
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Richard H. Hines III Marilyn Hinson\* Reid Hinson Eden E. Honeycutt Greg A. Honeycutt David Huff

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Alfred Jackson
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Fred I. Jones\*
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Ionathan Kenton

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Helen B. Van Cleef Petty\*
Bonnie Pfennighaus
Mary Anna Portner
Elaine Reed
Gary E. Reed
Frances K. Reeves
Michael C. Reeves
Jean Reichmann\*
Tina J. Richardson
Sherry Rollason
Dr. Burt H. Rubin
Chris Sawin
Ashley Schillings

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David Shufflebarger Patti Shufflebarger Sybil Austin Skakle JoAnn Small William Small Marisa M. Smith\* Susan Smith Diane Baum St. Clair\*

David Stick\*
Nandy Stuart
Tony Tessenear
MaryAnn Toboz
John M. Toll
Robert Toth
Ruth Toth

William M. Vaughan Julie Walter Dan Waters E. Jane Webster Sterling Webster III\* Kaye White Perry White W. Ray White\* Jo H. Whitehead Helen K. Wiegel\* Jo Williams Jim Willis Mary Woodruff Phillip S. Woodruff Pauline Wright\* Joe Zoll Patsy Zoll

\*Deceased

# 2024 COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT GRANTS

Beach Food Pantry Adding to the Future	\$12,500	<b>Hatteras Island Meals</b> Hot Meals Delivered Daily!	\$5,000	Relaunching Mustang Music Outreach F	<b>\$15,000</b> Program;	
Cape Hatteras Secondary School CHSS Middle School Student Incentive	ŭ	Hyde County Educational Foundation Teacher Housing on Ocracoke; Buildin	\$25,000	Back in the Saddle Again  Nature Conservancy  Enhancing Nags Head Woods Ecologica	<b>\$15,000</b> Il Preserve	
Carolina Cross Connection Access In Dare County	\$8,000	Building Community, Building Futures	g i ioilles,	Ocracats	\$4,000	
Chicamacomico Historical Association	\$15,000	Interfaith Community Outreach Sound Minds - Continued, Year 2	\$30,000	Feeding Ocracoke's feral cat population the winter	through	
Restoration of the 1874 Chicamacomic Life-Saving Station		Kitty Hawk Rotary	\$1,750	Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce Leadership OBX Scholarships	\$1,000	
Children & Youth Partnership	<b>.</b>	Youth Development at 2024 BSA Summer Camp - Raven Kn	ob	Outer Banks Dare Challenge Dare Challenge Women's Center Garde	<b>\$10,000</b>	
for Dare County Growth of CYP's Diaper Bank Children's Cancer Partners	\$3,000	League of Women Voters of Dare County	\$4,000	Outer Banks Forum for the Lively Art EarthBeat! performance		
of the Carolinas Outer Banks Childhood Cancer Safety	<b>\$6,967</b> Net	Make your Vote Count Rally and Reso  MANE and TAILL Therapeutic		Outer Banks SPCA Dare County Animal Care & Service Vel	<b>\$6,000</b> hicle	
Cross Roads OBX 2024 Case Management System	\$3,129	Horsemanship Academy Hearts and hooves improving the lives and future generations	\$5,000 of heroes	Saving Lives Task Force Newsletter & Life Skills for Recover Serie	<b>\$3,474</b> es for Dare	
Dare Arts Celebrating 50 Years on the Outer Ban		Manns Harbor Volunteer Fire Department	\$5,124	County Recovery Court  Saving Lives Task Force  Mobile Harm Reduction Services Delive	<b>\$9,000</b> ered to	
Dare County Detention Center Community Reentry Resources	\$10,000	500 Feet of 5 Inch Water Supply Hose  Manteo Elementary School	\$7,000	Your Door	_	
<b>Dare Wildlife Rehab, Inc.</b> Wildlife Critical Care Equipment for Re	\$4,025	Let's Make Some Noise at Manteo Eler School	1.0	The Creative SPOT Veteran Art Programming	\$5,000	
First Colony Foundation	\$2,000	Marine Corps League		<b>The OBX Way</b> Beyond the Paths	\$3,000	
An Elizabethan Room for Public Use First Flight Society	\$10,000	Outer Banks Detachment Marine in Need Program	\$2,000	The Secotan Alliance In the spirit of Chief Winginaand beyo	<b>\$4,000</b> nd	
Wingman: OBX Inventor Francis Rogal Friends of Jockey's Ridge Connecting Visitors to Nature and Hist	\$3,273	Morgan Duke Conservation Society Adopt a Kitty Hawk beach access throu Surfrider Foundation Outer Banks Cha	ugh	Wind Sports for Wounded Warriors OBX Empowering wounded military personne	\$3,000	
Educational Self-Guided Trails as Jocke		Mount Olivet United Methodist		wind sport education		
Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail \$3,000 Highlighting the Mountains-to-Sea Trail on the Outer Banks		Church \$9,000 Early Childhood Development Programs/ Preschool, Afterschool, and Summer Camp		YMCA of South Hampton Roads \$7,00 Supporting Aquatics Health and Wellness Activities at the Outer Banks YMCA		

### **Funds Contributing to Community Enrichment Grants:**

Adams Family Fund Adams/Brown Fund for Animals All God's Creatures Fund Annual Advice 5K Turkey Trot Fund Aviation Education Fund of America Aycock Brown Memorial Fund Banxblock Beach Fund Benevolent Fund Bob Parker Memorial Fund Charles H. & Dorothy S. Luedemann Arts Fund Children & Youth Fund Christina Nicole Jones Memorial Fund for Substance Abuse Education, Counseling, Prevention, and Treatment

Coastal Campership Fund Community Fund Cookie | ar for Good Deeds Cowell Gratitude Grant-Making Fund D. Victor & Catherine D. Meekins Memorial Fund Dare County Outer Banks Jaycees Scholarship Fund David Aycock Loy Memorial Fund Diane and Nelson Henderson **Endowment Fund** Disaster Relief Fund Disaster Response Endowment Fund Dr. David Rostetter Memorial Fund for Self-Advocacy and Inclusion **Environment Fund** 

Franklin Y. Hundley Education Fund Greater Outer Banks Fund Hatteras Fund Helping People Help Animals Hospital Grant Fund Hunting Family Fund for Health and Wellness Little, Owens, & BB&T Fund Lois Nelms Unmet Needs Fund Martin Kellogg Memorial Fund Milton A. Jewell Grant Fund Moncie L. Daniels & Belva Midgett Daniels Memorial Fund Ocracoke Fund Outer Banks Road to Recovery Fund

Founders Fund

Pauline Wright Endowment for Dare County Individuals with Special Needs Pauline Wright Endowment for Educational and Developmental Needs in Currituck Ruth Pitt Performing Arts Fund Schiffman Fund for Animals Serbousek Family Fund Shirley & David Doran Memorial Thomas and Annie Baum Memorial Wiegel Disaster Relief Fund William Walter Reams Memorial

### **SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

\*Denotes new 2024 fund

Barbara Barnes Sherman Scholarship Fund Kate Hamilton \$1,000.00

**Best Family Scholarship Fund** 

Catherine Tyre \$1,000.00

Bill Jones Memorial Scholarship Fund

Chloe Clark \$1,000.00 Ivy Godwin \$1,000.00 Kate Hamilton \$1,000.00 leni Hooper \$1,000.00 lamie Holcomb \$1,000.00 Isabella Thorn \$1,000.00

Catherine Carrington Clawson Scholarship

Jordan Holcomb \$2,000.00

Charles H. & Dorothy S. Luedemann Art Scholarship Fund

Aiden Beard \$3,500.00 Thomas (Tommy) May \$3,500.00 Fernanda Perez-Chavarria \$3,500.00 Loxley Wayland \$3,500.00

Courtney M. Burgess Memorial Scholarship **Fund** 

Kayla Hallac \$1,500.00 Chloe Wienert \$1,500.00

Curtis Creech Memorial Scholarship Fund Alonah Austin \$1,700.00

**Dare County Association of Fire Officers** Scholarship Fund in Memory of Douglas A. Remaley

James Dudek \$2,000.00 Jamie Holcomb \$2,000.00 Carolyn James \$2,000.00 Grace Rusk \$2,000.00

Dr. Frederic B. Jr. and Ernestine H. Westervelt Scholarship Fund\*

Marilyn Espinosa Monter \$1,500.00

**Duck Woods Ladies Golf Founders Scholarship** Campbell Summerton \$2,000.00



2024 Ocracoke Scool senior Elsie Kattenburg, recipient of the Outer Banks Association of Realtors Scholarship, with OBCF Scholarship Team Leader Ruth Toth. Photo by OBCF staff.



2024 Cape Hatteras Secondary School senior Grace Vernesoni, recipient of the OBX Scholars and Wallace H. McCown scholarships, with her parents. Photo by OBCF staff.

"I am sincerely grateful to the Outer Banks Community Foundation for their generosity. I am thrilled to be able to attend UNC Chapel Hill and pursue my lifelong dream of becoming a doctor and giving back to my community. These scholarships will help ease the financial burden and allow me to concentrate on my studies. I consider myself blessed to have been chosen to receive these scholarships and will work hard to ensure that your investment was well spent."

-Grace Vernesoni, attending University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Duck Woods Ladies Tennis Association** Scholarship Fund

Grace Garman \$3,000.00

Duck Woods LTA First Year Scholarship\*

Jamie Holcomb \$3,000.00 Amelia Maner \$3,000.00

Edwin Miller Memorial Scholarship\*

William Pearce \$2,000.00

Elizabeth and Wayne Evans Scholarship Fund

Daisy Morales Bravo \$5,000.00 Mya Salch \$5,000.00 Benjamin Hanusik \$5,000.00 Alayna Jester \$5,000.00

Frank M. Cahoon Memorial Fund

\$1,600.00 Taylor Mabry

Gayle Grinstead Memorial Scholarship

Anita Lin \$3,000.00 Samantha Vargas-Aparicio \$3,000.00

George W. Neighbors Memorial Fund

Kellen Morris \$1,400.00

Glenn & Pat Eure Endowment Fund for Arts Education

Savannah Sawin \$1,700.00

Greg & Eden Honeycutt Scholarship Fund Alan Garcia Velazquez \$1,000.00

Greg & Eden Honeycutt Scholarship Fund\*

Mariah Temple \$10,000.00

Hanft McDevitt Family Scholarship Fund

Andrew Austin \$2,200.00

Howell Revier Shearouse, Jr. Scholarship Fund

\$5,000.00 Jeni Hooper

Inez Daniels Austin Scholarship Fund

Abby O'Neal \$3,500.00 Irene Nolan Memorial Scholarship Fund Grace Shoemaker \$1,000.00

Jeannette U. McOwen Memorial Scholarship

Fund

Jordan Haywood \$1,000.00 Amanda Hernley \$1,000.00

Jerry & Arlene Davis Scholarship Fund

Versailles Dalessio \$6,000.00 \$6,000.00 Ivanna Gonzalez-Sanchez Ebony Orgsbon \$6.000.00 Samantha Vargas-Aparicio \$6,000.00

John T. Daniels, Lois Pearce Smith, and J. Bryan Smith Scholarship Fund

Kate Hamilton \$1,000.00

Josephine A. Oden Scholarship Fund

Sherlyn Mendieta-Lozano \$5,000.00

Karen Willis Memorial Scholarship\*

\$5,000.00 Isabella Thorn

Lillian W. Riddick Scholarship Fund for Nurses

Casia Ensenat \$2,000.00

Alyssa Bryan \$2,000.00

Lucian Griffin Scholarship Fund

Colleen Dongarra \$1,000.00 \$1,000.00 Regan Parker

Mary Anne McKay Memorial Scholarship Fund\*

Graham Godwin \$2,500.00

Adrian Simpson \$2,500.00

Milton A. Jewell Scholarship Fund

\$6,000.00 Catherine Tyre Maggie McNinch \$6,000.00 Siena Nason \$6,000.00 Colson Walker \$6,000.00

NCPC Bettye Neff Merit Award in Communications Fund

ackson Strange \$700.00

# SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

\*Denotes new 2024 fund

OBX Scholars Fund							
Charlotte Ernst	\$4,000.00						
Ivanna Gonzalez-Sanchez	\$4,000.00						
Grace Vernesoni	\$2,000.00						
Josephine Voight	\$4,000.00						
OBX Scholars Fund - COA							
John Cook	\$2,000.00						
Osborne Scholarship Fund							
Mya Salch	\$1,000.00						
Kiana Willis	\$1,000.00						
Savannah Lawton	\$1,000.00						
Outer Banks Association of Realtors							
Scholarship Fund							
	_						

holarship Fund	
Grace Albarty	\$1,500.00
Gitzelle Enciso-Ramirez	\$1,500.00
Dylan Jones	\$1,500.00
Elsie Kattenburg	\$1,500.00
Sherlyn Mendieta-Lozano	\$1,500.00
Ava Nultemeier	\$1,500.00
Isabella Thorn	\$1,500.00
Anna Tynch	\$1,500.00

#### R. Stewart Couch Hatteras Island Scholarship Fund

	Austin	Jone	es				Ф	5,00	٥٠.٥	)()
_	147					4		_		

R. Wayne Gray Memo	rial Scholarship Fund
Lane Stevenson	\$1,000.00
Katie Thompson	\$1,000.00

#### Ralph & Ida Lee Saunders Scholarship Fund \$1,000.00 Joshua Royals

#### Rex Sample Fund for Courage and **Determination**

Lucy Stecher \$1,000.00

#### Robert E. Rollason, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund

Curren Breiholz \$1,500.00



Kevin Gonzalez-Herrera \$1,000.00

Sawyer Scholarship Endowment Fund

Ethan Thorn \$5,000.00

Scott Day Family Scholarship Fund

Alexis Zavala-Roldan \$1,000.00 Abby O'Neal \$1,000.00

Smith-Cooper Scholarship Fund\*

Zane Hughes \$5,000.00

Teddy and Savory Garrett Veterinary Medicine Scholarship Fund\*

Brandon Woods \$2,000.00

Wallace H. McCown Scholarship Fund

Grace Garman \$1,000,00 Lucy Stecher \$1,000,00 Grace Vernesoni \$1,000.00

Warren and Jane Davis Memorial Dare Math/ Science Scholarship Fund

Isaac Drummond \$2,000.00

#### PARTNER SCHOLARSHIPS

Managed by College of The Albemarle:

Billy G. Roughton Memorial Scholarship for Tourism and Hospitality

Joe Riddick Trade and Technical Scholarship Fund

Milton A. Jewell Scholarship Fund - Hospitality Certification Program

Milton A. Jewell Scholarship Fund - Trade & Technical Scholarships

Vocational Opportunity Fund for Northeastern North Carolina

Billy G. Roughton Memorial Scholarship for **Medical Professions** 



OBCF CEO Chris Sawin with First Flight High School Principal Joe Tyson and 2024 FFHS senior Savannah Lawton, recipient of the Osborne Scholarship, along with her aunt and Superintendent Steve Basnight. Photo by OBCF staff.

College of The Albemarle Foundation Scholarship Fund

**Dorothy Scott Townsend Fletcher Memorial** Scholarship Fund

ECB Land of Beginnings Living Legend Scholarship Fund

First Flight Rotary Lacy J. McNeill Memorial Scholarship Fund

First Flight Society Scholarship

Linda Porter's Shear Genius Scholarship Fund

North Banks Rotary Scholarship Fund

Peggy O'Brien Scholarship Fund

Sgt. Earl Murray Memorial Scholarship Fund

Tom O'Brien Scholarship Fund

Helping Hand Cookie Jar Scholarship

Managed by Dare Arts:

Wayne Fulcher Art Scholarship Fund

Managed by Manteo Rotary:

Kellogg Cuthrell Manteo Rotary Scholarship

Manteo Rotary Club Percy W. and Elizabeth G. Meekins Scholarship Fund

Manteo Rotary Club Scholarship Fund

Manteo Rotary Club Sonny Albarty Memorial Scholarship Fund

Managed by Mount Olivet United Methodist Church:

Karen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund



2024 Manteo High School senior recipients of Outer Banks Community Foundation scholarships. Photo by OBCF staff.

We are grateful for the generosity of our Contributing Scholarship Funds, including the Dare County Outer Banks Jaycees Scholarship Fund, Kiwanis Leo Sheetz Memorial Scholarship Fund, and the Ocracoke Island Realty and Village Realty Scholarship Fund.

The Outer Banks Community Foundation depends on the ongoing generosity of loyal donors who have consistently supported us year after year. Their commitment to enhancing the resilience of the Outer Banks is truly commendable. Below are some of the donors who have made annual gifts consistently, and we sincerely appreciate their continued support.

# 10+ years of giving

Mary E. Ames Anonymous (3) Bruce and Amanda Austin Terry and Stephanie Beasley Barbara Bingham Ben and Nancy Birindelli Scott and Allison Brown Nancy Caviness David Clawson Carol Cowell DWCC Ladies Tennis Association Jerry and Arlene Davis Kristin Day Victor and Debbie Diaz Ray and Pam Evans Helen Ford Frisco Native American Museum Sarah Griffin lack Guard Stephen and Sally Gudas Charles and Barbara Hardy Bobby and Deloris Harrell Boyce and Mary Blanche Harwell Patrick Herman George and Nancy Hettenhouse Greg and Eden Honeycutt Tess Judge

Mike Kelly Penny Leary-Smith Ann McDanel Kathie Nesbitt Outer Banks Association of Realtors lanet Owen-Rosso Gloria Perry Joyce W. Pickrel Laurel Pokelwaldt Rear Admiral Noel Preston John and Annette Ratzenberger Lynn Reams Michael and Fran Reeves Charles and Marcie Ries Sherry Rollason Peggy Saporito Harry and Lila Schiffman Patti and David Shufflebarger Sybil Skakle Susan Smith Hank and Marie Sprenger Lynn and Janan Usher Vidant Health lane Webster Maylon and Charlotte White lo Whitehead John and Sue Woolard





# 5+ years of giving

Linda Algood Janet D. Anderson Anonymous (18) Doug and Laura Askew Charles and Sarah Ayers loel and Dawn Battiste Ron and Becky Bennett Gray and Ali Berryman Bill and Gerry Biggs George and Bonny Bonner Martin and Nonie Booth Ernest Boyce Dan and Kim Bradley Donald Brady Betsy Brown Thomas R. Bruckman Marcia Sawyer Bryant Sue Burgess Ralph and Donna Buxton Thomas and Debra Cafferty Christine and John Cantwell Joseph T. Cefalo, Jr. Children & Youth Partnership for Dare County Becky Clarke Carl and Susan Classen Tod Clissold Ann Cowper Susan Creech Brad and Terri Creef Charles and Susan Creighton Kevin and Laura Curtin Ron and Tiney Curtis Roy and Joan Daniels Julia Daniels

Karl and Debby Daniels

Officers

Dare County Association of Fire

Dare County Boat Builders Foundation Philip and Jane Davis Miles Davis Dr. Leonard Goldman and Dr. Lisa DeMarco Karen DelVacchio Tony and Sue DiGeronimo Susan G. Dikeman leff Dowdy Duck Woods Ladies Golf Association Townsend Duong EEPCO, LLC Wayne and Betty Evans Jason and Julianne Farabaugh Bill and Wendy Farrior Barbara and Nancy Figiel Barbara Fletcher Tom and Barbara Franchi Sharon French Eugene V. Gallelli Albert W. and Carolyn W. Gard Julie Gray Betts Groff Lolette Guthrie John and Sara Haigh Keith Hall Al Hallatt Shirley Hamblet Mary Hannagan Bernice and Zev Harel Caroline High Rolf and Ronda Hoffmann Philip Howard Hutchins Canning & Company Bill Jones Ellen Jordan

Andy and Marcia Keeney

Clinton and Donna Kemp Hollie G. Kernan Nick and Dawn Kiousis Ron and Alva Lamothe Landolfi Family Fund Rob and Debbie Lawson Laura Lilieberg Greg and Lisa Loy Paul and Robin Mann Nancy Matthews Maureen McGrath Billy and Monica McOwen Dr. Gail Mee Ray and Kathy Meekins Ray Meiggs lames Melvin Elmer and Gail Midgett Randy and Terri Minchew Lance and Donna Miyamoto **Brant Murray** Robert Newman Jr. Joel and Sally Newton Bill and Ginny Nolan James and Julia Osborne Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce Fred Pittard Barkley Plumbing Daniel and Andrea Poland Penelope Powell Rachel N. Powell Don and Jean Pratt John and Susan Pucciano Jackie Ricks-Sample Michael Riddick Dixon and Carleen Rollins Sam Rust Seafood Marc and Nancy Samuels Chris and Karen Sawin

Patricia Scarlett Harry Schiavone Lee Kimball and Tucker Scully Timothy and Denise Shack Sophia Sharp Kendall and Debbie Shaw Henry and Gail Shelton Deon and Chrissy Simmons lose and Sharon Simon Caroline Chiles and Willis Slane Tom and Amy Small Dan and Jen Snyder William Sport Donald and Judi Stephens Deborah Sumner Jim and Denise Swink Carole Sykes Monica Thibodeau Steve and Vikki Thompson Rad and Margie Tillett Andrew and Lisa Toombs Bob and Ruth Toth TowneBank John H. Tucker Jr. Rick and Didi Tupper Rosabelle Twiford Robert Vill Chip and Leigh Anne Vincent Stephen Nelson and Peter Vitale Chuck and Jo Voigt Anita C. Vollmer Anna Waller Chip and Karen Walton David and Kim Whittle Harry and Holly Williams Kevin and Kathleen Wright David C. Wright



### GIFTS TO NAMED FUNDS

#### 12 Bars of Christmas Fund

Basnight's Lone Cedar Cafe Blue Water Grill & Raw Bar Bonzer Shack Goombays Jack Brown's Beer & Burger Joint Jolly Roger Lucky 12 Tavern Mama Kwan's Grill & Tiki Bar Outer Banks Brewing Station Outer Banks Craft Distilling LLC Poor Richards Two Roads Tavern

#### **Adams Family Fund**

Beau and Brim Silver

### Adams/Brown Fund for Animals

Evelyn Grieve

#### All God's Creatures Fund

Anonymous

#### Annual Advice 5K Turkey Trot **Fund**

Nancy Caviness Patricia Scarlett

#### Barbara Barnes Sherman Scholarship Fund

Anonymous Norman and Carol Sparks

### Beach Food Pantry Endowment

Terry and Stephanie Beasley William S. Jones, Jr.

#### Benevolent Fund

Philip and Jane Davis

#### Best Family Scholarship Fund

Anonymous Billy Best's Grandsons

#### Bill Jones Memorial Scholarship Fund

Kellogg Building Supply - Manteo Tamara lones TowneBank

#### Bingham Family Fund

Barbara Bingham

#### Birindelli Family Fund

Nancy and Ben Birindelli Nancy B. Birindelli

#### **Bob Parker Memorial Fund**

Beau and Brim Silver

#### **Building Fund**

108 Budleigh Bob and Ruth Toth Carol Cowell lane Webster Margery and Robert McKay Percy W & Elizabeth G Meekins Charitable Trust Ray Meiggs Thomas White Walton Family Fund

#### Burwell A. Evans Charitable Fund

EEPCO. LLC

William and Martha Pitts

#### Catherine Carrington Clawson Scholarship Fund

Boyce and Mary Harwell Charitable Trust Fund Dave Clawson and Kathy McMahan Harry and Holly Williams Holly Meekins Williams Terry and Priscilla Deming

#### Children & Youth Fund

Beau and Brim Silver

Amy Montgomery

#### Children & Youth Partnership **Endowment Fund**

Ashley Jackson Children & Youth Partnership for Dare County First Flight Rotary Foundation lane Webster lennifer Schwartzenberg Macey Chovaz Melinda Mogowski Nandy Stuart Sheila F. Davies Susan Lee

#### Christina Nicole Jones Memorial Fund for Substance Abuse Education, Counseling, Prevention, and Treatment

Anonymous Brenda Hughes Rick and Mary Ann Jones Tricia Waller

#### Coastal Campership Fund

Gray and Ali Berryman Linda Berryman

#### Community Care Clinic **Endowment Fund**

Barbara Tessenear

#### Cookie Jar for Good Deeds

Karen Del Vacchio



#### **Curtis Creech Memorial** Scholarship Fund

Susan Creech

#### D. Victor & Catherine D. Meekins Memorial Fund

Thurman Paynter

#### **Dare and Currituck Foster** Children's Fund

Brenda and Pat Kallaher Elaine "Lainie" Reed Jane Perry Parr Linda Smith Mary Lou Hoffert

#### **Dare County Association of Fire** Officers Scholarship Fund in Memory of Douglas A. Remaley

Dare County Association of Fire

#### **Dare County Boat Builders Access** Fund

Dare County Boat Builders Foundation

#### David Aycock Loy Memorial Fund

Anonymous Barbara Tessenear Brad & Terri Creef Doug and Laura Askew Gloria Perry Greg and Lisa Loy Rachel Powell Rosabelle Twiford Terry and Stephanie Beasley

### Disaster Response Endowment

Anonymous

#### Don & Catharine Bryan Cultural Series Endowment Fund

Barbara Tessenear

#### Doug and Maureen King Scholarship Fund

Daniel and Andrea Poland Doug and Maureen King Dr. David Rostetter Memorial

#### Fund for Self-Advocacy and Inclusion

Michael Norman and Patti Bourexis

#### **Duck Woods Ladies Golf** Founders Scholarship

Duck Woods Ladies Golf Association

#### **Duck Woods Ladies Tennis Association Scholarship Fund**

DWCC Ladies Tennis Association

#### Elizabeth and Wayne Evans Scholarship Fund

Betty Evans

#### **Evans Family Fund**

Jack and Ruth McLaughlin Wayne and Betty Evans

#### Everyone's Playground Fund

Patti and David Shufflebarger Percy W & Elizabeth G Meekins Charitable Trust Scott and Allison Brown Surf Pediatric Foundation

#### Flat Top Preservation Fund

Andrew and Teresa Westerman Blvd Ice Cream Elizabeth Gay Michael and Cynthia Trauscht Michael and Maria Mandis Robert and Carolyn Hoover Shellfish To Go II, Inc. Shore Coffee Roasters Sojourn OBX LLC Southern Shores Flat Top Cottage Owners Southern Shores Pizza and Deli Stephen and Sally Gudas

### GIFTS TO NAMED FUNDS

#### Food For Thought Fund

Barbara Tessenear

#### For The Love of OBX Fund

Sarah Spencer at Keller Williams **OBX** 

#### Fred Murray Memorial Fund

Bobby and Deloris Harrell

#### Frisco Native American Museum and Natural History Center Fund

Frisco Native American Museum & Natural History Center Joyce Bornfriend

#### Garage Band Charities Charitable Purpose Fund

Garage Band Charities

#### Gayle Grinstead Memorial Scholarship

Daniel and Andrea Poland Jim Willis

#### General P.X. Kelley Memorial Fund

William and Brenda Ashton, Jr. Fund

#### Glenn & Pat Eure Endowment **Fund for Arts Education**

Melvin's Studios

#### **Greg & Eden Honeycutt** Scholarship Fund

Greg and Eden Honeycutt Ocean Atlantic Event Rentals

#### Halloween Island Fund

Roanoke Island Ales, LLC

#### Harriett Mardre Woolard Memorial Fund

John and Sue Woolard

#### **Healthcare Professionals** Scholarship Fund

Anonymous

#### Helping Hand Cookie Jar Scholarship

Karen DelVacchio

### Helping People Help Animals

Anonymous

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2024 Cape Hatteras Secondary School senior Sherlyn Mendieta-Lozano, recipient of the Josephine A. Oden and Outer Banks Association of Realtors scholarships, with her mom and CHSS Counselor Karla Jarvis. Photo by OBCF staff.

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Far left: College of The Albemarle student Austin Thompson, recipient of the First Flight Society Scholarship, with First Flight Society and OBCF representatives. Photo by OBCF staff.

Rosemary and Smedes York

Hannah Yetzer

Left: Manteo First Assembly of God received a grant from the Outer Banks Community Foundation to renovate their deteriorating kitchen, which serves their daycare and preschool programs. The funding enabled the replacement of outdated countertops and cabinetry, ensuring compliance with state licensing requirements and enhancing the facility's ability to provide meals and host special events for up to 50 children. Photo courtesy of Manteo First Assembly.

## 2024 GRANTS FROM DONOR-ADVISED

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Roanoke Island Historical Association/The Lost Colony

University of North Carolina Center for Public Media (PBS North Carolina) Dare Arts

#### Bingham Family Fund

Blair Road United Methodist Church

#### Birindelli Family Fund

Dare Education Foundation Outer Banks Relief Foundation Food For Thought

#### Burwell A. Evans Charitable Fund

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Roanoke Island Volunteer Fire Department

College of The Albemarle Foundation

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#### Jones | Lewis Fund

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#### Kelly Family Fund

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Interfaith Community Outreach

#### Marine Life Preservation Fund of North Carolina

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### Nourishing Hatteras Island Fund

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#### Peregrine & Kaye White Fund

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GEM Adult Day Services, Inc. Cape Hatteras United Methodist

Community Care Clinic of Dare Beach Food Pantry

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Community Care Clinic of Dare OBX Room in the Inn Dare County Department of Health & Human Services Outer Banks Dare Challenge

### **CONTRIBUTIONS** INNAME

### **Book of Honor**

The Outer Banks Community Foundation gratefully acknowledges contributions and grants made in honor of:

Sue Boras

Katherine and Dan Bottjen

Christmas

CYP Team Members

Mr. and Mrs. David Scott Esham

First Flight Veterinary Hospital

Arnold and Tandy Farber

Mr. & Ms. John Gillam

Nancy Griffin

Mary Blanche Meekins Harwell and Boyce Harwell

Brian Hearn

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Chuck Hester turning 99

Ann McDanel Family

Nags Head Police Department

OBCF staff and all the good work that they do

Teresa & Hugh Osborne

Fred & Debbie Popp

Primos OBX Best Lemonade Stand

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Amy Smith and Josh Stubblefield

Dr. Jessica Stumpf

Stephanie Walker

Keli WIlliamson and Miles

### **Book of Memory**

The Outer Banks Community Foundation gratefully acknowledges contributions and grants made in memory of:

Aggie

Commander William

Barbara Akley

Laverne Brickhouse

Charlie

Frank Cisarik

Catherine Carrington

Clawson

Senator and Mrs. Melvin R.

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Pamela Gwinn's Parents

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Naomi Collins Hester

Edgar "POORBOY"

Govan III

lane lackson

Christy ones

Kim Potter Kendrick on

anniversary of her passing

Victor Kovak

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The Outer Banks Community Foundation helped the Secotan Alliance bring history and culture to life with a grant supporting "In the Spirit of Wingina... and Beyond." This two-day event highlighted Chief Wingina's legacy while addressing contemporary environmental challenges, fostering awareness and preservation of Native American heritage in the Outer Banks. Photo courtesy of the Secotan Alliance.

Carl P. Nunemaker Jr. Jockey's Ridge Endowment	è	<b>Jim Wood Endowment for Children's</b> Dare Arts	<b>Arts</b> \$343		
Friend of Jockey's Ridge	\$615	Liberty Christian Fellowship Endowment Fund			
Dare and Currituck Foster Children	's Fund	Liberty Christian Fellowship \$			
North Carolina Guardian Ad Litem Advocates Fund	\$79	Love in Action Fund Liberty Christian Fellowship	\$8,721		
Dare County Arts Council Endowm Dare Arts	<b>ent Fund</b> \$2,088	Moncie L. Daniels & Belva Midgett D Memorial Fund for Bethany Methodi Bethany Church of Wanchese			
Dare County Library Fund	¢2.005	·			
Dare County Library	\$2,095	Moncie L. Daniels & Belva Midgett Daniels Memorial Fund for Gideons International			
Don & Catharine Bryan Cultural Se Endowment Fund	ries	Gideons International \$2,			
Don and Catharine Bryan Cultural Series	\$72,017	Moncie L. Daniels & Belva Midgett Daniels Memorial Fund for Mount Olivet Methodist Church			
First Flight Society Fund First Flight Society	\$3,684	Mount Olivet United Methodist Church	\$2,977		
Flat Top Preservation Fund Town of Southern Shores	\$3,518	Moncie L. Daniels Jr. and Muriel Green Daniels Memorial Fund for Bethany Methodist Church			
Frank Stick Memorial Fund		Bethany Church of Wanchese	\$2,323		
Friends of the Outer Banks History Center	\$14,228	Moncie L. Daniels Jr. and Muriel Gre Memorial Fund for Manteo Baptist C			
Frank Tate Memorial Fund for the M	lanteo High				
School Band Manteo High School	\$1,185	Moncie L. Daniels Jr. and Muriel Gre Memorial Fund for Mount Olivet Me Church			
Fred Murray Memorial Fund Outer Banks Relief Foundation	\$2,342	Mount Olivet United Methodist Church	\$2,379		
Helen Britt Van Cleef Petty Fund Mount Olivet United Methodist Church	\$23,813	Moncie L. Daniels Jr. and Muriel Gre- Memorial Fund for Wanchese Assem Wanchese Assembly of God			

Jim Wood Endowment for Children's Arts					
Dare Arts	\$343				
<b>Liberty Christian Fellowship Endown</b> Liberty Christian Fellowship	ment Fund \$689				
Love in Action Fund Liberty Christian Fellowship	\$8,721				
Moncie L. Daniels & Belva Midgett I Memorial Fund for Bethany Method Bethany Church of Wanchese					
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Moncie L. Daniels Jr. and Muriel Gre Memorial Fund for Bethany Method					

cie L. Daniels & Belva Midger norial Fund for Gideons Intern Gideons International		Outer Banks SPCA Fund Outer Banks SPCA	\$6,475
cie L. Daniels & Belva Midge orial Fund for Mount Olivet		Pauline Wright Endowment for the County Arts Council	Dare
rch Mount Olivet		Dare Arts	\$5,251
United Methodist Church	\$2,977	Sergeant Joshua Rimer Memorial Fu Veterans	and for
cie L. Daniels Jr. and Muriel ( Iorial Fund for Bethany Meth		Interfaith Community Outreach	\$4,225
Bethany Church of Wanchese	\$2,323	Southern Shores Cemetery Perpetu Fund	al Care
cie L. Daniels Jr. and Muriel ( norial Fund for Manteo Baptis	t Church	Town of Southern Shores	\$613
Manteo Baptist Church	\$2,373	St. Andrews By-The-Sea Episcopal	Church
cie L. Daniels Jr. and Muriel ( norial Fund for Mount Olivet		Whedbee Fund St. Andrews by the Sea	\$170,000
rch Mount Olivet United Methodist Church	\$2,379	Thomas and Rachel McLaurin Endo Heritage Bible College	<b>swment</b> \$653
Office Wicthoust Charch	42,5/9	5 6	33

Monument to a Century of Flight Fund Monument to a Century of Flight

Monument to a Century of Flight Fund

**Outer Banks Family YMCA Fund** YMCA of South Hampton Roads

Outer Banks Seafood Festival Fund

Watermen Foundation

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Outer Banks Relief Foundation

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North Carolina

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\$330

\$5,000

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<sup>\*</sup>Deceased



#### SUPPORTING THE ENTIRE NONPROFIT SECTOR

on the Outer Banks is central to our mission. We do this through grants, learning opportunities, and by bringing organizations together to address important community issues. The Outer Banks Center for Nonprofits has created another invaluable way to serve this mission. Since opening, we've welcomed over 200 nonprofit professionals and nearly 50 organizations who have used the space for board retreats, donor meetings, strategic planning, and educational sessions.

Located on beautiful Roanoke Island, the Outer Banks Center for Nonprofits is home to the Outer Banks Community Foundation and serves as a welcoming, functional space for local nonprofits to continue their vital work.

The center features two fully furnished conference spaces with Wi-Fi and teleconferencing, a small catering kitchen, and private office rooms. This accessible space is available for board and committee meetings, brainstorming sessions, event planning, networking, and even small events—all designed to foster collaboration and strengthen our local nonprofit community.

To reserve a space at the Outer Banks Center for Nonprofits, call us at (252) 423-3003.

Photos courtesy of Biff Jennings and OBCF staff.





